

VINE CHURCH

2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

A year of discipleship, leadership
growth and community



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“[Being part of Vine Church] has brought me light bulb revelations in my faith, deep certainty that I am forgiven and loved by God, and a peace and hope for the future.”

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2025

A year of growth and transition

2025 has been a significant and formative year in the life of Vine Church. As a church plant moving into a more established phase of church life, this year has brought both encouragement and challenge. We've continued to see people encounter Jesus, reconnect with faith, grow in discipleship and step into leadership for the first time.



At a glance...

~100 people who call Vine Church home

240 people attending at Christmas and Easter

45% children and young people

20+ part of Vine Church teams

14 young people in our youth group

50+ young people engaged through Youth Bus outreach

400+ children engaged through school ministry

Throughout the year our priorities were:

- Deepening discipleship
- Strengthening local leadership
- Building community
- Helping people grow in faith and participation

During 2025 we developed our new rhythm:

Celebration Sundays

Accessible, intergenerational worship gatherings for anyone exploring faith.

Vine Groups

Smaller spaces for discipleship, prayer and friendship.

Open House

Hospitality-focused gatherings helping people build relationships and community.



While the ending of Strategic Development Funding (SDF) brought challenges and significant change, we've also been encouraged to see more people stepping into responsibility, leadership and ownership within the life of the church.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to the life of Vine Church through prayer, serving, hospitality and generosity.

WORSHIP, PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYER AND DISCIPLESHIP CONTINUED TO REMAIN CENTRAL TO OUR CHURCH'S LIFE THROUGHOUT 2025.

Celebration Sundays continued to be spaces where people could encounter God, explore faith and experience Christian community in an accessible and welcoming environment.

Alongside these larger gatherings, Vine Groups and Open House became increasingly important spaces for:

- prayer
- scripture
- friendship
- encouragement
- and spiritual growth.

“It’s a relaxed environment and I feel safe to ask the questions I’ve always had about Jesus... in my life.”

“The best example of intergenerational worship I have seen anywhere”

– A recent Diocesan review of Vine Church

During 2025 we also launched “Seek and Pray”, a termly prayer gathering bringing people together to pray for the life of the church and the community.

We heard testimonies during the year of:

- answered prayer
- renewed faith
- and people growing in confidence spiritually.

The church continued to cultivate a culture where people could:

- ask honest questions
- come as they are
- grow in their gifts
- and encounter Jesus.





APPROXIMATELY 45% OF THOSE WHO CALL VINE CHURCH HOME ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Throughout 2025 we continued:

- monthly collective worship in Wynyard CE Primary School
- Vine Club after-school ministry
- youth group gatherings
- intergenerational worship
- and family-focused ministry.

“The format of Vine Church is the only one in the area that truly works for me with a young family.”

We were particularly encouraged by:

- young people exploring faith
- answered prayer
- healings
- and young people choosing to follow Jesus for the first time.

One of Vine Church’s distinctive values is intergenerational community - children, young people and adults learning, worshipping and growing in faith together.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

GROWING LEADERS & BUILDING COMMUNITY

One of the most encouraging developments during 2025 has been seeing more local people step into leadership and responsibility in the church.

New people joined the Church Council, stepped into Vine Group leadership, helped lead ministry teams and began serving in areas such as:

- safeguarding
- prayer ministry
- hospitality
- worship
- administration
- schools ministry
- and finance.

“I personally have been very much encouraged to step closer to Jesus, and find roles to serve and contribute.”

During 2025 we also launched Trellis - a weekly leadership development group focused on helping emerging leaders grow in confidence, discipleship and ministry.

Trellis includes theological discussion, prayer, leadership coaching and mutual encouragement.

We believe healthy churches are built not simply through paid staff, but through people discovering their gifts and stepping into leadership and service.

We also were privileged to again be a placement church for Ordinands (trainee vicars) as they trained in our church.





Pastoral care and community remained a significant part of church life throughout 2025.

Through Vine Groups, Open House gatherings and informal support networks, many people found friendship, belonging and practical care during difficult seasons.

“The incredible support my family and I received during my recent health issues was a powerful example of genuine kindness in action.”

The church also continued:

- monthly care home ministry at Wynyard Woods
- links with local organisations and community groups
- engaging with the wider community through our seasonal events
- and practical support for individuals and families.

We continue to believe church should feel like family - a place where people are known, supported and encouraged.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER & SERVING WYNYARD

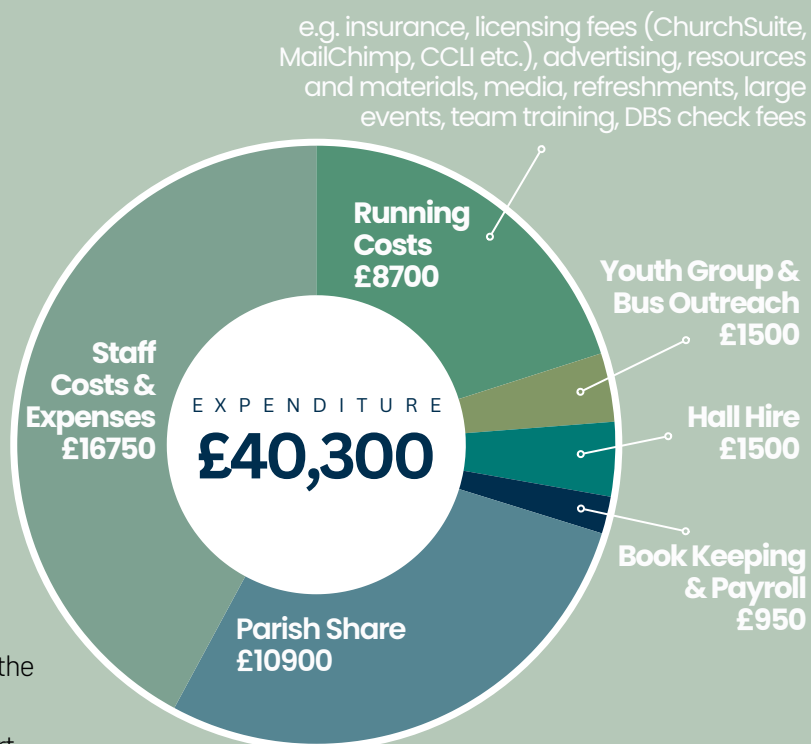
2025 ACCOUNTS

2025 was a year of significant financial transition for Vine Church, as we began to move from external funding towards being funded by the church community.

This brought some challenging changes to the team as we moved from having more paid staff team to a more volunteer-led leadership.

However, it has been so encouraging to see new leaders stepping forward; the development of a new Finance Team; and a growing desire to build a sustainable future for Vine Church.

We are so grateful to everyone who gave financially to support our mission and ministry in 2025.



This is an overview of our accounts from the year - all figures are rounded for ease of reading. Our more detailed financial report can be found in our formal annual report.

This year our expenditure was higher than our income by £5,500 - i.e. we spent more money than we received. This is in part due to the impact of the loss of further central Church of England funding we had understood we would receive, and the resulting staff redundancy.

However the church had reserves to cover this due to judicious stewardship of finances in previous years, and the church ended the year with reserves of £43,938 - well above the policy of a minimum 3 months of operating costs.

Every gift makes a difference and we're grateful for every donation.

However if you're part of Vine Church, and in a position to give financially, setting up a **regular, monthly gift** through the **Parish Giving Scheme** enables us to plan long-term, claim 25% Gift Aid, and reach as many people as possible in our local area with the love of Jesus.



parishgiving.org.uk

parish code: 130713010

FINANCES & THE FUTURE

WHAT IS PARISH SHARE?

In the Church of England, Parish Share is the amount each church is asked to contribute to the Diocese every year to help fund ministry across the wider Church - including:

- Clergy stipends, housing & pensions
- Training and safeguarding
- Support services and staff
- Ministry in less-resourced areas

Although the Church of England has historic assets, day-to-day ministry is mostly paid for by the regular giving of local church members - which not many people realise.

Parish Share is the Church of England's way of churches supporting one another, so that every community can have a local church presence - not just the wealthiest ones.

The full cost of having a full-time ordained minister in a church in this Diocese - stipend, housing, pension, on-costs, support, and contributions towards less well-resourced parishes - is around £60,000 a year.

The Diocese works out what it thinks each church should be paying - called the Guided Pledge - and the church then aims to meet that figure over the year.

Our Guided Pledge for 2025 was £38,597 and we paid £10,858.

So in 2025 we didn't meet our Guided Pledge. The Diocese didn't fully expect us to as we couldn't use the SDF grant funding towards it - but we want to get to a point in the next few years where we can meet this.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Diocese may not choose to fund a full-time vicar post here in the long run, unless we can move significantly toward meeting our Parish Share over the next couple of years. So growing in generous, sustainable giving isn't just about mission - it's about securing the long-term future of ministry here.

Our regular planned giving in 2025 was £18,000 including Gift Aid.

That's the income we can actually plan around, and what enables us to make commitments like employing a Youth & Children's Support.

This planned giving needs to grow, because we want to be here for many decades to come, and because we want to be generous with what God has given us. We have faith God will provide this - and we all can play a part in making it happen.

We'd love to see Vine Church become one of the most generous churches in the Diocese - sharing what we've been blessed with so that other communities across the North East can benefit too.

LOOKING AHEAD & NEXT STEPS

VINE CHURCH IS MOVING FROM BEING A BRAND NEW CHURCH AND INTO A MORE ESTABLISHED AND LOCALLY ROOTED STAGE OF CHURCH LIFE

Looking ahead, our priorities include:

- giving more people the opportunity to find faith in Jesus
- deeper discipleship
- growing in worship and prayer
- developing more local leadership
- strengthening financial sustainability
- continuing ministry among children and young people
- and helping people grow in confidence in their gifts and calling.

We are excited about the future of Vine Church and grateful for all God has done among us over the last five years.

We believe God continues to call Vine Church to be a vibrant, Spirit-led and intergenerational Christian community rooted in and faithfully serving Wynyard.





VINE CHURCH EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE FAITHFULNESS, GENEROSITY, PRAYER AND SERVICE OF SO MANY PEOPLE.

Thank you to everyone who has:

- prayed
- served
- given financially
- hosted
- welcomed people
- led groups
- cared for others
- shared their faith
- worked with children and young people
- helped with setup and packdown
- or simply continued being a precious part of our amazing community.

We are especially grateful to:

- our volunteers
- Church Council members
- ministry leaders
- Wynyard CE Primary School
- Wynyard Woods Care Home
- the Diocese of Durham
- the Belfrey Family Network
- and everyone who continues supporting the mission of Vine Church.

THANK YOU



VINE CHURCH
WYNYARD

Living for Jesus. Growing as Family.

wynyard.church/give

Website: wynyard.church

Socials: [@vinewynyard](https://www.instagram.com/vinewynyard)

