

SWANSEA MINSTER ANNUAL REPORT 2025

WALES' FIRST DESIGNATED MINSTER CHURCH



I have this dream for the Church: prayer at the centre of God's people. I dream about a free-standing place right in the heart of my city where anyone and everyone can come to pray. A space consecrated by the prayers of so many who have saturated it in praise, hope and longing. A space that inadvertently gives birth to a wave of mission that looks something like the kingdom of God set loose on a city. That's what I dream of for the Church.

-Tyler Staton



Swansea Ministry Area
Swansea and Brecon Diocese

Learn more at
www.SwanseaMinster.org.uk

Swansea Minster Rectors Report for 2025

Executive Summary

2025 marked a foundational year in the life of Swansea Minster, as the church was formally recognised as the first Minster Church in Wales and began the active delivery of the Swansea Minster Growth Project. This year has not simply been about status or scale, but about renewed vocation: to serve the city, proclaim the gospel, and make new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Significant progress has been made in establishing the Minster as a visible, welcoming, and spiritually confident presence at the heart of Swansea. Daily opening, strengthened worship, a growing culture of hospitality, and expanded pastoral engagement have reshaped how the church connects with residents, visitors, and those exploring faith for the first time.

The successful recruitment of the Growth Fund-supported staff team has transformed operational capacity and public accessibility. High-profile events such as Helios demonstrated a step-change in civic engagement and reinforced the Minster's role as a spiritual and cultural anchor in the city. Alongside this, early but meaningful signs of evangelistic fruit, volunteering, and prayer development point towards longer-term discipleship pathways beginning to take shape.

This missional progress has been matched by strong governance, financial discipline, and risk management, ensuring that growth is sustainable and accountable. While some planned pathways remain underdeveloped and capacity pressures continue, the evidence from 2025 provides clear encouragement and direction.

The year ahead will require continued focus, prayerful discernment, and strategic prioritisation. Nonetheless, Swansea Minster enters the next phase of its life with confidence: rooted in worship, open to the city, and committed to growth in faith, numbers, and service — so that more people may come to know Jesus Christ.

Safeguarding Report 2025

Safeguarding Report to the Swansea Minster Annual Meeting (2025)

Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole Church and is fundamental to its life, mission, and ministry. It means preventing harm to children and adults at risk by protecting them from abuse or neglect.

The Church in Wales is committed to safeguarding and seeks to:

- promote the wellbeing of children and adults at risk
- raise awareness of safeguarding across the Church
- prevent abuse and harm wherever possible
- respond appropriately and compassionately to those who have been abused

Swansea Minster adopts again the Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy. Full details of this policy are available on the Church in Wales website at www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/sageuarding and should be familiar to all who hold roles of responsibility within the Minster.

Safeguarding Reflection

During 2025, the Swansea Minster community has had cause to reflect deeply and soberly on historic safeguarding failures within the Church. This reflection has been brought into sharp focus by the conviction of Anthony Pierce for historic sexual offences. Pierce formerly held clerical posts at St Mary's Church and went on to serve as Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. An independent report into the circumstances surrounding his ministry identified prolonged failures in decision-making at a senior level, alongside inadequate responses when concerns about his conduct were raised.

More recently, the conviction of Nicholas Adams for historic sexual offences and his jailing for over 9 years, has raised further concerns. Adams had unfettered access to St Mary's Church over many years and

continued to be welcomed into the building until relatively recently. It is also recognised that some within the church community were in contact with him socially, including via social media. This case underlines the importance of vigilance and clarity in safeguarding practice.

These experiences have reinforced a fundamental safeguarding principle: no individual should be regarded as safe to be near children or vulnerable adults at risk until all required DBS checks have been completed and safeguarding procedures—including appropriate training—have been fully undertaken.

In response, Swansea Minster continues to strengthen its safeguarding culture by:

- ensuring all clergy, staff, and volunteers are safely recruited and appropriately trained;
- maintaining clear processes and accountability in all safeguarding matters;
- promoting a culture where concerns can be raised promptly and taken seriously;
- embedding the principle that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone.

The events of the past year serve as a sobering reminder of the importance of rigorous safeguarding discipline, humility in learning from failure, and a shared commitment to creating a safe and trustworthy church community for all.

During 2025:

Six safeguarding reports were submitted to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Following discussion, none were deemed to require further action.

In one potentially concerning situation, a report was also made directly to the local police. No further action was taken.

One safeguarding agreement is currently in place at the Minster. A previous agreement expired during the year, and no further attendance has taken place under that agreement.

At the time of preparing this report:

9 DBS checks remain outstanding

10 individuals still require safeguarding Module A training

6 individuals still require safeguarding Module B training

Ensuring that all checks and training are completed promptly remains a priority and an ongoing responsibility of all church members and The Minster Board.

Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

Due to illness, Mrs Alison Thomas is currently unable to fulfil her role as Safeguarding Officer. During her absence, Mrs Emma Hooper has assumed this role. All matters relating to DBS checks and safeguarding training should be directed to Mrs Hooper.

Safeguarding concerns may be raised with:

Canon Justin Davies, or

Mr Colin Taylor, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

Colin Taylor

Dioceses of Monmouth, St David's, and Swansea & Brecon

Normal working days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Email: colintaylor@churchinwales.org.uk

Tel: 07956 790330

Emergency Guidance

If a child or adult is in immediate danger, or requires urgent medical attention, the emergency services must be contacted immediately by calling 999.

If there are concerns that a child or adult is at risk of harm but not in immediate danger, these concerns should be reported to the local authority social services department.



SAFE CHURCH

The Church in Wales is committed to fostering an environment where everyone is able to worship and participate in the life of the church in safety

Safeguarding concerns, disclosures or allegations should be reported to the **Provincial Safeguarding Team** as soon as possible. It is very important that no attempt is made to investigate the concern, disclosure or allegation. Where the concern does not relate directly to the protection of a child or adult at risk or it is not clear then the matter should still be discussed with a Provincial Safeguarding Officer.

To talk to someone about a safeguarding concern, allegation or disclosure, please contact:

Provincial Safeguarding Officer:

Colin Taylor

Contact details:

07956 790330

Or message the team directly via the QR code:



- All suspicions, concerns, disclosures or allegations of abuse should be reported immediately to the Church in Wales Provincial Safeguarding Team or, in an emergency, to the statutory authorities.
- If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires urgent medical attention, please call the emergency services on 999 – DO NOT DELAY.

The MA Safeguarding Officer can be contacted for any general enquiries you have about safeguarding:-

Name: Dr Jane Watkeys Contact: 01792 208203



Rectors Report

I open this report with sincere thanks to all who have contributed so positively to the mission and ministry of Swansea Minster during 2025.

I am particularly grateful to my Warden, Helen Murray, Mrs Ruth Roberts, Mr Paul Murray, Helen Rees, William Reynolds, and all the many volunteers who give of their personal time to support Swansea Minster, without them it would be very difficult to run the Minster.

I am deeply indebted to my clergy colleagues — Revd Rachel Bunting, Fr Mark Griffiths, Fr Stephen Ryan, Fr John Anthony, and Revd Lisa Morgan — for sharing the workload and for bringing their own gifts, insights, and perspectives to the worship of the Minster and to our wider ministry at St James and St Nicholas.

The Lay team recruited during 2025 have been nothing but a blessing to me and I trust to you all. They are a dedicated group who individually and collectively are skilled, engaging and wonderfully innovative. Without them Swansea Minster would be a far less vibrant and welcoming place.

In naming individuals, I recognise the risk of overlooking others. I mean no slight. The ministry of the Minster rests on the faithful service of far more people than can be named here, and I give thanks for everything offered in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

A New Chapter: Becoming a Minster Church

February 2025 marked a historic moment as Swansea Minster became the first Minster Church in Wales. This achievement represented the fulfilment of a long-held vision, shaped and sustained by many people over many years.

Welcoming the Archbishop of Wales and the majority of Diocesan Bishops to Swansea for this occasion was both an honour and a responsibility. The service was not simply celebratory but declarative — recognising the past while clearly signalling a future shaped by mission, service, and confident public faith.

Minster status is not an accolade to rest on and contemplate but a calling to inhabit sacred space and fill it with prayer and love. A calling to demonstrate what can be achieved when members of the body of Christ come together with the intention to proclaim the faith to a world that desperately needs to hear good news.

Building Capacity for Mission

During 2025, recruitment took place for posts funded by the Church in Wales Growth Fund. By September, all seven members of staff were in post, enabling the church to be open every day of the week.

This development marked a significant shift. The Minster is now experienced not only as a place people attend, but as a place that is presence — available for prayer, welcome, conversation, and encounter throughout the week. This daily rhythm has already begun to reshape patterns of engagement and expectation.

The Swansea Minster Project: First-Year Progress

December 2025 marked the conclusion of an encouraging first year of the Swansea Minster Project.

The Minster is increasingly established as a visible and welcoming Christian presence in the city, with particular strength in Presence and Proclamation through worship, hospitality, and pastoral encounter. Early but promising signs of pathways are emerging through prayer, service, volunteering, and personal invitation.

While some evangelism remains at an early stage, this first year has provided vital clarity about where energy, fruitfulness, and engagement are strongest. This clarity now enables more intentional discernment and focus as the project matures.

Alongside missional development, the project continues to operate within a robust governance and compliance framework, ensuring growth is supported by sound stewardship, accountability, and risk awareness.

Formation, Retreat, and Community Life

A second retreat was held at the Convent in Wantage, with increased participation compared to the previous year. I am grateful to Fr Mark Griffiths for his guidance and encouragement in shaping this time away.

Such retreats remain a vital element in developing community life, sustaining clergy and leaders, and grounding growth in prayer and spiritual depth rather than activity alone.

Evangelism as the Measure of Growth

It is essential to restate the fundamental purpose of the Growth Fund award: to make new disciples of Jesus Christ and to grow participation in the worshipping life of the church, particularly Sunday worship.

Every change made — reordered, renovated, expanded, or replaced — serves this single aim. Evangelism is not peripheral but critical. If growth in discipleship and worship does not occur, then the significant effort and investment will have failed in its central purpose.

This conviction continues to shape priorities and evaluation.

Visibility, Engagement, and Governance

By the end of the first twelve months, there was clear evidence of strengthening public visibility, regular worship patterns, a developing hospitality culture, and increased pastoral engagement. Volunteer and prayer activity began to cohere into more recognisable patterns, marking early progress towards sustainable service and discipleship pathways.

Governance arrangements are now firmly embedded. Oversight is maintained through Minster Board and Executive meetings, with progress, finances, risks, and forward commitments reviewed using stage-based controls.

The Minster's growing civic and spiritual profile was most visibly demonstrated through hosting Helios in October. Over 6,000 visitors passed through the Minster during the weekend, with more than 400

invitations and service leaflets distributed. Events of this kind have proven highly effective in engaging a wide and diverse population.

Public-facing ministries — including art, music, café hospitality, and schools outreach — continue to provide accessible and relational entry points into faith exploration. Engagement is increasingly relational rather than episodic, supported by consistent welcome, worship, and pastoral care.

Risks and Challenges

Key risks include constraints arising from the absence of digital banking facilities, currently managed through interim controls and ongoing engagement with the Ministry Area Treasurer.

Capacity pressures remain, particularly due to the delayed appointment of the Associate Priest, now expected in Autumn 2026, and a reliance on a small number of key individuals. Financial, contractual, and delivery risks — including cost control, professional fees, and external approvals — continue to be actively monitored within agreed tolerances.

Conclusion

The first year of the Swansea Minster Project provides strong grounds for confidence and encouragement. The Minster is more visible, more accessible, and more securely rooted in its calling to serve the city and proclaim the gospel.

Missional progress has been matched by disciplined governance, financial stewardship, and clear risk management, guided by principles of Continued Business Justification and Management by Exception.

With prayer, strategic focus, and sustained attention to capacity, Swansea Minster is well positioned to deepen its witness, grow its worshipping community, and fulfil its calling as a Minster Church — for the transformation of lives, the city, and the glory of God.

Swansea Minster sits in the heart of a city that has experienced massive change in the past 66 years. Gone are the former empires of BHS, Debenhams – David Evans, Lewis Lewis, Littlewoods and Sidney Heath.

The departure of Marks and Spencer marks the end of an era. St Marys was rebuilt in the 1950's at the heart of a city changing and rebuilding after the ravages of war. Today Swansea Minster sits at the heart of a city ravaged by the Internet, Covid and economic change. The Christian message of love-hope-peace and abundant welcome has not and will not change. The way that message is proclaimed needs to reflect Swansea City life today with its multicultural population who work flexibly and differently. It is never possible to stand still personally or collectively. Change is never easy and requires reflection to navigate carefully the journey. In our hands is the precious life of Anglican faith at the heart of the Second city of Wales. A faith that is ever evolving and ever proclaiming Christ Crucified.

Swansea Minster Operations Managers Report

A Year of Growth and Transformation

2025 has been a landmark year for Swansea Minster. Anchored by the Church Growth Fund and the vision that established Wales' first designated Minster Church, this has been a year in which ambition became reality — in our people, our programmes, our community reach, and our building. The Minster continued to grow as a place of welcome, prayer, and civic life at the heart of Swansea city centre, serving an ever-widening community of worshippers, visitors, and partners.

Our Team

The Minster family grew significantly in 2025. Emma Williams-Dulley joined us in July as Community Engagement Officer, bringing energy and focus to our outreach work. Hope Pugh joined in September as Director of Musical Engagement, further strengthening our programme of music and cultural events. Emma Hooper continued to provide essential administrative support across all areas of Minster life.

Together with Geraint Jones (Digital Communications Officer), Charlie Wells (Café Manager), and Josh Howells (Facilities and Hospitality

Coordinator), the staff team is now the strongest it has ever been — a genuine reflection of the Minster’s growing capacity and ambition. The whole team has given generously of their time, skill, and commitment throughout the year and the Minster is deeply grateful for their service.

Worship and Community Life

The Minster continued to serve as a place of welcome, prayer, and worship throughout 2025. Highlights included a joyful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day celebration, which drew together families, congregation members, volunteers, and staff for community activities and pancake fun — a vivid example of the Minster’s role as a place where people gather across generations and backgrounds.

The development of new governance frameworks during the year — including the formal adoption of the Church in Wales Dignity Charter — reflected the Minster’s commitment to being a safe, inclusive, and well-ordered community of faith. Safeguarding training was completed across all paid staff, volunteers, choir members, and welcome team personnel.

Cultural Programming

The headline event of 2025 was undoubtedly the Helios exhibition in October — Luke Jerram’s breathtaking illuminated sun installation, which attracted 6,496 visitors to the Minster over the course of its run. This landmark success demonstrated beyond doubt the Minster’s potential as a civic cultural venue and confirmed its place as one of Swansea’s most significant spaces for arts and culture.

The exhibition drew visitors from across the region, generated significant positive coverage, and forged new relationships with partners, funders, and members of the public who had never previously visited the Minster. The success of Helios has laid the groundwork for an exciting programme of future cultural events and continues to be the primary proof of concept in our funding and partnership conversations.

Operations and Facilities

Significant progress was made on the building and operations front throughout 2025. The kitchen was successfully upgraded (completed Q3), the Minster's Pilgrimage App was launched, and a new commercial cleaning contract was put in place to ensure the building is maintained to the high standard expected of a civic landmark.

Robust governance and compliance frameworks were established across the year, including comprehensive safeguarding structures, health and safety reporting systems, a full staff training programme, and a formalised risk register. The appointment of Josh Howells as Facilities and Hospitality Coordinator has significantly strengthened the Minster's capacity to manage its busy programme of events, services, and visitor activity.

The Minster also continued to develop its commercial income streams — including the café, the Minster shop, and venue hire — as part of the long-term plan to build financial resilience alongside grant funding.

Finance and Grants

The Minster continued to manage its Church Growth Fund grant effectively, with financial oversight provided by Treasurer Helen Murray MBE and Operations Manager Adam Matthews. Grant activity during 2025 included successful Warm Spaces funding, Emergency Food Aid support from Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Team, and ongoing progress with the wider grant portfolio.

Capital projects progressed through the year, with works including the kitchen upgrade and the continued development of plans for the west end reordering and café improvement project. The Minster remained compliant with its reporting obligations to the Diocese and to the Church Growth Fund throughout the year.

Looking Ahead

With the Gaia exhibition by Luke Jerram provisionally secured for October 2026, a growing café offering, an expanding events programme, and a full and talented staff team, Swansea Minster enters 2026 with real momentum and genuine cause for optimism.

We are grateful to all who have contributed to this year — staff, volunteers, congregation, and partners — and we look forward to the next chapter together.

Youth Ministry

2025 was a busy and productive year as we continued to build our ministry with under-25s and create opportunities for spiritual growth across all age groups.

At the beginning of the year, we trialled a family service. While this did not gain momentum, it led to the launch of Bubble Church in September for families with children under five, which has been warmly received.

Throughout the year, we organised a range of seasonal events for children, including Pentecost and Lent Crafty Church sessions, half-term and Harvest Fun Days, and a Light Party. Although those who attended enjoyed these events, overall attendance was lower than hoped, prompting us to explore alternative approaches. At Christmas, we introduced a Gingerbread Nativity, where families decorated biscuits that were then used to create a crib scene on Christmas Eve. We also developed a Nativity Trail around Swansea city centre, with eight shops displaying knitted nativity figures linked via QR codes to short videos of the Christmas story, read by members of the Minster team.

Our Bible Journeys Holiday Club, alongside the provision of food parcels during the summer holidays, was well received. Children explored the stories of Old Testament patriarchs and their journeys of faith.

Improvements were also made to the church building to better support families. Thanks to a mission grant, the children's area was refurbished, and a green space was introduced to promote wellbeing. Additional provisions, including baby and sanitary items in the toilets, were also made available.

We strengthened our engagement with local schools through the Easter and Christmas Experience projects. These invited children to explore the Christian story through interactive and reflective stations. At Easter, we welcomed 115 children from two schools, and at Christmas, 274 children from five schools, supported by staff and volunteers from the Minster, the diocese, and Scripture Union.

One of the highlights of the year was the introduction of Youth Nights—an ecumenical gathering bringing together young people from churches across Swansea and South Wales. Following its launch in May, a second event was held in October, and it has since continued three times a year into 2026. Over 200 young people from 19 churches attended, sharing in a vibrant and uplifting time of worship.

We also introduced several one-off all-age services, designed to be accessible to those new to church. These included a Silent Disco worship service, offering an inclusive experience particularly suited to those with additional learning needs or sensory sensitivities. Our “Assembly Bangers” services in the summer and at Harvest, along with a Sporting Legends celebration, used familiar songs from school and popular culture as a starting point for deeper conversations about faith.

Finally, the Minster supported wider diocesan work in children’s and youth ministry. We hosted the annual FLARE conference, organised by the Mission Team, featuring a range of experienced speakers. We also contributed to the In It Together festival at Margam, providing pastoral support.

Reverend Rachel Bunting
Director of Under 25’s Ministry

Finance

Attached (**Appendix A**) is the financial statement for the year ending December 2025 and it must be noted that the figures include the money sent down from the Representative Body for the Growth Fund which the church managed until an account was set up recently in the MA accounts.

To provide a more accurate figure of the finances for the Minster please refer to the analysis and comparison sheet showing the income and expenditure for 2025 and the previous year. It is good to note that many of the income streams have increased thanks to peoples increased giving and the Minster being open 7 days a week.

Unfortunately, certain areas of expenditure have increased, especially our gas and electricity. We now face having to tackle the numerous repairs to the building and work is on going to secure funding streams for this.

Thanks must go to all those who contribute financially towards the work of the Minster and to those who give so freely of their time to support its work.

If you are not giving regularly, please consider donating by Standing Order and if you are a Taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation.

Helen Murray MBE
Treasurer

Choir and Music at Swansea Minster 2025

2025 was a momentous year in the history of our church in that we changed from being the Collegiate & Parish Church of St Mary to becoming Swansea Minster. With this comes added expectations and responsibilities, though we continue to offer music to a high standard liturgically in worship, demonstrating artistic and spiritual witness to the City & County of Swansea by offering opportunity, experience and learning as part of a rich church music heritage.

In February the Dedication Service of Swansea Minster-had the excitement of a specially commissioned work The glory of this house by Sir Karl Jenkins, generously sponsored by the Swansea Festival of Music and the Arts. Thankfully the organ was up and running again following the upset caused by the recent fire from the Advent Wreath, and we were grateful to have Philip Aspden from Llandaff Cathedral for accompanying us for this service.

Alongside this time of celebration, we were sad to experience the loss of Peter Thomas, one of our basses, following illness. Peter had a long association with St Mary's, having been one of the first babies to be baptised in the newly restored church in 1959, and whose father and grandfather had also been members of the choir.

In the summer, we presented Margaret Fox with an RSCM long service medal congratulating her on 55 years dedicated membership of the Choir.

We are pleased to encourage the musical development of our young people. In August, Emily attended the Rodolfus Foundation's Senior Choral Course for ages 16-21 at St Edwards School, Oxford, learning new music to an incredibly high standard and singing evensongs at Christ Church Cathedral and at Merton College Chapel. Meanwhile, Roland attended the Royal School of Church Music's Young Persons' Choral Course based at Bath Abbey. Attendance at such courses builds personal confidence and musical awareness and skill, they will have benefited from expert tuition, singing alongside other young people with a shared interest in producing quality church music to a high standard, and have gained socially from the experience. Roland also benefited from receiving a term's organ lessons. Renato has made a successful move from treble to tenor, adapting incredibly well to his new voice part.

Our choral scholarship programme continues as a match funding partnership between Swansea Minster, Swansea University and the Swansea St Mary Choral Trust. Either side of the summer we bade farewell to Jp Ilomuanya, and welcomed two new choral scholars, Anna David and Anna Williams, with William Pickering continuing.

Musical highlights included a visit to St Gabriel's for Stations of the Cross on Passion Sunday, and a full complement of choral services from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day. In November we gave a concert performance of Fauré's Requiem in collaboration with musicians from London and Rome. The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, included a new composition by our Director of Music, Sweet was the song.

The appointment in September of Hope Pugh as Director of Musical Outreach offers great potential for increased future recruitment to the

Minster Choir, particularly through schools' engagement, and we look forward to the additional musical activities and the bearing of fruit.

Our 2025 Summer Organ Series again proved successful, and we are grateful for the support of our recitalists and audience. Tuning and maintenance of the organ has now moved across to Harrison & Harrison of Durham, a highly reputable company who also care for significant organs in cathedrals and concert halls nationally, alongside those locally at Tabernacle Chapel Morriston and the Brangwyn Hall.

Dr William Reynolds
Director of Music

Brunch Club

This report is an outline of the joys and hardships over the last year of Swansea Minster's Brunch Club. Overall the Brunch Club has had another successful year providing for the needs of the local community.

Our aim in Brunch Club is to supply breakfast and a hot drink, primarily to the homeless and vulnerable, along with a welcoming environment to provide companionship, regardless of background. We also provide toiletries, clothes, donated tents, sleeping bags and other essential items to assist the community. Both our regular and new members find that Brunch Club provides a safe place in The Minster for them to find support and prayer if requested. The benefits of Brunch Club go beyond providing food and essentials – we give our members a place to feel they belong.

Wednesday starts with morning prayer and a meeting to discuss how many volunteers are needed and to allocate roles between the volunteers. We have around 10 regular volunteers. Helping out in Brunch Club can be challenging as well as rewarding. Volunteers experience burnout from emotional strain and the difficulty of dealing with limited resources, but they also experience the joy of helping others and the sense of community. We are grateful to those who give

their time and energy to make Brunch Club a success as without our volunteers we would not be able to provide our programme of support. As we have progressed through 2026 we have had many new volunteers which has been a great help in providing our regular service and expanding to accommodate new members. We are always on the look out for more volunteers to help us.

In July an unpleasant incident occurred which caused concern for the safety of members and volunteers. This led to a decision to close for 2 weeks to reassess the situation and the safeguarding of all those who attend Brunch Club. While this incident highlights the challenges of running Brunch Club, it is part of the reality of serving the community and reaching out to provide support.

We made a decision when we reopened that we would supply membership cards and every member had to read and sign our new rules, providing a code of conduct setting out expectations for those attending Brunch Club. Thankfully this has provided additional engagement and shared understanding between our members and our volunteers. 10 months on, we have 289 members of the homeless / vulnerable community in Swansea who have visited The Minster and joined us in Brunch Club.

We are confident that the rewards are greater than the challenges. Looking ahead we have to continue to be patient with those who choose to join us on Wednesdays, understanding that with empathy and strong communication skills we can have a meaningful impact for the most vulnerable in our community. In this way Brunch Club forms an important and visible part of our ministry.

Report by: Helen Rees

Mothers' Union Annual Report 2025

We may be small in number in our membership of Mothers' Union here in the Minster Church of St. Mary's, Swansea, but we are keenly aware of the vast numbers of our membership globally as we light our candles and pray for our Diocesan links worldwide at our service for the

“Wave of Prayer”. This is a vital part of the prayerful nature of our Christian Organisation with over 4 million members in 83 countries around the world.

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month for an eclectic mix of services and speakers, and extend a warm welcome to any friends and supporters within our congregation and the wider Ministry area as we are now the only branch of MU within this Ministry Area - our meetings are publicised on our MU notice board in St. Mary's and elsewhere.

We celebrate the main Christian festivals in the church year with Advent and Lenten observances and always begin the new session in September with a Eucharistic service, this last year it being led by Canon Justin . Revd. Ryan Isaac Thomas prepared a Lenten reflective observance for us with a visual montage accompanied by some beautiful music. Fr. Mark Griffiths led us into Advent with a combined Archdeaconry reflection on two powerful images from the Holy Land, “The Key” and the icon of the “Praying Virgin” .We are so fortunate to have this support from our clergy.

The Archidiaconal Eucharist is thriving here each month with different branches and celebrants hosting. Our service for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and Domestic Abuse was held this year in St. David's Church, Loughor. Then in November. we met as an Archdeaconry in Ystradgynlais for a service of thanksgiving led by our MU Chaplain, Sara Harris.

The Diocesan festival is a highlight for MU members as we gather in the Cathedral to say thank you for our Organisation. Last year our Bishop, John Lomas, joined with us as we listened to our Provincial President talk on her vision for the MU. We involve ourselves in the church's observance of Mothering Sunday and prepare flowers to give out, make Simnel cakes to share and offer our intercessions. Flowers are placed in the St. Anne's chapel continuously by our members on a fortnightly rota, St. Anne's always having been “adopted” as the MU chapel. Of course the highlight service of the year has to have been the celebration of St. Mary's as a newly formed Minster, the first in Wales, when the church was packed with friends old and new. At this service we had our new beautifully designed and crafted MU banner

dedicated. Our grateful thanks go to Karen who is the daughter of our Indoor Member, Margaret Jones.

Some of the more secular meetings have included a talk on traditional embroidery from the Holy Land, an illustrated talk on the Cherokee Indians of North America and an insight into the life and work of our Prison Chaplain, Martine. We have learned something of the traditions associated with Shrove Tuesday, the sad life but beautiful music of Morfydd Owen, and the joys of creative writing. We have dined out in Verdi's in Mumbles on two occasions, much enjoyed by members and friends alike, whilst we can usually guarantee a sunny day in July, we can also depend on a blustery wet day in December!

There was a wonderful afternoon spent in three Gower churches - planned for us by Revd. Justin- Llanddewi, Rhossili and Llanrhidian ending with afternoon tea provided by MU members there.

The most positive aspect of 2025 was how we "grew" as a branch and as a global MU by admitting so many new members, due in no small part to the support and "promotional work" of our rector!

A warm welcome to Patience, Datti, Nelly, Alison, Helen, Edith, Madonna and Margaret, and a renewal of membership by Heather and Lisa. My thanks to them all - but we have room for many more so come and "Join us and Join in".

My thanks to all who continue to support the MU here in St. Mary's, to those who join us regularly from Clydach and to friends who join us for various meetings and outings, but my special thanks go to Kitty and Margaret in their roles as secretary and treasurer.

We look forward to 2026 as we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union.

Ruth Roberts (Branch Leader.)

"All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for Thee, and every life I touch do Thou by Thy Spirit quicken. Whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live." Mary Sumner.

Tower & Bell Ringing Report 2025

We continue to meet every Monday evening to practice, about 15 of us including some learners. Thanks go to Andrew and Mark who are qualified trainers who teach our learners. Thanks also go to support from ringers based at Sketty, Gorseinon & Llangfellach. The bells are in good condition and we check them regularly. The ringing chamber has undergone a makeover recently with the help of Swansea Minsters Growth Team, looking quite spick and span. We keep a register of all those who come to ring this is to comply with present day safeguarding regulations. Young bell ringers are always accompanied by a parent.

The clock is working well, and thanks go to the horologist from Cardiff who offers support.

We ring for special occasions, recently the bells were rung to celebrate the service attended by The World Wide Mothers Union President, visiting teams come occasionally to ring. Including recently ringers from Ely Minster. In September the Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers are holding their meeting here.

Another aspect of our work in the Tower is flying the appropriate flag to mark special occasions. At present we are flying the Falklands Island Flag in commemoration of the 44th Anniversary of the war.

Fr Stephen Ryan

Sacristy

We have been fortunate to have a dedicated band of servers at the Minster, although recent months have been a testing time. We were saddened to hear of Alison's illness and wish her well as she continues her recovery. Terry works diligently in the background preparing for services and serves at our mid-week services. We have welcomed Geraint to the team and very much enjoyed having Louise Rigdon with us for the past 5 months. Some members of our congregation have expressed an interest in joining the team after the summer holidays and if you too would like to become a server and receive full training please contact me.

Paul Murray
Master of Ceremonies

Churchwardens Report

2025 has seen many exciting changes in the life of the Minster, but the responsibilities of the Churchwardens remain the same in supporting the Rector and the Congregations and caring for the fabric of the building. The Wardens sit as members of the Minster Board and Executive, where matters pertaining to the Growth Fund, finance, maintenance and growing the church are discussed and decisions made for the good of the Minster, its congregations and the wider city community. Thanks go to Rev Ryan Thomas for all the work he did in this role and we welcome his successor, Davina Preston, to the team.

Helen Murray MBE
Churchwarden

SWANSEA MINSTER

Registered Charity 1146299

Appendix A

SWANSEA MINSTER

Registered Charity 1146299

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR

RECEIPTS	Planned giving	12,393.00
	Loose collections	13,500.63
	On line donations	12,042.90
	Donations	1,404.00
	For Mission	0
	Tax refunds	18,844.68
	Legacy gifts	0
	Grants	442,164.74
	Money raising	33,779.62
	Fees	1,330.00
	Investment income	14,794.81
	Other	472.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	562,554.30
PAYMENTS	Parish Share	48,750.00
	Clergy expenses	7,890.14
	Maintenance of services	16,452.84
	General Parish expenses	127,192.93
	Maintenance of church	57,879.49
	Parish Mission	20,946.17
	Home/World mission	1,180.54
	Cost of money raising	16,803.75
	Charges	344.88
	Professional fees	57,858.10
	Other	25,200.00
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	380,498.84
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		182,055.46
Transfers between Funds		0
Bank and oncall deposit balances at beginning of year		96,642.72
Bank and oncall deposit balances at end of year		280,886.21

Appendix A

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT YEAR END

CASH FUNDS	Bank balances	203,716.49
	On-call deposit balances	77,169.72
		<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS	Debtors	0
	Gift Aid receivable	0
	Loans receivable	0
	Other	0
		0
INVESTMENTS	Term deposits	0
	Quoted investments	369,000.00
	Investment property	0
	Other	0
		0
LIABILITIES	Creditors	0
	Loans payable	0
	Other	0
		<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>

Approved by the Minster Board on 10th March 2025

And signed on its behalf by Name Helen Murray MBE

Signature *Helen Murray*

Appendix A

SWANSEA MINSTER ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

	2025	2024
Loose collections	13,501	12,939
Standing orders	12,342	11,460
On line giving	12,043	6,129
Donations	1,404	965
Votive	4,267	2,232
Tower	7,561	6,573
Café	14,248	12,306
Shop	4,717	3,635
Hire fees	5,030	6,077
Fees	1,330	1,808
Dividends	14,741	17,202
Grants	18,302	13,002
Parish mission	400	500
Socials	698	588
Organ recitals	2,256	2,075
Sundries	1,000	431
HMRC Gift Aid	18,845	0

EXPENDITURE

Parish share	48,750	33,759
Clergy expenses	4,542	4,746
Insurance	3,903	4,528
Gas	8,675	8,447
Electric	5,796	3,960
Water	366	267
Telephone/Broadband	751	986
Security	697	877
Altar requisites	1,462	704

Organist & Choir	13,071	13,591
Organ	420	1,298
Maintenance	13,260	4,271
Cleaning	558	278
Café	9,185	4,980
Shop	3,369	1,686
Parish mission	4,212	6,534
UK mission	1,181	1,841
Charges	345	310
Printing	4,363	3,984
Office expenses	1,024	1,182
Cost of fundraising	600	282
Professional fees	8,582	11,132
Sundries	123	1,578

Appendix A