



**The Parish of St Matthew,  
Darley Abbey**

Annual Report and Accounts for 2025  
for the  
Annual Parish Meeting



Sunday 17 May 2026, after the 10am service

## **General Information (as at April 2026)**

Parish Priest	The Rev'd Rachael Brooks
Administrator (including Fellowship Room bookings)	Caroline Audley
Church Office, King's Croft, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2FN	
Readers	Clive Lemmon
	Melonie Hambly
Churchwardens	David Brierley
	Vacancy
PCC Secretary	Clive Lemmon
Treasurer	Ian Brown
Assistant Treasurer	Clive Lemmon
Organist & Choirmaster	Tim Capes
Assistant Organist	Geoff Howell
Parish Magazine Editors	John Worthy & Geoff Howell
Parish Magazine Distribution	Barbara Coe & Jenni Connell
Flower Rota	Diane Whittaker
Friends of St Matthew's (FoSM)	Jane Forrester & Barbara Coe
Electoral Roll Officer	Barbara Coe
Coffee Rota	Barbara Coe
Worship Rota	Rita Brierley
Verger	Diane Whittaker
Church Architect	Blair Gratton Architects
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Diane Whittaker
Independent Examiner	Bates Weston (Sean Douglass)
Insurer	Ecclesiastical
Bank	Royal Bank of Scotland
Postcodes	Church - DE22 1EY Church car park - DE22 1EF
Charity Commission registration number	1215439

[www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk](http://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stmatthewsdarleyabbey](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsdarleyabbey)

## Agenda

### **Meeting of Parishioners - also known as the Vestry Meeting**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 2024 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2024 APCM (see page 4)
3. Presentation of Electoral Roll
4. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
5. Election of PCC members
6. Annual Report of the PCC (Trustees) (see page 12)
7. Financial Report (see page 29)
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Presentation of Reports (see pages 19)
10. Churchwardens' Report
11. Parish Priest's Report (see page 8)
12. Opportunity for questions

## Minutes of APCM meeting of 18th May 2025.

**Present:** See list attached to these minutes.

**Apologies:** Diane Whittaker, Jean Ormerod, Tim Capes, John & Ann Worthy, Iris Brown, Geoff and Vicky Howell.

### Meeting of Parishioners - also known as the Vestry Meeting.

- 1) Rachael opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2) Minutes of the 2024 Vestry Meeting were reviewed. All present accepted the minutes.
- 3) **Election of Church Wardens.** St Matthew's has two Church Warden positions currently occupied by David Brierley with one vacancy. David nominated to stand for another year. David can extend his term of office on a yearly basis to take effect from next year. This was proposed by Rachael and seconded by Clive. All present were in agreement. Rachael briefly spoke about the need to fill the vacant position in the future.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

- 1) **Apologies:** Already listed.
- 2) **Minutes of the 2024 APCM** were reviewed. No issues were raised and unanimously accepted.
- 3) **Electoral Roll:** Barbara Coe drew people's attention to Page 17 of the Annual Report. This showed that we have 72 people on the roll. Rachael indicated that this was the same number as listed at St Edmund's. The Roll was accepted by those present.
- 4) **Election of PCC Members:** We have 8 vacancies with 7 applications from: David Brierley, Richard Hughes, Barbara Coe, Sarah Murfin, Peter Taylor, Phil Cunliffe, Ian Brown. All nominations were unanimously accepted noting that we had one vacancy. It is assumed that David Brown (Head Walter Evans) is an Ex Officio member.
- 5) **Appointment of Sidepersons:** Names listed on Page 9 of the Annual Report were accepted and agreed by those present.
- 6) **Annual Report of the PCC:** The report was accepted with no issues raised. Rachael thanked Phil for all her previous work done over the last few years, it was very appreciated.
- 7) **Finance Report:** There were no questions raised. Clive indicated that the aim was to complete the Tower / Pinnacle repairs this year. Once this had been completed, to review increased payments to the Common Fund.

Rachael thanked Clive for all his hard work, time and dedication over the last 15-17 years as Treasurer as he now looks forward to his retirement from this role.

Ian will be taking over this role for a couple of years whilst making a transition to a digital format of book keeping with support from Diane Whittaker and Rita Brierley

- 7) Cont: As part of the changes, it is intended to appoint 4 Principal counters of Sunday Collection cash and coins, these are: Clive, Diane, Richard and Barbara.

Rachael indicated that we needed a number of support counters (second signatures) and the following people volunteered to assist on rota: Phil, Andrew, Sarah, Alison and JohnG. Thank you to everybody who put themselves forward.

- 8) **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Kate Cadman has indicated that she has now retired. Some initial enquires with professional accountants indicate that that the church could incur an additional charge of between £800.00 and £1200.00 plus VAT to have our accounts examined. This item to be discussed at the next PCC meeting (on the 19th May).

- 9) **Presentation of Reports:** No questions were raised.

Rachael drew everybody's attention to the issue of Safeguarding (Page 17) and to note that Melonie is retiring from this role. Currently, we have no replacement and for the time being, it will be the PCC's responsibility to implement and action.

Melonie has suggested an interim arrangement involving support from Caroline (Office Admin). This also puts an additional workload on Rachael herself. A speedy resolution needs to be found. PCC to resolve.

Rachael thanked Melonie for all her hard work over the last few years, this was supported by those present.

- 10). **Churchward's Report:**

David thanked Rachael for all her hard work over the last year since being appointed.

He then went onto describe our church as for "**CODGERS**".  
Congregation Qf Dedicated Gracious Entirely Relevant Servants.

Rachael is looking / working at reaching out to bring into the church community from the local area, including working with and being involved with Walter Evans School and other community activities (Scouts and Guides etc).

Generally been a really good year with lots of minor interventions BUT there is still lots to do with God's support.

- 11). **Parish Priest Report.**

Rachael told everybody present that she loves being here and trusts the congregation to work at bringing in (inviting) the local community into church.

A number of House Groups have been set up, along with development of Flourish and Messy Church.

She is very grateful for the support from helpers and organisers of these events BUT, needs more people to help.

There is a Family Service (Morning Prayer) and Baptism (Lucy) next Sunday (25th May) and it would be great if more people could help.

11) Cont:

All services need to be accessible to both adults and children to possibly include a children's group in the Fellowship Room for more Interactive style of worship. This would require additional support from the church community. There is an opportunity before morning services to pray with Rachael in the Chancel. Also, we have welcomed the introduction of the Prayer Card and the Four Church Initiative in praying for the streets / roads in our community that has just been launched.

Barbara (Coe) asked if there were any spare street plans and support booklets? Rachael to organise.

Lesley asked if there was anything planned in regard to Evening Services? Rachael indicated that this was being looked at with respect to the other churches in the group and that she and Sarah were looking at a way forward.

Ian gave some feedback with respect to the proposed projector and screen. Currently an application for a faculty has been made along with an application for funding from the Raymond Ross Large Grant scheme.(Matching). Currently we are waiting a response.

12). **Opportunity for Questions:**

David indicated that work on the tower should start in June and take 16weeks.

Rachael indicated her new worship pattern being:  
1st and 2nd Sunday @ St Edmunds.  
3rd and 4th Sunday @ St Matthew's.

Rachael thanked everybody for attending and closed in prayer.

End.

ST. MATTHEW PARISH CHURCH . APCM 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

Apologies: John Ann Worthy      PRESENT *arrivals*

<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>SIGNATURE .</u>
RICHARD HUGHES	<i>R Hughes</i>
CLIVE LEMMON	<i>Clive Lemmon</i>
GILL KEELING	<i>Gill Keeling</i>
SARAH COE	<i>S J Coe</i>
JENNI CONNELL	<i>Jenni Connell</i>
ALISON GRATTON	<i>Alison Gratton</i>
JOHN GRATTON	<i>John Gratton</i>
SARAH MURFIN	<i>Sarah Murfin</i>
PETER TAYLOR	<i>Peter Taylor</i>
DOROTHY TAYLOR	<i>Dorothy Taylor</i>
GARETH STEVENS	<i>G D Stevens</i>
Dana Baerby	<i>Dana Baerby</i>
Melanie Hamby	<i>Melanie Hamby</i>
VALERIE MCFARLANE	<i>Valerie McFarlane</i>
ROGER HAMBY	<i>R Hamby</i>
LESLEY FUTTER	<i>Lesley Fitter</i>
ANDREW BROOK	<i>Andrew Brook</i>
Phil Cunliffe	<i>Phil Cunliffe</i>
PAUL GARDINER	<i>Paul Gardiner</i>
RACHAEL BROOKS .	<i>Rachael Brooks</i>
IAN BROWN .	<i>Ian Brown</i>
JOHN BISHOP	<i>J.C. Bishop</i>

## Parish Priest Report - Rev'd Rachael Brooks

2025 saw me finally complete my 'firsts'. The final one at St Matthew's was taking our Remembrance Day service, it was wonderful to have so many people from our Darley Abbey community present.

A first that will hopefully become a regular fixture was an open garden at the vicarage in August, when I was able to welcome and thank everyone who makes all the services and activities at St Matthew's and St Edmund's happen. There are so many who contribute to the life and maintenance of the church and parish, mostly in the background. It was wonderful to be able to honour their outworking of their discipleship.

We welcomed Colette Desborough in 2025, initially as she discerned whether ordination was for her and then as an ordinand as she began her training in September. She spends a day in Sheffield in college classes, two days at home studying, and three days with us applying what she's learning and growing her leadership skills. Colette is based with Sarah at St Nick's in the week and with me for our Sunday services, so she gets a broad experience.

We said hello and goodbye to Rev'd Cathie Watson who was based primarily with Sarah to complete her final months of curacy. We also welcomed a retired clergy person who have been granted Permission to Officiate: Rev'd Phyllis Bainbridge in July, who is taking services across our group of four churches. Another retired priest, Rev'd David Anderson, and I developed a working agreement but his Permission to Officiate hadn't come through by the end of the year.

It was with great sadness that we began the year by saying goodbye to Richard MacLachlan, a faithful and long-serving choir member. May he and the other precious loved ones who died in 2025 rest in peace and rise in glory.

We launched a new website in September 2025, changing the name so it is easier to find if people put our church's name into a search engine and making it as easy and appealing to navigate as possible. My thanks to Andrew Brooks for making this happen in consultation with Caroline.

2025 was a year of beginning to put our PCC priorities, developed in 2024, into action.

### **1. New Service booklets**

In 2025 I completed three new booklets: 'Baptism within a Service of Holy Communion', 'A Service of Morning Prayer with Baptism' and a new freestanding baptism booklet.

### **2. Updating our technology so that we have audio visual capacity in the church**

Our electronic screen and data projector were installed in September. Walter Evans school have already made good use of it for their pop-up art gallery on their open day in October. It is relatively simple to use and so the next task is to train more people in its use and install software that will enable us to screen all our liturgy and the words of hymns.

### **3. Less formality in worship to make church more accessible to new members, especially young families**

Our cross-benefice team put on three Messy Church services:

- Messy Mother's Day in St Edmund's Church Hall
- Messy goes Wild in the summer holiday in Darley Park
- Messy Advent, again in St Edmund's Church Hall

The first and last were very well attended by a mix of baptism, wedding, school and congregation families. We had a smaller number in the park but have learned lessons and have a clearer idea of how we can change things for 2026.

In May we began our regular pattern of All Age Services which broadens the mix of service styles we offer across our benefice. The cross-benefice team meet to plan together; we then deliver the service twice, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at St Matthew's and then the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at St Edmund's.

Our overall theme is to tell God's story of salvation; the story the Bible tells us from its beginnings in the Garden of Eden right through to the garden in the book of Revelation. We're doing this through looking at the different people in those stories. We started with Adam and Eve in June and got to Esau and Jacob in November before taking a break to be seasonal and tell the story of Mary and Elizabeth and their miraculous pregnancies. Each story has thrown up quite challenging themes because their lives were messy, just as our lives can be today.

Our aim is to be truly All Age, so that there is something for everyone in each service. So, we have action songs AND hymns. We have games or challenges AND intercessions. We have dramatized Bible stories AND a short homily. We don't expect that everyone will like everything, but I have been so blessed to see that so many regular congregants have supported these services so that those young families who have come have had a church family welcome. And that so many of you have found you've enjoyed aspects of these services too. It's also been a joy to discover hidden gifts as several people have joined in with dramatized readings and preparation of materials.

Overall, we have approximately 20 children across both churches who have come along during the year. There are a couple of families at both churches who only go to that church, and the rest of the families go to either depending on which Sunday they can attend. Some come to most of the services, others come more sporadically. But they're coming!

## **Flourish**

We finally took the plunge with Walter Evans School in January. Several members of our church were part of the team making Flourish events happen. I am particularly grateful to Alison Gratton who worked closely with me in developing our event plans, getting feedback and input from the children and going to the large gathering of people from all the Flourish pilots in Birmingham in July. This was an inspiring event and our children loved it.

We had two large well-attended events, in January and February whose format was akin to Messy Church. But the following events planned for May, July and October were cancelled for various reasons out of our control. This meant that we had to resign from the pilot, but it has been a valuable learning opportunity, and the enthusiasm of the children was wonderful to see. I hope to build on what we've learned in 2026.

## **Discipleship**

Lent saw a further three home groups set up across our benefice, in addition to the one that had started in 2024, though one of them only met a few times. The three remaining used the Church of England 'Living Hope' Lent materials. At the end of Lent one group stopped, due to various regular commitments while the other two continued: one weekly, the other monthly. Both are fulfilling their purpose which is a joy to see. Please get in touch if you'd like to grow in your faith alongside others.

I have also been encouraging daily prayer through books or apps. The Church of England app, Everyday Faith, is short and thought-provoking, but there are others to try such as Pray as you go, Lectio 365

and Common Worship Daily Prayer. Try one for a week, if it doesn't quite fit then try another. Regular Bible reading and prayer are key to building our relationship with God.

### **The four parishes**

Our most exciting venture as a group has been the launch of our Prayer Initiative, which was set up for us by Godfrey and Margaret Smallman who felt God was inviting them to support prayer for every area of our city a few years ago. Having worked with one group of four parishes nearby they invited us to take part in what is a two-year project. Sarah and I have been very heartened by the way our churches have grasped this opportunity to work together and bless our parishes by systematically praying for every household on every road in turn. Make sure you keep up to date by getting the new prayer calendars as they come out.

We have continued our pattern as a group of four churches for worship together on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and special seasonal services, apart from Mothering Sunday. So many of you have taken the opportunity of worshipping together in a different building, thank you.

In November the four PCCs met together to explore ideas for working more closely together whether in mission or governance. There was a strong desire to work together, sharing the load rather than reinventing the wheel and a real heart for mutual encouragement and support.

We again produced joint publicity for our summer offerings for families and our Advent and Christmas services. It was good to see people from different parishes making the most of these opportunities whether at the St Nick's family fun day or one or other of the various crib services.

### **Local schools**

#### **Walter Evans:**

Sarah Northam, Ed Cunliffe and I continued in our roles as members of the Walter Evans governing body (now known as a Local Academy Committee).

The Wednesday worships at St Matthew's, when each year group takes a turn to come here for their worship that day, have been a good opportunity to help them begin to grasp the church year and how it guides our discipleship. Our Thursday key stage worships in school took a break from telling the story of the Old Testament in March to switch to reminding ourselves about Jesus' life, some of his miracles and his 'I am' sayings. We then took up where we left off with the Old Testament in September as we began a new school year.

Rev'd James Durrant of St Paul's, Chester Green and Chrissie Hadley, the children's, family and youth worker at Broadway Baptist Church, continue to serve with me on a rota on Thursdays. Rev'd James occasionally also standing in for me on Wednesdays.

I've also been into the Nursery and Reception to tell Bible stories every so often, which has been a joy. We gave Nativity Advent calendars to all the Nursery children, as I felt it was a good way of us, as their local church, supporting their knowledge of the Christian faith.

We celebrated Easter in church, in four groups – two year groups at a time. At Christmas I was able to support the school Worship Crew in their role of top and tailing the school Carol Service at the Cathedral.

### **Old Vicarage School:**

I had less contact with school during 2025 but was able to 'host' their Christmas services, with Andrew as tech support, showing them the Lego Christmas Story, which went down very well.

### **Woodlands:**

The youth drop in which is based at St Nick's church hall on a Tuesday after school continued to draw 40 to 60 young people each Tuesday in termtime from across our four parishes. These are predominantly from Woodlands but with one or two from other secondary schools. The leaders are drawn from St Nick's, St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Alkmund's, Kedleston Rd and Broadway Baptist Church and work under the direction of Rachel Kennedy, who was appointed as children, families and youth worker at the beginning of the year at St Nick's.

Rachel and Rev'd Sarah visit Woodlands weekly as chaplains. I went in with them during the week following the death of a staff member in the summer term to offer a listening ear and we also staffed the chapel at St Nicks during a drop in Tuesday, offering a listening ear and the chance to light a candle.

### **Thank you**

It has been a joy to serve with my wonderful wardens from both churches in our benefice. In 2025 we began meeting together regularly and this has been so encouraging, to all of us as we've benefitted from one another's wisdom as we lead our churches. I am very mindful that David Brierley serves us alone as warden, and 2025 involved a huge amount of extra work due to the tower repairs and all the preparation needed.

I must also give a special mention of Clive Lemmon's and Ian Brown's work in moving from a paper-based accounts system to a digital one at the same time as working with David on the tower repairs, and for Ian acting as PCC secretary while that position has been in vacancy. We owe all three a debt of gratitude for the time and care they've put into two very complex projects on top of everything else.

Our other compulsory governance role is Parish Safeguarding Officer, which Melonie stood down from at Easter after many years' service. In October Diane Whittaker took this role on a 6-month trial basis, very sensibly wanting to get an idea of what she was taking on before committing to it fully. I can't tell you how thankful I am for both of them having done and doing such a vital role.

As last year, there are several groups/ people I must thank in particular for sharing with me my primary task of leading worship and cure of souls:

- My fellow service leaders, including the All-Age team, the choir and choirmaster and our organists for their roles in leading worship with me. Plus, those who lead our intercessions and read Scripture.
- the small pastoral care/ prayer team who share my pastoral responsibilities and do so much behind the scenes to support vulnerable members of our congregation, including those who cannot get to services anymore.
- The other members of PCC and Deanery Synod who give their time and wisdom.
- Without Caroline putting her skills at our disposal, the admin work behind the scenes through 2025 would have defeated me. She is a joy to work with.

But I am also mindful that so many of you contribute towards making 'church' in all its facets happen, in different ways that may only be noticed if you don't do them. Thank you for your faithful quiet service.

And finally, in true BAFTAs style, I am so thankful for Andrew, who is my constant support.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## **Trustees' Annual Report for 2025**

**From: 1st January 2025**

**To: 31st December 2025**

**Charity name: St Matthew's Church, PCC. Darley Abbey, Derby**

**Charity registration number: 1215439**

### **Aims and Purposes**

St. Matthew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with our Associate minister with legally delegated incumbent - level responsibility, (hereafter referred to as incumbent), the Rev'd Rachael Brooks in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical while working to maintain St. Matthew's as a church for the whole parish of Darley Abbey and seeking to be a unifying agent in the local community.

### **Public Benefits**

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to state their aims for the public benefit. In deciding what activities the Church should undertake or how to spend Church money, the PCC follows two key principals, that there must be identifiable benefits and that these must be benefits for the public or a section of the public. We ensure that our aims and activities fall within the description of charitable purposes given by the Charity Commission as guidance in the Act.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC seeks to draw as many as possible into worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Matthew's. To these ends, the PCC seeks to involve as many sections of the local community as possible and to make suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish through offering varied forms of worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayers and scripture, music and sacrament, seeing transformed lives through growing Church and Building Community.

The incumbent and PCC try to enable those within our parish community and beyond to live out their faith through Worship, the Provision of Pastoral Care and Missionary and Outreach work:

### **Worship and Prayer**

A revised pattern of church services has emerged with Choral Communion in the morning on the first and third Sundays of the month, Morning Prayers (sung) on the second Sunday and All-Age worship on the fourth Sunday. Evensong takes place on the first Sunday with Choral Evensong on the third Sunday.

It is hoped that this range of services will appeal to and encourage our community in a way that is both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

St Matthew's aims to encourage and welcome more families into our church and has established a team under the direction of the incumbent to lead an All-Age worship service, some families choosing to have their children baptised during this service.

A new screen and digital projector have been installed in St. Matthew's church building for use in services and other occasions, proving also to enhance the worship of children in church from local primary and secondary schools.

### The Provision of Pastoral Care

St. Matthew's seeks to welcome all who attend our regular services and to welcome the occasional visitor.

Presently there are 72 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance is 38 adults with 3 children/young people, increasing to 45 at Easter and 295 at Christmas and special services.

Milestones through the journey of life are seen through the services of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals. We have celebrated 3 baptisms, 3 weddings and held 5 funerals in church plus 1 at the crematorium and 4 'committals only' in our church in 2025.

The church is open daily to our community for private prayer.

For those members of the parish unable to attend church due to sickness or age, Communion with them can be celebrated either at their home or in hospital.

Our Pastoral Care team seek to make a point of talking to and welcoming all, but especially those new to the church, also being mindful of all within our parish community.

### Mission and Outreach

In 2024 the Church of England launched the Flourish network to establish partnerships between schools and their local churches, aiming to engage children, young people and their families. This was meant to be an initial two-year pilot programme and St. Matthew's was invited to take part, being located next to a Church of England School, Walter Evans.

Unfortunately, due to the demands of an already very busy schedule of extra-curricular school activities, the expected number of sessions were not able to be fulfilled and therefore church involvement ceased though permission has been granted to continue at our own pace.

Messy Church is a national all-age movement that creates church communities where parents and children can get messy with art, games, drama and food. This takes place at least once each term, more frequently as resource allows.

A Community Cafe is a monthly event held in the Fellowship Room generally on the third Friday in the month. Doors open at 8.30am in the hope that parents dropping off children at the adjacent school will call in for a chat and hopefully come to engage more in the life of the church.

Our Parish Magazine is distributed each month to subscribers and is readily available in church and other local outlets to others. This keeps parishioners informed of the most important matters affecting our church as well as providing articles of interest and local business details.

The church has a connection to a local food charity in Derby and collects donations of food each month to support its ongoing work.

Friends of St. Matthew who meet monthly in the Fellowship Room are a social group open to all. It raises funds through collections at its meetings for other charities, often nominated by speakers at the meetings.

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St. Matthew's is one of a group of four churches spread across the parishes of Darley Abbey, Allestree and Quarndon sharing two licensed clergy. Our incumbent takes responsibility for the churches of St. Matthew in Darley Abbey and St. Edmund in Allestree. Joint services and social events are held on occasion, with a joint service of all four churches taking place on the fifth Sunday of the month.

Weekly Bible study groups take place throughout the parishes and are open to anyone within the group of four churches or anyone else who might like to attend.

As a prayer initiative, St. Matthew's is involved in a mission with local Christians to pray each day for people who live in different parts of our local community. The initiative is to provide maps and a list of roads and communities that are to be prayed for and to deliver cards of prayer support, resource to find out more about God's Love and details of Derby City Mission for those struggling with life's demands.

### **Fabric**

The Grade II-listed St. Matthew's church provides an elevated and very visible focal point in the parish, the adjacent Fellowship Room providing a meeting place for community groups and after-service refreshments.

The proper maintenance is an on-going responsibility for the PCC.

Storm damage to the church tower in December 2023 necessitated extensive repair and maintenance work to the tower structure during 2025. Further repair work to the rainwater goods of the church building and issues of damp within the church building are still to be addressed.

Maintenance work is also required to the Fellowship Room in order for it to continue to function as a community space.

### **Financial Review**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £88,551.00 of which £13,280.00 was allocated to maintenance of the main church building and churchyard (£12,674.00) and provision of church flowers (£606.00)

Restricted donations and grants amounted to £69,116.00 which were used to support repair of the church tower, re-surface the church car park, repair to the tower clock and provision of a new projector and screen.

Additionally, restricted choir funds amounted to £3,029.00.

Total expenditure of unrestricted funds was £57,638.00 and restricted funds amounted to £117,210.00 which was also used on repair to the church tower, tower clock, car park and provide a new projector / screen.

St Matthew's insurers paid £113,254.00 towards repairs to the tower with support of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund of £59,009.00. Also, St. Matthew's was successful in recovery of £5,367.00 from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT recovery)

The balance of repair costs came from church funds.

At 31/12/2025, the insurers owe St Matthew's £26,971.00 in trailing charges that also includes for payment of £4548.00 agreed retention costs to MSM Ltd Stonemasons in May 2026.

Total receipts for the year 2025 amounted to £157,667.00 and total payments amounted to £188,174.00 with a Net Receipt / Payment deficit of £30,507.00.

There was a transfer of £52,864.00 between unrestricted funds and restricted funds that resulted in an end of year cash fund of £67,772.00 (compared with £98,279.00 at the end of 2024).

The difference of £30,507.00 was costs associated with the tower repair that the church funded.

Following retirement of the former Treasurer part way through the financial year, the incoming Treasurer's introduction of on-line book keeping and a change to on-line digital banking led to the end of year accounts being a mix of written ledgers and spreadsheets. It is expected that this process will settle from the start of 2026.

Planned giving, standing orders and Parish Giving Scheme remain approximately the same as last year. It is hoped to have a Stewardship Campaign during 2026.

#### Reserves Policy.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance (if possible) in the CBF Church of England Deposit Account which equates to at least equal to the annual Common Fund as requested by the Diocese of Derby Board of Finance.

On the 31/12/2025, we had funds of £24,003.00 in the CBF A/c that equalled the amount we paid in 2025 (reduced from the original request of £39,880.00 due to repairs to the church tower).

For 2026, the request was for £37,681.00 that the PCC agreed to pay in full (if possible).

At the 6th March 2026, we had £34,003.00 in our CBF A/c with the balance of £3,678.00 currently held in our unrestricted account.

Our aim is to deposit a further £3,678.00 during 2026 that will match the requested amount.

#### Structure, Governance and Management.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 as amended and The Church Representation Rules contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

Our charity status is that of an Unincorporated Charity.

The PCC of St. Matthew's meets six times per year and consists of the incumbent, church wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected from those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

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.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. In addition, up to two people may be co-opted to serve on the PCC.

There is an established Standing Committee to assist the incumbent and church wardens in responding to urgent issues, to set the agenda for the PCC meeting and to give initial consideration to important matters before presentation to the PCC. The Standing Committee meets six times per year.

### Administrative Information

St. Matthew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Darley Abbey and is part of the Diocese of Derby.

PCC members are Charity Trustees.

PCC Membership:

#### Ex-officio

Incumbent Priest	Rev'd Rachael Brooks (Chair) Rev'd Sarah Watson.
Churchwardens	David Brierley & Vacancy
Deanery Synod	Geoff Howell Clive Lemmon (Treasurer until May 2025)

#### PCC Members

Elected 2022 to serve for 3 years (Until May 2025)	Barbara Coe (Electoral Roll Officer). Richard Hughes (Lay Vice Chair), Phil Cunliffe, Sarah Murfin.
Elected 2023 to serve for 3 years	John Bishop John Gratton Diane Whittaker (Parish Safeguarding Officer from November 2025).
Elected 2024 to serve for 3 years	Ian Brown (Secretary until May 2025, Treasurer from May 2025) Alison Gratton. Peter Taylor John Worthy
Elected in 2025 to serve for 3 years	Barbara Coe (Electoral Roll Officer). Richard Hughes (Lay Vice Chair) Sarah Murfin, Phil Cunliffe

#### Co-opted.

Walter Evans School Head Teacher	David Brown
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Standing Committee

Rev'd Rachael Brooks	Richard Hughes (Lay Vice-Chair)
Clive Lemmon	Ian Brown      Peter Taylor
Richard Hughes	Barbara Coe    David Brierley

**Declarations**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	RACHAEL BROOKS	Ian R Brown
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	Treasurer
Date	2nd March 2026	

**Fabric & Churchyard** - David Brierley

Inevitably the tower project is the 2025 Fabric headline. Storm Pia triggered this project on 21 December 2023. As has been said on many occasions now the SW pinnacle is above the busy path to the car park from Church Lane. A huge chunk of stone fell inwards onto the timber roof at the top of the tower, and it was surely a miracle that it fell inwards not to the ground below.

The 2024 Annual Report said this:

"A huge amount of money must be raised for this. In addition to the insurance cover a grant application to Benefact Trust gave us £2,500. An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was close to completion at the year end by which time we had received donations of £7,700 from fundraising."

At the start of 2025 there was a big financial hole to fill but both our insurers, Ecclesiastical and the National Lottery Heritage Fund made very large financial contributions and were supportive of the work to future proof our church building. Without them we would not have got to the start line

Fast forward over 22 months from the incident to November 2025 and we completed a major heritage conservation project far beyond replacing a single pinnacle. This is the result of the two big decisions by PCC. Firstly, the decision to inspect the other three pinnacles and do what was needed to protect them against storm damage and later in 2025 to carry out and to fund from church resources general maintenance and repairs to the tower whilst the scaffolding was in place.

As well as the financial support from Ecclesiastical and National Lottery we had the benefit of an outstanding project team. Blair Gratton Architects, MSM (Midland Stone Masonry) Ltd and KNH Scaffolding Ltd are all conservation specialists. Each element of the work had to be planned and carried out precisely to a detailed specification. As well there was the small matter of hard manual work at height. There was a very effective working relationship with each of and collectively the Architect, Stonemason and Scaffolders. There were site meetings and evaluations prior to the start date, monthly site meetings during the work and regular communication between the Warden and Architect. This created a common understanding of the project objectives and of the financial constraints.

Given the location of the church building and the nature of the work this was a paramount consideration. The church is in a residential area, close to a primary school with paths around the church building and a public car Park. The Principal Contractor provided a method statement which included protection for personnel, neighbours and the public including community groups and other church users. Risks from working at height were addressed, including the danger of falls and dropping materials and tools. Work areas were clearly defined and signs and barriers were in place. The erection of specialist scaffolding and platform, a key safety feature, was completed in line with an engineering design.

All the health and safety issues in the Risk register were addressed. There were no accidents, near misses or incidents reported during the work.

To other matters. Work was carried out on the car park in October but under unfortunate circumstances. A company approached a number of churches and local groups giving the impression that they were working for or with Derby City Council or the Highways Agency. We were told that they were sub-contractors of Derby City Council working close by. That was false, the company carried out two pieces of work on the car park. We received two invoices from the company. The second invoice was rejected, and they were paid a fair price. We wrote to the company to protect our position. The City Council was notified of this and other incidents which were referred to Trading Standards. The Police issued alerts.

The church clock is serviced annually and the 2025 service identified defective pulleys that needed attention. The pulleys were taken down for repair in July and then reinstated. We are very grateful to Smith of Derby for their expertise and to Church Care for a grant of £1,500 towards the costs.

A Sanitary bin was installed at church engaging the same provider as St Edmund's. The bin is emptied every 4 weeks. A post box has been installed on the railings by the north door.

It was reported in the 2024 Report that PCC had resolved to extend churchyard burials into the bottom meadow. The first burial in the new area was on 16 December.

It was also noted in the 2024 Report that arrangements were being made to welcome Community Payback teams to work in the churchyard. Those visits started in the Spring on Saturdays 9.00-3.30 pm. The team carried out a huge amount of work and made an enormous difference. The visits continued until October and we are arranging a similar programme for 2026.

The most noticeable work in the churchyard has been the uncovering of a large number of memorial slates buried close to the surface. This project is being enthusiastically driven by John and Pat Bishop who are documenting details from the slates. We have had help from Darley Abbey Cubs and Beavers, Good Gym Derby and two DofE students, Arthur and Archie.

Etwall Garden Services have been engaged to mow the grass and cut the hedges in place of Angus Radford and that is going well. They also gave the Yew tree at the car park entrance a strong cutting back.

Darley Abbey Guides did a churchyard litter pick in September to mark World Clean Up Day

There was some minor storm damage during the year taking down branches There was a report in August of some vandalism at the bottom of the churchyard involving a wooden cross and grave flowers. The family was informed and consulted. A wasp's nest inside a recent grave at the headstone was spotted by the family in the summer and when other options had failed it was treated by a pest control contractor with powder spray. This cost £125 and the family volunteered to pay.

### **Churchyard Working Party** - David Brierley

It's worth repeating the opening remarks in the 2024 Report.

"As we all know our churchyard is a work site that never stop giving and 2024(2025) was no different "

This is a major challenge for the Churchyard Working Party and more members are needed. It is not an onerous job description. Members do what they can once a month on a Saturday morning and in between. There are all sorts of things to do, and the focus of work is to keep the churchyard neat and tidy and to enhance its natural beauty and diversity. Once again, the Garden of Rest flower bed produced a stunning display thanks to Jean Ormerod's stewardship and care.

Also, a special mention to Keith Muirhead from the village who did a large amount of work in December when on leave from working abroad.

As noted in the Fabric and Churchyard report the Community Payback teams made a big difference. A note dated 25 August and left in church said:

"I have seen the men from Community Service working in the churchyard on Saturdays and looked at what they have been doing. Could you pass on genuine thanks from a local resident and best wishes for a bright future."

### **ECO Church** - David Brierley

In March 2025 St Matthews gained the Eco Church Silver award .There are no specific plans in place to target the Gold award but there will be a general review in 2026 to see how much we have in any event progressed towards Gold and what needs to be done .Eco Church has been a valuable tool for St Matthews by demonstrating what can be achieved by a series of small steps and there have been a number of opportunities to speak to other churches about it . .

There has again been a good variety of Eco events in 2025 and some really useful connections made.

There were Saturday morning Drop-in Sessions in January and February to coincide with Refills on the Road in the car park. We hosted Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Nutwood Nature Reserve, the village Hydro project and Derby City Council Recycling and their Green Rewards scheme

The Churches Count on Nature was in June and again attracted good interest. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust went into Walter Evans to talk about wildlife in gardens and held an after school drop in "Wildlife in your garden" in the Fellowship Room.

Also, in June there was a Second hand Saturday in the Fellowship Room This was an extension of the previous year's Clothes swap and Items for swapping were children's clothes, toys and games, bric-a-brac and haberdashery. This did good business and a local charity, Togs children's clothing bank took away the leftovers

There were two village litter picks from church in May and October. Sadly, but unsurprisingly lots of rubbish was collected both times.

### **Friends of St. Matthew's** - Jane Forrester

The year 2025 was a very successful one for FoSM. We began the year with the number attending meetings in the mid-teens and finished the year with the number in the mid-twenties.

During the year we learned about the "unstately" stately home of Calke Abbey, the never-ending work of the Woodland Trust, the R.N.L.I. where ordinary people do extraordinary things, Medical Detection Dogs who can be life savers and the intriguing story of the Durrell family in Corfu. Also, the group were entertained and inspired by Pat Taylor, who recounted her life as Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire and living with sight impairment.

Not all our talks were educational, as on 1st April, a fitting date, we were treated to 'Life can be Funny' by Pat Hall and in October we heard about the 'Confessions of a Coach Driver', which was enlightening and amusing.

We are a friendly group, who enjoy tea and a chat, but also support many charities, including those of our speaker's choice and St. Matthews. We always welcome visitors and new members.

### **Flowers** - Diane Whittaker

The team continue to be busy providing floral displays throughout the year apart from Lent and Advent. This has proved to be very challenging this year during the summer months when the heat has made it uneconomical to provide displays. We will be looking at ways to mitigate this in 2026.

The major festivals of Easter and Christmas give us the opportunity to produce more elaborate displays, and this seems to be appreciated by both the congregation and visitors. The church is also beautifully decorated with poppies and wreaths for the national act of Remembrance. We work closely with St. Edmunds in order to be able to share the benefits of economies of scale and to share creative ideas. Some of you may have noticed that at Christmas a similar floral theme was echoed in both churches. In March we continued with the tradition of providing Mothering Sunday posies for the community and congregation using British daffodils and greenery from our own gardens.

Encouragement is being given by the Church of England to consider using seasonal, locally sourced flowers and foliage which is something we are taking seriously in order to support the eco efforts at St. Matthew's, together with the reduction in the use of floral foam and using alternative mechanics for displays.

We continue to receive generous donations in memory of loved ones at Easter and throughout the year and for this we are very grateful.

If you would like to be involved in assisting with flowers or offering ideas for displays, we are always looking for new recruits.

I would also like to say thank you to all who help with the floral displays and the decoration of the church, it is much appreciated

#### **Catering Committee** - Diane Whittaker

March was quite a busy month for us starting with serving refreshments for the fund-raising event organised by Ann Miller and the Derby City Singers for repairs to the church pinnacle, closely followed by providing refreshments for the memorial concert for Peter Barham. March was certainly a month where music was celebrated and much appreciated.

Our major catering event for the year was the September Harvest Supper which was well attended and entertainment was again provided by the talented Chaddesden Ukulele Players for the third year running; a most enjoyable evening. As Paul said, "to be invited back for a third time must mean we are doing something right".

We continue to provide refreshments after major evening services and Choral Evensongs, which gives us the opportunity to give thanks for our wonderful choirs.

If anyone has ideas for fund raising events that we can be involved in, please let me know.

As always, thank you to everyone who helps and supports in making our events both successful and enjoyable.

#### **Christian Aid** - Diane Whittaker

In 2025 the community of Darley Abbey once again supported the vital work of Christian Aid through their generous donations. The focus of this year's Christian Aid week concentrated on providing assistance in areas where families and farmers are on the frontline of a climate crisis they had no part in creating. Christian Aid, working with other agencies, is able to offer training and tools so that farmers can grow more resilient crops, conserve water and create organic fertiliser.

The total collected was £1836.04 of which £1089.50 was gift aided adding a further £272.00 to this total.

Thank you to all our friends and neighbours who support the valuable work of Christian Aid by giving so generously. In addition, thank you to all who make Christian Aid week happen through the delivery of envelopes and providing collection points.

If you are interested in taking on a delivery round, please ask.

#### **Choir** - Tim Capes

The choir has a very active and warm social side which fosters a caring attitude for all members, including anniversaries and birthday celebrations.

On the 22 June 2025 choir members sang in the Choral Festival at Derby Cathedral which boasted some 100+ participants.

Achievement is especially celebrated here so on Sunday 5 October 2025 we were extremely proud to see both Annabelle and Florence be given the Dark Blue Ribbon award and Kionie the Red Ribbon award in the RSCM Voice For Life awards. We hope that they will all continue to enjoy singing with the choir and extending their skills.

Thanks to Geoff Howell for his continued support as organist (particularly for Choral Evensong and also for Good Friday); John Bishop in creating access for the congregation to the lyrics of the anthems we sing; John and Alison Gratton for their advice and help in selecting appropriate repertoire for the choir; and to all choir members for their continued commitment and dedication.

On Sunday 15 March we had the privilege of giving the premiere of a choral piece written especially written for St Matthew's by Dr Tamsin Jones which met with great success.

We hope to make the community aware of the choir's activities and would love to see new members join.

#### **Parish Magazine** - Geoff Howell & John Worthy

During the past year, we have continued to issue 11 monthly Parish Magazines, with a combined December/January edition. We have included timetables of forthcoming services, notices about future events, illustrated reports on recent church events, church contact details and articles of general interest. Each edition has also contained a letter from Revd Rachael or, occasionally, from Revd Sarah. We have also included items of local interest, for example from the schools, scouts and guides, sports clubs and the Nature Reserve.

We print 280 copies, usually with 36 pages, but sometimes 40 if we have more material to include. Woodlands School print the magazines and, in spite of occasional problems with their printing equipment, they always do a very good job. The magazines are collected from the school and issued in batches to our excellent team of volunteer deliverers by Barbara Coe and Jenni Connell. We are very grateful to them and their team. We are also very fortunate to have several regular contributors of articles of interest to our readers, including Clive Lemmon, Melonie Hambly and David Brown.

The magazine contains advertisements from local businesses and organisations, whose payments offset the printing costs, along with the readers' subscriptions that are collected by the delivery team. Each year we lose some advertisers and gain some new ones. Caroline, in the church office, does a great job in issuing and chasing up their invoices.

The magazine circulation has slightly reduced, and we encourage all members of the PCC to invite new subscribers. The subscription remains at £10 a year. We also always welcome feedback on the magazine content and suggestions for suitable material to include

#### **Fellowship Room** - Caroline Audley

FOSM, the WI, Tai Chi and The Community Café continue to be our regular bookers as well as a Sight Loss group on a Tuesday during the day and an antenatal class which runs on a Wednesday. After the block of Antenatal classes, a baby 1st aid class follows as a one-off session. Guides also now use the room on a Tuesday evening during term time.

Darcie at Refills On The Road wound up the business so no longer uses the church carpark.

The local schools use both the room and church on a regular basis.

I will continue to talk to people and show them around The Fellowship Room for regular bookings and parties, especially if St Edmund's Church Hall isn't available.

**Baby & Toddler Group** – Caroline Audley (*included as families in St Matthew's parish and Walter Evans School attend*)

The group continues to meet on a Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am in St Edmund's Church Hall. We have a number of regulars but often have new faces too. I don't ask people to book as this can be stressful for parents and plans also change so some weeks are quieter than others, but some weeks are very busy. I welcome childminders who tend to bring multiple children. I don't think it's right to exclude them like some groups do.

The group offers fruit and biscuits, squash, tea and coffee. This is kindly donated from Morrison's in Belper and their Community Champion Lucy.

Thank you as ever to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the cupboard, as well as moving the tables and chairs, I couldn't do it without him. I definitely notice when he's on holiday!

Huge thanks also to Michèle who does a wonderful job helping to make teas and coffees, wash up at the end (so there is now nothing for me to take home) and chatting to the parents and grandparents, making them feel welcome.

**Nature Tots** – Caroline Audley (*included as families in St Matthew's parish and Walter Evans School attend*)

This group started in September 2025 and runs once a month, normally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am. This group replaces the normal Baby & Toddler Group in St Edmund's Church Hall. It's essentially a pre-school playgroup with a difference, connecting children with nature; encouraging them to learn, play and have fun outdoors. We meet in Allestree Park, not too far from the main carpark off the A6.

It's run in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust who gave us over £1,000 to buy items/toys and facilitated 2 days training for myself and Rev. Rachael Brooks. They also funded 2 days of outdoor specific First Aid Training for myself, Rev. Rachael, Andrew Brooks and Michele Aspinall. Rev. Rachael, Andrew, Michele and Alwyn Young (Rainbows and Brownies leader) help every month at Nature Tots, from Andrew loading up his car with toys, Michele and Alwyn making teas and coffees and Rachael reading the story. I am incredibly grateful to them all for their help.

Andy and sometimes Matt from Wildlife Trust come to help put up our parachute canopy and direct people from the main carpark. They have put in a planning application for a permanent outdoor classroom and pond dipping pond not far from where we currently meet, similar to the one as Carsington Reservoir. This application also includes storage which we don't currently have.

A number of the regular attendees of the Baby and Toddler Group come but we've also seen some new faces.

**Community Pop-in Café** - Ann Worthy, Julie Longworth, Sarah Murfin & Vicky Howell

The Community Pop-in Café has continued to welcome everyone. Once a month on a Friday morning in the Fellowship Room it is open from 8.30 so children can come before school starts and it serves a selection of teas and coffees with a choice of different toasts with jam, honey or marmalade.

A happy relaxed café vibe is enjoyed by all generations who have time to relax and chat. There are toys for the younger generation to play with too.

We have bought some new thermos jugs for the church from the proceeds.

Everyone welcome so do come along.

**Ascension Prayer Group** - Clive Lemmon

Once again, the group has met, at Catherine McAuley House, for prayer and fellowship most months. There is a small core of regular attenders, with others joining us occasionally. All are welcome.

**Services at Beaumont House** - Clive Lemmon

Following the established pattern, three short afternoon services of worship were held at Beaumont House, one around Easter, one in the summer and one just before Christmas, where we sang some hymns, listened to words of scripture and prayed. Generally, about half a dozen folk have joined us, and the services are appreciated by those who take part, especially if they are no longer able to get to church regularly.

**Bookworms** - Cyra Buxton, Jane Burton and Anne Madge

Bookworms has continued to meet on the second Monday of each month throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry. Membership from both St Edmund's and St Matthew's parishes has remained fairly constant, though we have had one new member join the group and unfortunately one long-standing member has had to opt out.

The books selected by the group are listed both on the church website and in the parish magazines. These cover a variety of titles of different genres, geographical and historical settings and publication dates and they have continued to provoke wide-ranging and thought-provoking discussion both within group meetings and in a wider social context.

**Safeguarding** – Diane Whittaker

In November 2025 I was appointed by the PCC to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Parish DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) administrator following Melonie's resignation from this role having given 6 months' notice. This has been a steep learning curve and I feel that I am gradually getting to grips with the role. Thank you to Melonie for her continued support and to Caroline who has kept the training and DBS requirements up to date during this period. The PSO's in the area are working together and supporting each other in order that best practices can be shared.

I am pleased to confirm that I have now completed all relevant training and obtained my enhanced DBS certificate for this role and will be completing my DBS training in April.

In accordance with best practice Safeguarding is a permanent item on the PCC agenda and a report is produced from the Safeguarding Parish dashboard for discussion.

At the time of this report there are some training requirements that require action and these are being closely monitored. All DBS requirements are up to date. During the coming months there will be a review of various policies and procedures and these will be tackled in a timely manner.

I can confirm that the PCC in accordance with Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Safeguarding is Everyone’s Business.

#### **Allestree Churches Together (ACT)** - Rev’d Rachael Brooks

ACT as a formally continued body has been dissolved. However, Holiday At Home happened successfully in summer 2025.

#### **Electoral Roll** - Barbara Coe

The completion of the revision of the Electoral Roll was 25th April 2026. At this date there were 71 on the Roll, 40 who are resident in the parish and 31 who are non-resident. This figure is down by one from last year.

#### **Walter Evans CE Primary & Nursery School** - David Brown

No report available.

#### **Derby City Deanery** – Clive Lemmon

In the synodical structure of the Church of England the Deanery Synod sits between the Parochial Church Councils and the Diocesan Synod, which in turn is subordinate to the General Synod. Derby City Deanery Synod meetings therefore receive reports of the proceedings of both the Derby Diocesan Synod (where, in 2025, the question of diocesan finances was a major issue, with many parishes, like S. Matthew’s, being unable to meet, in full, the request for contributions to the Common Fund, the largest part of diocesan income) and of the General Synod (where controversial matters had led to a degree of fractiousness that was unfortunate, but did at least seem to be improving as the year progressed). The Diocese of Derby also came forward with proposals for streamlining the administration of all eight deaneries in the Diocese. The Derby City Deanery (the largest, by some way, of the eight) discussed the proposals and raised several questions, which have been taken back to the Diocese so that the proposals can be refined.

The main business of the Deanery Synod over the year was in encouraging parishes to share best practice and to work together where that could be helpful. A particular focus was on *Growing Younger*; a Church of England initiative aimed at increasing the church’s reach, with its Christian message of hope and salvation, into our local communities. We tried to identify what was already going on

involving younger folk round the Deanery, and when these things were added to a map it came as an encouragement. It was interesting to realise that our four parishes have been set up with a definite intent to 'grow younger'. Our four parishes, plus S. Alkmund, Derby are working together in involvement with Woodlands School, and this was identified as one example of how cross-parish initiatives could work. The *Music for Schools* scheme was another initiative that shows promise for greater involvement of parishes. There was encouragement in this, but there remains a lot of work to be done if we are significantly to 'grow younger'.

**2025 Accounts and Treasurers Report for 2026 APCM**

**Introduction:**

Following the retirement of former Treasurer Clive Lemmon part way through the financial year and retirement of our Independent Examiner of many years, Kate Cadman, Ian Brown took over the role of Treasurer.

With the introduction of on-line book keeping and digital banking, registration with the Charity Commission and engagement of new accountants Bates - Weston of Derby, the accounts for 2025 are a mix of written ledgers and spreadsheets to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission.

**Summary.**

The Receipts and Payments summary show that in 2025 we had a deficit of £30,507.00 This was due primarily to work associated with repairs to the Tower and delays in receiving refunds from the Church Insurers.

**Income (Receipts).**

As a result of changes being made in the way we recorded general income as outlined in the introduction, we had a slight increase in overall income (excluding grants) in the year. The Trustees Annual Report indicates that, not only did we repair the tower, we resurfaced the car park, repaired the tower clock and installed a new projector and screen as well.

**Legacies.**

We received no legacies during the year.

**Fund Raising.**

There was little fund raising in the year, we raised just £811.00

**Bank Interest.**

Interest was slightly down on the previous year by £87.00. We had to use some of the funds from our high interest account to fund repairs to the tower.

**Outward Giving.**

There was no outward giving during 2025.  
This is being looked at for 2026.

**Common Fund.**

As a result of the work associated with the tower, we only paid 60% - £24,000.00. of the £39,880.00 requested. It is hoped to pay the full amount in 2026 - £37,681.00.

### **Church Running Expenses.**

There are numerous maintenance tasks that need to be addressed as a result of tower repairs and ongoing repairs to the Fellowship Room. It is hoped that some of these repairs will be addressed in 2026.

### **Church Utilities.**

The church has agreed new contracts with suppliers of gas and electricity during the year. There was a 16% reduction in our billing but it is difficult to determine whether this is due to reduced tariff charges or general usage?

### **Looking Forward.**

The Church Warden and Treasurer have met to discuss various maintenance issues that need resolving during the good weather.

As a priority, the gutters and drains on the SW and NW corners of the building need to operate efficiently to prevent ongoing dampness and the rear SW wall of the church needs to dry out and be re-plastered (and painted).

The wall heaters in the Fellowship Room are being upgraded and the PA system is being upgraded (part 2 of the 2025 AV project - screen and projector).

Some of this work is being funded by generous donations made to the church.

Generally, giving to the church has not matched inflation for a number of years and we need to encourage members of the congregation to review their donations.

Our Parish Share request (Common Fund) has fluctuated over the past few years. In 2026, based on an average congregation of 38 people each week, each person would need to contribute at least £20.65 per week into the fund.

### **Thanks.**

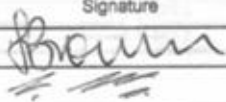
Many thanks to Clive Lemmon for all his hard work as Deputy Treasurer, Diane Whittaker, Rita Brierley and Sunday Morning Counters and supporters.

Parochial Church Council Accounts 2025 @ 31/12/2025

	RPF	Account Description	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
<b>Receipts</b>							
	1	Planned Giving	39963.00	300.00		40263.00	33755.00
	3	Service Collections	3998.00	0		3998.00	10945.00
	4	Donations	1547.00		8460.00	10007.00	14846.00
	6	Tax Recovered (GA)	10350.00	2094.00		12444.00	9138.00
	8	Non Recurring Grants	5367.00		60509.00	65876.00	2500.00
	9	Fund Raising	811.00	0		811.00	425.00
	10	Bank Interest	2687.00	0		2687.00	2774.00
	11	Fees - PCC	4555.00	0		4555.00	7275.00
	12	Trading Fellowship Room	3803.00	0		3803.00	3393.00
	12	Trading Income - Magazine	4242.00	0		4242.00	4479.00
	13	Other Income	4432.00	0	147.00	4579.00	480.00
	13	Agency Income	4402.00	0		4402.00	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>86157.00</b>	<b>2394.00</b>	<b>69116.00</b>	<b>157667.00</b>	<b>90010.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
	17	Fund Raising Costs	225.00			225.00	190.00
	18	Mission Giving - Outward					70.00
	19	Common Fund	24000.00			24000.00	24000.00
	20	Salaries	6774.00			6774.00	12140.00
	21	Clergy etc Expenses	428.00			428.00	142.00
	22	Mission Costs	202.00			202.00	
	23	Running Expenses	14700.00			14700.00	14174.00
	24	Church Utilities	2699.00			2699.00	3086.00
	25	Trading - Fellowship Room	2718.00			2718.00	3828.00
	26	Governance					
	27	Repairs to Church Building	301		1500.00	1801.00	12482.00
	27	Repairs to Church Tower			112364.00	112,364.00	
	28	Repairs to Fellowship Room	874.00		3264.00	4138.00	
	99	Other Payments	148.00		82.00	230.00	40.00
	99	Agency Payments	4569.00			4569.00	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>57,638.00</b>		<b>117210.00</b>	<b>174848.00</b>	<b>70152.00</b>
<b>Excess of Payments over Receipts @ 2025</b>						<b>30,507.00</b>	
<b>Opening Cash Balance @ 1/1/25</b>						<b>98,279.00</b>	
<b>Closing Balance @ 31/12/25</b>						<b>67772.00</b>	
<b>Statement of Funds @ 31/12/2025</b>							
<b>RBS Current A/C</b>			<b>500.00</b>			<b>500.00</b>	
<b>RBS Business A/C</b>			<b>26960.00</b>	<b>13280.00</b>	<b>3029.00</b>	<b>43269.00</b>	
<b>CCLA Deposit A/C</b>			<b>24003.00</b>			<b>24003.00</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>51463.00</b>	<b>13280.00</b>	<b>3029.00</b>	<b>67772.00</b>	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	St Matthew's Church Darley Abbey PCC		1215439		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from		Period start date	To	Period end date	
		1/1/25		31/12/25	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
1 Regular & Planned Giving	40,263	-	-	40,263	33,755
3 Service Collections	3,998	-	-	3,998	10,945
4 Donations	1,547	8,460	-	10,007	14,846
6 Tax Recovered (Gift Aid)	12,444	-	-	12,444	9,138
8 Non Recurring Grants	5,367	60,509	-	65,876	2,500
9 Fund Raising	811	-	-	811	425
10 Bank Interest	2,687	-	-	2,687	2,774
11 Fees (PCC)	4,555	-	-	4,555	7,275
12 Trading (Fellowship Room)	3,803	-	-	3,803	3,393
12 Trading Income: Magazine	4,242	-	-	4,242	4,479
13 Other Income	4,432	147	-	4,579	480
13 Agency Income	4,402	-	-	4,402	-
	-0	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>88,551</b>	<b>69,116</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>157,667</b>	<b>90,010</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
N/A	-0	-0	-0	-	-
	-0	-0	-0	-	-0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-0</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>88,551</b>	<b>69,116</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>157,667</b>	<b>90,010</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
17 Fund Raising Costs	225	-	-	225	190
18 Mission Giving - Outward	-	-	-	-	70
19 Common Fund	24,000	-	-	24,000	24,000
20 Salaries	6,774	-	-	6,774	12,140
21 Clergy etc Expenses	428	-	-	428	142
22 Mission Costs	202	-	-	202	-
23 Running Expenses	14,700	-	-	14,700	14,174
24 Utilities	2,699	-	-	2,699	3,086
25 Trading (Fellowship Room)	2,718	-	-	2,718	3,828
26 Governance	-	-	-	-	-
27 Repairs to Church Building	301	1,500	-	1,801	12,482
27 Repairs to Church Tower	-	112,364	-	112,364	-
28 Repairs to Fellowship Room	874	3,264	-	4,138	-
99 Other Payments	146	82	-	230	40
99 Agency Payments	4,569	-	-	4,569	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>67,638</b>	<b>117,210</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>174,848</b>	<b>70,152</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Projector and Screen + Video	8,491	4,835	-0	13,326	-
			-0	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,491</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>13,326</b>	<b>-0</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>66,129</b>	<b>122,045</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>188,174</b>	<b>70,152</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>22,422</b>	<b>- 52,929</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 30,507</b>	<b>19,858</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds:</b>	<b>- 52,995</b>	<b>52,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>95,316</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,279</b>	<b>78,421</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>64,743</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,772</b>	<b>98,279</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds @ 31/12/25</b>	CBF High Interest Account	24,003	-	-
	Royal Bank of Scotland Business Account	40,240	3,029	-
	Royal Bank of Scotland Current Account	500	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>64,743</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
	Tax Reclaim due April 2026 (Note Only)	-	-	-
	Outstanding Insurance claim due to the Church following Tower Repairs	26,971	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Church Building (Grade 2 Listed)	Church	-	-
	Fellowship Room	Church	-	-
	Grave Yard and Adjoining Carpark	Church	-	-
	Usual fixtures and fittings, central heating system, organ, piano, projector and screen	Church	-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Following Tower Repair, there is a Retention Sum of £3800.00 + VAT to be paid to the main contractor funded by our insurers.	Church	4,548	01 May 2026
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		IAN R BEAUM CLIVE LEMMON		26/2/26 1/3/26

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of S.Matthew, Darley Abbey in the  
Diocese of Derby**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of S.Matthew, Darley Abbey in the Diocese of Derby**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Sean Douglass FCA  
Bates Weston LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
The Mills  
Canal Street  
Derby  
DE1 2RJ

Date: 12 March 2026