

# **Parish of St Columba, Chesham** **Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

## **Chairman's Report**

### **Headlines**

The Parish made an annual surplus of £11,399 in the year to 31 March 2025 compared with £19,769 in the prior year. Excluding third party receipts and payments (made to Charities) the surplus this year was £14,307 (£17,837 in the prior year). The Parish debt with the Diocese was paid off in 2023/24 and the Parish is now in surplus but only due to the fact that we share a priest with Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Parish.

### **Cost sharing with Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**

During the period of these accounts St Columba's and IHM were jointly served by two parish priests (Fr Dave and Fr Giacomo) up until September 2024 when Fr Eustace took over from them. So their salaries, living and travel costs, and the utility and council tax bills of the St Columba's presbytery are shared between the two parishes. Because the parish priest lives in Chesham, IHM is able to let (to diocesan workers) the presbytery in Great Missenden, so the rent is also shared between the two parishes. IHM covers two thirds of the relevant costs and pays for two thirds of the presbytery rental income to St Columba's in line with the relative offertory income of the two parishes. The net payment to St Columba's this year was £15,000 (same as in 2023/24). It is only because we are sharing a parish priest with IHM that they are making these payments – if IHM did not share a parish priest then they would have to meet the full cost.

However, if we exclude the impact of cost sharing with IHM, parish costs have exceeded parish income this year by £693 – as a “stand-alone parish” (previous year it was £2,838 surplus).

### **Overview of Receipts and Payments**

The most significant changes have been a reduction in offertory receipts and gift aid recovered of £4,500 (Fortunately there was an increase in donations of £3,000) and an increase in Clergy Salaries of nearly £4,000 due to having two priests for half of the year.

### **Looking Forward**

The Finance Committee recognises that times are difficult, but they would encourage everybody to review their level of giving and where possible increase it. Additionally, if you are a taxpayer but not yet contributing under the Gift Aid scheme please do sign up so that the Parish can reclaim an additional 25% without it costing you anything. Forms are available from the Parish Secretary. Regular payments via Standing Orders to the Diocesan Bank Account are the best way to ensure that we receive all gift aid due to our parish. Thank you.

## **Finance Committee**

At 31 March 2025 the Parish Finance Committee comprised Fr Eustace, Dcn Gerard Felix, Steve Turner (Chairman), Sam Canning (Gift Aid Co-Ordinator) and Julie Micallef. Fr Dave was previously on the committee up until his departure. On behalf of the Parish, I would like to record my sincere thanks for the work of all members of the Finance Committee. If anyone would like to join the Committee, please let one of us know.

These accounts have been approved by the Parish Finance Committee. Any member of the Committee would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

**Steve Turner**  
**Chairman of Parish Finance Committee**  
**September 2025**

**Parish of St Columba, Chesham**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Planned giving - Standing Orders	17,405	19,383
Loose plate/electronic giving	12,918	13,641
Gift Aid Recovered	5,432	7,379
<b>Offertory Receipts</b>	<b>35,755</b>	<b>40,403</b>
 Plus:		
Donations	7,392	4,293
100 Club	1,100	1,100
Other Fundraising	2,136	1,857
Share of IHM Presbytery Rent	3,225	3,225
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>49,608</b>	<b>50,878</b>
 <b>Payments</b>		
Personnel	5,799	2,177
Travel/Office	1,689	1,511
Pastoral	967	1,342
Liturgical	3,489	1,605
Presbytery	3,835	3,098
Church/Hall	4,081	7,612
Diocesan Levies	15,063	15,369
Fundraising/Other	378	326
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>35,301</b>	<b>33,040</b>
 <b>Annual Surplus on "normal" Parish Activities</b>	<b>14,307</b>	<b>17,838</b>
 <b>Other Items:</b>		
Net Third Party (Charitable) Receipts/(Payments)	(2,908)	1,932
 <b>Parish Total Annual Surplus</b>	<b>11,399</b>	<b>19,770</b>
 Parish Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit):		
Surplus/(Debt) with the Diocese	2,638	(17,132)
Parish Surplus	11,399	19,770
<b>Net Cumulative Surplus ( Deficit) at 31 March</b>	<b>14,037</b>	<b>2,638</b>