



Financial Report for Annual Parish Meeting 15th June 2026

The Parish Finance Committee comprises Joanna Helme, Peter Hereford, Father Simon, Pat Roberts, Patricia Stuart and myself as Chairman. We have met 3 times since the last APM on 24th June 2025.

I took over as chair in the latter part of 2025, and must thank Joanna for all her extremely hard work and dedication to this committee, especially as she continues to administer all the direct incomes and expenditures for our parish following her stepping down as chair last year. We are hopeful that Belmont Abbey will be automating the accounting systems for all parishes in the not too distant future.....

As in previous years, I think it is important to provide some background to the overall financial management of our parish. This will serve as a reminder for many may be news for more recent parishioners.

Our parish accounts form an intrinsic part of our parent, namely the Belmont Abbey Mission CIO, which includes the 5 parishes belonging to the Abbey. The charity's 2025 accounts are still with the auditors, but the 2024 results can be found on line at <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5154968/full-print> Being part of the Trust means that although we have our own parish current account, into which all directly received income such as parishioners' offerings are paid, and from which much of our day-to-day spending is made, as soon as the balance in this account goes over £2000 the excess is transferred to the charity's General Fund, some of which is invested. If the current account drops below £2000, it is topped up from this General Fund.

As you will appreciate, this makes keeping track of our finances somewhat challenging and I am extremely grateful to Joanna who took over from Keith White in keeping our books on a weekly basis from 2025.

A further complication in monitoring our income and expenditure comes from the fact that some items do not pass through our current account. Our Gift Aid rebate and investment income are paid directly into the General Fund. Insurance, and a range of professional fees are paid directly from it, as are any large invoices such as those for significant repairs.

There is a relatively new bursar, Graham Neal, at Belmont Abbey. Joanna and I met with him last year when he requested some patience from our side while he got to grips with the existing financial systems and planned a path forward that would work for all. Since then much of his time has been taken up with projects directly related to the Abbey. I am arranging a further meeting with him this July and hope that we will be able to get a clear vision of future financial management.

The accounts summary at the back of this report is taken directly from Belmont's accounting system, with all headings being common to all the parishes. As I said earlier, they do not contain all associated income or expenditure sources, but I hope to get further clarity in July.

The financial summary appears to indicate that we have generated a small surplus of £1,022 in the year 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2025, but as explained above, this is not the whole picture. We are only too aware of other significant sources of income and expenditure that is not recorded here, without



which we cannot present you with a true financial picture. I prepared a budget for 2025 in the hope that matters would be clearer by now, but have had to reduce my expectations. I hope that by 2027 this will be different.....

Notes on 2025 Income:

- 'Collections' here include income from the Envelope-giving scheme and loose plate. As yet there is no sign of any Gift Aid rebates which are processed centrally and are received long after year end.
- Donations and Legacies show parishioners' standing orders which you can see form the bulk (ca 60%) of the income shown here.
- Fundraising relates to the Charity Shop in Kington and also the Strawberry Tea.
- We are now receiving £500 per annum for the allotment field though it is still unclear whether this is directly allocated to our parish accounts.

A few notes on 2025 Expenditure

- Church expenses include things like candles, wine and altar breads but also services such as window cleaning and gardening. We now have a contract with a local firm to clean all the windows every 8 weeks.
- As you can see, Light and Heat costs are – understandably – significant, though we now have Smart meters fitted which makes management much more straightforward.
- Cleaning costs are wages paid to Jenny Macklin who cleans the flat and parish rooms each week. She is paid the hourly rate for the Real Living Wage and this is updated regularly.
- The Levy is paid to the Cardiff Archdiocese, being our contribution to diocesan funds including insurance for St. Bede's church.
- Unpaid work is carried out by many, but in the repairs/renewals line we must give considerable thanks to Frank McNally and Andy Palfreman for all the time and energy they put into initiating and monitoring various projects.

As I wrote earlier, I am meeting with bursar Graham Neal in July, and hope to have a clearer idea of how we as a parish may gain further transparency over our finances. The current state does not help, though we all appreciate that running costs will only increase. In spite of regular requests we also have yet to hear more about the rest of the legacy from Robin Williams.

That said, I want to thank all of you for your financial and physical support whether in your regular giving or in the special collections, the Kington shop, attendance at events such as the bring and share lunches, strawberry teas, and in those who help count after mass (and again to Joanna who banks all the cash on a weekly basis).

Thank you to all the members of the Finance Committee for your time and support, in the day-to-day work, minute taking and keen interest you have in ensuring our parish is managed properly.

My apologies for not being able to attend this APM, but I do not return to the UK until 25th June. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any other questions or ideas to help our parish.

Charles de Rohan
Finance Committee Chairman



Parish of St Thomas of Hereford and St Bede



Weobley Parish													
Income and Expenditure Account													
Income	Total	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Collections	6,046	285	440	697	311	444	618	466	575	549	482	613	565
Special collections	1,954			519	437	151	94	120		161	350	122	
Donations and legacies	19,629	1,742	1,577	1,592	1,577	1,677	1,592	1,697	1,597	1,792	1,657	1,557	1,572
Investment income	-												
Books, papers etc	110	26	26	26	13	13					6		
Fundraising	2,320		1,615				585						120
Grant scheme VAT rebate	2,285			2,285									
Retreat day	620						620						
Other	223	2	10	7	8	6	10	5	22	8	101	35	9
Total income	33,187	2,055	3,667	5,126	2,347	2,290	3,519	2,288	2,194	2,510	2,596	2,328	2,266
Expenditure													
Priest's salary	5,509	459	459	459	459	459	459	459	459	459	459	459	459
Special collections paid	1,944			394	552		191	174		101	410	122	
Church expenses (Sacristy)	1,511	20	181	444		166	20	47	333		119	46	134
Council tax & water	3,345	304	52	52	316	317	326	326	326	326	331	331	341
Light & heat	5,214		1,218		411	1,102		429	476	157	943	293	186
House keeping	843	254	282	188		21	8			90			
Motor and travel	1,787	143	123	145	107	93	109	344	357	106	93	55	112
Cleaning	1,905	195	96	211	176	101	201	101	201	146	176	126	176
Gardening	331			54		87		76				114	
Telephone	1,381	114	92	103	112	127	100	147	130	115	115	115	115
Office expenses & Website	880	190	18	50	25		178		61	202	35	112	9
Subscriptions	389	56						153	180				
Papers and books	581	20	287	26	72	27	44	20		19	20	20	26
Repairs and renewals	2,926	44	73	689	426		156	412	372	191	29	194	341
Donations	200											80	120
Sundry expenses	1,462		130	52		684	384		185		7	20	
Archdiocese	1,958			303			304			304		743	304
Total expenditure	32,165	1,798	3,010	3,171	2,656	3,184	2,479	2,689	3,079	2,214	2,736	2,828	2,321
Surplus on parish activities	1,022	257	657	1,955	- 310	- 893	1,040	- 400	- 885	296	- 140	- 500	55