

**St. Mary's
Barnard Castle
Parish Hall
Association**

(Registered Charity, number 1103536.)

Annual Report 2025

St. Mary's Barnard Castle Parish Hall Association (Registered Charity, number 1103536.)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs Clare Trevett (Chair)

Mr John Blissett

Mr. John Trevett (Treasurer)

Mrs Viv Guy

Balwin

Rev'd Canon Alec Harding (Secretary)

Rev Dr Ana Moskvina

Mrs Helen Scott

Mrs Denise Dent

Staff: Mr Steven Rusling (Caretaker)

LIST OF MEMBERS

There are 19 Life members. 2 individual members, 4 group members

NAME OF BANKERS: NatWest Bank, formerly of 28, Market Place, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr. Michael Hanby

INTRODUCTION:

The St. Mary's Barnard Castle Parish Hall Association (PHA) came into existence in February 2004 and took over the management of the Parish Hall in August 2004.

Since its inception the PHA committee have sought to address the needs of a building that is 'showing its age' through making improvements in its décor and the general provision of the building.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The PHA's objectives in 2025 were to investigate the possibility of renewing the rear fire doors to both the Guild Room and the Main Hall.

Renew attempts to replace the guttering on the hall.

Clare Trevett (Chair)

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives for 2025 had been identified as being to:

- investigate the possibility of renewing the rear fire doors to both the Guild Room and the Main Hall.
- renew attempts to replace the guttering on the hall.

The renewal of the fire doors has been completed and guttering above the front door to the hall is to be replaced in early 2026.

As well as overseeing these works considerable time has been devoted to reaching an agreement with the Church Council over the term of a renewed lease. The draft agreement was sent for approval to the Diocesan Board of Finance (who are party to the lease) and then on to solicitors to be presented to the parties.

The committee continues to benefit from the time and energy devoted to the care of the hall by Clare and John Trevett and the excellent work of our caretaker, Steve Rusling.

STRATEGY:

Our aims will be reached through the careful assessment of costs and strategic use of funds.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The PHA issues an annual newsletter. Events have been advertised through the Teesdale Village Hall Consortium's publications and website and through the Parish newsletter. Occasional adverts are taken out in the local press to publicise events. Information about the hall and the hall timetable are available through the church website.

TRAINING:

The Committee keep abreast of training opportunities offered by the Teesdale Village Hall's Consortium and associated bodies.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2026:

To see the lease from the PCC renewed

ST MARY'S BARNARD CASTLE PARISH HALL ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

STATUS:

The Parish Hall Association is an unincorporated association constituted on 26 February 2004. It is a Registered Charity, number 1103536. The Registered Office address is The Vicarage, Parsons Lonnen, Newgate, Barnard Castle Co Durham, DL12 8ST.

OBJECTS:

- (a) to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Ecclesiastical United Parish of St. Mary's Barnard Castle with Whorlton in the Deanery of Barnard Castle in the Diocese of Durham and those Parishes immediately adjacent to it without distinction of sex or of political religious or other opinions in particular by associating the Diocesan Authorities, local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;
- (b) to establish or to secure the establishment of a Community Building and to maintain and manage, or to co-operate with any local or statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a Hall for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above objects.
- (c) to promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined
- (d) The Association shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

MANAGEMENT:

The Association is managed by Trustees elected at the AGM as representatives of user groups, together with co-opted members from various local authorities and related organisations.

LIST OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR:

Mr John Trevett Rev'd Alec Harding Mrs Clare Trevett
Mrs Viv Guy Mrs Helen Scott Mr John Blissett

RESERVES POLICY:

It is the policy of the Trustees to endeavour to match income with fixed commitments. It is their aim to build up sufficient unrestricted reserves that will, under normal circumstances act as a buffer to

allow for unforeseen events not covered by the committee's insurance policies. Since 2009 we have aimed to hold a reserve of £7,500.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees and Staff ensure that risks are monitored and assessed. Reviews of insurable risks are undertaken regularly and expert advice is taken where necessary.

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Charities Law requires the Trustees to keep proper books of account with respect of the affairs of the charity and to prepare a statement of account for each accounting period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs and surplus or deficit for the period. The Trustees confirm their responsibility to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Trust will continue to meet its objectives

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Chair

St Mary's Barnard Castle Parish Hall Association
Income and Expenditure Accounts for Year Ending 31/12/2025

Income		Expenditure	
Lettings	£22,023.03	Wages	£4,496.34
Solar Panels	£446.36	Rent	£1,545.27
Grants/Donations	£510.00	Insurance	£1,663.33
	£22,979.39	Water	£940.00
		Electric	£1,133.39
CCLA Interest	£923.60	Gas	£1,690.63
Liquidity Manager Interest	£47.47	Office	£6.99
		Domestic	£270.17
		Maint	£7,115.83
		Wifi	£410.63
		Sundry	£313.84
		Equipment	£446.96
			£20,033.38
		Surplus for Year	£3,917.08
Total	£23,950.46	Total	£23,950.46
 Balances on 1/1/25		 Balances on 31/12/25	
Nat West Current ac	£5,047.81	Nat West Current ac	£7,486.24
Nat West Liquidity Manager ac	£5,222.00	CCLA	£25,350.00
CCLA	£19,126.40	Lettings Accruals	£1,235.00
Lettings Accruals	£757.95		
Surplus for 2025	£3,917.08		
	£34,071.24		£34,071.24

Examined and found to be correct.

Chelmsbury FMAAT

17/2/2026

St Mary's Barnard Castle Parish Hall Association Financial Report for 2025

2025 has been another busy and successful year for the Parish Hall Association. The increased usage of the Hall in 2024 has continued, and there was at least one event in the Hall on all but 22 days over the calendar year.

The PHA have continued to maintain and improve the facilities in the building. The main project in 2025 was the replacement of the outside doors to the Guild Room and the Main Hall opposite the vestry. A new Smart TV has been purchased for use for presentations in the Guild Room. Overall, the accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure for 2025, of **£3917.08**.

Income

Hall bookings are classified as either charity, commercial or church use, with income generated from charity and commercial bookings. Hall usage increased by 27% in 2025 over usage in 2024, with increases in all three categories. Charity bookings increased by 14%, commercial by 24% and Church bookings by 67%.

Total Bookings	2024	2025	% change
Charity	206	234	+14%
Church	93	155	+67%
Commercial	237	293	+24%
	536	682	+27%

Due to a surplus of income over expenditure in 2024, the PHA decided to keep the hire charges at the levels set in 2023, to remain competitive with other local providers. The increased usage of the Hall has also been reflected in the income generated from lettings, which showed an increase from **£19,487.34** in 2024 to **£22,023.23** in 2025.

Much of our income in 2025 was derived from regular weekly bookings from Slimming World, Barnard Castle Christian Fellowship, Music Bugs, Scottish Country Dancers, the "Use it or Lose it" exercise class. Other regular users included monthly tabletop sales organised by the Friends of the Richardson Hospital, a U3A art class and the NHS for courses to support people with, or at risk of diabetes. The Northern Dales Richard 3rd Society meet most months in the Hall, and the Dales Pony Society continue to use the hall for meetings. We continued to receive bookings from We Buy Vintage, Jim Maguire, Yvonne Andrews and James Burnside.

The Hall continued to attract bookings for social and fund-raising events, including children's and family parties, dances and concerts.

Church use of the Hall has continued to increase over last twelve months, with both the Community Choir and the Community Orchestra using the Main Hall for their rehearsals in the autumn and winter months. The Guild Room is used by The Panthers each Monday evening during term time, and the Mothers Union use the room for their monthly meetings. The Guild and Committee rooms are sometimes used by the PCC and other diocesan groups for meetings, and the Main Hall is used

for Parish meals, Churches together Lent and Advent Lunches and by the Flower Guild for wreath making workshops.

In addition to income from bookings, the PHA generated income in 2025 from grant funding from the Feed in Tarriff from the solar panels, and interest earned on reserves, now held solely in a CCLA Investment account. The PHA committee decide to close their Liquidity manager account in 2024 and transfer the balance to the CCLA account. The interest offered by the Liquidity Manager account was lower than the average yield on the CCLA account, and the funds in the CCLA account can be accessed with just 7 days' notice.

Expenditure

In 2024, the PHA spent over £25,000 on the project to refurbish the Guild Room, which was reflected in the total expenditure for that year of £38,140.95. Whilst the PHA continued to invest in the maintenance and improvement of the Hall, there were no major projects in 2025, with the total expenditure in 2025 being £20,033.38. Stripping out the Guild Room project, this shows an increase in expenditure over 2024 of year of **£13,054.67**.

However, **£7115.83** of this increase in expenditure was a result of maintenance and improvements to fabric and fittings at the Hall. A Smart TV was purchased for use in the Guild Room, and over £6000 was spent on replacing the doors and locks to the Guild Room and Main Hall.

There was an increase in general expenditure over 2024 levels across most categories in 2025. Spending on water increased from **£587 in 2024**, to **£940 in 2025**, due to previous undercharging by WAVE, but monthly payments were reduced in the autumn, so spending on water is expected to be lower in 2026. The PHA continues to benefit from the excellent work done by Mr S Rusling, our caretaker, and we continue to increase his wages annually in line with the real living wage. The rent paid to the PCC was increased in line with the 5 yearly review in the lease agreement, increasing from **£1088.32 in 2024 to £1645.87 in 2025**.

As part of the Guild Room project in 2024, the PHA replaced the gas boiler for heating the hall and installed a Wireless Nest system. It was hoped that a more efficient boiler, and the ability to control heating remotely would reduce overall heating costs. Whilst other factors, such as the reduction in the gas standing charge in October 2024 also contributed, and despite the 27% increase in overall hall usage, the PHA's spending on gas fell from **£2222.36 in 2024 to £1690.63 in 2025**. The PHA continues to benefit from using the Parish Buying Scheme for its gas and electricity. The scheme switched to new providers in the autumn of 2025, with Total Energies being replaced by Corona Gas and Ecotricity.

There was an increase in spending on Wi-Fi for the hall, from **£328.24 in 2024 to £410.63 in 2025** as the contract with BT was renewed for a further two years.

Conclusion

The PHA committee have continued their work in running and improving the Parish Hall for the benefit of the church and the wider community throughout 2025. Analysis of hall bookings show that overall usage by each category of user group increased over the year. This increase in bookings by charitable and commercial users more than offset increases in general expenditure in maintenance and the day to day running of the hall, resulting in an overall surplus of income over expenditure for the year of **£3,917.08**.

