

SAOP Financial Report – Year Ending 31 December 2025

The parish finances for the last calendar year are shown on the attached sheet. As in previous years, the receipt and expenditure lines have been presented with detailed breakdowns. We hope you find this helpful.

As of 31 December 2025, the parish had a deficit position for the year, largely due to major expenditure items explained below. While this represents a challenging financial year, most core income streams remain stable or growing, and the long-term position remains manageable.

Income

The total receipts for 2025 amounted to **£105,503.19**, a slight increase on last year's £102,505.21.

Parish Giving

Giving from parishioners — both Gift Aided and non-Gift Aided — remained strong and broadly in line with previous years. Gift Aided income increased to **£25,244.44**, with non-Gift Aided offertory and donations totalling **£25,604.23**.

Gift Aid refunds increased significantly to **£12,271.15**, reflecting claims covering a wider period this year.

Fundraising & Other Income

Fundraising totalled **£2,199.20**. Other routine income such as votive candles, repository items, and call-out fees rose slightly to **£5,607.60**.

Hall Hire

Hall income fell to **£9,467.50**, down from **£11,761.94** last year.

This drop is primarily due to the increase in rent charged to the **Syro-Malabar community** starting in **August 2025**, rising from **£80** to **£120** per week. Their booking now includes **two hours of hall time on Sundays**, which has had consequence of limiting our ability to rent out the hall on Sundays due to parking constraints.

Additionally, the Syro-Malabar community had **£1,560 outstanding for October–December 2025**, which has since been paid in **January 2026**.

Car Park Revenue

Car parking income, including Smart Parking, rose strongly to **£17,972.00** (from £11,301.00 in 2024).

Smart Parking continues to generate steady revenue. However, there have been reports of motorists briefly entering the church solely to register their number plates on the tablet and then leaving immediately - effectively using the car park as free parking.

The Co-operative Nursery increased its number of parking permits from **4 to 6**, contributing further to the increase in permit income.

Liturgical & Pastoral Income

Income from groups such as El-Shaddai, St Mary's Indian community, and Syro-Malabar totalled **£6,946.55** for the year, with Syro-Malabar contributing **£4,200 up to September 2025**.

Interest & Grants

Interest received amounted to **£190.52**. There were no legacies or exceptional grants received in 2025.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2025 rose significantly to **£164,801.97**, compared with £77,287.49 in 2024.

Major Causes of Expenditure Increase

1. Roofing Costs Carried Over Into 2025

Last year's large roofing bill (**£68,197.20**) appears in the 2025 figures, dramatically increasing property-related costs.

2. Gas Supply & Heating System Works

Investigations into the parish gas system led to significant expenditure in 2025. Works included:

- Installation of a **heat pump for the presbytery**
- **Wall insulation** and heat-loss surveys
- Adjustments and safety work associated with the gas system

These items collectively account for much of the increased presbytery running and maintenance costs, which totalled **£44,340.36**, compared to £27,161.36 last year.

3. Church Maintenance

Church running costs and maintenance rose sharply to **£81,064.69**, reflecting both the roofing payment and ongoing repairs and system upgrades.

Parish Levy

The parish levy decreased this year to **£16,611.04** from **£22,413.52** last year, representing a welcome reduction in expenditure for 2025.

Other Costs

Other expenditure lines - clergy allowances, office expenses, insurance, bank charges, hall costs, and consumables remained proportionate and within expected ranges.

Overall Financial Position

The parish recorded a **deficit of £59,298.78** for 2025.

This deficit is almost entirely attributable to the large roofing expenditure and heating-system-related works. Without these exceptional items, the parish's underlying financial activity remains stable.

Looking Ahead

2025 has been a challenging year financially due to necessary but costly property works. Thanks to the continued generosity of parishioners - both through offertory giving and participation in parish life the parish remains in a positive bank balance but any significant further expenditure will necessitate either significant fundraising or a loan from another parish in the Deanery.

The Finance Committee extends its sincere thanks to all parishioners for their generosity in 2025 and encourages continued support in the coming year.