

## PARISH OF ST ANTHONY AND ST MARK

### PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

I am pleased to be able to provide the Financial Report to you now that the Parish Financial Return for the year January to December 2025 has been completed and submitted to the Diocese. I have followed the previous custom of providing a “snapshot” of the information contained in the full Financial Return which will hopefully provide you with a helpful overview of the financial situation in the parish in an easy-to-read format.



#### INCOME

As you know, our main income comes from the Offertory Collections from the Parishioners at both St Anthony’s and St Mark’s Churches. For the year to the end of December 2025, this amount totalled £113,782.72. This includes all payments made as part of the Gift Aid scheme, whether paid through the bank or by envelope. It also includes monies paid via the Diocese using the QR code in the bulletin and which are passed on to us. Many thanks as always to everyone for your generosity. The total represents a decrease almost £13,500 on last year which is obviously worrying and might serve to focus our minds on our level of giving. HMRC made Tax repayments on Gift Aid of £17,517.97 for the financial year to April 2024. This is an excellent source of additional income for parishes, and thanks go to all those UK Taxpayers who are members of the Gift Aid scheme. This year’s Gift Aid repayment total is down by around £600 which underlines the importance of gaining new members, so if you’d like to sign up, you can take a Gift Aid form from the back of the church. In fact, we will soon be writing out to everyone who currently pays by Standing Order to ask them to pay into a different parish account: the previous accounts with RBS are due to close, as all parish accounts in the diocese are migrating to Bank of Scotland.

Other income came from stall sales, donations etc. In addition, interest from the Diocese on savings in the Parochial Investment Fund (PiF) and the Parochial Aid Fund (PaF) totalling £2,217.18 was received. The total received from parishioners for Special Collections was £12,017.63. Thank you for your continued generosity to these collections. Our income from Hall rental at both St Anthony’s and St Mark’s parish halls provided £8,269.00, so thanks go to those involved in ensuring we can continue to offer our parish halls for use to the wider community as well as the parish. Additional Income, for example, a five-figure rental sum for St Anthony’s from the Syro-Malabar community brought the Total Income for the year to **£181,085.76**.

EXPENDITURE. The costs of running the parish in 2025 are set out below:

House Management, that is, the day to day running of both Chapel Houses, including repairs and maintenance, totalled £7,984.92.

Church Management, including repairs and maintenance as well as expenditure on the stall and Divine Service (communion breads and wine, candles etc) totalled £23,938.12 for both churches (which included £11,202.06 for repairs and maintenance). This is down from £41,684.29 in 2024, when there were several big capital improvements. This year a priority

will be a revamping of the entranceway at St Mark's church to provide better accessibility and lighting, as well as repair or replacement of the main church doors at St Anthony's.

Grounds Management, including regular gardening as well as maintenance of the grounds for both Churches, totalled £2,605.92. In 2026 we will probably have to resurface the house access at St Mark's, and we are considering cutting a ramp from St Mark's church carpark to the hall path to provide better access for parish functions and groups.

Office Management, furnishings and equipment, printing costs and bank charges total £686.54, around half of last year's cost. It seems likely that the photocopier will have to be replaced this year.

Our responsibility to support the Diocese is met through the Parish Levy (based on income from the previous year): in 2025 this was £37,819.44, similar to last year.

The biggest outgoings were in respect of General Parish Management, for example, Telephone & internet costs of £3,607.72 (we have very recently negotiated a decrease in cost, and better broadband provision);

Salaries and NI contributions of £14,990.61, an increase of around £5,500 which reflects having two parish clergy;

Heat and Light for both houses and churches of £29,206.48, an increase of almost £8,000 on 2024 (which was in turn a decrease of £7,500 on 2023).

Council Tax of £ 2,726.67 and Annual Insurance for the Parish Estate of £7,705.57 means that our total expenditure on General Parish management was £81,174.30.

Total Expenditure for the year was **£179,027.64**.

(The eagle-eyed may notice that the TOTAL Income and Expenditure are both significantly down on last year's report by a similar amount: this reflects transfer of funds from one parish account to the other last year, which had to be reported to the diocese as both income and expenditure for accounting purposes).

As you can see, thankfully the Parish continues to receive in income a little more than we spend: this should always be the case, so that we can build up funds for future major works which may arise. The Parish continues to maintain a good level of savings, and we are using these to improve the fabric of the parish estate, thanks to the work of the Parish Fabric Committee. This group continues to work hard to identify and prioritise all future works, including meeting our statutory requirements in terms of Health & Safety and Disability Access issues.

This note is a summary of Income and Expenditure for 2025. If you wish to inspect the full Financial Return, or if you have any questions regarding this information, please speak to me or contact the Parish Office, and we will be pleased to help, including receiving this information through another medium or in another format.

My sincere thanks go to everyone in the Parish for their continued support in all of the work we do, and the financial commitments being made to the Church in these challenging economic times.

**Fr Stephen**

**March 2026**

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