



Christ the King Church

A report to parishioners on 2025 finances

In summary....

The financial health of our church is dependent upon the generosity of our parishioners and as we all need to tighten our belts, so this has a knock-on effect upon the church's financial state. Unfortunately, our costs are now exceeding our receipts and the finances of the church are under some pressure.

Estimating our likely receipts and payments continues to be a challenge while costs continue to rise. We ended 2025 with a bank balance of £26.5K and reserves of £120k.

During the latter part of 2024 we conducted a quinquennial review – a five-yearly exercise that the diocese encourages all parishes to undertake to assess the state of properties such as churches, halls and presbyteries. The review identified a raft of maintenance work that needed to be tackled over the next few years and we have made a start on this work but with a listed building, a church and a presbytery to maintain we face continuing challenges!

2024 £	Christ the King Church	2025 £
	Receipts	
55,375	Collections	53,468
13,512	Tax refunds Gift Aid	12,044
19,903	Donations	24,066
6,874	Room rentals	5,756
3,000	200 Club	3,000
98,664	Total Receipts	98,333
	Payments	
20,298	Parish Share	22,486
10,881	Utilities	10,385
17,992	Premises	17,962
24,211	Church	24,733
18,131	Admin	32,187
23,000	Reserve Fund	
114,514	Total Payments	107,753
£34,848	Bank bal end year	£26,511

The table above summarises the church's financial position at the end of 2025 (see the note below that describes what each row represents).

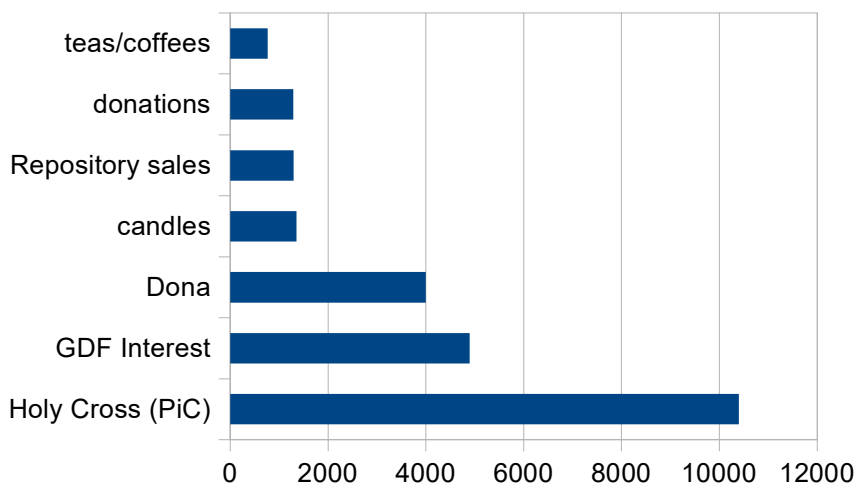
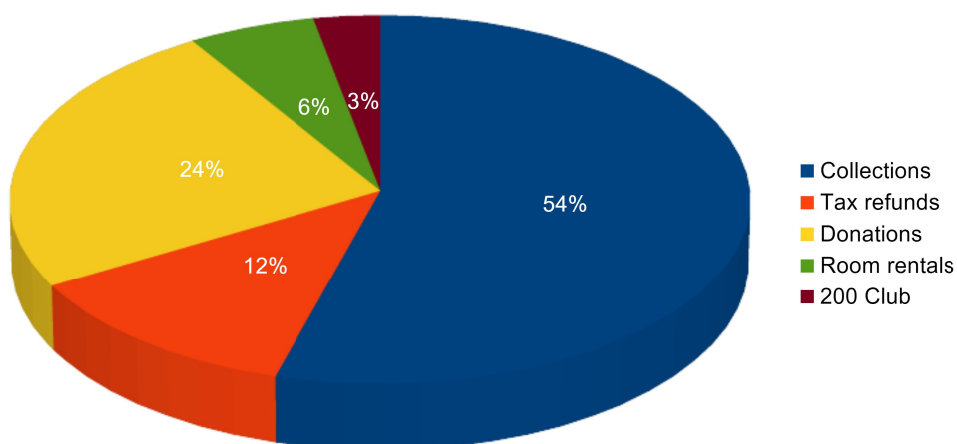
Collections	cash and standing orders
Tax relief Gift Aid	tax refund received for standing orders and donations
Donations	Donations (inc Dona donations), sale of candles, contributions from Holy Cross, interest on reserves
Room rentals	charges for use of hall & meeting rooms
200 Club	donations from the 200 Club
Parish Share	annual diocesan charge levied on parish based upon actual receipts and notional allowances for 2023
Utilities	gas, electricity, water for church and Porch House
Premises	building refurbishment, repairs, equipment, garden, insurance
Church expenses	Church equipment eg candles, clergy stipend, housekeeping, car expenses, phone, flowers, presbytery costs inc electricity, gas, water & council tax, refurbishment
Administration	office expenses, salaries
Reserve Fund	Transfers between Reserve Fund and Current Bank Account

Our receipts...

Our primary source of income is **collections** – representing just over half our total receipts. But monthly standing order donations and cash collections are both showing gradual reductions.

Of the total £53.4k from such donations, standing orders total £44.5K which is 83% of total collections with cash representing a little under £9k or 17%

Tax relief from gift-aided donations accounted for 12% and along with Collections, they account for around two-thirds of our total receipts (a 7% drop from 2024). As our gift-aided standing orders and ad-hoc donations continue to fall, then so will the related tax relief that the church is so dependent upon. If more parishioners are able to gift-aid their donations then this will have a very positive effect upon our financial stability.



Donations include the items shown on the table opposite.

Holy Cross makes a contribution towards the costs of the clergy and administration and this represents 43% of the total of donations.

The interest we receive from the diocesan reserve fund is another 20% (around £4.8k) and the Dona system is now proving quite popular as it was used to collect just under £4k for the church. It is difficult to determine what proportion of donors now use this as their regular means of donating but overall we get some 17% of Donations via Dona.

As a matter of interest, the Dona system was also used to collect another £2k for CAFOD, Ukraine and donations for the clergy.

Sales of Repository items brought in close to £1.3k and parishioners are urged to take advantage of this resource that provides a range of cards, children's books and a variety of religious items at very attractive prices.

Room rentals brought in £5.7K a little less than the previous year.

Our payments...

The **parish share** at £22.4k was 21% of our total payments in the year and as it is calculated upon the previous year's total receipts, we shall see a slight decrease in the share for 2026.

Premises costs include maintenance materials as well as insurance, health and safety-related expenses and music licences that together account for 17% of the total. Building materials represent around £8k and the insurance charges for the church and Porch House was around £4k.

Church expenses include items purchased for church (around £5.5k) and the remainder cover the cost of the presbytery and of the clergy (around £19k). Holy Cross Church contributes towards the clergy costs and their contribution is included under Donations as shown above.

Utilities costs – particularly gas and electricity – are difficult to budget for as the church is a participant in a diocesan contract and significant delays in billing mean that it is difficult to assess annual consumption figures. Gas charges account for around half the total cost.

The bulk of **Admin** costs is salaries costing £27k.

For every £1 we received last year, 54p came from collections (that includes 9p for cash and 45p for standing-orders). A further 12p came from related gift aid emphasising the importance of this tax refund. Receipts from room rentals represented 6p. Donations, which include contributions from Holy Cross Church at Wotton, provided 24p and the 200 Club provided another 3p.

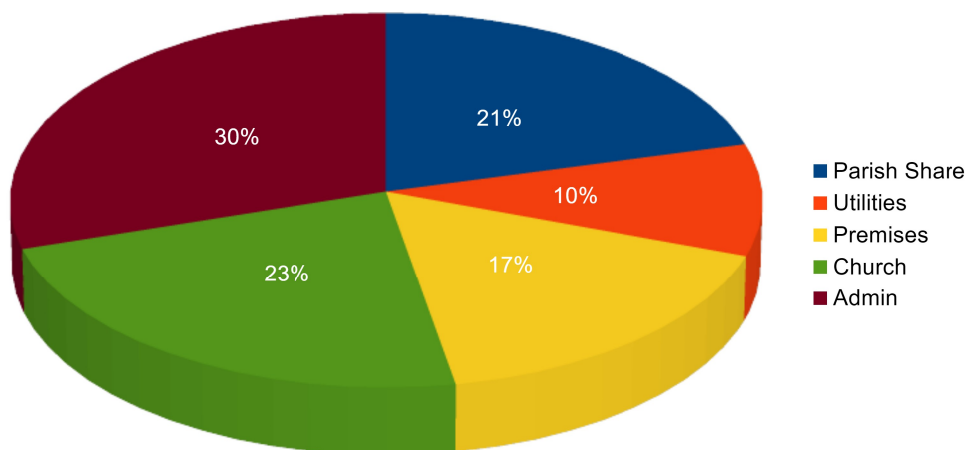
As for our costs in 2025, for every £1 we spent last year, the diocesan parish share took about 21p; electricity, gas and water charges cost another 10p; premises costs were 17p; the church costs (includes supporting the clergy and church requisites) absorbed 23p and administration (office expenses, salaries) accounted for 30p.

Premises

Much of the work during 2025 focused upon general maintenance across the church building, Porch House and the presbytery though we did have to replace the sash windows in Porch House and this cost around £5.5K in 2025 and £3.3k in the current year.

Earlier in the year we invited parishioners to help in the refurbishment of external doors around Porch House and in repointing the external boundary walls and a small group of willing volunteers worked hard to make significant improvements to these areas. As part of the work around the entrance to the church we removed a shed and created a pathway through to the kitchen thus avoiding the need to use the steps. Some major initiatives were begun at the end of 2025 but the costs fell in early 2026 – new block paving to the church entrance, emergency repairs to the presbytery roof and repairs to the long-standing problem of rainwater leakage into the Lady Chapel. Quotations are currently being sought for major roof renovation to Porch House.

We very much appreciate all those who have helped with maintaining our properties and particular thanks are due to Graham Hunter who has worked tirelessly throughout the year in dealing with a wide range of maintenance issues.



What of the effect upon church finances for 2026?

While the church finances seem reasonably healthy, it is important to recognise that sustaining this position is dependent upon collections and associated gift-aid improving and payments being kept within budgeted expectations.

We have already needed to reduce our Reserves from £120k to £100k to meet building repair costs. Depending upon the costs of repairing the Porch House roof and the effect upon our Reserves, we may need to launch a building fund to raise additional income. We have also reviewed our room rental charges and decided to increase them year by year over the next few years.

Reluctantly we now have to ask parishioners to review the scale of their donations.

Please remember....

This is your church and so many people have worked hard to turn it into a special place for the many families and individuals who have prayed and worked here over the years. The onus now falls on us all to ensure that the parish remains active and financially viable for ourselves and for future generations of parishioners.

Regular collections...

We need parishioners to now review regularly their contributions whether giving by cash in the plate or by standing order. The day-to-day costs of running the parish continue to rise and we must keep pace with these costs to avoid an unmanageable gap appearing.

One-off donations.....

If parishioners are able to make a one-off donation then please use the white gift aid envelopes at the back of church (this is important to help us claim back tax relief) or use the Dona Contactless facility that you will find on the CTK website and in the church entrance lobby.

If you can gift-aid donations please check that...

You are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount reclaimed from HMRC on your donations. As an example, donating £5 per week requires a minimum of tax paid of £65 per annum. Whilst we are anxious to promote gift aid, we also need to ensure that you do not face an unexpected request from HMRC to repay the tax we have claimed on your donations.

In response to some questions raised by parishioners, it is important to emphasise that gift aid can only be claimed on behalf of an individual taxpayer – a couple cannot jointly gift aid but if both partners are taxpayers then they may each be able to gift aid individually. This and several other issues have been included in a question/answer style pamphlet document (that includes a form for starting a gift-aided collection) that has been designed to help explain the Gift Aid Scheme. Copies are available at the back of church and on the website.

If you can't gift-aid your donations.....

But you usually donate in cash, then do consider setting up a standing order with your bank. We want to reduce cash-handling so a standing order is a safer alternative, and you can set it up online through your bank/building society. The sort code for the CTK Parish is **52-10-03** and the account number is: **68497342** and just put "Donations" and your surname as the reference.

Have you made your will?

If you are making your will then perhaps you could consider including a legacy for the benefit of Christ the King Church?

My thanks...

The Finance Committee includes Fr Frank, Deacon Lawrence McCarthy, Elaine Godfrey, Graham Bartlett, Tom Fernandez, Graham Hunter and Andy Rogers and my thanks are due to them all for their continued help and support. Finally, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I should like to thank all those parishioners who have helped support Christ the King Church.

Chris Hurford, Treasurer of Christ the King & Holy Cross Churches
April 2026