

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst

**Registered charity number 1128599
with the Charity Commission (England and Wales)**

also known as

The PCC of the Parish of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

| Contents | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Annual Report | 1-9 |
| Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities | 10 |
| Independent Examiner's Report | 11 |
| Statement of Financial Activities | 12 |
| Balance Sheet | 13 |
| Notes to the Accounts | 14-23 |

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst ("The PCC")

Also known as "The PCC of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst"

The PCC was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission (England & Wales) in 2009 under registration number 1128599 under the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 (now the Charities Act 2011)

Annual Report for 2024

Reference and administrative information

Incumbent: In vacancy

Address: Church Office
The Rectory, Southfields
Speldhurst
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0PD

Principal Bank: National Westminster Bank
89 Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1QJ

Independent examiner: Foot Davson Ltd
Lonsdale Gate, Lonsdale Gardens
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1NU

Website: <http://speldhurst.org/church/>

Membership: During the year the following served as members of The PCC:

Incumbent: In vacancy

Vice Chairman: Martin Atkinson

Churchwardens: Julie Pinnell (St. Mary's)
Ian Firth (St. Mary's)
Chris Lilly (St Martin's)
Tom Watson (St. Martin's) (until May 2024)
Graham Riddick (St. Martin's) (from May 2024)

Deputy Churchwardens: Winston Blake (St. John's)
Anthony Joyce (St. Mary's)
Glyn Williams (St. Mary's)

Deanery Synod: Glenn Pottow
Polly Joyce

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Elected members:</i> | Adrian Dawes (St Mary's) | (also deputy Vice Chairman) |
| | Carolyn Firth (St. Mary's) | (also Secretary) |
| | Graham Riddick (St. Martin's) | |
| | Tracy Watson (St. Martin's) | (also St. Martin's DCC Treasurer) |
| <i>Co-opted member</i> | Martin Atkinson (St. Mary's) | |
| | George Carter (St. Mary's) | (also Treasurer) |
| | Dawn Pottow (St. Mary's) | (also Parish Safeguarding Officer) |
| | Rev. John Perkins (Clerk of Holy Orders) | |

Other ministers in the Parish

John Perkins is a priest. John Buckle, Jenny Fitzsimmons, David Lamey and Karol Leeves are Readers and Sarah Bullett and Karol Leeves are Pastoral Assistants, all with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate.

The PCC presents its Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Basis of preparation of the accounts

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Structure, governance and management of The Parish

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is a charity registered with The Charity Commission (England & Wales) ("The Charity Commission") number 1128599, the registration covering all three churches in The Parish. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst ("The Parish") consists of three districts corresponding to the churches of St. Mary the Virgin, Speldhurst, St. John the Evangelist, Groombridge and St. Martin of Tours, Ashurst. The Parish came into being on 1 April 1977 after an Order in Council confirmed a Pastoral Scheme uniting the two Benefices and Parishes, Speldhurst with Groombridge (which was one parish previously) and Ashurst, into a single parish. In 2009 a Special Parochial Church Meeting made, and the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod approved, the current scheme under which St. Mary's and St. Martin's operate with their own District Church Council ("DCC") while St. John's operates through a committee of The PCC ("The Committee") which as such receives guidance from The PCC. The Scheme provides rules for the operation of the two DCCs and The Committee.

Each DCC, under delegated authority from The PCC, has the functions, powers and duties of a parochial church council within its district, subject to certain exceptions and limitations, in particular concerning financial and contractual matters. The PCC has delegated to The Committee the day to day running of St. John's but retains a more hands-on approach as compared to the two churches with their own DCCs.

The members of The PCC are appointed as follows:

- The incumbent, any curates, the Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod Representatives are ex officio.
- The Churchwardens are nominated by the Annual Meeting of Worshipers ("AMW") of their respective churches and elected at a Meeting of Parishioners annually for a one year term.
- The Deputy Churchwardens are elected by the AMW of their respective churches for a one year term.
- The Deanery Synod representatives, currently the Parish is allocated 3 participants, are elected at an Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") for a three year term. Elections last took place in 2023.
- The elected members are nominated by the AMWs and then elected annually at the APCM for one year.
- There are provisions for casual vacancies to be filled.

The PCC deals with those matters specifically reserved for it, those referred to it by the DCCs and The Committee, and those affecting the whole Parish. It has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector and is responsible throughout The Parish for the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Under the Charities Act 2011 The PCC members, who are the "Trustees of the Charity", take ultimate responsibility for managing all of the affairs of The PCC and therefore of all 3 churches in the Parish. On election The PCC members are instructed in their responsibilities as trustees.

Related parties

St. Mary's DCC is required to appoint 3 Foundation Governors to Speldhurst Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School, while the Diocese of Rochester is required to appoint the final 3 Foundation Governors. One of the Foundation Governors appointed by St. Mary's DCC, Polly Joyce, is a member of the PCC.

St. Mary's DCC has the power to appoint a Trustee to Speldhurst Village Hall, a charity registered with The Charity Commission with number 287945; the person appointed is not a member of a DCC or the PCC.

Whilst in office the Churchwardens nominated by St. Mary's are ex officio trustees of the Speldhurst Recreation Ground, a charity registered with The Charity Commission with number 302846.

The DCC of St. Martin's has the right to appoint, for a year at a time, two representative members to The Committee of Management (all of whom are the trustees) of the Ashurst McDermott Hall, a charity registered with the Charity Commission (England and Wales) with number 302673. They are Peter Soyke and Graham Riddick. Graham was a member of the PCC during the 2024 financial year. In addition, Sophie Minoprio is a trustee and a member of St. Martin's DCC.

Details of all transactions with related parties are set out in note 7 on page 17.

Objectives and activities

The object of The Parish is to promote the whole mission of the Church of England within The Parish. As part of this, The PCC, primarily through the DCCs and The Committee, is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the three churches and to become part of their respective church communities. Again, mainly through the DCCs and The Committee, The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout The Parish and considers how the services and other related

activities can involve the many groups that live within the districts of the three churches. The services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and outreach.

Risk management

The PCC, through the DCCs and The Committee, has carried out an assessment of the major risks to which The Parish is exposed, as identified by The PCC members. In particular, a child protection policy is in place and the procedure for obtaining approval for those working with children and vulnerable adults is well established.

All three churches and the central Parish function have systems of financial procedures in place for handling cash and for authorising, approving and paying for items of expenditure. Appropriate insurance policies are in place.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of the three churches in The Parish, the clergy and The PCC have considered The Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit and in particular the specific guidance for charities for the enhancement of religion. The activities include the following:

- The provision of public Christian worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The provision of child and youth activities with a Christian ethos.
- General promotion of Christianity.

Operation of The PCC

The PCC meets as required and has a Standing and Finance Committee which transacts business as required between meetings of the full PCC, subject to any directions given by The PCC. Most of the day to day activities take place in the church DCCs and The Committee as appropriate. The PCC oversees the financial affairs of the DCCs and The Committee and provides The Committee with guidance on additional matters and takes a more active role in the management of St. John's.

The three churches present to The PCC budgets for the year for their respective churches. The PCC approves these and authority is given for the three churches to work within their budgets without further reference to The PCC. The PCC also approves the budget for the central Parish function.

Standing and Finance Committee

This committee is required to be appointed by law. The members of the committee are, and were throughout the year, the Vice Chairman, the Churchwardens, the Deputy Churchwarden appointed by St. John's, the Treasurer of The Parish and the Treasurer of St. Martin's.

Reserves policy and the cover

The PCC has approved a policy of maintaining at a particular level, the Unrestricted Funds which are designated for the use of the 3 churches, these are the General Funds of each church which are the free reserves of that church. For St. Mary's this is at a level of not less than 4 months' normal expenditure. For St. John's and St. Martin's this is at a level which is between three and six months' normal expenditure, plus a further amount of £16,000 (£10,000 for St. John's, £6,000 for St. Martin's) to cover unexpected repairs to the Churches.

Based on the budgets for 2025, in aggregate normal expenditure for St. Mary's for four months and for St. John's and St. Martin's for three months amounts to £39,270 whilst normal expenditure for

four months at St. Mary's and for six months at St. John's and St. Martin's amounts to £46,795. The funds needed to cover this normal expenditure plus the £16,000 for emergency fabric repairs are between £55,270 and £62,795. The budget assumes that the Parish will remain in vacancy throughout 2025 and consequently will continue to have reduced ministry costs.

At 31 December 2024 in aggregate the General Funds of the three churches amounted to £299,901 and thus are well in excess of the policy limits.

The PCC's Unrestricted Funds, i.e. its free reserves, as opposed to the Unrestricted Designated Funds, are only £678. If the need arose The PCC would have to consider undesignating some or all of these Funds of the three churches, potentially giving it access to what would be additional free reserves of £299,901 from their General Funds, which are unrestricted in the three churches, £52,371 from their Diocesan Church Repair Funds and £50,136 from the Groombridge School House Fund: were all these funds undesignated, it would result in total unrestricted funds of £402,408.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others – [see note 6 on page 17]

The PCC has acted as an agent for Spring Harvest, under its Group Organiser scheme, and as such collects money from intending participants during the year as they commit to attending, and forwards the money, usually around February. The PCC has also acted as agent for the Diocese of Rochester in the collection for fees for such services as funerals and weddings. This money is directly due to Spring Harvest and the Diocese respectively, not the PCC, and is therefore not included in the income or expenditure of the PCC but does form part of the bank balance, offset by the equivalent liability.

At the year end, the PCC held £12 on behalf of Spring Harvest (2023 £12), these funds are held in a separate bank account. No money was held at the year-end on behalf of the Diocese (2023 £0). Fees of £1,293 were collected on behalf of retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO). At the year-end £350 was held to be paid over to the PTO.

Whilst the Parish has been in vacancy, the Rectory has been leased on a short term basis to third party tenants. No amounts were held at the end of the year in respect of council tax and utility bills payable to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and utility providers (2023 £565).

Review of the year

Achievements and performance

The Parish remained in vacancy throughout 2024. By the end of the year the Parish had been in vacancy for 20 months. The churchwardens and leadership representatives of all three churches in the Parish continued to work tirelessly throughout the year both in engaging with the Diocese in the process of identifying and appointing a new rector and in keeping the day to day running of the Parish's three churches moving forward.

Further details on the activities and achievements of the three churches are set out below.

The PCC

The PCC met 6 times during the year and the Standing and Finance Committee dealt with several matters by e-mail resolutions. The two DCCs and The Committee met between meetings and reports of these meetings were received by The PCC and discussed and approved where necessary.

Electoral roll and church attendance

The following Electoral Roll numbers were reported during the year:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| St Mary's | 147 |
| St Martin's | 28 |
| St. John's | 17 |

Deanery Synod

The Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year and comprises representatives of all 20 Anglican Churches (14 benefices) in Tunbridge Wells and Southborough and includes about 25 clergy members and 40 lay members. Meetings include reports on the Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and General Synod discussions, followed by an address and/or discussion about a wide range of local and national church related topics.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding has continued to be at the core of our Parish life. The Parish Safeguarding Officer routinely follows up with individuals requiring first time or updated DBS checks and monitors the status of mandatory safeguarding training completion, communicating outstanding actions to individuals directly and to the UPCC throughout the year. Our UPCC members all have up to date DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) Certificates and have either completed or are registered with the Diocese to attend the next available applicable safeguarding training modules.

Finance

Overall income was £186,633 for the year [2023: £173,018]. Expenditure reduced during the year to £142,116 [2023: £196,401], mainly as a result of the Parish being in vacancy throughout the year and the associated reduced ministry costs. The overall result before taking account of unrealized fair value movements on investments was a surplus of £44,517 [2023: deficit of £23,383]. The Parish's investments generated an unrealized gain of £4,554 (2023: unrealized gain of £17,247) on revaluation at year end.

The funds available to The Parish at year end were £421,372 [2023: £372,301]. The balance sheet is currently healthy with sufficient cash to meet all currently foreseeable needs.

Copies of the detailed financial results of each individual church are available on request from the Parish Administrator at the Church Office (see page 1 for contact details). Financial highlights for each of the churches are as follows:

St. Mary's Speldhurst:

Unrestricted income was £4,503 higher than in 2023 at £133,139 [2023: £128,636]. Expenditure reduced by £34,196 to £41,354 [2023: £75,550]. Restricted fund income received amounted to £15,665 whilst restricted fund expenditure amounted to £10,425. The increase in restricted fund income and expenditure related largely to donations towards and salary and associated costs of a dedicated youth worker. After contributing to Parish costs and considering the unrealized fair value increase of investments of £3,104 St Mary's showed an overall net increase in funds of £41,367 and a closing balance sheet of £278,477.

St. John's Groombridge:

Unrestricted income increased at £15,073 [2023: £14,050]. Expenditure increased slightly year on year at £7,345 [2023: £6,854]. Investment revaluations resulted in an unrealized gain of £1,450 for the year. After contributions to Parish costs St John's closed 2024 with an overall increase in

unrestricted funds of £3,145. Restricted Funds closed higher at £7,025, the increase of £666 resulting from donations received into the Friends Fund.

St. Martin's Ashurst:

Unrestricted income increased slightly to £16,859 [2023: £16,350]. Expenditure reduced in the year to £7,171 [2023: £9,070], resulting in net income for year of £9,688. After contributions to Parish costs, St Martin's closed with an overall increase in unrestricted funds of £2,855. Restricted fund income dropped slightly to £1,760 but there was also a decrease in restricted fund expenditure of £1,515, leading to a closing restricted fund balance of £505 [2023: £260].

2025 Budgets:

These show that in the General Funds of the three churches, overall income is expected to exceed expenditure by £12,820.

Reports of the activities of the three churches of The Parish

The Wardens' report

2024 rushed by with scarcely a quiet moment for the churchwarden teams. By the end of the year the Parish had been without an incumbent for more than 20 months and the church wardens and deputy church wardens were working hard on a number of fronts in order to keep the churches in the Parish moving forward.

The wardens and deputy wardens continued to support Sunday worship throughout the year, which were facilitated by the dedicated team of licensed leaders who have worked so hard to make this possible. Musical worship has continued at St Mary's and St John's with the support of the St Mary's music group and a volunteer organ player at St John's. At St Martin's regular services were held fortnightly throughout the year.

The warden team have been busy in the preparation of our parish profile, involving the input of all three churches, and liaison with the Area Dean, Archdeacon. The search for a new incumbent for the Parish continues.

A new Parish Administrator was recruited in the year. At St Mary's a Leadership team was also established consisting of representatives from key areas, including worship, children and families, pastoral care, discipleship, safeguarding, premises and administration.

Community engagement

Our engagement with the local community continued through a range of activities in 2024. We were very pleased to be able to serve our community in 2024 through providing several Baptism services, wedding and funeral services in St. Mary's.

St Mary's has continued to support the Rochester Diocese Mother's Union events including the annual Lady Day Service and the Wave of Prayer for our Linked Overseas Dioceses. Anniversary of Baptism cards continued to be sent to all who have been baptised, helping to keep in touch with their families for four years after Baptism and a Summer Garden Party was held to raise funds for Mother's Union Worldwide.

St Martin's main fund-raising event during the year was the Progressive Supper, which represents an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours in a social setting after a long, cold winter, and this year raised some £1,600 towards Church funds.

St John's and St Martin's congregations joined together at St Martin's for Harvest Festival in September and for the Christmas Day service. St Martin's also held a number of social gatherings in conjunction with some of its main services, often in the form of a Bring and Share meal.

Men On Wednesday continues to attract good support. The group's membership comprises 25 men, drawn from right across the local community. Attendance is often between 15 and 20 people who are all retired and benefit from both the camaraderie and conversation the group affords.

St Mary's pastoral assistants have continued to support those in need through phone calls, home visits including in care homes and hospitals, and taking Holy Communion to those unable to come to church, giving them time and company. Cards are given or sent to those who are sick, in hospital, injured, and the bereaved.

The villagers of Ashurst, and some living outside the area, continued to be kept in touch with St Martin's and village matters through the monthly Ashurst Broadsheet. This is distributed throughout the village and further afield.

From a financial perspective, St. Mary's has continued to give away a proportion of its general fund income to charity, and to split this to ensure local, UK wide and international charities are all included. A team of four St. Mary's members consider how to share out the money and recommend its distribution to the Finance Committee, aiming to support worthwhile charities with clear ethical/Christian objectives and low administrative costs.

Growing Disciples

St. Mary's runs a number of Home Groups, where small groups of people within the family of St Mary's aim to deepen friendship and encourage one another to grow in faith, especially through Bible study. Groups meet throughout the week in daytime and in the evening in people's homes around the village.

St Mary's started running an Alpha course in November, with 6 attendees. A marriage preparation course was run for couples getting married at St Mary's in the year with 4 couples attending.

Worship and Prayer

Worship across our churches continues to develop and change in our modern world. At St Mary's in particular the mix of ages at our services leads us to think creatively and consider the style preferences and needs of everyone. St Mary's has continued to thrive in its worship activities in spite of the rector vacancy thanks to the energy of its congregation.

At Christmas the two Crib services at St Mary's drew over 400 people to the church on Christmas Eve. At St Martin's a Christmas crib service was also held, bringing a large number of people together.

Music continues to support worship and aims to help the congregation engage with God at a personal level through old and new songs. At Christmas, St Mary's community choir was the largest ever, with over 300 people attending the carol concert. Both St John's and St Martin's held candlelit carol services in December.

Children and Young People

During the year St Mary's averaged more than 22 children attending each 10am Sunday service. Sunday children's groups – Little Acorns, Outback and Up and Over - have continued during 2024, allowing children to enjoy age-appropriate activities linked to the week's Bible passages.

Praise and Play, St Mary's Toddler Group, provides a safe place for families to meet up and socialise. The children enjoy free play, a craft activity and a story before we sing our favourite nursery songs. But the highlight of the morning is always the ringing of the church bell.

St Mary's Church and Speldhurst School continue to share a close relationship, fostering a strong connection between faith and education within the community. The church actively supports the school through Collective Worship, where church members lead assemblies that encourage spiritual growth and reflection among pupils. Additionally, the Prayer Space initiative provides a dedicated, interactive area for children to explore faith, prayer, and personal reflection in a creative and inclusive environment. This partnership helps to instil Christian values, offering students opportunities to engage with themes of kindness, gratitude, and community through meaningful worship and activities.

Church Fabric and Churchyard Activities


At St Mary's routine maintenance activities associated with the church building progressed throughout the year. A refurbishment of the church tower clock was undertaken. A number of volunteers continued to assist with maintaining the churchyard.

St John's continued to receive regular maintenance servicing of critical systems, together with regular churchyard maintenance. The faculty application submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to install under pew heating in 2023 was resubmitted in June 2024 and was approved. Churchyard tidy days were held twice during the year, supported by volunteers.

The St Martin's churchyard continued to be professionally maintained and this was supplemented by our annual Tidy Day in the autumn.

Maintenance and scheduled checks on relevant aspects of all three churches were carried out throughout the year.

Approved by The PCC on ^{7th} May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Atkinson', written in a cursive style.

Martin Atkinson (Vice Chairman)

STATEMENT OF PCC MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are The PCC Members and as such are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. Charity law requires the PCC Members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The PCC and of its income and expenditure, for that period. In doing so the PCC Members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that The PCC will continue in operation.

The PCC Members are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of The PCC. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of The PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as the PCC Members are aware, there is no relevant information of which The PCC's Independent Examiner is unaware, and the PCC Members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

The PCC Members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the PCC's website.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SPELDHURST WITH GROOMBRIDGE AND ASHURST

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



JP van der Merwe ACA
For and on behalf of
Foot Davson Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Lonsdale Gate
Lonsdale Gardens
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1NU

13 June 2025

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year to
31st December 2024**

| Note | 2024 | | | | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
| | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | | | | Restricted Funds | | | | PCC Funds | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | | | | Restricted Funds | | | | PCC Funds |
| | | St. Mary's | St. John's | St. Martin's | TOTAL | Parish | St. Mary's | St. John's | St. Martin's | | | TOTAL | St. Mary's | St. John's | St. Martin's | TOTAL | | | | |
| Income from: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 a) | | 120,530 | 12,239 | 13,142 | 145,911 | | 15,435 | 2,759 | 1,500 | 19,694 | 117,897 | 10,806 | 13,454 | 142,157 | 4,850 | 6,011 | 1,500 | 12,361 | |
| Church activities | 2 b) | 0 | 4,940 | 509 | 491 | 5,940 | 1,134 | 230 | | 260 | 1,624 | 3,715 | 959 | 99 | 4,773 | 950 | | 467 | 1,417 | |
| Other church operations | 2 c) | | 612 | | 1,851 | 2,463 | | | | 0 | 0 | 757 | 8 | 1,476 | 2,241 | | | | 0 | |
| Investments | 2 d) | 244 | 7,057 | 2,325 | 1,375 | 10,757 | | | | 0 | 0 | 6,267 | 2,277 | 1,321 | 9,865 | 10 | | | 2,241 | |
| Other | 2 e) | | 0 | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | | | | 10 | |
| Total Income | 2 | 244 | 133,139 | 15,073 | 16,859 | 165,071 | 1,134 | 15,665 | 2,759 | 1,760 | 21,318 | 128,636 | 14,050 | 16,350 | 159,036 | 960 | 4,850 | 1,967 | 13,788 | |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 3 a) | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 | |
| Church activities | 3 b) | 71,628 | 41,354 | 7,345 | 7,171 | 55,870 | 585 | 10,425 | 2,093 | 1,515 | 14,618 | 75,550 | 6,854 | 9,070 | 91,474 | 3,922 | 2,825 | 3,514 | 12,871 | |
| Total expended | 3 | 71,628 | 41,354 | 7,345 | 7,171 | 55,870 | 585 | 10,425 | 2,093 | 1,515 | 14,618 | 75,550 | 6,854 | 9,070 | 91,474 | 3,922 | 2,825 | 3,514 | 12,871 | |
| Net gains & (losses) on investments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| -Realised | 10 | | 3,104 | 1,450 | | 0 | | | | | 0 | 11,757 | 5,490 | | 17,247 | | | | 0 | |
| -Unrealised | | | | | | 4,554 | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | 0 | |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | (71,384) | 94,889 | 9,178 | 9,688 | 113,755 | 549 | 5,240 | 666 | 245 | 6,700 | 64,843 | 12,686 | 7,280 | 84,809 | (2,962) | 2,025 | (1,547) | 917 | |
| Transfers between funds | | | | | 0 | | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| Transfer between churches | | | | | 0 | | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| Contributions to Parish costs | | | | | | (71,628) | | | | | 0 | | | | (92,056) | | | | 0 | |
| Net Movement in Funds | | 244 | 36,127 | 3,145 | 2,855 | 42,127 | 549 | 5,240 | 666 | 245 | 6,700 | (74,979) | (7,745) | (9,332) | (2,247) | (2,962) | 2,025 | (1,547) | 917 | |
| Balances Brought Forward | 434 | | 233,887 | 80,332 | 46,062 | 360,281 | 1,744 | 3,223 | 6,359 | 260 | 11,586 | 244,023 | 75,391 | 48,114 | 367,538 | 4,706 | 1,198 | 2,958 | 10,669 | |
| Balances Carried Forward | 16 | 6578 | 270,014 | 83,477 | 48,917 | 640,248 | 22,293 | 88,463 | 87,025 | 5905 | 818,286 | 2233,887 | 880,382 | 646,062 | 8360,281 | 81,744 | 83,223 | 86,359 | 8260 | |

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

| Notes | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|--|----------|---|---|-----------------|
| | Parish | St. Mary's St. John's St. Martin's inter fund | St. Mary's St. John's St. Martin's inter fund | TOTAL |
| | | balances | balances | |
| Fixed Assets: | | | | |
| Investments | 10 | 138,736 64,790 0 0 | 135,632 63,340 0 0 | 198,972 |
| Current Assets: | | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 3,665 6,042 7,810 (1,462) | 4,903 13,698 3,056 5,068 (15,177) | 11,548 |
| Investments | 13 a) | 7,402 146,135 16,783 37,323 | 15,391 106,413 15,047 35,777 | 172,628 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 13 b) | 992 1,512 4,354 5,333 | 1,170 1,043 6,523 6,192 | 14,928 |
| | | 8,394 151,312 27,179 50,466 (1,462) | 21,464 121,154 24,626 47,037 (15,177) | 199,104 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 14 | (5,423) (11,571) (1,467) (1,044) 1,462 | (19,286) (19,676) (1,275) (715) 15,177 | (25,775) |
| | | (5,423) (11,571) (1,467) (1,044) 1,462 | (19,286) (19,676) (1,275) (715) 15,177 | (25,775) |
| Net Current Assets | | 2,971 139,741 25,712 49,422 0 | 2,178 101,478 23,351 46,322 0 | 173,329 |
| Total Net Assets | 11 | £2,971 £278,477 £90,502 £49,422 £0 | £2,178 £237,110 £86,691 £46,322 £0 | £372,301 |
| Funds | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 16 b) | 2,293 8,463 7,025 505 | 1,744 3,223 6,359 260 | 11,586 |
| Unrestricted designated for 16 a) ii) | | 0 270,014 83,477 48,917 | 0 233,887 80,332 46,062 | 360,281 |
| Unrestricted funds | 16 a) i) | 678 0 0 0 | 434 0 0 0 | 434 |
| | | £2,971 £278,477 £90,502 £49,422 £0 | £2,178 £237,110 £86,691 £46,322 £0 | £372,301 |

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Martin Atkinson (Vice Chairman)



George Carter (CA CTA) Treasurer

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

Notes to the Accounts
2024

1 Accounting policies

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include investment assets at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of The PCC has considered whether the cash flow statement adds materially to the understanding of the PCC's affairs and has concluded that it does not. It has therefore applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

a) Funds

Restricted Funds represent income which may be expended only on those restricted objects for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted and the PCC has the authority to change or remove the designation.

b) Incoming resources

i) Voluntary income and capital resources

Planned giving receivable under gift aid, collections and donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are recognised as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable, receipt is probable, and any conditions attaching to them are met, or, in instances where related expenditure has been incurred, there is a realistic expectation that all conditions will be met.

Specific fund raising events, such as fetes, bazaars and similar events, are accounted for gross.

ii) Income from investments

Dividends and interest are recognised when receivable. Any tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same period.

c) Resources expended

i) Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The PCC has a policy of distributing some of the income of the General Income and Expenditure Funds in grants - "Away Giving". In the absence of a contractual obligation, grants made in this way, including those for the support of overseas missionaries, are accounted for on the basis of the support agreed by the relevant DCC or Away Giving committee that relates to the financial year concerned.

ii) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The Parish's voluntary contribution to central diocesan costs (see note 1 g), is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

d) Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on revaluation of investments to market value at the year end or on redesignation - see note 1 e)

e) Fixed assets

i) Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are inalienable property. They are listed in the Churches' Inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 which would have a resale value are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life when acquired, or over 20 years, whichever is the shorter, on a straight line basis.

ii) Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

iii) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December using the "bid price".

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

f) Current assets

Individual amounts in excess of £500 paid in advance which are recoverable and all amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December are shown as debtors and prepayments. Provision is made for any debtors that may prove irrecoverable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance and at banks.

g) Contribution to the Diocesan Central Costs, including the incumbent's stipend and associated costs, and other shared expenditure

The PCC decides each year on the voluntary contribution to be made by the Parish to the Diocese to cover its central costs, which include the incumbent's stipend and associated costs. It is thereafter responsible for this contribution, the rectory running costs, Readers' and Pastoral Assistants' costs, the costs of visiting clergy, the administrator's salary and some of the Parish Office costs. A contribution is made by the two DCCs and the St John's Committee towards these costs.

2 Income from:

| | Unrestricted | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Designated | | 2024 | 2023 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a) Donations | | | | | |
| Planned giving: | | | | | |
| Regular Gift Aid donations | | 91,849 | 5,455 | 97,304 | 90,794 |
| Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations | | 24,162 | 2,154 | 26,316 | 24,136 |
| Regular giving by CAF and GYE | | 4,500 | 500 | 5,000 | 1,790 |
| Other regular giving | | 4,538 | | 4,538 | 5,121 |
| Collections: | | | | | |
| By Gift Aid envelope | | 6,914 | 129 | 7,043 | 6,839 |
| Not Gift Aided | | 3,731 | 627 | 4,358 | 4,007 |
| Tax recoverable on collections | | 2,647 | 177 | 2,824 | 2,330 |
| Non-regular Gift Aid donations | | 5,964 | 5,296 | 11,260 | 5,544 |
| Non-regular donations not Gift Aided | | 145 | 51 | 196 | 261 |
| Box & miscellaneous donations | | 373 | 505 | 878 | 2,431 |
| Grants | | 1,088 | 4,800 | 5,888 | 11,265 |
| Legacies | | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Away Giving Appeal | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 145,911 | 19,694 | 165,605 | 154,518 |

Grants. The PCC was grateful to receive the following grants from Speldhurst Parish Council: £1,000 towards St Mary's churchyard maintenance, £1,000 for St John's churchyard maintenance, £1,000 for St Martin's churchyard maintenance, £250 towards the repair of St Mary's church clock and £500 towards the cost of St Martin's Broadsheet magazine. The PCC was also grateful to have received a grant of £50 from Certas Energy towards the cost of St Mary's heating and a grant of £1,000 from Paragon Trust towards St Mary's churchyard maintenance. The PCC was also pleased to receive grants totalling £2,050.04 from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme equal to the VAT on repairs and maintenance work at St Mary's in 2023 and 2024 and at St Martin's in 2024; £962 of this was accrued in the 2023 accounts.

b) Church activities

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Fees and other related income | | 5,458 | 1,134 | 6,592 | 5,408 |
| St Martin's Broadsheet | | | 260 | 260 | 467 |
| Associated activities and Parish events | Note 5 | 249 | | 249 | 231 |
| Sales of church history books, notelets and cards | | 48 | | 48 | 84 |
| Miscellaneous income | | 185 | 230 | 415 | 0 |
| | | 0 | 5,940 | 1,624 | 7,564 |
| | | | | 7,564 | 6,190 |

c) Other church operations

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| Fund raising income | | 2,463 | | 2,463 | 2,241 |
|---------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|

d) Investments

| | | | | | |
|--|--|------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Dividends and interest (including any reclaimed tax) | | 244 | 10,757 | 0 | 11,001 |
| | | | | | 10,069 |

e) Other incoming resources

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Insurance claims | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Surplus on sale of fixed assets | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 244 | 165,071 | 21,318 | 186,633 | 173,018 |
|--|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

| | Unrestricted £ | Unrestricted Designated £ | Restricted £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| a) Fund raising costs | | | | | |
| Cost of fundraising | | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| b) Church activities | | | | | |
| Missionary and charitable giving (see note below): | | | | | |
| Church overseas | | 2,335 | 269 | 2,604 | 4,641 |
| Relief and development agencies | | 1,935 | | 1,935 | 1,402 |
| Home missions and other church organisations | 50 | 5,785 | 411 | 6,246 | 5,585 |
| Secular charities | | 5,515 | 360 | 5,875 | 4,308 |
| Total away giving | 50 | 15,570 | 1,040 | 16,660 | 15,936 |
| Ministry | | | | | |
| Contribution to diocesan costs | 41,797 | | | 41,797 | 72,637 |
| Other clergy, rectory and ministry costs | 1,198 | 185 | 585 | 1,968 | 2,373 |
| Deanery and other contributions | | 25 | | 25 | 50 |
| Printing, stationery & parish office costs | 452 | 4,075 | | 4,527 | 4,957 |
| Computer hardware, software and expenses | 110 | 825 | | 935 | 1,595 |
| Church services costs and fuel | | 7,630 | 80 | 7,710 | 6,756 |
| Church repairs and maintenance | | 4,199 | 2,220 | 6,419 | 40,643 |
| St John's Church redecoration | | | | 0 | 0 |
| St Mary's Church reorganisation | | | | 0 | 720 |
| Churchyard upkeep | | 1,783 | 3,990 | 5,773 | 8,478 |
| Insurance | | 9,928 | | 9,928 | 9,757 |
| Speldhurst Chapel | | | | 0 | 3,570 |
| Teaching and outreach | | 1,960 | | 1,960 | 417 |
| St Martin's Broadsheet costs | | 900 | 760 | 1,660 | 1,637 |
| Young people's work | | 788 | 30 | 818 | 407 |
| Organists and music leaders | | 956 | | 956 | 1,326 |
| Organ maintenance and music costs | | 2,866 | | 2,866 | 1,114 |
| Employee costs | 25,810 | 3,353 | 5,913 | 35,076 | 21,153 |
| Associated activities | | 249 | | 249 | 231 |
| Bank charges | | 198 | | 198 | 181 |
| Independent examiner | 2,206 | | | 2,206 | 1,928 |
| Other expenses | 5 | 380 | | 385 | 535 |
| TOTAL RESOURCES USED | 71,628 | 55,870 | 14,618 | 142,116 | 196,401 |

Note 5

Note: The only grant in excess of £1,000 included in the missionary and charitable giving is £1,690 to Church Mission Society. Of the balance of grants, all were of £1,000 or less and all were to institutions.

4 a) Staff costs

The average number of employees in 2024 was 3 (2023 3). The total staff costs amounted to £35,076 (2023 £21,153), of which £34,392 (2023 £20,541) was salaries, £0 (2023 £0) employer National Insurance costs, and £684 (2023 £612) employer pension and life insurance costs. No employee earned £60,000 or more in the year.

The organist at St Martin's and the regular organists at St Mary's provide their services without charge. Other organists are not employees but provide their services on a casual basis and are paid the fee they charge.

b) Pension schemes and employer contributions

The Diocese of Rochester pays the Rector's stipend and also the pension contributions relating to him in respect of the Church of England Pension Scheme which is a defined benefit scheme. The PCC has offered and pays a contribution to the Diocese to cover both the costs of clergy and other central costs of the Diocese but this is not allocated to any particular items. It is therefore not possible to say how much of the offered contribution relates to the pension contributions that the Diocese pays in respect of the Rector. The PCC has no further liability in respect of the Rector's pension. The Parish was in an interregnum for the whole of 2024 so there was no Rector in place for the whole of the year.

The PCC paid pension contributions into a workplace pension, which is a defined contribution scheme, and these amounted to £1,292 in 2024 (2023 £1,155); £608 (2023 £543) of this was deducted from employees' pay as employee contributions. The PCC has no further liability in respect of such pensions.

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

Notes to the Accounts 2024

5 Associated activities and Parish Events

Associated activities in 2024 included a Lent course.

6 Funds received and paid as agent

£107.20 of fees due to retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO) was held at the start of 2024. A further £1,293.60 was received during the year and £1,050.40 was paid to the PTO clergy in 2024; £350.40 was held at 31 December 2024 and will be paid to the PTO clergy in 2025.

£50.00 due to persons digging holes for the interment of ashes was received and paid to these persons.

£25.00 fee due to a verger in relation to a funeral duty was received and paid to the verger.

£3,166.53 was received from the tenants of the Rectory in respect of their Council Tax and utility bills and was paid to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and to the utility suppliers. £565.00 that was held at 31 December 2023 was paid to the Borough Council and utility suppliers in January 2024.

There was no money received or paid in respect of Spring Harvest in 2024. £12 Spring Harvest money remained held at 31 December 2024.

£96.50 was collected on behalf of Rochester DBF Link Dioceses and paid to Rochester DBF.

£518.50 was collected for retirement gifts for the Parish Administrator; part was used to buy gifts for her and part was paid to her by cheque.

£1,003.15 was paid on behalf of Speldhurst Community Shop Ltd in respect of utility bills for Speldhurst Chapel after the lease by the Parish expired and has been reimbursed by Speldhurst Community Shop Ltd.

7 Payments to PCC members and related parties

Details of those bodies which are related parties by virtue of a PCC member being involved with them are set out on page 4 of the report. Other than those noted below, there were no payments to any of these bodies.

The PCC paid £183 (2023 £0) in letting fees to Speldhurst Village Hall which was charged to the PCC at the normal hire rates. These costs are included under the heading of the activities to which they related.

The PCC is not charged for its use of the Ashurst McDermott Hall and made a donation of £100 (2023 £100).

£13.88 was paid for a diary and yearbook for a PCC member's personal use in carrying out his duties for the Parish. All other expenses reimbursed to PCC members did not relate to any services or goods provided or for travel, subsistence or personal use and were only for bona fide expenses incurred by them on behalf of the PCC.

Included in the Parish Insurance cover is a limited amount of Trustee Indemnity Insurance cover, the cost of which is not separately identified.

8 Parish Office building

The cost of the Parish Office, £22,333, was borne by the PCC and written off in 2001. The PCC has negotiated a written agreement with the Diocese providing for reimbursement of part of the cost should the Diocese or Rector take any action which makes it impossible to use the office for its present purposes. Reimbursement is on a sliding scale, providing for repayment to the Parish up to 2040.

9 Speldhurst Chapel

In September 2021 the PCC entered into a 12 months lease agreement with Trustees of the Western Counties and South Wales Evangelisation Trust for the use of Speldhurst Chapel. There was no rent payable under the terms of this lease, but the PCC was responsible for electrical work to make the Chapel safe for use and for the day to day running costs of the Chapel. In 2022 £1,436 was spent on running costs. The lease was extended for a further 12 months from September 2022 at an annual rent of £4,200; £1,400 of this was paid in 2022 and the balance of £2,800 was paid in 2023. The PCC had no responsibility for repairs to the structure of the building, and has had no responsibility for any costs relating to Speldhurst Chapel from 29 September 2023.

10 Fixed assets

Investments

During the year the fixed assets were held in the following investments for the unrestricted designated funds listed.

Church of England Central Board of Finance Investment Fund - Income Shares

| | St Mary's General Fund | | St John's General Fund | | St John's Groombridge School House Fund | | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Shares | Value £ | Shares | Value £ | Shares | Value £ | Total £ | Total £ |
| Balance at 1 January 2024 | 6,000 | 135,632 | 1,002 | 22,651 | 1,800 | 40,689 | 198,972 | 181,725 |
| Sale of shares - proceeds | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Realised surplus on sale | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Unrealised surplus / (deficit) on revaluation | | 3,104 | | 518 | | 932 | 4,554 | 17,247 |
| Market value at 31 December 2024 | 6,000 | 138,736 | 1,002 | 23,169 | 1,800 | 41,621 | 203,526 | 198,972 |

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

11 Analysis of net assets

a) By fund

| | Unrestricted | Unrestricted Designated | Restricted | 2024 Total | 2023 Total |
|--|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Parish General Fund | 678 | | | 678 | 434 |
| Church Repair Fund | | 52,371 | | 52,371 | 45,436 |
| St. Mary's General Fund | | 245,773 | | 245,773 | 213,498 |
| St. John's General Fund | | 21,738 | | 21,738 | 21,062 |
| St. John's Groombridge School House Fund | | 50,136 | | 50,136 | 49,204 |
| St. Martin's General Fund | | 32,390 | | 32,390 | 31,081 |
| Parish Restricted Fund | | | 1,218 | 1,218 | 1,218 |
| Parish Sequestration Fund | | | 1,075 | 1,075 | 526 |
| Parish Youth Fund | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Mary's Restricted Fund | | | 8,463 | 8,463 | 3,223 |
| St. John's Churchyard Maintenance Fund | | | 0 | 0 | 235 |
| Friends of St. John's Groombridge | | | 3,900 | 3,900 | 2,999 |
| St. John's British Legion Fund | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. John's Under Pew Heating Fund | | | 3,125 | 3,125 | 3,125 |
| St. Martin's Churchyard Fund | | | 245 | 245 | 0 |
| Windows Fund | | | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| Broadsheet Fund | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Broadsheet Binding Fund | | | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| | 678 | 402,408 | 18,286 | 421,372 | 372,301 |

See note 16

b) By type of asset

| | Inter fund balances | Unrestricted | Unrestricted Designated | Restricted | 2024 Total | 2023 Total |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | 203,526 | | 203,526 | 198,972 |
| Current assets | (1,462) | 4,799 | 213,592 | 18,960 | 235,889 | 199,104 |
| Current liabilities | 1,462 | (4,121) | (14,710) | (674) | (18,043) | (25,775) |
| Fund balance | 0 | 678 | 402,408 | 18,286 | 421,372 | 372,301 |

Allocation to churches and Parish

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Parish | 678 | | 2,293 | 2,971 | 2,178 |
| St Mary's | | 270,014 | 8,463 | 278,477 | 237,110 |
| St John's | | 83,477 | 7,025 | 90,502 | 86,691 |
| St Martin's | | 48,917 | 505 | 49,422 | 46,322 |
| | 0 | 678 | 402,408 | 421,372 | 372,301 |

12 Debtors and prepayments

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Income tax and Gift Aid on Small Donations recoverable | 11,927 | 6,539 |
| Debtors and prepayments | 4,128 | 5,009 |
| | 16,055 | 11,548 |

13 Bank and cash

a) Short term deposits

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Rochester loan deposit | 73,686 | 25,554 |
| Bank deposit accounts | 89,124 | 98,198 |
| | 162,810 | 123,752 |
| Diocesan Church Repair Fund | 44,833 | 48,876 |
| | 207,643 | 172,628 |

b) Current accounts and cash

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bank current accounts | 11,669 | 14,201 |
| Cash and cheques in hand | 522 | 727 |
| | 12,191 | 14,928 |

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

14 Liabilities

Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals and deferred income
Other creditors

| 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (16,018) | (18,854) |
| (2,025) | (6,921) |
| (18,043) | (25,775) |

15 Contingent liabilities and Capital commitments

a) Contingent liabilities

There were none at 31 December 2024 (2023 £NIL).

b) Capital commitments

There were none at 31 December 2024 (2023 £NIL).

16 Fund details

PCC funds

General Income and Expenditure Account - unrestricted

This account is for the use of the general purposes of the Parish.

Church Repair Fund - unrestricted designated

The fund is designated for the repairs of the three churches. Money is paid into it annually to help with the cost of repairs that arise following a quinquennial inspection of the church buildings by the Diocesan Architect. St. Mary's had an inspection in 2021, St. John's had one in 2023, and St. Martin's had one in 2020: thus the next inspections are due in 2026, 2028 and 2025 respectively.

Parish Restricted Fund

This fund holds money donated to subsidise places at visits to future Spring Harvests.

Parish Sequestration Fund

This fund receives the fees that would normally be payable to Rochester DBF. These fees are withheld from payment to Rochester DBF during the interregnum and are used to pay the fees and expenses of visiting clergy and the some of the Rectory standing charges when the Rectory is unoccupied, as agreed with the Rochester Diocese. Any surplus remaining at the end of the interregnum is payable to Rochester DBF.

Parish Youth Fund - restricted

The fund has been used for children's and youth work in the Parish, including the making of grants to the youth or young adults attending worship at a church in the Parish to fund their missionary work in the UK or overseas. £3,600 was paid in 2023 to a youth worker working at St Mary's Church, Speldhurst as agreed by the PCC. The fund has now been fully used and has been closed.

St. Mary's funds

General Income and Expenditure Account - unrestricted designated

This account is designated for the use of St. Mary's DCC for the general purposes of St. Mary's church.

Restricted Fund - restricted

This was set up by the PCC in 2004. It receives funds that have been donated for specified purposes and pays out expenses relating to those matters.

St. John's funds

General Income and Expenditure Account - unrestricted designated

This account is designated for the use of St. John's Committee for the general purposes of St. John's church.

Groombridge School House Fund - unrestricted designated

The fund comprises 1,800 Income Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (2023 1,800 shares), and a deposit of £8,515 (2023 £8,515). The dividend and deposit income derived from the investment is received into St. John's General Fund; no records have been found of any restrictions in the use of the capital or income. The then DCC of St. John's in conjunction with the PCC designated this fund for use on future capital projects at St. John's and the St. John's Committee has not requested any change in this designation.

Churchyard Maintenance Fund - restricted

The fund comprises donations received specifically for the maintenance of the churchyard.

Friends of St. John's Groombridge - restricted

This was started in 2011. The fund is primarily for the maintenance of the church building.

British Legion Fund - restricted

The fund receives the church collection on Remembrance Sunday which is stated as being for the Royal British Legion to which subsequently it is paid.

Under Pew Heating Fund - restricted

The fund received donations given specifically towards the cost of installing under pew heating in the church.

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

St. Martin's funds

General Income and Expenditure Account - unrestricted designated

This account is designated for the use of St. Martin's DCC for the general purposes of St. Martin's church.

Churchyard Fund - restricted

The fund comprises donations received specifically for the maintenance of the churchyard.

Windows Fund - restricted

This fund received donations for the installation of new stained glass windows and was used for that purpose in 2014, except for the remaining balance which is for a plaque or inscription to go with them which is the final part of the windows project.

Broadsheet Fund - restricted

This fund receives money which is specifically to defray the costs of producing the Ashurst Broadsheet.

Broadsheet Binding Fund - restricted

This fund has been set up to fund the binding of one set of the last 60 years of issues of the Ashurst Broadsheet.

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| a) Unrestricted Funds | | |
| i) Unrestricted | | |
| General Income & Expenditure Account (The Parish) | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 434 | 240 |
| Income received | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer from St. Mary's General Income and Expenditure Account towards parish costs | 58,762 | 74,979 |
| Transfer from St. John's General Income and Expenditure Account towards parish costs | 6,033 | 7,745 |
| Transfer from St. Martin's General Income and Expenditure Account towards parish costs | 6,833 | 9,332 |
| Interest added in the year | 244 | 194 |
| Expenditure in the year | (71,628) | (92,056) |
| Balance 31 December | <u>678</u> | <u>434</u> |
| ii) Unrestricted Designated Funds | | |
| 1) Church Repair Fund (see below) | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 45,436 | 68,618 |
| Transferred from General Funds | 6,370 | 6,370 |
| Gross interest | 1,485 | 1,608 |
| Repairs | (920) | (31,160) |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>52,371</u> | <u>45,436</u> |
| relating to | | |
| St. Mary's | 24,241 | 20,389 |
| St. John's | 11,603 | 10,066 |
| St. Martin's | 16,527 | 14,981 |
| | <u>52,371</u> | <u>45,436</u> |
| £44,833 of this fund is invested in the Diocesan Church Repair Fund and £7,538 of that part relating to St Martin's is held in the Diocesan Loan Fund. | | |
| 2) General Income and Expenditure Account (St. Mary's) | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 213,498 | 197,404 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year before contribution | 91,933 | 83,316 |
| Contribution to Parish costs | (58,762) | (74,979) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year | 33,171 | 8,337 |
| Transferred to Church Repair Fund | (4,000) | (4,000) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments held for the General Fund | 3,104 | 11,757 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>245,773</u> | <u>213,498</u> |
| 3) General Income & Expenditure Account (St. John's) | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 21,062 | 21,089 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year before contribution | 7,361 | 6,925 |
| Contribution to Parish costs | (6,033) | (7,745) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year | 1,328 | (820) |
| Transferred to Church Repair Fund | (1,170) | (1,170) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments held for the General Fund | 518 | 1,963 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>21,738</u> | <u>21,062</u> |

Note 10

Note 10

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

Notes to the Accounts

2024

| | | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4) Groombridge School House (St John's) | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | 49,204 | 45,677 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments held for the Fund | Note 10 | 932 | 3,527 |
| Balance at 31 December | | <u>50,136</u> | <u>49,204</u> |
| 5) General Income & Expenditure Account (St. Martin's) | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | 31,081 | 34,740 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year before contribution | | 9,342 | 6,873 |
| Contribution to Parish costs | | (6,833) | (9,332) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year | | 2,509 | (2,459) |
| Transferred to Church Repair Fund | | (1,200) | (1,200) |
| Balance at 31 December | | <u>32,390</u> | <u>31,081</u> |
| Total St. Mary's | | 270,014 | 233,887 |
| Total St. John's | | 83,477 | 80,332 |
| Total St. Martin's | | 48,917 | 46,062 |
| Total Unrestricted Designated | | <u>402,408</u> | <u>360,281</u> |
| b) Restricted Funds | | 2024 | 2023 |
| i) Parish | | £ | £ |
| 1) Parish Restricted Fund | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | 1,218 | 1,218 |
| Income received including Gift Aid tax recovery | | 0 | 0 |
| Subsidy to Spring Harvest places | | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | | <u>1,218</u> | <u>1,218</u> |
| 2) Parish Sequestration Fund | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | 526 | 0 |
| Fees received | | 1,134 | 950 |
| Visiting clergy fees and expenses | | (222) | (224) |
| Rectory standing charges and grass cutting when unoccupied | | (363) | (200) |
| Balance at 31 December | | <u>1,075</u> | <u>526</u> |
| 3) Parish Youth Fund | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | 0 | 3,488 |
| Interest added in year | | 0 | 10 |
| Expenditure in the year | | 0 | (3,498) |
| Transfer to Digital Fund | | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Parish | | <u>2,293</u> | <u>1,744</u> |

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

| ii) St. Mary's | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Restricted Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 3,223 | 1,198 |
| Collections & donations including gift aid tax recovery | 13,135 | 2,763 |
| Grants received | 2,300 | 2,087 |
| Sundry income | 230 | 0 |
| Gas | (50) | (60) |
| Angel cards | 0 | (354) |
| Repairs and maintenance | (1,491) | 0 |
| Churchyard | (2,000) | (2,027) |
| Youth worker | (5,913) | 0 |
| Missionary and charitable giving | (911) | (384) |
| Other expenditure | (60) | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>8,463</u> | <u>3,223</u> |
| Total St Mary's | <u>8,463</u> | <u>3,223</u> |
| iii) St. John's | | |
| 1) Churchyard Maintenance Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 235 | 0 |
| Grants and donations including Gift Aid tax recovery | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Maintenance costs | (1,235) | (765) |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>0</u> | <u>235</u> |
| 2) Friends of St. John's Groombridge | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 2,999 | 2,958 |
| Donations including gift aid tax recovery | 1,630 | 1,764 |
| Expenditure in the year | (729) | (1,723) |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>3,900</u> | <u>2,999</u> |
| 3) British Legion Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 0 | 0 |
| Donations | 129 | 122 |
| Expenditure in the year | (129) | (122) |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| 4) Under Pew Heating Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 3,125 | 0 |
| Donations including gift aid tax recovery | 0 | 3,125 |
| Expenditure in the year | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>3,125</u> | <u>3,125</u> |
| Total St John's | <u>7,025</u> | <u>6,359</u> |

PARISH of SPELDHURST with GROOMBRIDGE and ASHURST

**Notes to the Accounts
2024**

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| iv) St. Martin's | 2024 | 2023 |
| 1) Churchyard Fund | £ | £ |
| Balance at 1 January | 0 | 1,351 |
| Grants received | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Expenditure in the year | (755) | (2,351) |
| Interest added in the year | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>245</u> | <u>0</u> |
| 2) Windows Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 110 | 110 |
| Expenditure in the year | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>110</u> | <u>110</u> |
| 3) Broadsheet Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 0 | 196 |
| Grants received | 500 | 500 |
| Other income including gift aid tax recovery | 260 | 467 |
| Expenditure in the year | (760) | (1,163) |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| 4) Broadsheet Binding Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 150 | 150 |
| Grants received | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure in the year | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>150</u> | <u>150</u> |
| Total St Martin's | <u>505</u> | <u>260</u> |
| Total Restricted Funds | <u>18,286</u> | <u>11,586</u> |
| TOTAL PCC FUNDS | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | Note 16 a) i) 678 | 434 |
| Unrestricted Designated Funds | Note 16 a) ii) 402,408 | 360,281 |
| Restricted Funds | Note 16 b) 18,286 | 11,586 |
| | <u>£421,372</u> | <u>£372,301</u> |
| 17 Summary of Transfers | | |
| | Unrestricted | Unrestricted Designated |
| | £ | £ |
| Parish General Fund | 71,628 | |
| General Fund (St. Mary's) | | (62,762) |
| General Fund (St. John's) | | (7,203) |
| General Fund (St. Martin's) | | (8,033) |
| Church Repair Fund (St. Mary's) | | 4,000 |
| Church Repair Fund (St. John's) | | 1,170 |
| Church Repair Fund (St. Martin's) | | 1,200 |
| | <u>71,628</u> | <u>(71,628)</u> |
| | | <u>0</u> |