

Swansea St Gabriel annual congregational meeting, Sunday 19 April 2026

Minutes

1 Opening prayers

Fr Sam opened the meeting with prayer.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jacquie Brown, Chris Jones, Sue Jones, Richard Verge.

3 Chairman's welcome

Fr Sam reflected on the past year. Christmas and Easter had been well attended and congregations in general were greater than ten years ago and showed a welcome diversity in terms of both age and ethnicity. He thanked the retired clergy, and in particular Fr Dewi and Fr George for their continuing support. A number of concerts and other events had been held in the church; he noted in particular the successful 'hymn and a drink' evening and the visits of Bishop Rowan Williams and Fr Fergus Butler-Gallie. Among changes during the year were a new parish lunch team and a new sacristan. He thanked the outgoing individuals for their past services.

4 Minutes of annual congregational meeting 2025

The minutes had been made widely available prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.

5 Presentation of the parish accounts for 2025

In the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer the Secretary read her report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which had been examined and approved by an independent examiner. End-of-year balances were £40,603 (current account) and £43,698 (deposit account). The value of investments was £139,134 (Col Morgan legacy £8,513; St Gabriel's Trust Fund, £130,621). Total assets were therefore £223,435.

Income during the year from planned giving, RBCiW Gift Direct, loose collections and Gift Aid was £41,651. Further income was received of £7,275 (Romanian parish) and a legacy from the late Christine Hughes (£26,715). £8,000 had been transferred from the deposit account. Total income was £102,577

Expenditure during the year consisted of the parish share (£43,476) and costs associated with the maintenance of the liturgy, overheads, maintenance of the building and general expenses, in all totalling £73,591.

The church was in credit at the end of the year with a balance of £28,986.

Weekly and monthly collections increased by £3,406, although it is feared that this figure may decrease in the current year as the result of the loss of several generous parishioners.

Income was also received from the diocese (£1,600 towards new office books for Morning and Evening Prayer and to support the luncheon club); Swansea City Council (£1,200 towards removing the fallen tree and roof repairs) and from donations made via SumUp (£892).

Income from social activity included £5,000 (luncheon club); Sunday morning refreshments (£731 plus £1,045 from 2024/25); hymn and a drink at St Barnabas (£265); ladies Christmas lunch (£100); organ recitals (£272); Brynmill Voices (£107); and the Bach Choir (£300).

Despite repeated attempts it has not been possible to recover Gift Aid claimed on the church's behalf by the Ministry Area. The figure for the parish share in the current year is not yet known in the absence of any Ministry Area meeting on the subject.

Charitable giving during the year amounted to £2,533.

The report was accepted unanimously; proposed Peter Lloyd, seconded Hilary Roberts.

Fr Sam thanked the Treasurer for her continuing commitment to these important duties.

6 Elections

a. Subwardens: Hilary Roberts.

b. Church Committee members: Allen Belcher, Sarah Billett, Jackie Brown, Chris Jones, Sue Jones, Peter Lloyd, Paul Reynolds, Carole Rogers, Keith Rogers, David Tolley, Richard Verge, Russell Waters.

c. Ministry Area Council representative: Richard Verge.

d. Church Committee Treasurer and Secretary: Sue Jones, Paul Reynolds respectively.

7. Any other business

None.

8. Closing prayers

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm with those attending saying the Grace together.