

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 – Consolidated Annual Report 2025

1. Executive Summary

2025 marked a foundational year as Swansea Minster became the first Minster Church in Wales and began delivering the Swansea Minster Growth Project. Daily opening, strengthened worship, and a renewed culture of hospitality reshaped engagement with residents, visitors, and those exploring faith.

The recruitment of the Growth Fund-supported staff team transformed operational capacity, enabling seven-day opening. Major events such as Helios, which welcomed over 6,000 visitors, demonstrated a step-change in civic engagement. Early signs of evangelistic fruit, increased volunteering, and developing prayer life indicate emerging discipleship pathways.

Governance, financial discipline, and risk management remained strong. While some pathways require further development and capacity pressures persist, the Minster enters 2026 with confidence and clarity of purpose.

2. Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained central to the Minster's mission. The Church in Wales policy was re-adopted, emphasising prevention of harm, raising awareness, and compassionate response to survivors.

The convictions of Anthony Pierce and Nicholas Adams required deep reflection on historic failures. These cases reinforced the principle that no individual should be regarded as safe until all required DBS checks and training are complete.

2025 activity included:

- Six safeguarding reports (no further action required)
- One police referral (no action taken)
- One active safeguarding agreement

- 9 DBS checks, 10 Module A, and 6 Module B trainings outstanding

Safeguarding responsibilities were transferred to Mrs Emma Hooper.

3. Rector's Report

The Rector expressed deep gratitude to clergy, staff, volunteers, and lay leaders. Becoming Wales' first Minster Church was a historic milestone, celebrated with a service attended by the Archbishop of Wales and diocesan bishops.

Minster status is described as a calling, not an accolade — an invitation to inhabit sacred space with prayer, love, and public faith.

Risks include lack of digital banking facilities, capacity pressures, and building repair needs. The Rector concludes with confidence that the Minster is “more visible, more accessible, and more securely rooted in its calling.”

4. Operations Manager's Report

2025 was a year of growth and strengthened infrastructure.

Team Development

New appointments included:

- Community Engagement Officer (part time)
- Director of Musical Engagement
- Administrative Support
- Digital Communications Officer
- Café Manager (now split to 2 part time roles)
- Facilities & Hospitality Coordinator (now split to part time)

Worship & Community Life

Events such as Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day strengthened intergenerational community life. The Minster adopted the Church in Wales Dignity Charter and completed safeguarding training across all staff and volunteers.

Cultural Programming

The Helios exhibition attracted 6,496 visitors and established the Minster as a major civic cultural venue.

Operations & Facilities

Key achievements:

- Kitchen upgrade
- Pilgrimage App launch
- New cleaning contract
- Strengthened governance, H&S systems, and risk register

Finance & Grants

Growth Fund grants were managed effectively, with additional funding secured for Warm Spaces and Emergency Food Aid.

5. Youth Ministry

2025 saw significant development in ministry to under-25s.

Highlights:

- Launch of Bubble Church
- Seasonal events (Crafty Church, Fun Days, Light Party)
- Gingerbread Nativity and Nativity Trail
- Bible Journeys Holiday Club and summer food parcels
- Refurbished children's area and wellbeing green space
- Easter & Christmas Experience projects involving 389 schoolchildren

- Youth Nights attracting 200+ young people from 19 churches
- Inclusive worship innovations such as Silent Disco Church
- Hosting the FLARE conference and supporting In It Together festival

6. Finance

A full copy of the financial returns for 2025 can be seen either in the online version of the full Annual Report or in the paper copies provided. The Minster Church income for the 2025 year was £133k (2024 year £98k), the total 2025 expenditure was £135k (2024 year £111k).

These figures exclude the direct funding from the Church in Wales Growth Fund which pays for the staff salaries and building works associated with the grant fund. These monies are now held outside the Swansea Minster Bank Account and are managed by direct relationship to the Church in Wales representative Body.

Also available is 'Funding the Diocese' which is a complete overview of the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Budget. Again, this is online and in paper format in Swansea Minster.

7. Choir & Music

2025 was a landmark year musically.

Key moments:

- Premiere of The Glory of This House by Sir Karl Jenkins
- Restoration of the organ after fire damage
- Tribute to long-standing choir member Peter Thomas
- RSCM long-service medal for Margaret Fox (55 years)
- Youth development through national choral courses
- Choral scholarship programme with Swansea University

- Major performances including Fauré's Requiem
- Appointment of Hope Pugh to expand musical outreach
- Organ maintenance transferred to Harrison & Harrison

8. Brunch Club

Brunch Club continued to support homeless and vulnerable individuals with breakfast, hot drinks, toiletries, clothing, tents, and pastoral care.

Around 10 regular volunteers serve weekly, supported by new volunteers in 2026. The Club remains a safe, welcoming space where members find belonging and support.

9. Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union continued its ministry of fellowship, prayer, and practical support throughout 2025. Meetings offered opportunities for spiritual reflection, guest speakers, and community engagement. Members supported Minster events, contributed to hospitality, and upheld the MU commitment to strengthening family life and Christian witness.

Pastoral care remained a core focus, with members offering quiet support to those experiencing bereavement, illness, or isolation. The MU also maintained links with diocesan initiatives and global MU projects, ensuring Swansea Minster remained part of the wider movement for prayer, justice, and family support.

10. Bell Ringing

The bell-ringing team continued to contribute significantly to the Minster's worship and civic presence. Regular Sunday ringing, festival services, and special occasions — including the Minster Dedication and Helios exhibition — were supported by the dedicated team.

The team welcomed visiting ringers during the year and continued to train new learners, ensuring the long-term sustainability of this historic ministry. Maintenance of the bells and ringing chamber remained a priority, with routine checks carried out to ensure safe and reliable operation.

11. Sacristy

The Sacristy team played a vital behind-the-scenes role in preparing the Minster for worship throughout the year.

Responsibilities included:

- Setting up for all services
- Care of vestments, linens, and sacred vessels
- Ensuring liturgical resources were available and maintained
- Supporting major festivals such as Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas

The team's quiet dedication ensured that worship was conducted with dignity, reverence, and consistency. Their work was especially valued during the increased service schedule associated with Minster status and the Growth Project.

12. Churchwardens

The Churchwardens played a central role in the life of Swansea Minster throughout 2025, providing steady leadership during a year of significant transition, increased activity, and growing public profile. Their work underpinned the smooth running of worship, the safety of the building, and the wellbeing of the congregation.