

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Reports for the  
**ST WULSTANS ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**



# St Wulstans Church

11:15am Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

## **St Wulstans Church**

**Cranham Drive, Worcester, WR4 9PA**

**St Wulstans PCC | 40-52-40 | 00023672**

**[saintwulstans.online](http://saintwulstans.online)**

This is the Annual Report for 2025, required under the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 for Worcester St Wulstans in the Deanery and the Diocese of Worcester. St Wulstans promotes the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as stated in the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956. The PCC is aware of its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2026 the PCC will continue to review its practices using the Safeguarding Toolkit to ensure it fulfils that duty. We continue also working with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018).

## Membership of the PCC

Sarah Northall --- VICAR AND PCC CHAIR

Keith Sockett --- CHURCHWARDEN

Rick Atkinson --- CHURCHWARDEN

### *Members until 2026*

Chris Walker & Brian Penson

### *Members until 2027*

Trish Smith & Lorna Davies

### *Members until 2028*

Angela Holmes & Debbie Atkinson

## Our Vision and Mission

We believe that the heart of Warndon beats at St Wulstans, and all that we do flows out from our worship of our generous, including God. As we strive to secure our legacy as a church for everyone, our vision is to be people who are known for:

- Our open door
- Our joyful hearts
- Our trust in God and
- Our willingness to help

The Annual Meeting was held on 18 May 2025. PCC met in July, September and December of 2025, and again in January and March of 2026. As of March 2025, there are 25 on the electoral roll.



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## Vicar's Review of The Year

*We spent the weeks before Advent last year in a Season of Prayer. It was Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer that emerged as our focus. As we review the life of our parish, we do so through his lens of seeking the serenity to accept, the courage to change, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

### **God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change ...**

St Wulstan's remains a church at the heart of the estate, a gift for community. Hosting Sunflowers and Scouts and the NHS groups is a source of steady income for us but comes with the challenges of shared use as well. Our buildings require ongoing maintenance and care, and this steady work forms part of the background rhythm of parish life. Against this backdrop, ministers (even bishops!) come and go, and the parish continues to carry its responsibility to pay Ministry Share and partner in the wider life of the diocese. Crucially though, as with the whole of the voluntary sector, parish life relies on a core of ordinary, wonderful people offering generous time, energy and financial support.

### **... the courage to change the things I can ...**

In many ways, 2025 was a year of trying things out. With the ending of Mainly Music we have developed our relationships with Scouts, in particular sharing worship together for VE Day 80 and for Remembrance Sunday. In order to take advantage of lighter warmer evenings, we ran ABIDE groups in the weeks after Easter, giving chance for people from all the churches of the cluster to meet for reflection, fellowship and worship. We have offered regular café time before services and occasional lunches. We ran an afternoon carol service with the children's Christingles lighting the church for us as we sang. We have invested continuously in our grounds and the wilding project, updated our safeguarding systems and developed new forms of ministry as the cluster team has changed around us.



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### **... and the wisdom to know the difference ...**

Discernment in parish life usually happens through a number of small habits rather than through grand decisions. We try small experiments and watch what gathers momentum. We listen carefully to conversations after services and in small groups, where people often speak more honestly than they do in meetings. At times we pause to review what we have done and ask what has actually helped people grow in faith. Patterns over time often tell us more than single events, and working with the other churches of the cluster helps widen our perspective. Scripture also has its place in shaping how we reflect on parish life, sometimes through simple structured practices such as *Stepping Stones*. In these ways the parish continues the patient work of listening before deciding what to do next. The life of a church is not always planned, as it arrives through people: newcomers and leavers, families bringing children for baptism, couples preparing for marriage, the grieving finding community, or new partnerships developing such as with the NHS groups and the Adult Learning programme. This is why, I believe, we are in good heart in our life together.

### **... living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time ...**

Much of the life of faith in a parish unfolds through steady, repeated acts rather than dramatic moments. Season in, season out we share the stories of the church's year. This is in our own weekly services and also in friendships with the Scouts, Regency School, Oasis Academy and others in the area. Home communions continue quietly in living rooms and care homes. Behind the scenes the bills are paid, the website is updated, tea is made before services, and in due season the Christmas tree is put up again. If we could take a photograph of every moment, the life of our parish would fill gallery after gallery!



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### **... accepting hardship as the pathway to peace ...**

Parish life also carries its share of difficulty. At times a much-loved activity has to come to an end because the small group who sustained it for years can no longer carry the responsibility. Buildings demand attention through repairs, heating, accessibility or maintenance that quietly absorb time and energy. Some people come and some go, and the life of the church is continually adjusting to those changes. New initiatives do not always gather momentum, and sometimes good ideas simply run their course. Volunteers can grow tired after busy seasons such as Christmas or Easter, and partnerships often take patience before trust grows. Disagreement, too, is part of parish life, often arising precisely because people care deeply about the future of the church. Yet these moments are not signs of failure; they are simply part of the ordinary landscape through which parish life moves, and through which peace is often found slowly rather than quickly.

### **... taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it ...**

During 2025 the wider world has rarely felt far away. The news continues to be marked by war and unrest, and even here the signs are visible in everyday life: flags raised in solidarity, flags waved in protest, and sometimes flags used to draw lines between neighbours. Worcester is not immune to these currents. Parish life does not take place in a sheltered corner of the world; it unfolds within it, and so, as Jesus always did, we seek to bless in the midst of the mess.

### **... trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will ...**

In the end, parish life is carried as much by trust as by effort. We make plans, organise rotas, try new ideas and care for buildings, yet the deeper work of the church is not ours alone to accomplish. Week by week we gather for worship. Within that steady rhythm the seasons of the church year carry us further: dwelling with the Passion narratives through Lent, meeting online and in person for prayer using the ABIDE resources, journeying through the summer with *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups*, and standing with the children whose Christingles lit up our Christmas celebrations. In these ways our worship returns the life of this parish again and again to the care and faithfulness of God, whose will for us is always to lead us into light and life.



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**... so that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the new creation to come ...**

The life of the parish therefore continues in the same spirit with which it began: ordinary people gathering to worship God, to care for one another, and to serve the community around them. There will always be things we cannot change, things we must try, things we must discern, and moments of both hardship and joy along the way. Yet through it all the church keeps faith with the quiet hope at the heart of the gospel: that the life we share now is already part of the larger life God is preparing, and that the small acts of prayer, welcome and service offered here week by week are not wasted but gathered into that greater promise.

## **THE COLLECT FOR WULFSTAN BISHOP OF WORCESTER (1095)**

**Lord God, who raised up Wulfstan  
to be a bishop among Your people,  
and a leader of Your Church:  
help us, after his example,  
to live simply,  
to work diligently,  
and to make Your kingdom known.  
Amen.**



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## Fabric Report

Boilers/Thermostats have been serviced and appear to be working as expected. Severn Trent installed new stop tap in road, so work could be carried out on repairs to toilets and replacement of kitchen taps.

Unfortunately the progress on the small Hall Fire Doors has been slow and we have been unable as yet to be provided with a quote for the works.

Small repairs have been carried out by the Church Wardens as required, including regular bi-monthly cleaning of main Church and Sanctuary.

The ramp at the front door has been repaired by Colin who is also looking to replace the missing/broken quarry tiles in Spring 2026 as the weather improves.

We will be looking into electronic locks for the church in the near future as the old locks are beginning to fail, despite repairs attempted.

*Keith Sockett and Rick Atkinson*

## Worcester Deanery Synod

The Worcester Area Deanery met for three Synods during 2025, with an average attendance of around 39 members, alongside a well-supported Ascension Day service and a widely attended Deanery Prayer Event. The year was marked by strong participation, thoughtful learning and a shared commitment to prayer, mission and mutual encouragement across our churches. Our March Synod focused on ministry with children and young people, with contributions from Simon Hill (iSingPOP), local youth leaders and parents, emphasising creativity, partnership and realistic expectations. In July, hosted at Martley, we welcomed our new Area Dean, Revd Kalantha Brewis, and explored Climate Justice and the Diocese's Net Carbon Zero commitment, with input from Revd Sue Adeney (Eco Church) and practical discussion on sustainable buildings and lifestyles. Our November Saturday gathering centred on Fellowship, Discipleship and Stewardship, with contributions from parish leaders and Chris Ottershaw, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, introducing the Cornerstone resources for financial sustainability. Throughout the year we also received diocesan updates on safeguarding, racial justice and ministry share, with parishes contributing over 71% of the requested total. We give thanks for a year of collaboration, leadership transition and renewed vision as we continue to grow together in faith and service.

*Paul Fulbrook*



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## Treasurer's End of Year Report – 31 December 2025

### Bank Accounts

The parish bank balances at 31 December 2025 were:

CAF Cash Account: £15,131.43

CBF Church of England Deposit Account: £4,506.67

Total funds held: **£19,638.10**

Of this total:

Designated Funds: £14,490.84

Restricted Funds: £4,809.16

General Funds: £528.10

Total Restricted & Designated Funds: **£19,395.00**

This leaves **£243.10** in unrestricted general funds within the accounts overall.

### Breakdown of Restricted and Designated Funds

Flowers: £18.02

Well-Being Grant: £3,077.14

Candles: £15.70

Hospitality – Green Wilding: £184.77

Quizzes: £281.70

Mainly Music: £688.91

Gift Aid Claimed Back (Designated): £11,454.81

Community Projects (Designated): £743.03

Green Wilding Grant: £245.70

Green Wilding Signage: £392.22

Utilities 10% Fund (Designated): £2,293.00

Agency Funds: £0.00

Total: **£19,395.00**



## **Planned Giving**

Total planned giving received to 31 December 2025: **£12,370**

## **Envelopes and Cash Giving**

Brown Envelopes: £80.00

Cash on the Plate: £2,214.12

Total: **£2,294.12**

## **Ministry Share 2025**

The parish Ministry Share for 2025 was **£13,000**.

Total paid during 2025: **£14,797**

This represents an overpayment of **£1,797**, which will be carried forward towards the 2026 Ministry Share. An early overpayment was made at the beginning of the year to ensure the Ministry Share could be met, which has allowed the parish to start 2026 with a positive balance.

## **Gift Aid**

Gift Aid reclaimed totals:

2022: £2,791.35

2023: £3,972.63

2024: £4,405.83

Total Gift Aid reclaimed: **£11,169.81**

PCC meeting plans to use these funds for the installation of a new fire escape door.

## **Green Wilding Project**

Green Wilding Grant received: £4,639.00

Total spent: £4,393.30

Remaining balance: **£245.70**

Green Wilding Hospitality Fund

Donation from St Wulstans: £300.00

Spent: £115.23

Remaining balance: **£184.77**

Green Wilding Signage Grant: £1,000.00

Spent: £602.00

Remaining balance: **£392.22**



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## Hall Hirers

The church currently has three regular hirers.

## Cocaine Anonymous

This group pays £20 per month. During the year £40 was received, of which £4 was allocated to the designated heating fund.

## Sunflowers

Total received January–December 2025 (after deduction of the 10% utilities contribution): **£5,060**

## 12th Worcester Scouts

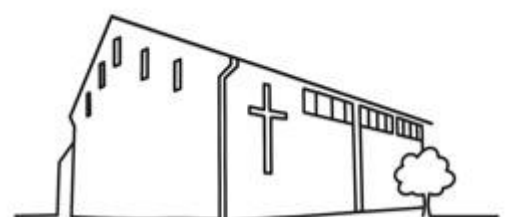
Total received January–December 2025 (after deduction of the 10% utilities contribution): **£3,050**

Across all hall hire income, 10% is deducted at source and placed into the designated utilities fund, which totalled **£815.00** during the year.

## DBF Payments

All DBF payments for the year have been made.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
REGULAR GIVING	£13,083	£13,695	£12,450
OTHER DONATIONS	£3,179	£3,593	£2,734
GIFT AID	£3,791	£3,973	£4,406
CHURCH/HALL HIRE	£6,497	£7,475	£8,650
FUNDRAISING	£513	£201	£601
GRANTS	£441	£15,938	£150



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## Financial Commentary

At the end of December 2025, the parish held total funds of £19,638 across its bank accounts, with over £15,000 in its main account and over £4,500 in a deposit account. The General Fund, which is used for the day-to-day running of the church, decreased from £6,037 to £528 during the year. This reflects the fact that much of the parish's money is held in restricted or designated funds. Designated funds are those the PCC has set aside for a particular purpose, while restricted funds are those given to the PCC to be used for a specific purpose. The value of the designated funds (Gift Aid, Community Projects, and Utilities 10%) has increased from £8,935 to £14,206. In particular, the Gift Aid fund holds £11,170, which the PCC have decided to use for a new fire escape door. In the coming year, PCC will be restructuring our use of the designated funds in order to keep a more robust reserve in the general fund going forward. The value of the restricted funds (flowers, well-being, candles, Green Wilding, quizzes, and Mainly Music) has decreased from £10,202 to £4,904. Where possible, we will use restricted funds before the general or designated funds.

Regular giving during 2025 totalled £12,450, with a further £2,734 received through other donations. The church building continues to be well used by community groups, with three regular hirers during the year (Sunflowers, Cocaine Anonymous and the 12th Worcester Scout Groups). Overall, we had £8,650 from rental income, and 10% of that is designated towards the cost of utilities. Several grant-funded initiatives have also been active. The Green Wilding projects spent £1,086 during the year, leaving £823 in their restricted funds. Similarly, the Well-being project began the year with a balance of £7,245 and spent £4,318, leaving £3,077 available to continue the work (there was also a grant of £150 towards the project).

The Ministry Share request for 2025 was £13,000. During the year, £14,797 was paid, meaning the parish finished the year having contributed £1,797 more than requested.

This early overpayment means that the parish begins 2026 already ahead on its Ministry Share contributions. For 2026, the parish will match St Barnabas in committing to contribute £10,000 in Ministry Share. Our other significant expenditure in 2025 was:

UTILITIES	£7,696
OFFICE & SERVICE COSTS	£1,971
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	£1,464
INSURANCE	£1,408
DEFIBRILLATOR	£1,100



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Taken together, the figures show that we are a financially stable and active parish. Regular giving has remained steady, the building is well used by community groups, and the parish has successfully drawn in grant funding to support its mission and community activity. The parish has met its financial commitments in full and begins 2026 already ahead on Ministry Share payments.

The financial statements were reviewed by Chris Ottershaw, the Parish Resources Officer for the Diocese of Worcester, independently examined by Michael Bishop of Wollescote, St Andrews, Stourbridge, and adopted by full PCC on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **A Postscript from the Vicar**

Cary works tirelessly with the TEABAG and Appreciating Richness groups, and Amanda is a diligent Parish Safeguarding Officer, with additional oversight of the defibrillator. Margaret has faithfully kept housebound members in touch with church life.

Revs Andy, Paul, Nick and especially Rosie serve generously and lovingly as leaders of worship for us, helping us sustain worship at the heart of our community.

Angela our treasurer and Keith and Rick our wardens are amazing. Along with Debbie and Chris, they quietly work away in the background as what we continue to call the Core Group, embodying all that we hold dear at St Wulstans — hospitality, community, kindness.

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