



From the Vicar

This past year has been a remarkable chapter in the life of St Gabriel's, characterised by deep spiritual growth, vibrant celebration, and a clear sense of God's movement among us. As we look back on the 2025–2026 period, it is a joy to reflect on the highlights of our shared journey and the ways our community continues to expand and deepen.

Life Events and Congregational Growth

One of the most significant causes for celebration this year has been the visible growth of our church family. We have seen a statistically higher number of baptisms this year than in any recent memory. This growth is fueled in large part by the wonderful developments within our Farsi-speaking community, alongside others from across the parish. Seeing so many individuals take this step of faith is a profound testament to the inclusive and expanding nature of our church.

Our liturgical year reached a particularly joyful peak during our Easter services. The liveliness of our worship was matched by the success of our "Eggstravaganza" event. It was a delight to see the "bouncy ark" unleashed once more, bringing such energy and smiles to our celebrations.



Study Leave and Global Connection

From June to September last year, I was privileged to take a period of study leave, which proved to be a time of significant personal and communal learning. My focus on the nature of refugee journeys and the ministry of Christian kindness allowed me to connect deeply with stories of displacement and hope across Europe.

You can view or download this report including the full accounts not present in this document at st-gabriels.org/apcm or by scanning this QR Code.



A key highlight was the video project that emerged from this period, which has served as a powerful tool for us to engage with these global issues together. Furthermore, visiting the project set up by our mission partners, the Stones family in Georgia, provided a vital connection to our global commitments and allowed me to see firsthand the impact of some of the work we support. I am deeply grateful to Catherine and the wider team for their exceptional leadership and support during my absence.

Civic and Ecumenical Engagement

Our commitment to our local borough has also flourished. My appointment as Co-Chair of the Brent Multi-Faith Forum has opened new doors for dialogue and partnership across various faith groups and with the council. Additionally, my continuing work with the Brent Borough Deans has allowed us to strengthen collaboration between Christian churches, including the annual ecumenical Pentecost celebration.



Leadership and Governance

Our church is blessed by the dedication of those who serve in lay leadership, and this year we mark a significant transition. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our two Churchwardens, Tuong-Vi Le-Magowan and Harriet Aber-Luwum, who are stepping down this year. Their commitment to the care of our buildings—from the complexities of boiler repairs, maintenance spreadsheets and "Spring Spruce" of the grounds and church — and their steady oversight of our safety and compliance has been invaluable. They have served with grace and diligence, and we are a stronger community for their leadership.



I am also immensely grateful to Guy Butler for stepping into the role of Treasurer for the first time this year. Taking on the church accounts is a significant undertaking, and Guy has given a great deal of time to better understanding them and helping to communicate their importance to us. He has been joined by Alan Reynolds as our volunteer bookkeeper, taking over from Marcus and alongside them, I want to thank the wider Stewardship Committee for their hard work in managing our transition to the Parish Giving Scheme. This move is a vital step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our mission, and I am encouraged by the committee's vision in helping us navigate this change so successfully. Additionally there are a number of long time members of PCC who's term comes to an end this year, especially our PCC Secretary, Sophia Ajani.

Our Team and Transitions

This year, we have seen several transitions within our staff team. We give thanks for Bisoye Adedayo, who left her role as Church Administrator in September; we are so pleased that she remains an active and valued member of our congregation. We were also glad to welcome Renn Lin, who has stepped into that role and is continuing to grow in it. Similarly, Rebecca Bincan has moved on from her staff position with the CAP team, but she remains a valued part of our church family. We are immensely grateful for the service both Bisoye and Rebecca gave in their professional capacities and for their continued presence among us.

Finally there is the recent news that Catherine Patterson will be soon leaving us to begin working in our neighbouring parish of Christ Church Brondesbury. We are of course thrilled that she will remain a neighbour and collaborative colleague and

look forward to seeing the exciting ways we can work together for God's kingdom to grow across the area.

Looking Ahead

While our focus here is on the past year, we look forward with great anticipation and what God has in store for us. We remain committed to being an intergenerational and intercultural church, and we are hopeful that in the coming year, we will successfully recruit a Youth and Young Adults Worker. This role will be key in helping us grow our work with young people and ensuring that St Gabriel's remains a place where every generation can flourish and learn to serve one another.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Staff Team, the Churchwardens and PCC, and the many volunteers who make the ministry of St Gabriel's possible. It continues to be a privilege to serve as your Vicar.

With Every Blessing,

The Rev'd James Yeates - Vicar



Children and Families

It has been an exciting year in the Children and Families Ministry at St Gabriel's.

At Boogie Angels, we have welcomed lots of new families and have had such a fun time opening the church to our community. It has been great to be able to provide a safe place for families to play, sing, dance and chat with one another. This year, we held both a Light Fest in October and February Family Fun in February half term. We were able to welcome both current and past Boogie Angels to come and enjoy St Gabriels. As February Family Fun fell on Ash Wednesday, we were able to offer ashing to the families as well as lots of other Super Mario-themed activities. It was so lovely to see many going home with an ash cross on their forehead.

At the Light Fest we were able to celebrate all things light and bright with our toddler families and their older siblings with a light trail and pumpkin-themed fun. St Gabriels is known in our community as a place that welcomes and loves children and families, and that is in no small part to the brilliant Boogie Angels team that serve faithfully every week and those who come and help us at special events – Thank you all!

In Sunday Children's Ministry, we have two groups, Kids church for 5-11-year-olds and Mini church for 0-5-year-olds. We always focus our time on the Bible and find fun ways to make it come alive for children of all ages. This year, we have studied the life of Moses from his start in the bullrushes to the Ten Commandments.

We also celebrated with a Passover meal and looked at the similarities between that and communion. This year, we have also looked at Jesus' life and ministry with 'king cake' making and the Lord's Prayer with bread making. We try and make every session hands-on and varied while being focused on Jesus. We also said goodbye to some of our year sixes this year as they went to join the youth, but we do love it when they come back and visit.

One of the highlights this year is seeing some of our kids' church children come for Baptism and confirmation in November when Bishop Lusa visited. It is such a privilege for us to journey along together in our faith. We have also welcomed some great new team members this year to the children's ministry, and we are always looking for new people to serve our brilliant children. If you are interested in joining us, please come and speak to Susie.

Susie Yeates, Children and Families Minister

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday Fellowship has been enjoying meeting weekly. They meet to pray, worship, study the Bible, and fellowship with one another. This year, we have studied the book 'Women in the Nativity Story' by Paula Gooder and the theme of thanksgiving. We regularly celebrate birthdays with a meal, as well as Easter, Christmas, and summer meals.

Sadly, this year we also lost our dear sister Auntie Tola, who was a much-loved and treasured member of the fellowship for many years - she is greatly missed by all.

This year we have welcomed lots of new ladies to be part of us, and they, like us, have recognised what an incredibly blessed group of ladies we get to belong to. We love having new ladies come along and join us.

Susie Yeates

Youth

In 2025 our young people have continued to gather on alternate Sundays and Fridays during term-time. I'm very grateful to Aalia and Minnie who have continued to lead the group regularly on Sundays and to Marcus for enabling our gatherings on Fridays when we're also joined by young people from Cricklewood Baptist Church. Big thanks also to Naomi, Debbie, Alan, Carl, Stephen and John Caeleb, and of course Susie, who helps us create seasonal edibles and home-made pizza!



We continue to enjoy gatherings around the fire pit, themes around discipleship, and crafts that reflect our Bible studies together. Our Youth Team continued our winning streak at the CAP Fundraiser, with a top place in the Quiz in October.

In November, some of our young people enjoyed the worship and teaching at Sorted 2025.

When they're not meeting for Sunday Youth group, our young people continue to serve on a variety of rotas - Kids church team, Bible Reading, Intercessions and Production Desk. This summer they also took the opportunity to co-lead services during James' study leave.

Our volunteer team goes above and beyond to respond to the needs of our young people but we want more for them. Our hope is that this time next year this spot will be written by our new Youth and Young Adults Minister. We continue to pray that God is preparing the right person to join us at St Gabriel's.

In the meantime, if you know a young person who would like to join our youth groups or you are considering signing up for the volunteer team please do get in touch.

The Rev'd Catherine Patterson, Curate



Christians Against Poverty

The CAP Debt Centre continues to serve the community with casework, Money Coaching courses and joint working with Hope Café. From January 2025 to March 2026, we supported 65 adults and 19 children across 46 households with unmanageable debt casework.

Eight clients are debt-free as a result, with almost £114k of debt cleared. We also celebrate 12 households equipped to manage their journey to debt freedom independently in that period too, comprising over £150k of debt.

Money Coaching has been enthusiastically received across both courses and taster sessions, and we were selected to trial Money Guidance from CAP toward the end of 2025.

This is a step on from budgeting theory/principles to offer an on-the-spot budget to clients and discuss their options on pressure points or opportunities.

There is access to Debt Advice, as necessary. Our aspiration to extend casework locations to operate out of other churches has been slower than we hoped, but outreach with Money Coaching, complemented with Money Guidance in time, is already starting to have an impact. Traction with local colleges has been especially rewarding, reaching students and young people.

We are especially grateful to have had Rebecca Bincan on the team as a Debt Coach for over two years. We wished her well in her next ventures as she finished at the end of November. We will look to recruit a new Debt Coach in September. Hope Café is funded through the CAP Debt Centre and is a crucial partnership and access point - see the separate Hope Café report. We can't do all this without the mighty volunteer team of Befrienders, Money Coaches, Hope Café team, the invaluable financial support and encouragement of CAP Angels, and donors and grant funders.

Equally, St Gabriel's was extraordinarily generous in giving for client vouchers at Christmas and donating Easter eggs. As always, a huge thank you to you all. And there's always room for more - we welcome any new offers of time, funds or ideas; come and join the team for the exciting plans in the year ahead!

Emma Liberman - CAP Debt Centre Manager

Hope Café

Hope Café is open on Mondays 1 pm - 3 pm and often hosts between 50 and 60 attendees. We provide a light lunch, with soup and sandwiches, mid-October until Easter. Then sandwiches and salads, from Easter to mid-October.

We also offer other services such as pastoral, debt advice and management, through our CAP team, help with filling in forms and a chance to chat and make new friends. Our recent Hope Café survey showed that people really enjoy and appreciate having somewhere to meet and socialise with others and many have accessed the other services we offer.

This year has seen a partnership with the NHS mental health team develop, which has been invaluable in helping us refer people to the correct services. Through this partnership we have been able to host a health check session, this involved being able to have blood pressure, cholesterol tests and general health as well as advice from a doctor, housing and benefit specialists. We are in the process of arranging another session in the near future, keep an eye out for further information.



We have had our very popular Hope Café specials, which are three times a year and as well as providing a slightly different menu, we have played Bingo and generally had fun. These specials see around one hundred people attend them. We have a one-off cinema afternoon on Saturday 16th May, more details are available soon.

We are always amazed and excited to see God working through this ministry and are very reliant on and grateful to all who volunteer in enabling this to happen every week. I personally want to thank them all for their commitment to Hope Café, without whom we wouldn't be able to look back and see where God has been at work.

Shelley Murray, Hope Café Manager

English Conversation Classes

We have run English classes now for over 15 years at St Gabriel's. We have two evening English classes each week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. The groups are large enough to be split into two. Our teachers during 2025 were Caty, Haider and Richard, assisted by Sandra. We really would like more teachers, because this work can easily be expanded. Occasionally, people from other churches come along to see what we do. Teaching is good fun, and the classes can be boisterous at times.

Students come from many countries, including Iran, Ukraine, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Hong Kong, Poland and, occasionally, Middle Eastern countries. There may be up to 50 students altogether, but they don't all come at the same time, which is just as well. We don't advertise, but our classes are listed on the Brent ESOL website. Some colleges also refer students to us.

The classes are a very enjoyable experience from the teachers' perspective, and we believe the students have a good time too. Several of them come for the community, which is fine as far as we are concerned. We still write our own materials, although it would be good to find some inexpensive professional lessons, and perhaps we could get AI involved. As always, the objective is to increase vocabulary and to build confidence in speaking. We don't really cover 'grammar' except where it is necessary for understanding the passage we are studying. But we are open to new ideas and to suggestions from the students.

We did not have many social events in 2025, and it would be good to organise more in 2026. We do, however, try to have small-scale social events during the classes when there are festivals, birthdays or holidays. We had some group visits to cultural events and fairs.

Most students do not identify as Christian, but that is fine. We don't explicitly preach the Gospel to the students, but we seek to demonstrate the character of Christ. We are unapologetic when we do have to talk about matters of faith. Sometimes the class material covers matters of religion, and the students are fine with that.



For some students to actually come through the door of a church building is a big step in itself. By building friendship and making the classes pleasurable, we hope that our students will be able to appreciate different cultures and overcome their fears, especially when they are away from their own countries and families. Some may also find their way into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Richard Berry - English Class Team Leader

Music and Production

"I'll praise 'cause You're faithful,
Praise 'cause You're true,
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You"

We have so much to thank and praise our Lord and Saviour for. And I love that sung worship is at the heart of our community and our gatherings at St Gabriel's. There is no greater calling for every Christian than to praise their Lord and Father. So let's all give a huge thank you to all the team, both on stage and at the back - managing sound, visuals and cameras - that make our communal sung worship possible.

This year, Sarah Meere joined the team, leading the band from the keyboard, and also brought extra lift to our worship through the addition of her flute - as well as encouraging our singers to go further!



The Christmas choir also enjoyed learning some new arrangements to lift our Christmas carol service worship. We were also blessed at that service once again by Izzy Ajani's own arrangement of a traditional carol for a small group.

We have ideas for the future, including a music or singing hub later in the year. But we trust that God will lead us and make a way. This might be the route to expanding our team of instrumentalists in the future. To God be the glory!

Marcus Liberman - Music and Production Team Leader

Deanery Synod

Since May 2025, our Deanery Synod meetings have moved from practical safeguarding to deep spiritual formation and social justice. A highlight was the June 2025 session on Martyn's Law, led by Nicky from the Community Security Trust (CST). Drawing on their extensive experience in protecting Jewish community spaces, CST provided invaluable insights on organising volunteer-led security to meet new legislative requirements.

In February 2026, Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, the Diocesan Discipleship Enabler, shifted our focus inward with "The Way of Life" framework. She led us through communal exercises adapted from "Practicing the Way" materials, using the metaphor of a spiritual "trellis" to help us prune distractions and recentre our daily rhythms on Christ.

Looking ahead, our July meeting will feature Margaret Beels, Director of Labour Market Enforcement, who will discuss the complexities of modern slavery and labour exploitation—an area where she has recently urged for more cross-government invigorated strategies.

Finally, in October, Alison Tsang, Head of Compassionate Communities, will lead a session on Estates Ministry and Mission. Her work focuses on equipping churches to respond to local needs like youth violence and economic insecurity, ensuring our mission remains rooted in social action.

This series of speakers has provided a balanced path of "Stay, Share, and Serve," equipping us to be a safer, more prayerful, and more compassionate presence in our community.

Derrick Green – Deanery Synod Rep

PCC

The Administration of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Gabriel's (May 2025 to April 2026)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Gabriel's is an elected body that assists the Vicar in managing and operating the Church. The PCC is responsible for key decision-making and ensuring that all church activities run smoothly.

The PCC is led by the Standing Committee (SC), which includes the Chairperson (the Vicar), Treasurer, Secretary, two Churchwardens, the Curate, and a lay Chairperson. The SC works closely with the Vicar to identify issues that require discussion at PCC meetings, address urgent matters, and determine whether a topic necessitates a full PCC meeting or can be resolved by the SC. If handled by the SC, a report will be provided to the PCC by the Chairperson.

The full PCC consists of 20 members, including the Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, two Churchwardens, and various champions who oversee different church activities, such as safeguarding, health and safety, staff remuneration, youth and children's program, and mission partners.

The Churchwardens have specific responsibilities, including the well-being of the Vicar, the maintenance of the Church Building and its resources, and addressing any operational issues as directed by the Vicar. The Secretary is tasked with recording/distributing notes of the meeting and the 'Agenda' once approved by the SC. The Treasurer is responsible for collating financial data and reporting on how St Gabriel's financial activities are managed to both the PCC and the wider congregation.

Key Achievements (2025/2026)

This year, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has made significant strides at St. Gabriel's Church through several key achievements, including the following:

1. Appointment of a Safeguarding Officer: A Safeguarding Officer has been appointed to ensure that all PCC members and St. Gabriel's staff complete their DBS checks as well as the Introduction to Safeguarding Training and Domestic Violence Awareness before they register as PCC members.
2. Leadership on Safeguarding Concerns: The designated Safeguarding Officer leads the handling of safeguarding concerns raised at St. Gabriel's. They work closely with the Vicar to ensure that each reported safeguarding case is accurately documented and that appropriate procedures are followed to protect everyone involved from harm. It is important to emphasise that everyone at St. Gabriel's is responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns.

Projects/Activities approved by the PCC (2025/2026)

St. Gabriel's provided financial support to selected Mission Partners who align their operations with our vision and values, with a focus on Discipleship and Faith. Some of these partners include the Stone Family in Turkey, Tumaini Health in Kenya, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, New Wine, Open Doors, Tearfund, and others. Detailed information about Mission Partner contributions can be found in the financial report.

The PCC also approved one-time funding for staff development, equipment, and materials for clergy and staff members.

To enhance the safety of the clergy, congregation, and the general public visiting St. Gabriel's, the PCC has approved the installation of CCTV equipment both inside and outside the church building.

Additionally, ongoing maintenance work is being carried out in the church and the church hall/flat. This includes repairs to the boilers, fixing a leaking roof, and addressing issues with the boundary wall. The PCC has approved the purchase of a defibrillator for emergency use at St Gabriel's.

Other Key Decisions

The PCC reviewed and approved several policies, including those related to Safeguarding, Staff Recruitment, Ex-Offenders, Lone Working, Health and Safety, and the Electoral Roll. They also assessed the Action Plan and the various activities conducted at St. Gabriel's, such as Boogie Angels, CAP, English Classes, Hope Café, Kids Church, School Visits, Wednesday Fellowship, and Youth Activities. Additionally, the PCC reviewed and approved the Job Descriptions for both staff and volunteers. They accepted the report on Staff Remuneration presented by the Remuneration Committee and approved the appointment of staff members and the Marketing Activities for Hall Bookings. Furthermore, the PCC endorsed the new Parish Giving Scheme, which includes the transition to this scheme and the fundraising activities at St. Gabriel's.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the PCC members for their commitment and dedication in ensuring that St. Gabriel's Church runs smoothly as we continue to 'Meet God and Share the Love.'

Harriet J Aber-Luwum

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is taken very seriously in St Gabriel's and is pivotal in all we do. We adopt the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to ensure that St Gabriel's is as safe as it can possibly be.

This year we saw the appointment of a Deputy Safeguarding officer, Graham Eaton. This brings the safeguarding team to four, which helps us to have a better overview of Safeguarding. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor also ran The Foundations Safeguarding Training here at St Gabriel's. This was also offered to other local churches in the Diocese. I then ran a Basics course both in person and in dual languages, English and Persian. I will also be running Domestic Abuse Awareness training in person very soon.

Together, we trained over twenty people in person and about the same number have done online training; others have undertaken leadership, safer recruitment and domestic abuse awareness modules. Thank you to all who have undertaken training and helped us to keep our awareness of Safeguarding as a priority.

We check that all our practices are up to date by using the Parish Dashboard, which is a way that our safeguarding procedures are monitored, and at the time of writing, we are 92% compliant, and this should rise to 100% very shortly. Because this is an organic process and changes as new people join or we start another activity, as long as we are in the 90s.

I would just like to remind everyone that if you see or hear anything concerning, please report it using our online reporting tool which can be found on our website or follow this link:



Thank you.

Shelley Murray - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Fabric and Buildings

As your churchwarden from 2025/26, I have ensured that our church at St Gabriel's and the church hall has been well looked after. For example, with the help of the building maintenance group and church family we ran our yearly MEND IT DAY held over last summer and last month with SPRING SPRUCE DAY. On MEND IT DAY, we replaced new window shades for the church hall, fixed sticky sink taps in the ladies toilet, repaired broken chairs, and re-boxed the electric meter in the church hall. Then on SPRING SPRUCE DAY, we replaced more light bulbs including the tall light fixtures on this church stage and Graham Eaton went on the scaffolding platform to dust off the cobwebs on Jesus. We would always welcome new members to be a part of the building maintenance group no matter your skill level.

One of my greatest achievements as churchwarden is the dilapidated boundary wall (along Walm lane side) that has been an eyesore for as many years as I can count. I took on the project to organize this repair in November 2024, and one year on, it has finally been repaired by our top blokes Graham Eaton and Colin McMahon last November. I encourage you to see for yourself the great work that has been done to restore our church grounds.



More exciting news of late is the Home Office grant funding for updated security installation in our church is underway following approval in Feb from the Archdeacon. We hope to have a new CCTV system, electronic locking/fob access, security alarm and remote access.

Lastly, we have 2 important visits in May/June time when we will have 5-yearly Quinquennial Inspection conducted by the structural architect and the Triennial Parish Visitation.

Tuong Vi Le-Magowan - Churchwarden

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Membership (aged 16 and over), currently stands at 172. This is an increase from 158 last year after the 5-year restart last May. Before this the membership total was 182. Regular worshippers were driven to renew their membership and those who missed the deadline have promised to try again as soon as the registration line reopens. I believe membership will bump up again in the new church year. Since our last meeting, we were blessed with 16 new members! Even a youth I spoke with last Sunday, together with his mum, is going to get the family to look into signing up. Hopefully, by God's grace, we just might have three qualified members of a family becoming members.

The church experienced a loss of some members through relocation and a deceased member. Relocation has also enhanced the membership increase with new Farsi families and other members who have become regular worshippers, who have vouched to sign up as soon as they qualify in the required six months' period. Other beneficial boosters are groups like Alpha, (which has been missed for quite sometime since the relocation of the organiser), Hope Cafe, English Classes, CAP, Boogie Angels and the Youths' group. However, with the Vicar's new brilliant, exciting initiative of small proactive groups (HUBS), is sure to attract people to get involved and hopefully add to our membership list.

Another initiative is that the church encourages parents to register their children as soon as they reach the joining age of 16 for Electoral Membership, thus ensuring youth members, who are the future prospective leaders, become inclusive in the church community. This and other groups listed above are the overall efforts of the church to engage with the community at large, through various activities, and to the steady growth of electoral membership.

As we face the remainder of this 5-year term, I believe we can reintroduce the Welcome Cards which I think is easy for most people who are not 'Online' friendly.

Anita Bowen - Electoral Roll Officer



Finance Report and Summary of Accounts 2025

Introduction

We are fortunate to be a church of generous givers, which empowers us to fund our worship, community outreach and international mission giving efforts. Despite the tension and disquiet in international affairs, unprecedented in many of our lifetimes, we trust in God to provide and support all the things we do in his name.

The Finance Team during 2025-26 was Alan Reynolds, Guy Butler, James Yeates, and Marcus Liberman

How we work out our money

For St Gabriel's to become fully sustainable we must work towards being able to cover our regular expenditure through regular income, but we are not yet at this stage. Our regular expenses include things like staff salaries and spending on equipment for our worship activities. Dispensing these resources effectively helps us maintain the special and faith-filled environment we have in our church and community.

How did this work out in 2025?

In 2025 we were once again enormously grateful to the Kings Fund for a large grant that helped substantially cover the running costs of our CAP debt centre and Hope Cafe. Additional grants were received from the Diocese to support the transition of Jenny to her new ministry post and towards the Vicar's discretionary fund. Other than these grants, all other funds were given by our community or generated from our church activities, along with trading income from the rental of the hall and the telecoms equipment in the church tower.

Income: Regular income (comprised of Standing Orders, Annual and Periodic Gifts and PGS Income) was substantially higher than in 2024 (approximately 17% increase), despite some disruption as we transitioned to the Parish Giving scheme at the end of the year.

Thank you to everyone who gave to St Gabriel's during the year!

Spending: There were some equipment expenses that were not budgeted for and will be drawn down from our 'Investing In Our Future Fund'. Overall expenses were in line with our budget (2% lower).

Overall:

We keep our church accounts separate from the CAP centre funds. We ran a higher than expected overall deficit of £11,557 (expected £5,000-£10,000) almost entirely due to one off giving being lower than budgeted for.

This highlights our need to raise regular giving to the point we are no longer reliant on one-off gifts to make our budget.

We thank God for those who have really stepped out in faith with their giving this year and the energy that has already been shown by individuals in our community to explore further church energy improvements.

What does this mean for 2026?

To allow us to plan and grow our ministry, continue to worship God, serve our community and bring others to know Jesus to we need to grow our regular income.

This year's deficit has meant we have needed to draw on our reserves, but this is not something we can do next year. Our payroll expenses are already set to increase, so we anticipate we will be facing a deficit of £5,000 without some substantial reduction to expenses or increase in giving.

It is a crucial task for us as guardians of church resources to look for means to effectively save money or even bring in new revenue. In 2025-6 we will be fully investigating and deploying any available grant funding towards energy efficiency and green energy projects in line with our environmental commitments.



How can we pray?

Pray that we continue to have all the funds we need to sustain our varied ministries and that God will call more people to regular giving so that the future of those ministries can be better secured.

Income

	2025	2024
Annual and Periodic Gifts	£14,000	-
Standing Orders	£67,231	£80,509
Parish Giving Income	£12,327	-
Offering basket, text etc.	£11,757	£9,128
One-off gifts	£5,939	£55,265
For our Christians Against Poverty Centre (This year's Kingsbury Charity grant came to £21,731, with the rest of CAP income this year coming from our CAP angels)	£40,943	£40,493
Tax reclaimed	£29,784	£34,791
Event income (2025 including Families and Community income, Event Income)	£4,645	£6,652
Flat rent (including water rates)	£17,697	£18,264
Hall lettings	£12,495	£14,075
Service fees (for weddings, funerals in church)	£6,192	£4,169
Insurance claims	£5,754	-
VAT reclaimed	£511	£1,114
Interest	£1,727	£1,618
Tower Telecoms (Figures include charges for electricity usage – see light and Heat expenditure below)	£28,934	£31,822
St Michael's Hall – Ground rent (2024 figure is £250 charged retrospectively for 2023, plus £500 charged for 2024)	£500	£750
Other (Other giving, Special Mission Giving, grants)	£3558	£1,145
Total Income	£264,023	£282,516

Spending – Ministries

	2025	2024
Clergy and Area & Diocesan support (called the common fund)	£99,980	£91,300
Clergy expenses (includes Vicar's Discretionary Spend)	£2,489	£2,408
Worship resource (includes house and office costs, training and conferences, travel and hospitality)	£3140	£2,311
Youth resources	£405	£654
Families and Community Minister And Expenses	£15,154	£14,429
Families and Community Ministry	£1,367	£1,196
Events (includes Christmas Resources)	£921	£1,388
Hope Café (2024 All but £500 covered by a grant from the Kingsbury Trust, 2025 fully covered by the Kingsbury Trust Grant)	-	£4,013
Hospitality	£2,285	£2,588
Alpha, Welcome	£25	£148
Equipment	£21	£21
Leaving and other Gifts	£1,525	£484
Staff and Clergy Phone, Internet and Sundries	£2,558	£4,176
Staff Team – Entertaining and Gifts	£145	£273
Advertising Events	£88	-
Wednesday Fellowship	£470	-
Total Ministries Costs	£130,572	£128,529



Spending – Church and Grounds

	2025	2024
Church Administrator and Expenses (2024 included Operations Manager salary)	£9,981	£16,516
Light and Heat and water rates (2025 includes £12,710 and 2024 includes £10,442 reclaimed for Tower Telecoms usage.)	£35,318	£32,729
Insurance	£9,172	£9,043
Equipment	£5,013	£1,817
Accounting and processing costs	£906	£950
Housekeeping (housekeeper pay plus cleaning materials)	£6,206	£3,629
Stationary and Postage	£512	£1,097
Telephone and broadband	£733	£713
Licenses, Website and ChurchSuite	£3,402	£3,297
Service Fees Payable to the Diocese/Others	£1,745	£1,794
Insurance claim repairs and items	£6,065	-
Maintenance and Works:		
Electrical works (Emergency lighting, security lights, lightning conductor tests)	£384	£132
Heating and plumbing	£2,302	£5,010
Gutter cleaning	£180	-
Fire safety, alarm (Extinguisher and alarm maintenance)	£387	£1,909
Tree Maintenance	£550	-
Clock (Annual service)	£409	£372
Roof Repairs	£552	£1,050
Other maintenance and works (Wall repair – reclaimed bricks)	£192	£178
Refuse	£369	£331
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£5,323)	(£8,982)
Total Church and Grounds Costs	£84,378	£80,890

Spending – Church Hall

	2025	2024
Light and Heat and water rates	£2,072	£2,964
Insurance	£1,300	£1,393
Cleaning, including carpets	-	£1,080
Equipment and Wi-Fi	£1,342	£578
Flat costs	£235	£630
Maintenance and Works:		
Heating, plumbing and electrical repairs	-	£1,030
Fire safety, security, alarms	£282	£345
Other maintenance and repairs	£194	-
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£476)	(£1,373)
Total Church Hall Costs	£5,424	£8,019



Mission Giving

Each year we give away at least 10% of the previous year's giving income

	2025	2024
International Mission:		
Stone family	£2,640	£2,640
Open Doors	£540	£540
Tearfund	-	-
Tumaini Health Centre, Kenya	£1,200	£1,200
Other (Turkey Earthquake Aid, Yulias Refuge)	-	-
National Mission:		
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£900	£900
New Wine	£430	£430
Evangelical Alliance	-	-
Other (2025 includes £85 given to the Living Wage Foundation. 2024 includes £459 given to Welcome Churches, and £82 given to the Living Wage Foundation)	£85	£539
London and Willesden Area Mission:		
Other Area Churches (through extra Common Fund)	£3,620	£6,393
Bishops Mission Fund	£500	£500
Other	-	-
Local Mission:	£1,133	
Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre[*]	£42,443	£43,523
Other Mission Giving:	-	
Total Mission Giving	£53,491	£57,146
Payroll Expenses	£0	-
([*]includes given for CAP centre 2024: £40,493, 2023: £18,159)		

Final Totals

	2025	2024
Total Income	£264,023	£282,516
Total Spend	£273,865	£274,584

Treasurers Closing Remarks

Taking on the role of Treasurer this year has been in equal parts challenging and fulfilling. I am deeply grateful to Marcus, David, James, Richard and Alan for always being willing to lend a hand when I'm trying to get my head around something new. A big thank you also to Debbie and all the money counters for thier help as well.

Despite challenging circumstances I am optimistic for 2026 given we have multiple plans in place to mitigate our expenses and potentially raise new revenues. We trust in God that our transition to the Parish Giving Scheme will help raise our regular giving to help us achieve a healthy balance, and that our efforts to renew our youth ministry will bear fruit.

Guy Butler - Treasurer

Final Thoughts

I hope that by reading through this report you have been inspired as I have by the exciting and lively community of faith that we are at St Gabriel's. Each person that contributes in sharing God's love through kindness, prayer, service or generosity is adding to the story of faith that is building in this wonderful place. I would also like to thank all the people that have been faithfully serving and giving in every team rota or group. Particularly those that give out week in week out that don't have a whole report dedicated to them, in areas such as Hospitality, Welcome, Bible reading, Grounds keeping, Pastoral visiting, Money Counting, Home Group leading, even Preaching and Leading. I hope I've not forgotten anyone, but if I have, please know how grateful I am for all you do and look forward us continuing to work together in facing all the challenges of the year ahead.

The Rev'd James Yeates - Vicar



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