

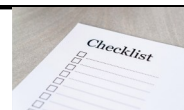
Finance Alert — January 2026



We are here to support you and your church

The Finance team at St Mary's house are here to support and guide you and your church, helping you to boost giving and generosity, simplifying your Accounts and Administration and guiding you through now and future changes.

Return of Parish Finance 2025.



Your **2025** Return of Parish Finance is required from all Diocese by the Archbishop's council in London. It is important that we receive your Return as soon as possible and before the deadline. Please make sure that your APCM meeting has been completed before the 31st May and your Accounts are submitted within 28 days of the meeting. **If you are struggling with your Return of Parish Finance we urge you to reach out to us as soon as possible please email parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org**

Parochial Fees 2026.



Changes to the Parochial fees set by the Church of England are now published on the Lichfield Diocesan website.

Please remember that these charges are applicable from the 1st January to the 31st December 2026. The Stipend break down figures along with the electronic form are also now available on the website [Parochial Fees - Diocese of Lichfield](#)

Energy Footprint.



Did you know that it only takes around 1 hour to calculate your churches carbon footprint. All you need are copies of your utility bills to enter and then the details are calculated for you. By completing this you will be able to identify and help to reduce carbon use within your church. The deadline for this is **30th June 2026**. Why not give it a go for 2026. You can submit your report via the link <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>. For more information please drop Richard our Energy Wizard a message parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Stats for Mission.



The deadline for Your statistics for Mission 2025 figures is fast approaching. The deadline is the **31st January 2026**. We appreciate that stats and numbers may not be everybody's cup of tea but these figures can really help both the Diocese's and the Church of England to evaluate and help with Mission and Ministry. You still have a little time so please give it a look at parishreturns.churchofengland.org. Lets give it a go in 2026. If you need any help or guidance our Mission Stats Oracle Richard is on hand to help. Please email parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Church Building Fund



Did you know the church building fund helps churches with costs of Quinquennial Inspections on their church buildings. Parishes are invited to contribute up to £200 per annum and the Diocese will add a 10% bonus after the qualifying 12 months. For more information please check our website <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/aboutus/finance/financetreasurers/financeIDS>

Gift Aid Claim Deadlines



For those of you who are in the Diocesan central gift aid scheme, it is time to start thinking about your Gift aid claims. Please be aware of the following cut off dates

Turnaround reports / One off donations for the year 21/22

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (loose plate) for the year 23/24.

Claims **MUST** be sent to Giftaid@lichfield.anglican.org by the **28th February 2026**. If you require more information or assistance please contact Julie on parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Up and coming Diary Dates:-



Fee Changes	1st January 2026
Statistics for Mission	31st January 2026
APCM	To be held by 31st May 2026
Accounts	To be sent within 28 days of your APCM meeting
Return of Parish Finance	30th June 2026
Energy Footprint	30th June 2026

Interior Decorating Scheme



Is a fund to help with savings in clergy houses. If your Parish provides up to £500 per house after 12 months the Diocese will provide a 25% bonus allowing money to assist with the decorating and or changes that are agreed by the Property department. This must be agreed by the PCC in order to request reimbursement from the IDS account. You can find more information regarding the Interior Decorating Scheme (IDS) at the below link

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/aboutus/finance/financetreasurers/financeIDS>

The Finance Department :- Who's who here at St Marys

Jonathan Hill	Director of Finance
Jess Dace	Deputy to the Director of Finance
Yvonne Leonard	Executive Assistant to the Director of finance
Jean Overton	Parish Support Team Officer
Julie Lunn	Parish Support Team Officer and Gift Aid
Nici Danaher	Finance Officer including Direct Debits
Karen Brooke	Senior Support Officer
Gill Woodward	Administration Officer
Chloe Smith	Finance Administration Officer
Rachael Wheeler	Finance Development Worker and Giving Advisor
Fiona North	Project Support and Church Buildings Officer

Grant Funding



Sometimes we all need a little help with repairs, projects and changes. Did you know that the Diocese can provide help and advice when looking to applying for grants. Help can be provided a variety of projects including interior and exterior repairs, conservation, Net Zero and Energy changes and Community projects. If you would like to have a chat with our team, please contact our grant whiz Fiona at parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

A prayer for a new year



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

New releases for 2026



Keep your eyes peeled for New Training sessions coming to a venue near you. We are holding

* Cornerstone training , allowing you to improve on Pathways, Insights and the grants database.

* Training sessions for Data Developments

* Training sessions for the Church Organiser.

New Year..... New You

Best wishes from The Finance Department

