

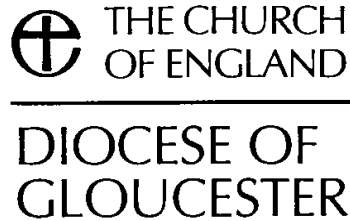
The Parochial Church Council of
Holy Trinity Brimscombe



Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

V1.0 Final



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION 2026

Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Brimscombe Church is situated in Brimscombe It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Revd Peter Francis, *The Rectory, Walkley Hill, Rodborough GL5 3TX*

The website address is <https://brimscombechurch.org.uk/>

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC

Rev P Francis – Vicar. Ex-officio

Mr P Gee – Reader. Ex-Officio

Mr C Short – Warden. Ex-Officio

Mr R Kerr – Warden. Ex-Officio

Mr G Ayre – Elected December 2024 with 2 years remaining

Ms J Wilson – Elected with 0 years to stand.

Mrs H Kerr – Elected with 0 years to stand.

Mrs A Lancaster – Elected with 2 years remaining

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Permitted 1 representative and there is currently a vacancy

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr. Joseph Simpson, Simpson Costea Limited,
The Willows, Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield, GL10 3UH

BANKERS: National Westminster Bank plc., 21 Eastgate, Gloucester, GL1 1NH.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as “to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical”

There have been 5 full PCC meetings since the last APCM on 4th May 2025. PCC membership after that APCM numbered 8 including ex-officio members.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll in April 2026 totalled 26 with 16 resident members and 10 non-residents.

MINISTRY TEAM: organises all aspects of ministry and worship

PCC STANDING COMMITTEE: meets at short notice on behalf of the full PCC and looks after fabric and grounds.

PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

The Annual Parish Church Meeting took place on Sunday 5th May 2025 after the service of Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity Brimscombe with Rev Peter Francis in the chair.

Review of the Year 2025

Mission and ministry

Revd Peter Francis, together with Readers Richard Spencer and Peter Gee have, as a ministry team, led worship in the benefice of Rodborough, Woodchester and Brimscombe throughout 2025. And in the last quarter of the year the ministry team was further strengthened by the addition of Anne Lancaster, as an experienced reader who had come from Coventry diocese and Ian Sullivan, who is in training for reader ministry. Service leading Capacity across the benefice was also increased through the running of the lay service leaders course in our benefice and training of four new lay service leaders.

With the help of lay service leaders and a retired priest, Worship took place every Sunday at Holy Trinity at 11am (excepting Joint services) and our services have been greatly blessed by Peter, Jez and Anne, who have led us in sung Worship. It has also been encouraging to us all, that Church members have started giving testimonies during Sunday services on how God has been working in their lives. Joint services typically happened on the 5th Sunday of The month. These had alternated between St Mary's, Woodchester and Brimscombe School, but in 2025 also included the sanctuary space at Brimscombe mill. These services have been a great opportunity to bring the whole benefice together.

During the year Revd Peter Francis encouraged the congregation to explore different ways of engaging with Scripture through reading, meditation, study and memory. The 2025 Lent Course was entitled 'Practicing (sic) the Way' based on a book by John Mark Comer about becoming a disciple of Jesus by being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus and doing what Jesus did. After Easter there was a sermon series on transforming encounters with the resurrected Jesus; in September the theme was Jesus as our pacesetter, in November it was remembering and in December it was Jesus as 'Emmanuel, God with us'.

Midweek Benefice services have seen a shift in 2025, as the zoom morning prayer service has stopped, but a Celtic morning prayer service every Wednesday, held at the Old Endowed School Rodborough, has

a slowly building congregation. There is now a more open time of prayer, every Monday evenings in the Upper Room, a space for people to come to listen, pray and encounter God.

Amongst, the varied Midweek study groups in the benefice, two are hosted in Brimscombe Parish. Firstly, a lunchtime bible study group - Soul Food that occurs on alternating Thursdays from 1pm to 2.30pm in the Upper Room. This starts with sharing lunch together, then focuses on a book in the bible and finish up with praying for each other and for others. Secondly, Peter Gee hosts a Bible study group that meets weekly on Tuesday evenings via Zoom which allows inclusion of those who find attendance to a physical evening group difficult.

In 2025 there was 1 funeral and 1 interment at the church as well as services at local crematoria. There was also 1 wedding.

At Christmas 2025, there were 64 people attending the carol service, compared to 75 in 2024 and 55 in 2023, when there was more advertising, which will be resumed for 2026.

Ecumenical links

There was a much-enjoyed benefice weekend away at the Christian retreat centre Lee Abbey, where the benefice joined with Christians from other churches in the country. Some members also joined with a great many other Christians at the New Wine festival at the Bath & West showground. Brimscombe has joined other parishes preparing and taking part in the World Day of Prayer.

Rev Peter Francis

Rector of Rodborough, Woodchester & Brimscombe

Benefice Bible Study Group on Zoom – Tuesday Evenings at 7.30pm

We started this Benefice Bible Study Group back in 2023, and it is held on Tuesday nights during term times, from 7.30pm to 8.45pm. We meet on Zoom, so that the group can potentially include people from all three churches within the benefice, and also those who are housebound or sick. It is also nice during the cold winter months to meet from the comfort of your own living room. The format of the evenings is a few minutes of chatting and we all bring our own drinks and snacks, then reading a Bible passage and allowing God to speak to us, and into our hearts and lives, then discussing the passage together, and finishing the evening with a time of prayer together.

You don't have to take any part in the evenings, you can literally just come and listen and even turn your camera off if you don't want to be seen on screen.

During 2023, we went through the whole of the Gospel of Luke, and then finished the year in a short Advent series of Bible studies. In 2024, we studied the Epistle to the Romans. During Lent, we completed the "Fruitfulness on the Frontline" course, which encouraged us all to perform small acts of love and kindness, and to tell our own story of faith to others. We then learned about King Saul and King David, followed by the lives of women in the Bible, with studies on Rachel and Leah, and Deborah.

In 2025, we completed a study on the book of Ruth, followed by our Lent course called "Practising the Way," which has focused on the nine main spiritual disciplines we find in the life of Jesus himself, including – solitude, prayer, Scripture, fasting, Sabbath, generosity, service, community, and witness. This was followed by studies on the lives of Joseph and Abraham.

This year, in 2026, we have so far completed the lent course run by Lectio365 called “The Desert Fathers and Mothers”, about those hermits, monks and nuns who lived lives of sacrifice, solitude and commitment to God, in the extremes of the Egyptian and Arabian deserts. After Easter we will then be studying the life of Moses.

I find studying God’s living Word so exciting and we need to remember that the Bible is spiritual food for our souls which we all need to continue to feed upon, to stay strong and healthy. This group is open to all people of all ages and it is designed to be easily accessible for everyone, so please do feel free to join us at any point, or just to come and go as you feel comfortable.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105)

Peter Gee

Helen Kerr: Prayer Group at Brimscombe Upper Room or in Home - Monday Evenings at 7.30pm

The Monday night prayer group is open to everyone, whether you have belonged to a prayer group before or would like to join for the first time it is a relaxed environment. We meet in the Upper Room at Church, and more recently at parishioners homes as well. We begin with a bible passage and then see where God wants to take us. It usually includes music from an artist, and prayers often are for the community, the world, for healing, for friends, for Church, and for salvation and revival. It is a wonderful opportunity to be with God in prayer, psalms and worship music and there is often a palpable spirit of gratitude for all that He has done and is doing, and we often experience God’s peace and presence. Everyone is welcome to join us. We try to meet every Monday save for bank holidays and PCC meetings.

Helen Kerr

Community engagement activities

We have sought to keep the church building -open, providing a quiet place of prayer and reflection for the community. However we have, for reasons of safety, had to keep the church closed at various times. The church was open to the community following the Boxing Day fire on Brimscombe Hill so allow messages and prayers for the Shearman family to be left. Members of the congregation and others were on hand to offer support, a listening ear and refreshments over this period and into the New Year. Brimscombe Mill was also a hub of similar activities and there was collaboration between leaders on this issue.

Members of the church are continuing to explore and develop links with the Grace Network in Brimscombe Mill. This includes the monthly community coffee morning and participating in some of their Christmas activities. The decision has been taken to have a joint Christmas carding sharing services and events over December for 2026.

Outreach into the community included:

Weekly Open the Book and Clergy Worship at Brimscombe Primary School as well as seasonal school services held at Holy Trinity and to which parents were invited. Occasional special All Age services (such as Christingle) were held at the school, as well as joint benefice services and Christingle . An Easter

church cake and jam sale took place again at the School, which raised about £200 split between the school and church as well as a good opportunity to meet people and chat.

In 2025, following problems with wet weather previously, the Roving Nativity was re-located to Brimscombe Mill and the nativity story was told with the backdrop of Home Remedy, the Long Table, Bike Drop and the Sanctuary, as we roved around Brimscombe Mill. We also managed to get a 'real' baby to play Jesus this year, but other parts were done superbly by the children from Brimscombe School. And it was great to be celebrating with Brimscombe Mill, Church and School together. As is now traditional, we sung carols in the Ship after the Roving Nativity and also had a Community Coffee (and Carol) morning at the Long table, ably led by Peter Gee.

Church Warden's comments

The Church building has been open during the day on the timed lock for most of the year (see above), 8-4 during the winter months and 8-6 over the summer.

In 2025 we sought to progress a number of workstreams identified:

- We had categorised the works required via the 2024 quinquennial report from David Newton into the most urgent priorities, and in 2025 explored the faculties required and the possibility of funding via grants. Subject to Diocese approval the PCC has identified a master stonemason to do the priority external elements in early 2026.
- We have received quotes for a new Audio Visual system, which will provide a modern integrated technological solution to enable sound and vision for congregation, service leader, preacher and worship musicians. Again a faculty will be required, and is another area to seek external funding.
- The PCC authorised the purchase of a second church signage, to be visible to pedestrians and drivers from the Brimscombe Hill, to further invite newcomers. This will be installed in 2026.
- We are keeping an eye on the existing gas boiler, which on the whole worked better during 2025. The boiler is expected to function well for a few more years now but as contingency planning, the wardens investigated alternative options including infra-red, convection heating, pew heaters, wall heaters and air source heat pumps. Replacing the current system with a like for like is not thought to be an option. The advice is to install under-pew heaters. This will require an increase in power supply, and significant funding. We explored grants available and commenced engaging with the supplier to make the changes to the electricity supply to be prepared should we need to move away from the existing system, to an electric heating solution
- The church needed a good clean and be spruced up so it looked loved and welcoming. The congregation engaged fully and joyfully in the work, with more planned for 2026.
- And finally... we would like to recognise all of the congregation members who help the church run from tea & coffee, flowers, cleaning, reading, prayers, music and ministry. Remembering always that Church is about people and not just the building! A heartfelt thanks to all.

Chris Short and Richard Kerr, Churchwardens

School Governors Report, Foundation Governor Report 2025

Foundation Governors: Rod Harris (Chair), Peter Gee (ex-officio), Catherine Crampton, Graham Ayre (part-year), Rebecca Saunders, Theresa Yates-Round

'Stay alert and hold firmly to all you believe. Be mighty and full of courage. Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.'

Nicki Brown, head teacher has now completed a full academic year and into her second. She has a strong Christian foundation at her core, and lives this out through her interaction with the staff and all the children in her care. During this year, she has created a senior leadership team of the newly appointed deputy head Dan Poyser and Gail Bateman, SENCo. As mentioned in our last report, the school business manager left at the end of 2024. We finally managed to appoint a school administrator who started during the spring term, Emily Rycroft is proving an invaluable asset in the day-to-day running the school. Although she has no previous school administrator experience she is wonderfully gifted with efficiency and an ability to undertake the training she needs to fulfil her duties.

It continues to be a privilege to be part of the governing body at Brimscombe and witness such a strong team of staff who are completely committed to upholding the key 'love and kindness' in all they do and so reflect this in how they interact with the children to live this out. We do have foundation governor vacancies and are hopeful these will be fulfilled as soon as possible. In November, Graham Ayre resigned from the governing body after some 19 years of dedicated, loyal and self-less service and we were all saddened to see his departure. We will always remain extremely grateful for all he has contributed as will always be remembered as an intrinsic part of Brimscombe's history.

We provided another lunch for the staff and the governors were able to meet with the staff and genuinely get to the know them better and be able to thank them in person. It is not easy to juggle all the national curriculum demands with sport and the arts to consider as well as ensuring spirituality is present and visible.

The children continue to receive weekly worship with from either Rev Peter Francis or Rod Harris leading and in addition they have now adopted class worship, led by children where possible. The children still have a place in their classrooms where they can express either through written or drawing pictures, a prayer or thought. In addition, the older children regularly write and say their prayers at the weekly assemblies of celebration on Fridays, when parents can attend. The amazing Open the Book team visit the school every Monday – a great way to start the week.

The day before the end of the term, the school had a Christmas crafting day for the children to make festive decorations – to represent Holy Trinity we set up a table to make Christingles and Father Christmas masks for the children to take home at the end of term. The following morning we welcomed the children to the church as we celebrated a Christingle service. This was the turn for the staff to make Christingles and the children to help them to explain what they meant! In addition, the Year 6 children helped with the readings and writing the prayers. It was also the first time we were all able to sing our new school song, which was written by Rebecca Saunders to encompass our vision statement.

The school is full at present with 100 children and as with all schools, it is a challenge to make sure new children keep coming. The school hall is used for a mother and toddler group each week and many of these local families then sign their children to join Brimscombe pre-school, which is excellent. Our head teacher meets other heads from 6 other local primary schools and between them they offer support, expertise and fellowship to each other – they meet as a HUB – none of these schools want to join large

multi-academy trusts, so using this forum they maintain their distinctiveness and help each other. The HUB has been going now for over 5 years.

The national birth rate continues to fall, so it is our duty to make sure Brimscombe is exceptional in delivering a firm foundation for learning, as well as being uniquely loving in giving all the children and staff the opportunity to know Jesus and the love of Christ for their own lives.

Theresa Yates-Round, Chair of Governors

Brimscombe School - Open the Book – Helen Kerr

The Open the Book team continues to enjoy visiting Brimscombe Primary School each Monday morning. We are always given a warm and enthusiastic welcome by both staff and pupils. It is a joy and real privilege to share Bible stories in such a positive and receptive environment.

The children engage with great interest and enthusiasm, and they are always eager to participate. While our acting skills may sometimes leave room for improvement, :) the children's willingness to join in more than makes up for it! Their contributions bring energy, humour, and a real sense of life to the stories, making each session unique and memorable.

Our current team of three—Peter Francis, Gail, and myself—is managing well and remains committed to this important ministry. However, we would greatly benefit from additional volunteers who could offer regular support.

We are thankful for this opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing this important and valued connection with the school.

Safeguarding

Anne Lancaster became our new safeguarding officer in 2025, and brought immediate focus to the role. During 2025 Anne successfully benchmarked performance against Diocesan requirements, identifying tasks to be undertaken and also created training plans and accountability for all the PCC members to ensure safeguarding requirements will continue to be fully met in 2026. Anne's report is as follows:

The safeguarding information on the Church Website and the published posters in the Church has been updated.

A verbal reminder to the congregation on the importance of safeguarding and our attitude of welcome to others was given in the spring.

PCC members are updating their safeguarding training.

We had a safeguarding concern when it was established that a previously known individual was using the Church premises and had superglued the locks. Since then the church has regrettably been closed outside normal service and activity times, except for a limited period after Christmas.

Anne is applying to become DBS evidence checker for the Parish to facilitate those needing to update their DBS applications.

My thanks go to everyone as they do their best to be vigilant and keep Holy Trinity a safe space for all.

Anne Lancaster, Safeguarding Officer

Church Giving

We support our missionaries and certain local organisations financially and in prayer including Nelson Trust, The Grace Network, The Door Youth Project, Amigos Worldwide, Arocha UK.

Financial Review

Total incoming funds were **£28,479** and are detailed in the financial statements.

Total payments in the year were **£28,581**. The largest item of expenditure was **£20,000** on the Parish Share which is the payment to the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance to enable it to provide the parish with clergy and support services.

The net result for the year was a deficit of **£102** which was paid from the financial reserves.

A number of payments, such as Mission Giving for 2025, have been carried over to 2026.

Full financial reports are published on the Church website. <https://brimscombechurch.org.uk>

Graham Ayre, Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by

..... **Chairman**