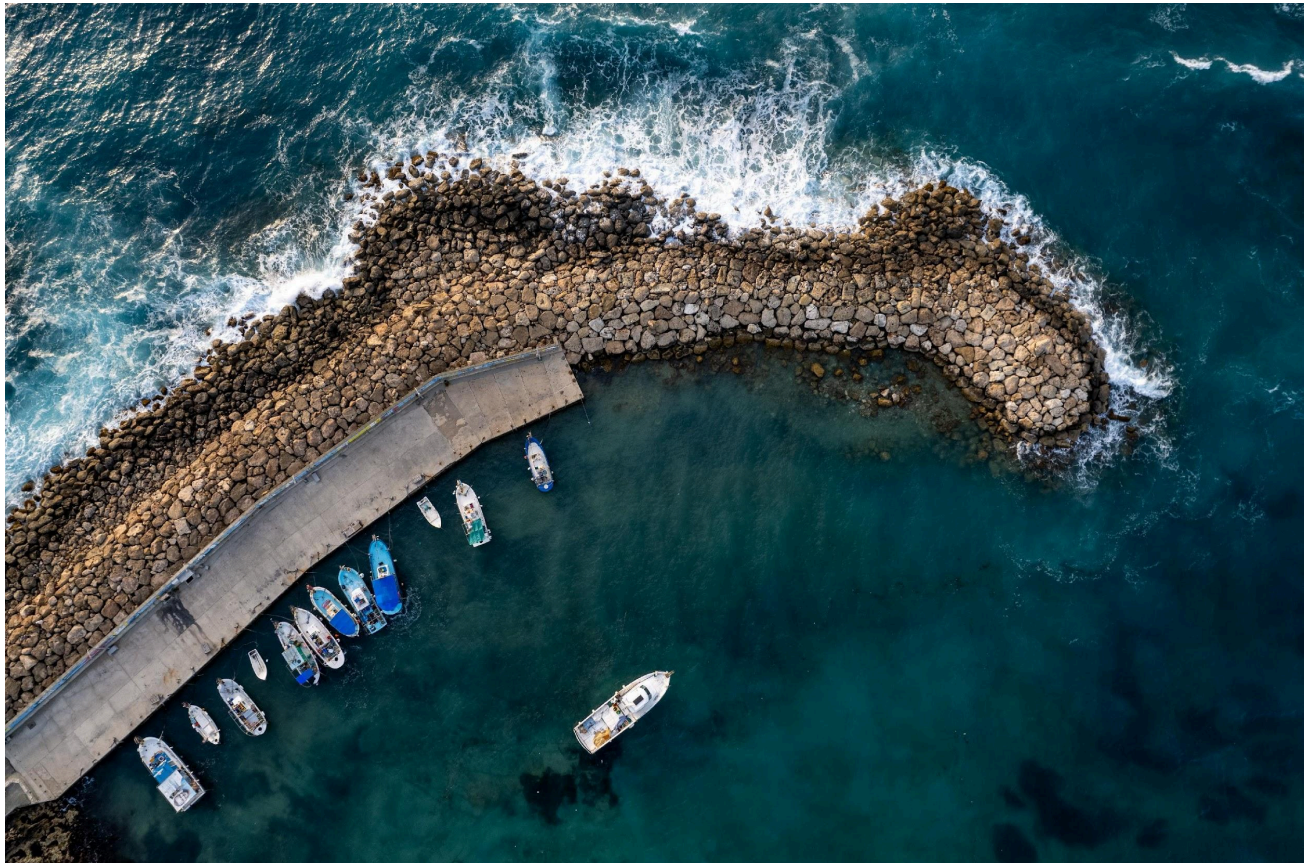


# PARKLANDS CHURCH 2025 UPDATE



# Parklands Church

AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER

After years of adventures together, growth and opportunity, we find ourselves in an exciting but also new era of adventure.

Despite some staffing changes and a new vocational calling for Matt, the Church, its vision and heart to grow and see Swansea transformed, still remains the same.

At the heart of Parklands is the Vision to see God's Kingdom Come through the culture of our Harbour Church

## **Parklands: A Harbour Church**

A Church where all are welcome

A Church full of life, joy, and purpose

A Church that feels safe — a refuge and a home

A place to be restored, healed, and made whole

A Church built on a 'harbour wall' of prayer

A 'lighthouse' of worship, shining hope into the world

A Church where skills are nurtured and memories are made

And a Church that sends out the 'fishing boats' — reaching others with the love of Jesus

A place to gather. A people sent to scatter.

## Looking Back: 2024/2025

Over the past year, we've stepped into a new season of **expansion and growth**. Whilst growth isn't just about numbers, we've seen a noticeable increase in attendance — especially within our **children's and youth ministries**. In response, we launched **two Sunday services** to create space for more people to gather, grow, and belong — a key step in living out our *That's Why* vision.

But beyond the headlines, the deeper story of 2024/2025 has been one of **spiritual and community growth**:

- **Raising future leaders** through the launch of our new Leadership School
- **Expanding our volunteer base**, with more people serving across Church life and having our largest ever volunteer celebration event
- **Empowering new leaders** to step up and lead teams
- **Serving our community** through the launch of the Community Garden — transforming our grounds and providing a place to connect across cultures and backgrounds
- **Strengthening community hubs**, including the growth of our Friday projects: *Pop In*, Parent & Toddler Group, and Youth
- **Developing our site**, completing the 'Covered Area' — a valuable new space used for gatherings, including our Christmas events where over **450 people** were served at the Carol Service. With the football cage being especially beneficial for youngsters.
- **Growth within the community**, Easter & Christmas school workshops, a major Youth event with Message Wales, and our biggest-ever Christmas Lunch with over 60 people fed
- **Deepening our church family**, with new friends joining and new small groups starting

Truly, it's been a **Year of Growth and Adventure**. And to help carry this momentum forward, in January we appointed Fiona, our new **Assistant Leader** — a key part of preparing for the next chapter in Parklands' journey.



## Parklands Church: 2025/26 Vision & Strategy

## A Season of Change – A God Who Remains Faithful

Over the past year, Parklands Church has seen both change and opportunity. With leadership transitions and new seasons ahead, our goal is simple: to **stay steady, grow wisely, and trust God deeply**.

Parklands has always been rich in people and full of God's provision — even in times of uncertainty. We continue to believe that **God is doing more than we can ask or imagine**, and we're committed to stepping forward in faith, even with what may feel like a small offering:

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

— 1 Corinthians 1:25

We bring what we have — our hearts, our time, our gifts — and trust God to multiply it.

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## What We're Noticing

As we plan and pray, we've identified some things that are shaping our direction:

- **We're stronger together.** Team culture is key. Parklands is built on people working side by side, where in serving, 'The joy of the Lord is our strength' - Neh 8:10
  - **We are multigenerational.** Our children and youth have always been a vital part of our growth. We want to protect and invest in them.
  - **Ministry is shared.** We're committed to equipping more leaders and sharing responsibility — so that 'the many' can develop in their gifting, not just 'the few'
  - **Our mission remains.** We exist to reach the hurting, the broken, and the lost. "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." — Mark 2:17
  - **We're a Harbour Church.** A place of welcome, safety, and sending. That vision continues to guide our priorities.
  - **Prayer is our foundation.** Everything we do must begin with seeking God.
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## Key Priorities for the Year Ahead

## 1. Leadership & Team Building

- **Chris Ditton** has stepped out of his role as Chair of Trustees of Parklands Church CIO, and during this transition period, has stepped in as Chair of Elders, helping to support both eldership and staff teams.
  - **Graham McGill** has stepped into the role of Chair of Trustees
  - We're looking to develop 'deacon' **leadership (aka Team leaders)** — people who can lead areas of church life and help carry the vision together.
  - Elders will continue to focus on **prayer and spiritual direction** for the church.
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## 2. Supporting Our Staff Team

We want to **protect, support, and empower** the team God has already given us: and allow the call of God to flourish upon them:

- **Mike** - (Assistant Leader) - Leading our local mission and youth work. Building local partnerships, developing outreach, and using our site more for the community.
- **Fiona** (Assistant Leader) – Leading across ministries, building teams, small group development and pastoral care.
- **Sarah** (Operations Manager & Children's Lead) – Developing a thriving children's team and developing the systems that keep church running smoothly. We're working to ease her workload, so she can focus where she thrives.

And we also want to **honour** and **thank**:

- **Matt**, who is stepping into a vocation training as a Paramedic at the end of August after 21 years of serving Parklands, and 6 years of leading us all as a church. We're delighted to say that Matt, Claire, Millie and Meg are remaining as part of our church family, and in due course will be exploring how best to serve our church community
- **Stef**, as many of you know, has recently stepped down from her staff role, and again, is keen to serve as a volunteer here at Parklands, but is also exploring the potential of serving as a Street Pastor on a Friday night in Swansea city centre.

Please do pray for our dear friends at this time of change for us and them

## Our plans for change:

**With the change in staff**, we are currently praying through and exploring exciting opportunities ahead to restructure our staff team and grow it.

We recognise that Mike, Fi and Sarah all have wonderful unique gifting and strengths, and are working together with them to further explore the call of God on each of their lives

To facilitate this, we are praying through a number of potential staffing changes/appointments to strengthen and support the team. Please join us in praying for the right way ahead as we seek God's heart in these key areas of church life.

*We're not rushing this. The goal is not necessarily to replace like-for-like, but to give space to potentially restructure, listen to God, and find the right fit for the future.*

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### 3. Focus Areas in Church Life

To manage our energy, and honour what God is already doing, we're simplifying some areas:

- **Events:** Our Christmas outreach will still be creative, but potentially scaled back. Our Weekend Away would need to be more volunteer-led. Exploring how Alpha might run in homes in smaller groups as opposed to a 'central' outreach.
  - **Discipleship:** We're looking to grow our **small group network**. These groups are vital for spiritual growth and pastoral care.
  - **Sundays:** With many volunteers stretched, we are moving to one Sunday morning service over the summer, in order to provide a time of refreshment/rest for all, whilst also welcoming a new wave of volunteers to come and support the teams we have.
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### 4. Developing Our Site

We want our building to serve our mission. Upcoming developments include:

- **New container space:** A second unit near the Foodbank for youth and groups. Funding from donations is already in place, and no further car park spaces will be lost. The scheme is currently under review with Swansea Council Planning

- **Better spaces inside:** We'll be exploring internal site improvements, such as reworking of storage, coffee serving area and improved acoustics within the small hall.
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## 5. Communication & Tech

- **Weekly emails and socials** will continue, thanks to Jamie and Dan who will lead on building teams for all the areas of communication and production within the Church
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## 6. Finance & Budget Overview

The last 15 months have been an amazing journey of faith for us. Our income in the years ending March 2023 and March 2024 had been flat at just under £200,000 in line with previous years. But look at what happened!

- In April 2024, we set a faith budget of £231,000 income, almost 17% higher than previous years
- Yet God exceedingly abundantly provided £254,000 (including £30,520 of restricted funds for special projects), a total income of just over 28% higher than previous years
- We sense that God is challenging us to invest particularly in our youth/children's provision as we move through the current financial year, which is why we are seeing an upturn in the budgeted staff costs as a percentage of income
- And we have been reminded of the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), where Jesus teaches us to wisely use what we have been given, for the growth of the kingdom
- Although the budget for this year appears to show a deficit of £32,510, in reality, it is just under £10,000 (see note 4 below)
- We are so grateful for God's amazing provision and for your generosity in giving

## ***Financial Summary***

4 YEAR SUMMARY	Actuals	Actuals	Last year's budget	Last year's draft actuals	Draft budget
Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26
Income	£196,376	£198,123	£231,082	£254,272	£220,000
Expenditure	£183,103	£178,724	£231,082	£191,846	£252,510
Staff costs percentage of income	51.10%	55.04%	61.50%	43.72%	66.28%
Mission giving percentage of income	11.61%	10.05%	11.30%	9.03%	10.00%

### Notes:

1. Figures and percentages for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are taken from published accounts unadjusted
2. Restricted income and grants received in 2024/25 totalled £30,520
3. Restricted Funds brought forward of £23,000 will be used to cover part of the budgeted deficit for 2025/26
4. Budgeted deficit on revenue items in the year is £32,510. This is reduced to £9,510 by the use of £23,000 (outlined in note 3)
5. Definition: Restricted income (ie. Income received for specific projects or mission activities, etc received during the financial year)
6. Definition: Restricted funds (ie. Restricted income received in current year plus any carry forward of unspent restricted funds from the previous year less expenditure made for specific projects or mission activities, etc taking place during a given year)



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## In Summary: What's Next

Invest in deacon leadership and teams  
Support our current staff — spiritually and practically  
Plan for new roles at the right time  
Simplify events and prioritise discipleship  
Complete site improvements  
Keep communication strong and clear  
Stay faithful to the Harbour Church vision  
Keep prayer at the heart of it all

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### Let's Bring Our "Small Picnic"

This isn't just a leadership document — **this is an invitation**. We're in this together. Every prayer, every act of service, every gift matters. Like the boy who brought his small lunch to Jesus, we bring what we have — and **watch Him multiply it**.

Last year, we were blessed with growth in attendance, financial giving and volunteers. With growth we must continue to encourage each other in playing our part and stepping up. Larger church comes with different challenges, particularly when it comes to togetherness and pastoral support. This is part of the reason we see small groups as so important.

Let's keep building Parklands together.

A Harbour Church.

A place of welcome, of safety, of sending.