



The Parish of
South Gillingham
Team Ministry

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Team Ministry in the Parish of South Gillingham Consolidated Annual Report 31st December 2025



**“Building community, nurturing faith
and growing disciples of
Jesus Christ”**



Parish of South Gillingham

The Annual Report 2025

Background:

The Pastoral Measure that established this Team Ministry in 1990 is legally termed the Benefice of South Gillingham. The style adopted by the Parish is The Parish of South Gillingham Team Ministry.

Structure Governance and Management:

The function and purpose of the PCC is outlined in the Church Representation Rules 2025.

The Parish is served by four churches:

St Matthew (Wigmore)

St Peter (Bredhurst)

All Saints' (Hempstead)

St Paul (Parkwood)

The Parish Office is situated at:

St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0NX.

The Pastoral Measure allows for the cure of souls to be shared by the Rector, who is the incumbent of the benefice, and two Vicars and others authorised by licence or permission of the Bishop to serve as members of the Team. The PCC additionally employs a part-time Parish Administration Officer and two Clerical Assistants. South Gillingham's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the clergy team in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Clergy Member:

Reverend Pat Lenton de Dickin [until July 2025]

Readers: Colin Brown, Geoff Hufton.

Licensed Lay Minister and Anna Chaplain: Jennie Spalding **Anna Friend:**

Maureen Cannon and Barbara Derham

Licensed Lay Minister: David Till

Membership:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Constitution.

During the year 2025 the following served as members of the PCC:

(a) From January 2025 to May 2025:

Ex-officio Members:

Clergy Member: Reverend Pat Lenton de Dickin

Lay Minister's Representative: Colin Brown

Churchwardens:

Paul Bellerby (St Matthew)
Jim Gilbourne (All Saints')
Mike Gurr (St Paul)
Alan Wainwright (St Peter)

Deanery Synod:

Vacant	St Paul
Jim Gilbourne	All Saints'
Fretha Biggs	St Matthew
Jane Stringer	St Peter

PCC Elected Members:

Andrew Mann – St Matthew (Vice Chair)
Stephen Manning – St Paul (Parish Treasurer)
Liz Nicholas – Safeguarding Officer (co-opted member)
Valerie Jenson – St Paul
Chris Williams – All Saints'
Janice Hatcher – St Matthew
Tracey Gurr – St Paul
Dave Till – St Peter
Mim Noble – St Peter

(b) From May 2025 to December 2025

Ex-officio Members:

Reverend Pat Lenton de Dickin [until July 2025]

Lay Ministers' Representative:

Colin Brown (Elected Lay Ministers' Representative. to the PCC)

Churchwardens:

Paul Bellerby (St Matthew)
Jim Gilbourne (All Saints')
Alan Wainwright (St Peter)
Michael Gurr (St Paul's)

Deanery Synod:

Fretha Biggs	St Matthew
Jane Stringer	St Peter
Jim Gilbourne	All Saints'
Vacant	St Paul

PCC Elected Members:

Andrew Mann – St Matthew (Vice Chair)
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Chris Williams – All Saints'
Janice Hatcher – St Matthew
Tracey Gurr – St Paul



Dave Till – St Peter
Mim Noble – St Peter

Members of Staff:

Parish Administration Officer/PCC Secretary/Electoral Roll Officer – Vivien Fuller.
Clerical Assistants – Alison Harding and Bethany Gurr.

Committees:

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee: Operating in accordance with The Church Representation Rules. It is empowered to act on a day-to-day basis between PCC meetings and has authority to make emergency decisions.

The PCC is the governing body that endorses policy and emergency decisions. The PCC is jointly and severally liable for all financial decisions. The PCC delegates consultative and advisory roles to the following committees:

The PCC delegates to the four District Church Councils (DCCs) the day-to-day running of the four churches (spiritual, financial and buildings). Each District Church holds an Annual District Church Meeting at which a Church Warden is nominated. The four nominations are put to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for election. At the same Annual Church Meeting an Assistant Warden is nominated together with nominations for Deanery Synod, joint DCC/PCC representatives, and PCC only representatives. Ballots are held if necessary.

With the exception of those elected at the individual ADCMs to serve only on their DCC, the nominations from each church go to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) where the Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members are formally elected.

The DCCs contribute to the PCC account in agreed proportions and the PCC administers all fees, the Parish share, administrator's salary, housing, staff expenses and administrative expenses.

Electoral Roll: There were 175 Parishioners on the Electoral Roll at the time of the Annual Meeting in 2025, made up as follows: St Matthew: 63 St Paul: 59 St Peter: 36 All Saints': 17.

Risk Management (Charities Act 2011)

Although the Parish is below the income limit that requires it to legally produce a policy, the PCC has nevertheless determined policies for such management and these are summarised below:

Financial Risk: Members of the PCC have signed the PCC Financial Liability Policy. The PCC will not entertain any 'open' position for debts, which are not covered by promised pledges or other suitable guarantees by members of the church or other organisations or individuals.

Operational and Statutory and Legal Risks:

All churches have full insurance cover on buildings and employment and public liability cover. The PCC has adopted "The Protection and Safeguarding of Children and The Protection and Safeguarding of Adults when they are Vulnerable" Policy and Procedures, in liaison with the Diocese of Rochester. Health and Safety policies are in place.

Reserves Policy (Charities Act 2011) The PCC has established small Designated Reserves for Maintenance of Clergy Property, Replacement of Equipment, Training and Mission Work. The PCC also holds a reserve of £20,000 to cover unforeseen demands or shortfalls by the four Churches in the Parish.

Apart from the on-going capital projects for individual churches, which are listed elsewhere in this report, the PCC has established a policy to hold unrestricted reserves at a level, which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. Whilst it has not been possible for individual Churches to attain such reserves at this time, such a policy remains the target.

"Mission Statement"

"Building Community, nurturing faith and growing disciples of Jesus Christ"

Parish Review of the Year

Our parish remains deeply committed to serving the needs of the community, but this does present a challenge during the interregnum.

Rev'd Pat Dickin moved on from the Parish in July and with the considerable dedication of the Area Dean, visiting clergy, occasional preachers, lay readers, wardens, volunteers and office staff, it has been possible to open all four churches on every Sunday, apart from when we have a "Parish Service" where all four churches come together.

Events continue to take place across the parish, this has only been made possible by working as a valued team, inevitably, some services and events have had to be postponed for the time being.

We recognise the importance of Holy Communion, fellowship and mid-week services. We continue our strong connection to local schools and care homes, our ministry to the bereaved - this includes the well-received Bereavement Journey courses held during the year. We continued baptism preparation and services, marriage preparation and marriage services.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Safeguarding and Health and Safety Teams who strive to ensure our churches are a safe environment for all.

We are grateful for the ministry of Stephen and his team of treasurers, Gift Aid officer, Paulette and supporters, whose faithful service contribute to the life of the parish in ever increasing financial challenges.



The Children's Ministry Team led by Tracey, continues to thrive and supports families and schools locally.

We have remained committed to meet human need with away giving including fortnightly collections of donations to Medway Food Bank and a food larder kept at St Matthew's for anyone in immediate need.

We continue to "build community" with a "Place of Welcome" Thursday and Film Clubs at St Matthew's, Hubs at Bredhurst village hall and St Paul's, Parkwood. Bereavement Journey Course at All Saints' Hempstead, all these events are supported by church volunteer members from across the parish, as we continue to provide safe, warm and welcoming environments to all.

A year at a Glance:

Sunday Services – Continue to take place every Sunday at 10.30am, fortnightly at 8.30am; children's outreach service continue on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month (during term time) at 3-4.30pm

Midweek Services – continued with:

Morning Prayer 9.30 every Tuesday at St Matthew's

Holy Communion 9.30 every Wednesday at St Paul's

Praise & Prayer 20.00 every 2nd Wednesday of the Month at St Matthew's

Lunchtime Prayer 12 noon every 4th Thursday of the Month at St Matthew's

Pastoral Ministry

Carers' Coffee Morning – meets Monthly, every second Wednesday at 10.00-12 at Rainham Library. A well-attended group for carers to come together giving a chance to meet other carers in an informal setting.

Bereavement Journey Course - at All Saints' took place in February and September. The course is open to all who have lost a loved one and is intended to help those who have been bereaved whether recently or for many years. The Course is free and is run in small groups with qualified leaders.

Funerals – 21 Funerals and 11 interments took place within our churches and local crematoria. Continued support for families was offered through the annual Memorial and Thanksgiving service in November.

Marriage - Four Marriages were conducted and took place at St Peter's, Bredhurst during the year.

Baptism - 18 children brought by their families to our churches for baptism, following preparation which takes place at St Matthew's church on a Saturday morning with other couples. The preparation has been very well received and is supported by lay ministers and volunteers.

Home Groups – continue to flourish across the parish.

Newsletter and community outreach - The Parish Newsletter *“Keeping in Touch”* continues to grow with ever increasing membership and is received and appreciated by many, either by post or email. We are grateful to Archie McLellan for compiling and continuing with its circulation. Grateful thanks to Helen Standing for delivering the newsletter to those who don't have access via the internet.

The Parish office continues to liaise with all members of the wider community. Parish office governance includes the co-ordination of weddings, funerals and baptisms and remain a priority including the day-to-day administration.

We continue to support our five local schools with assemblies, lessons on a variety of topics, Experience Christmas, Experience Easter, and “It's Your move” workshops for year 6 classes as they transition to secondary school. This has been very well received by schools in our parish, we continue to forge positive relationships with all local schools in our area.

Viv Fuller, Parish Administrator / PCC Secretary



Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met twice in 2025; June and November. The meetings were facilitated by Terry Whittaker and led by the Area Dean Rev. Mike Nelson

Having outlined at the last meeting of 2024 that the synod would be looking at the pastoral principles in depth; here is a

reminder of what they are:-

- Acknowledging prejudice
- Casting out fear
- Speaking into silence
- Admitting hypocrisy
- Addressing ignorance
- Paying attention to power

Rev. Mike is keen to have someone come to speak to us at each session.

Therefore in June 2025 we were joined by Rev, Ruth Bierbaum who talked on the 6th pastoral principle – paying attention to POWER, this was followed by a short talk from Kayleigh Ward on Eco Church and how to become one.

At the November meeting our speaker sadly had car trouble and could not attend. We therefore had a discussion led by rev. Nathan Ward on the meeting which took place at St Margaret's Church. Rainham on the meaning of all the flags attached to lampposts everywhere.

Two more meetings have been planned for March and June 2026.

Jane Stringer
Deanery Synod Representative

Children's Ministry Report

Children and Family outreach continues to grow across the Parish with opportunities for further outreach to our young people.

Toddler Groups

Our parish toddler groups, Play and Chat 139 Coffee Morning and Sunbeams remain popular and meet during term time at three churches on different days each week. They provide a welcoming space for families and carers (see separate reports).

In September, toddler group volunteers from across the parish joined together for breakfast at Dobbies generously paid for by the Diocese of Rochester. It was a great opportunity for us all to get together and talk about the different groups.

Sunday and Worship Activities

- **St Matthew's Sunday School** continues during the morning service, and children also take part in All-Age Worship.
- **Family Fun Services** are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 3:00–4:30pm at St Paul's Church. Attendance varies, with an average of around 35 children and adults. Some families are now also joining All-Age Worship at St Paul's. Four children from Family Fun were baptised with a diocesan video celebrating Family Fun baptisms being produced and shared (<https://youtu.be/y18zrtGXvrk>).
- **Live Wires**, a puppet-led service, takes place once a month at All Saints Church.

2025 Events/Activities

- **Good Friday**
Families came and enjoyed participating in the Easter Story with activities taking you through from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.
- **Experience Easter**
The 2025 Experience Easter sessions held at St Matthews were well received by the year 5 children and staff of Bredhurst School and Fairview School. A session for each class lasts about one and a half hours and concludes with a short talk at the end. Each church provided a willing band of volunteers for each of five stations per session to talk more about a particular aspect from the Bible story. Both Fairview and Bredhurst schools have signed up again for 2026 and Hempstead School Fairview school have signed up their 3 Year R classes to come to All Saints.
- **One Way UK Puppet Training Workshop**
Part funded by the Diocese of Rochester, with attendees from across the Southeast, including our own parish, the workshop began with how to hold the rods, bring them up behind a screen and make them move to the words/music script. Although this sounds straight forward, I can assure you it wasn't!
- **Harvest - School Assemblies**
These took place in Fairview and Parkwood Schools. A Harvest talk was also given to the Foundation Stage children at Parkwood School.



- **Team Builders Holiday Club**

This took place from 21st – 23rd October at St. Paul's using Scripture Union's 2025 holiday club material looking at being part of a team through the stories of Joseph, Moses and Jesus. It was attended by 35 enthusiastic primary aged children. It was great to see the children so engaged. I am grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of all those involved in making the holiday club possible. The holiday club was followed up with All Age Worship on the Sunday incorporating the holiday club theme which was attended by several of the families.

- **It's Your Move Workshops**

It's Your Move - moving onto secondary school, is a Scripture Union devised workshop for Year 6 children, and a book is given to them to take away (donated by our Parish). Workshops were delivered to Fairview, All Saints and Bredhurst schools, with the addition of Parkwood School receiving just the book without a workshop.

- **Lol Bear 7 Days to Save Christmas (held in St. Paul's Church)**

We were entertained by a cast of two with an interactive pantomime. In the show there were 7 themes or lessons the characters had to learn. Whilst the numbers of children were smaller than expected, this enabled every child to participate with instruments, dressing up and even joining in with the script!

- **School Christmas Assemblies**

These took place in Parkwood School.

- **Experience Christmas**

Both Fairview and Bredhurst Year 5 children came into St. Matthew's again for Experience Christmas.

- **Christmas Services**

In December 2025, two Christingle and Nativity services were held at St. Matthew's, a Christingle at All Saints, a Christingle and a Nativity service at Family Fun at St. Paul's and a Crib service at St. Peter's.

- **The Posada**

In December, knitted figures of Mary, Joseph, and the donkey visited the homes of families who attend Family Fun in a Posada. Each family welcomed them and cared for them during their stay. The Posada bag included activities, a story, prayers, and chocolate!

Cheryl Trice from the diocese gave a talk to volunteers about the diocese 3–5-year strategy for children's and youth work, including exploring diocesan support.

Parish Youth Group

The Parish youth group continued to welcome youth from across the parish who also began to bring friends. It is led by Helen Stockwell, assisted by David Cox. Numbers remain static.

Rooted Junior

The Rooted course using Scripture Union material took place from March - July as a weekly group for 8–11-year-olds offering a space for children to engage with the Bible, ask questions and explore the difference Jesus can make in their lives. (It continues now as a fortnightly group using Urban Saints Energize material)



I am continually grateful for the wonderful children's team and many others who enable all the children, youth and family work to continue, both in person, behind the scenes and prayerfully especially since we have been in interregnum. May God continue to bless this work and enable it to flourish both in our churches, communities and schools.

Tracey Gurr, Children's Lead

Toddler Groups

139 – St Matthew

The 139 Toddler Group continues to be an enjoyable time for children and adults alike. This year particularly, the adults have formed good friendships and formed their own WhatsApp group. They have met up in school holiday times and give each other support and advice when needed. Numbers naturally fluctuate for many reasons, but we had 19 new children starting during the year, most 3 or under. The average attendance is around 12, slightly up from last year.

Paul and Pearl Bellerby



Sunbeams – All Saints'

Sunbeams Baby and Toddler Music Group continues as an All Saints' community outreach project for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers.

We continue to welcome families on a Tuesday afternoon at 1.30 – 2.45pm. We sing nursery rhymes, play instruments and dance with

scarves during term time. After music time the adults are offered a hot drink and children a packet of biscuits, this is an important time for socialising and there are books and toys put out for the children.

The group is led by 2 volunteers: Sarah Cross and Natalie Jarvis. This year we have welcomed on average 5 – 8 families per week.

In addition to our regular musical themes, which rotate every 7 weeks, we also held a Valentine's Party, Easter Story session, St George's Day celebration, musical Sports Day, Summer Party, Autumn Party, Christmas Party and the Nativity Story with Christmas Carols.

We also celebrated Sunbeams' 16th Birthday in June which was a huge achievement made possible by the continued support of our volunteers.

The group continues to provide a connection with local families and provide support to the community.

Sarah Cross, Lead Volunteer

Play and Chat – St Paul's

Thursday morning Play & Chat attendance has dropped but we still have a good number of families attending, and sometimes up to 40 children. There has been a fairly regular turnover of children as several families left, with the children reaching school age, and a number of new families started since the beginning of

2025. We regularly receive positive feedback from parents/carers and this is always welcome. New families attend as a result of word of mouth. The Wednesday group had to cease in September because of a lack of demand. Two volunteers transferred to the Thursday group, but unfortunately one became seriously ill and has since gone on long term sick leave. We now have six volunteers.

The 2025 Christmas Party proved popular again, being attended by lots of children. The price for each child was still £3. This covered the cost of food, refreshments and sundries, like wrapping paper and Christmas decorations. The children at the party had dancing, with bubbles coming out and down from a bubble machine on the balcony. It proved to be very popular. A present for each child (a Christian book) was paid for by the church. We also gave each child a small bar of chocolate. Once again, Roy was great as Father Christmas, with all the children being enthralled to see him. A lot of hard work goes into the organisation of the party, in the weeks beforehand and on the day itself. Thanks are due to all the volunteers. We shall probably need to increase the price for the 2026 party as prices generally have risen so much.

Craft activities, at no extra charge, are run on the last day of each term by Kate, one of our regular volunteers, and are popular with both adults and children alike. We still charge £2 per family per session, which is excellent value for money. When a child minder brings five or six children (as has happened occasionally) we have charged them as two families. The child minders seemed to accept this as reasonable.

Play & Chat continues to be very popular, with both adults and children. We pray it can continue to provide a valuable service to the community, and bring people into the church. As always, we would love to have more volunteers.

Derek Murray, Thursday Play & Chat Leader and Volunteer

Live Wires Puppet-Led Service - All Saints'

Auntie Martha continues to be the head of the family, Bluey's jokes are ever popular and we now have a Canadian Rev Bev (sometimes). Many thanks to Natalie..

We have benefited from Dave and Sarah Till's support and leadership of the Live Wires Services .

Grandpa's (i.e. Linda) Bible Stories have proved very popular with lots of Cheering for Jesus and booing for the Baddies in the Bible, i.e. Herod and the Pharisees etc.

It is a new format, putting the Bible stories of Jesus at the heart of the sessions with family values and moral issues relating to bible stories being ably led by Kathie (i.e. Auntie Martha.) The engaging and lovable Bluey, who everyone loves, is very ably played by Trevor.

We hope to improve more over the next year. But we could not stage Live Wires without the help and support over every member of our congregation. From Chris and Jim erecting the set to Anna and Elaine overseeing refreshments. Thank you to all.



And another thank you to Natalie, who also runs our craft sessions after the Puppets go home.

Linda Crawford, Lead volunteer

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Is Everybody's Business in the Parish of South Gillingham.

1. In June 2025, I will have held the post of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for four years. I was recruited in accordance with Safer Recruitment Guidance, including the provision of references and a formal interview process. The interview panel consisted of the then Incumbent, Brian Senior, and two Churchwardens. Following a short handover from the previous post holder, I was issued with a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, which has remained my guiding document throughout my time in office.



National and Church Context

During my tenure, the safeguarding culture within the Church, both nationally and locally, has undergone significant change. Key developments include:

- The **Wilkinson Report (2023)**
- The **Jay Report: Future of Safeguarding (February 2024)**
- The **resignation of the Archbishop (November 2024)**
- A wider acknowledgement of the Church's historic failures in supporting Survivors of Abuse

As a result of these developments, safeguarding has shifted from being viewed as an "add-on" to becoming a **core element of all church activity and governance**.

2. Safeguarding Systems and Oversight

The introduction of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard**, which monitors activity levels, groups, clubs, and risk assessments, has been instrumental in ensuring that volunteers are supported appropriately and that participants are protected.

The **Parish Volunteer Handbook**, launched in May 2025, clearly sets out the process for becoming a volunteer. The PCC approved the application of **Safer Recruitment procedures for all new volunteers** from Autumn 2025.

A parish-wide **Volunteer Celebration** was held at St Paul's in May 2025. Over 60 volunteers attended, supported by refreshments provided by St Peter's, demonstrating the Parish's appreciation of volunteer commitment.

3. Volunteers and Safer Recruitment

Across the Parish, there are currently:

- **113 volunteers**
- Undertaking **53 distinct roles**
- Operating across multiple churches
- Active **seven days a week**, mornings, afternoons, and evenings

This level of commitment from volunteers, alongside the work of the PCC and DCCs, is fundamental to sustaining parish life. It is therefore essential that robust safeguarding systems are in place to ensure volunteers are themselves safe and well-supported.

- **57 individuals** have been assessed under **DBS regulations**
- All volunteers working with **children, young people, and vulnerable adults** have been appropriately vetted

4. Personnel Hub and Administration

The recent introduction of the **Personnel Hub** has enabled the Parish to benchmark its safeguarding performance against **National Standards**.

Due to increased administrative requirements, an additional administrator was appointed, with dedicated time allocated to safeguarding administration. This has placed the Parish in a strong position, providing confidence that safeguarding performance aligns with required standards.

The Hub is able to generate detailed reports for the **PCC and Churchwardens**, enabling clear oversight of parish strengths and areas for improvement.

Previously, this administrative role was undertaken voluntarily by Gill Rose. The PCC's decision to recognise the role as a **paid position** demonstrates a clear commitment to embedding safeguarding at the heart of parish life.

5. Safeguarding Training

The Personnel Hub records safeguarding training levels across the Parish. Currently:

- **356 individuals** have completed safeguarding training
- Training levels include:
 - ❖ Basic
 - ❖ Foundation
 - ❖ Leadership
 - ❖ Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
 - ❖ Safer Recruitment

An area of particular focus is **Awareness of Domestic Abuse**. The Diocese revised the Safeguarding Training Matrix in **September 2025**, expanding the



number of roles requiring this training. While this presents a challenge, it is a key priority for **2026**.

6. Audit Readiness and Future Confidence

I am confident that when the Diocese is audited in **July 2027**, the Parish of South Gillingham will be able to clearly demonstrate that:

- Robust safeguarding systems are in place
- Volunteers are appropriately recruited, trained, and supported
- Evidence is available to support compliance with National and Diocesan Standards

New Safeguarding Structure

In January 2026 the Safeguarding Structure programme board produced a report on the proposed changes and a vision for a new charity provisionally named The Independent Safeguarding Authority.

A vision for a new charity, provisionally named as the Independent Safeguarding Authority. This charity will be an operationally independent organisation, led by a majority-independent non-executive Board. Executive functions of the charity will be led by a Chief Safeguarding Officer, whose operational safeguarding responsibilities will be a protected function of the charity and not subject to Board discussion or determination.

Next steps and implementation

The task now will be to turn the ideas set out in this paper into practice. The broad timetable for implementation begins 2026 and aims to be completed by 2028.

There is a general synod paper available please see link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-february-2026#na>

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone across the Parish of South Gillingham for their continued support and commitment to safeguarding over the past year. This collective effort has ensured that safeguarding is embedded into all aspects of parish life.

Liz Nicholas, Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety

Health and safety across the parish is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who appoint an individual with the necessary competence to take the lead on these matters. This person then advises the H & S representatives in the four churches and the wider congregations via Keeping in Touch.



The H & S officer in each church is appointed by the DCC and he/she will make sure that the church is well maintained in regard to health and safety issues and that any defects are remedied quickly. They will also review the fire risk assessment annually and put it on the church log.

Health and safety is very much a team effort and in each church there will also be people responsible for the actual maintenance of the church and its grounds and all will work with the Churchwarden who ultimately has the overall responsibility for H & S matters as one of their responsibilities is the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

The parish has 13 health and safety policy documents. The first was created in 2016. All documents have to be approved by the PCC and they are produced or revised as a result of guidance issued by HSE or Ecclesiastical Insurance. The documents which have been produced over the years are –

- # Health and Safety Policy and Guidance (the core document)
- # Working at Height and the Safe Use of Ladders
- # Fire Safety Law and Procedures for Fire Risk Assessment
- # Fire Safety Technical Guide
- # Candlelit Services and the Safe Use of Votive Candles
- # Events Out of Doors
- # Manual Handling
- # Personal Safety and Lone Working
- # Guidance on preventing Slips and Trips
- # The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) and the Safe Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials
- # Food Safety and Food Hygiene
- # Incident/Accident Reporting and
- # First-Aid Provision

2025 saw the end of a major revision of the first 12 documents and a new document produced on First Aid Provision.

The master documents are stored in St Matthew's Church with copies available in all our churches.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who have responsibility for either health and safety issues or the maintenance of our churches and grounds. Your work is very much appreciated.

Valerie Jenson
Lead for Health and Safety,
in the Parish of South Gillingham

Building Reports

St Peter's Church

1. Annual inventory of articles appertaining to the church carried out.
2. CCTV operational throughout most of the year.
3. Church insurance policy renewed with Ecclesiastical January 2025
4. County Fire Protection annual maintenance check 27.03.25



5. The planning application for the external work for the two remaining legacy projects 3 and 4 (water supply for internal tea station at the back of the church and changes to the toilet building) that was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council in December 2024 was approved. Throughout the year the services of D. C. Hudson have produced plans for the pews/tea station inside (Legacy Project 3) and storage/refreshment facility outside (Legacy Project 4). These have gone to tender and we expect the work to commence early 2026.
6. Further work had been carried out on the sound system by Seccomgroup (new hand mic, lectern mic and guitar cable). Problems with feedback appear to have been eliminated by not using the altar and pulpit microphones in favour of the personal mic.
7. In line with recommendations in the Quinquennial report the Chapel external door was as repaired in March and the caen tabling stone on a buttress replaced in September.
8. Non-regulation festive ornaments, other adornments and dead flowers regularly removed from the churchyard. Graveyard waste soil is periodically removed by Reynolds Grab Service from whom we also purchase topsoil to replenish the graves that have subsided.
9. New lock fitted to outside toilet door following vandalism 14.8.25.
10. Barming Pest Control contract renewed September 2025. Regular visits in place. Their advice was sought to deal with a wasp infestation Sept/Oct 2025.
11. Shrub/wildflower/bulb area in far corner of the churchyard has ongoing care and development
12. Portable electric appliance check 6.11.25.
13. Nave ceiling repair carried out over two weeks December 2025, cost £3000. £2,750 was recovered by insurance claim.
14. Annual boiler service 3.12.25
15. Organ was serviced 11.12.25
16. Extensive general maintenance tasks, too numerous to mention, are carried out weekly throughout the year by the Wednesday Maintenance Team, who are predominately not members of the church. Without this team the church and surrounding area would not be maintained. Cost of the many repairs they carry out would further impact on a declining budget. The contribution this team make to St Peter's should never be taken for granted. We give each of them our heartfelt thanks.

Alan Wainwright, Churchwarden

St Paul's Church

During 2025, a comprehensive programme of maintenance, safety checks, and improvements was carried out to ensure the church premises remained safe, efficient, and well-maintained.

Major Works & Compliance

The principal project this year was the full replacement of fluorescent lighting with modern LED fittings, improving energy efficiency and reliability. The work was completed by Townend Electrical Services and included additional fittings in the



stairwell and disabled toilet, marking completion of the lighting upgrade. A full Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was conducted by CPA Property Services, and annual fire extinguisher servicing was completed by Country Fire Protection Ltd.

Building Repairs & Improvements

Routine repairs and upgrades were undertaken throughout the year, including:

- Installation of additional office sockets and a new stairwell phone with power supply.
- Boiler servicing and fitting of a new expansion pressure vessel.
- Repairs to door handles, locks, toilet fittings, tap covers, and flush mechanisms.
- Re-bonding carpet tiles in the hall and other areas.
- Securing shelving and cupboard racking.
- Maintenance of plumbing fixtures, including leak repairs, sink sealing, descaling the urn, and clearing blockages.
- Replacement of alarm battery and clock battery.
- Improvements to emergency lighting and fire door mechanisms.

Safety & Preventative Maintenance

Regular inspections and preventative work included:

- Cleaning gutters and clearing the car park drain.
- Weekly fire alarm testing and inspection of fire exits.
- Routine checks for leaks, building damage, and safety hazards.
- Clearing and servicing urinals and plumbing systems.
- Stabilising fixtures and removing sharp edges where necessary.

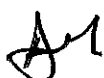
Grounds & External Maintenance

Ongoing grounds maintenance ensured the church exterior remained tidy and safe:

- Car park sweeping and removal of debris (approx. 45 large bags).
- De-weeding and sweeping block paving paths.
- Regular grass cutting during the growing season.
- Pruning shrubs, maintaining garden beds, and planting donated bulbs.
- Window and door glass cleaning every two months.
- High-level gutter cleaning annually.

Cleaning & Waste Management

- 32 bags of litter collected from church grounds.
- 26 bags of internal waste removed, with additional disposal by user groups.



- Kitchen sink blockages cleared and guidance signage installed.

Routine Weekly Duties

Regular weekly tasks included building checks, fire safety testing, inspection for leaks or damage, and ensuring the premises were secure and powered down when vacated.

Overall

The year focused on improving energy efficiency, maintaining safety compliance, and addressing routine repairs promptly. Continued preventative maintenance and grounds care have helped preserve the building and provide a safe, welcoming environment for all users.

Prepared by Dave Larkin and Mike Gurr, Churchwarden

All Saints' Church

General maintenance tasks for the building continued throughout the year, including the management of the church gardens. A local gardener was asked to come fortnightly, until the end of October, to keep the grounds well looked after, and maintain the smart and welcoming image of the church. A garden fund was set up to encourage church members to support, with small donations on a regular basis. Also, the installation of an outside tap was provided by a local plumber, free of charge, which helped to water the garden area during a very dry summer period.

Towards the end of the year, a building survey was undertaken to help the church understand if there were any important and/or urgent matters that needed attending to. Although no urgent issues were identified, once the full report is received, the church will be able to schedule when these matters can be budgeted for and undertaken.

The church continued to be well cleaned and maintained throughout 2025, ensuring the building remains a welcoming, warm and safe venue for all church users, visitors and users.

Jim Gilbourne, Church Warden

St Matthew's Church

St Matthew's Church and Community Centre buildings are overall in good order, and no significant leaks were reported this year. It is anticipated that the aging felt remaining on our larger church roofs may need attention in the not too-distant future and at considerable cost.

Maintenance tasks to keep the church grounds and Garden of Rest tidy continued. The main maintenance tasks of grass cutting, path weeding and clearing the roofs and hoppers of debris continued. An evening to cut shrubbery and weed paths also took place.

Inspections of our fire alarm system and fire extinguishers are carried out by professional contractors. The church Lightning Conductor received a qualified pass at its 5-yearly inspection.

A Quinquennial Inspection carried out in August confirmed that most of the significant recommendations from the previous report had been addressed, and it identified no current causes for concern.



The Church received a national Bronze Award as an Eco Church and aim to progress to Silver in due course. Further efforts continue to reduce our energy-related carbon footprint, consumption, and associated costs through careful and proactive management.

In October we entered a new energy supplier with greener 3-year fixed tariff deals for both electric and gas. This is expected to keep our costs down over the period. An overhead infra-red suspended heater was fitted in the Transept so smaller gatherings could take place there without the need to heat the whole church.

An Energy Audit was commissioned to see what other improvements could be made. A Fifty-One-page comprehensive Action Plan report has been received with multiple options and some specific recommendations for consideration over a five-year period.

Paul Bellerby, Church Warden

****The fabric, goods and ornaments in our care are in good order. The Log Book and Property Registers are up to date for St Matthew's, St Paul's and St Peter's. All Saints' are in the process of updating their Logbook and Terrier.**

Wardens' Reports

St Paul's Church

The District Church Council met regularly through 2025 to support the mission and ministry of St Paul's within the Parish of South Gillingham. Meetings were marked by prayer, collaboration and a shared commitment to building community, nurturing faith, and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. I would especially like to thank the many people that contribute to the life and mission of St. Paul's.

Worship, Ministry and Pastoral Care

The DCC oversaw a full pattern of worship and seasonal services, with the support of the licensed lay ministers and clergy from our parish and clergy /LLMs from outside the parish which made this possible. Christmas and Patronal celebrations were well received, with feedback shaping future planning, including a preference for an afternoon or evening Carol Service. The parish gave thanks for the ministry of Rev Pat Dickin, whose final service at St Paul's in July was a significant moment in the life of the church. Following her departure, responsibilities were redistributed among the Parish Church Wardens and the greater Team to ensure continuity of pastoral care, services, communications, and safeguarding oversight.

Pastoral care continued and the church responded sensitively to incidents requiring first aid or emergency services, reviewing procedures to ensure clarity of address details and availability of trained First Aiders.

Children, Youth and Families

Children's ministry continued to flourish, with Family Fun gatherings, the Rooted Junior Course, Youth Group activities, and the October Holiday Club taking place at St. Paul's. Four children from Family Fun were baptised, and the parish strengthened links with local schools through "It's Your Move" workshops, with



bookings already secured for 2026. A diocesan video celebrating Family Fun baptisms was produced and shared. Cheryl Trice from the diocese gave a session about the diocese 3–5-year strategy for children's and youth work, including exploring diocesan support and the potential recruitment of a youth worker. A sensory area in church was also proposed to support children with additional needs. Thanks to the children team that facilitate this area of the churches mission.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained a standing priority. Training coverage improved, safer recruitment procedures were reviewed, and volunteer handbooks were issued. Helen Jones stepped down as Safeguarding Officer during the year, and the DCC recorded its thanks for her long service. Gill Rose is now doing this role. Risk assessments including those for lone working and pastoral visiting were reviewed and updated.

Finance

The Treasurer reported regularly on the church's financial position. Challenges included delays in payments from lettings organisations and technical issues with CAF Bank. The DCC monitored cash flow carefully, delaying the LED lighting project until funds were available. Parish Share contributions were reviewed, with St Paul's agreeing a monthly pledge for 2026. The year-end financial position for 2025 can be summarised as Income £64,926.46 and Expenditure £64,287.04, giving a small surplus of £639.42. Mission giving continued, with nominated charities including Cancer Research UK, Medway Foodbank, and Support & Action to End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA).

Premises and Fabric

Significant attention was given to the building and grounds. Work arising from the previous quinquennial inspection continued, with the completion of the replacement of fluorescent lighting with modern LED fittings, improving energy efficiency and reliability. The overhanging council-owned tree remained unresolved despite repeated contact. The DCC discussed future projects including replacement chairs, carpet renewal, and the creation of an accessible emergency exit path; grant funding options will be explored once the written report from the 2025 Quinquennial Report is received from the surveyor. I would like to thank Dave (and Helen) Larkin who undertake most of the maintenance work at St. Paul's

Health & Safety

Incidents were recorded and reviewed, with appropriate reporting to insurers and RIDDOR where required. Weekly fire alarm tests continued. The DCC noted the need for ongoing First Aid provision and training opportunities.

Community and Fellowship

The Volunteer Appreciation Day was warmly received, and the church hosted a range of social events including Pat's leaving celebrations and a Harvest fish-and-chip lunch. Members of the DCC also supported the Archdeacon's Visitation service held at St Paul's.

Mike Gurr, Churchwarden



The Monday Hub: St Paul's Church

The Monday Hub is a parish activity but is recognised as part of the Christian outreach of St Paul's Church, particularly reaching out to the Parkwood community. It is open to everyone and its aim is to provide a place where people can meet in a safe environment and make new friends.

This was the Hub's 15th year. Our membership has stabilised and we have 45 regular members. Although our programme remains broadly similar to previous years we seem to have squeezed more into this year.

In March we had a raffle for Christian Aid which raised £78 and then had our Lent lunch which raised a further £268.

We enjoyed hot cross buns in April and then in May celebrated VE Day with bunting, entertainment by Two in Harmony, a quiz on the Second World War and home-made cakes.

In June we had a talk by Sophie Day, the Fraud Prevention Officer attached to Kent police on how to prevent fraud and scams and all the members were given a leaflet on how to stay safe. At the end of the month we had our Wimbledon sweep (a raffle for the seeded players) with home-made strawberry muffins.

In August the bunting came out again for VJ Day which we celebrated with a quiz on the war with Japan and more home-made cakes. Also in August we had a talk by Janet Garnons-Williams about SATEDA (Support and Action to End Domestic Abuse) which is a charity St Paul's is supporting this year.

September and early October were busy in that we were wrapping and filling shoe boxes on behalf of the parish for Blythwood Care. This year we filled 140 shoe boxes, donated £85 towards transport costs and raised a further £65 for a sponsored knit which also supported the cost of transporting the lorries to Kosovo.

Late in October the Hub had an event supporting Fair Trade. This included a raffle which included fair trade items and a fair trade linked quiz. We were also pleased that June Cox was able to come and talk about the Bredhurst Church village shop, the items they sold and the charities they supported.

The Hub celebrated its 15th birthday on 10 November with Trevor Styles providing the entertainment and it was another opportunity for home-made cakes. Later in November we had a sale with Penny Picozzi selling gifts for both children and adults on behalf of the church and the Hub and St Margaret's Church selling craft items. Half of all the proceeds went to St Paul's.

Our Christmas lunch was on 8 December. We started with bucks fizz and then the 56 members sat down to a lunch of turkey and ham, new potatoes, coleslaw and salad followed by a raspberry roulade, tea/coffee and chocolates. Members also enjoyed Christmas carols, a Christmas quiz and a free raffle.

The Monday Hub can only be run with a dedicated team of volunteers. My very grateful thanks go to the planning team – Wendy Keast (the deputy leader of the Hub), Sally and Derek Murray, Colin and Jackie North, Trish Clark and Mary Conroy (who also oversees all our foodie events). Special thanks also go to



Christiane Spencer who does our refreshments and Andrew Long who helps put out the tables and chairs. We could not manage without this team.

Valerie Jenson Leader Monday Hub

St Peter's Church

1. The terrier (a list of land belonging to the church), the inventory and logbook of alterations, additions and repairs are up to date. Development of the remaining two legacy projects has continued throughout the year with plans being agreed and put out for tender. We expect the work to be completed in the first half of 2026.
2. The pattern of services remained unchanged. Each month there is one 8.30 am BCP service, and at 10.30am a communion service, one All Age Worship and two Morning Worship services. There is also one Evening Quiet Service offered by Reader Colin Brown on the fourth Sunday of each month. Parish services or a "adapted" MW service may be held on the fifth Sunday of the month. All the usual Lent, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas services took place.

This pattern was interrupted for three weeks in October due to two wasp nests in the bellcote, and again in November when the nave ceiling plaster above the organ was repaired. We were privileged to hold the Parish Christmas Day service at St Peter's with the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones presiding. Fifty-seven people attended. During 2025 there have been three funerals and seven interments of ashes. Four couples have been married in the church and two baptisms were held.

In July the Parish said goodbye to our Team Vicar, Rev'd Pat Dickin who was taking up a new position in Birmingham. She gave us her heart and her commitment to maintaining the viability of the parish during the interregnum was incredible and, following the start of the interregnum, her increased presence at St Peter's for regular services was very much appreciated by the congregation.

The upkeep of services is maintained on a weekly basis. The church was cleaned monthly with at least three 'Big Cleans' included. Thank you to all those who set time aside to help with those.

3. St. Peter's Church have continued to support the school throughout the year, with more involvement between the school and the church community. Meetings have taken place between Lesley, Miriam, Alan and the School Head and Deputy Head to discuss how to best involve the school into church events and how to support the school. The relationship feels much more cohesive and it has helped to build and strengthen links between the school and church.

The children have once again taken part in events in school as well as at both St. Peter's and St. Mathew's church: year 6 children participated in the Experience Easter and Christmas events at St. Matthew's church. These are events the children all thoroughly enjoy and get so much from them.



The children created pew decorations for Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas. In return they were delighted with the message the congregation wrote on them.

The school community gathered at St Peter's before the end of the Christmas Term to sing carols and allow the children the time and opportunity to reflect. Mim's support (the children particularly enjoyed Rudolph) was very much appreciated.

The children benefited from attending the Bredhurst Hub and the interaction with the local community, visiting the village hall, reading with and chatting to residents. Following the closure of Hub we will look to other ways to re-establish this link.

Mrs Carey has continued to regularly play the organ at St. Peter's Church when needed, and members of the church have continued to be grateful to her for giving up her time in this way, supporting the local community. The school is now advertising church events in their school newsletter to ensure the school community are kept updated on church events and activities. Unfortunately, not having have a member of the local clergy on our governing body means they are missing this voice and support within our governing body once again and also do not have a member of the church team take worship in school.

St Peter's has three Licensed Lay Ministers and six others qualified to lead services and/or preach that contribute to the Parish rota. Both Colin and Jennie conduct funerals (Jennie also runs a Bereavement Journey course) and both take Holy Communion when requested in homes. Holy Communion is also offered on a monthly basis into Admiralty Care, Hawthorne Manor and Osbern Manor. Jennie and Maureen take a monthly Sunday Service in Admiralty Care with a further shortened service with a craft activity and sing-along; both are well received. Jennie, Mareen and Barbara are involved in Anna Chaplaincy.

St Peter's has two Home Groups: Colin leads a Zoom meeting on a Monday evening and Maureen holds an afternoon session on Tuesday. Maureen continues to co-ordinate Carer's Coffee morning monthly held at Rainham Library: the attendance is usually between 17 and 28 persons, with the same volunteers from across the Parish. Dave leads the All-Age Worship Team.

Unfortunately, Bredhurst Hub had its last meeting in November after seven years of monthly meetings. This was predominately due to rising costs and lack of involvement from the local community such that it was felt to have run its course.

Throughout the year, the Wednesday Maintenance Team, who are predominately not members of the church, turn up weekly to help to share time together as they help with chores that contribute to the care and maintenance of the church and surrounding area. Extensive general maintenance tasks, too numerous to mention, reduce the impact on our

declining budget. Fifteen members of the team enjoyed a very sociable Christmas dinner at The Harrow, Lidsing.

4. Safeguarding training is logged on the Diocesan Hub which is managed by the parish office. Lesley Wainwright is encouraging those who need to update training or take part in Basic Training for the first time. The following training needs outstanding are, 1 person Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and 4 people to renew/complete Basic or Foundations training. This is extremely encouraging. The aim for 2026 is to be completely up to date.
5. There have been a number of fund-raising events through the year. A successful Lent Breakfast was held in Bredhurst Village Hall and £250 donated for Christian Aid. Perhaps the most novel was filling Smartie Tubes with 20p coins (£600), whereas the quiz night (£745) and music night (£870) hosted by St Paul's were more fun and engaging. In September the church was open to welcome participants of Ride and Stride for Friends of Kent Churches. £590 was raised for FKC, with £295 coming back to St Peter's.
6. Despite the official farewell to our wonderful florist team who stood down at the end of 2024 Hazel Scott has continued to ensure St Peter's looks beautiful throughout the year.
7. The DCC continue to meet bi-monthly to consider the organisation, safety and finance of the church and have a packed agenda. The lack of appointments to the roles of church Safeguarding Officer, Health and Safety Officer and DCC Secretary continues to stretch other roles, particularly that of the Churchwarden (who by choice chooses to continue also being Church Treasurer) and potentially leaves the church vulnerable with regard to longer term stability.
8. Thank you to all church members and community volunteers. Much of the work takes place unseen and covers a wide range of jobs that require a high degree of thought and commitment to properly maintain the church building, content and grounds. In the church building and maintenance report there is a comprehensive list of general maintenance tasks that are carried out weekly throughout the year. It is a wake-up call to work that is required on a regular basis. This is true of every facet of church life and indeed, the act of giving our time as part of our Christian ministry can take many practical forms beyond preaching, leading, and providing guidance or pastoral care. As I write this report (and hopefully you read it) I pray that as we continue to look to God for support and guidance during the interregnum, and the difficult times it brings. I pray that he helps us to look inwards to see if we can give a bit more of ourselves but that we are also strong enough to look outwards because I believe that what we can do for God's mission also helps to ensure our church remains strong in fellowship and our readiness for our next incumbent.

Alan Wainwright, Churchwarden



All Saints' Church

Throughout 2025, the parish was in interregnum, without a Rector and for the second half of the year, without a Team Vicar. This meant that, by working even more closely together as a parish and drawing on resources across the diocese, All Saints' continued to provide weekly Sunday services and continued to offer a similar array and variety of activities and outreach to the community.

- At Christmas, All Saints' provided a Carols by Candlelight service, as well as a Christingle service, which were both very well attended.
- For the 5th year running, All Saints' hosted the Scripture Union course, called "It's Your Move", for those young people from Hempstead Junior School who were moving on to Secondary school in September. It was held in June on one morning, with 3 different classes coming every hour. The staff and students really enjoyed their time in the church, and all went away with a free 'guidebook', full of useful information about the move to secondary school.
- Also, several classes from the Hempstead schools came to All Saints' to learn more about the church, as a building and as a place of worship. Rev Pat Dickin enabled the young people, and their teachers, to understand how the church came to Hempstead, and what is the meaning behind the different areas of the building, and its fixtures and furnishings.
- Food for Thought, an outreach project to the community, continued for part of the year, enabling both church and un-churched people to share a simple meal with a short gospel message. Thank you again to Stephen Manning, and Trevor and Elaine Cant for continuing to lead this initiative, as well as the other volunteers from the church.
- Jennie Spalding led two more Bereavement courses in the church on Monday afternoons. Jennie was well supported by several volunteers in the parish. Several individuals, who had suffered a bereavement recently, certainly benefited from their time on the course.
- Safeguarding remains a priority for All Saints' Church in Hempstead, within the parish of South Gillingham. We are committed to the safeguarding, care, and nurture of all people within our church community, including children and vulnerable adults.
- Our safeguarding practices follow the policies and guidance of the Church of England, particularly those outlined in "**Promoting a Safer Church.**"
- The PCC has **formally adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policy.**
- The policy is **reviewed and reaffirmed by the PCC annually.**
- A copy of the policy is:
 - Displayed on the church noticeboard
 - Available on the church website



- Held in the church office

The church leadership continues to promote a culture of **vigilance, transparency, and accountability**.

Safeguarding training remains a requirement for those in relevant roles within the church. Training completed in the past year includes:

- Basic Awareness Training
- Foundation Training
- Leadership Training

Several volunteers completed **online training modules**, and records are maintained by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

- Although no longer directly involved, All Saints' supported the Hempstead Village Fayre Group (HVFG), by allowing the church to be used for committee meetings. The church had a stand at the Summer Fayre on the third Sunday in May on Hempstead Playing Fields, whilst also hosting the Christmas Fayre in late November, with Hempstead Village Hall
- Livewires, our ministry to young children and their parents, held just a few services and grateful thanks to Linda Crawford and Kathie Clarke for their dedication to this initiative.
- Sarah Cross maintained her Sunbeams group for pre-school children on Tuesdays, with the more musical 'Time to Shine' on Tuesday and Thursdays mornings. Although not directly seen as outreach by the church, these groups allow the church to be used by young mums and their pre-school children on a regular basis.
- All Saints' continued with weekly hosting for two choir groups - Harmony singers and the ME7 Choirs. These groups performed two concerts each during the year, which were well supported by local people, with funds being raised for the church and other local charities.
- The Hempstead Players performed two productions in the church in 2025. A Showcase in May, which entertained audiences with variety of short plays, sketches and songs. In October, a full-length comedy play, called "Old Actors Never Die, they simply lose the plot", also filled the church for two very amusing performances.

Jim Gilbourne, Churchwarden

St Matthew's Church

It has been a very busy year for all our churchwardens, but particularly since the Rev Pat Dickin left the Parish in August. We have had to take on many additional responsibilities for the life of the Parish, which we could not have managed without so much prayer and support from our congregations.



Looking back over the year, we can see again how faithfully God has cared for St Matthew's. His provision has met our financial, spiritual, and practical needs, often in ways that have surprised and encouraged us. For all of this, we have every reason to be thankful.

Our pattern of services across the Parish has largely been maintained, though we now hold joint Parish services for each church's Patronal Festival and on most fifth Sundays. We have benefited greatly from the ministry of lay-trained people from other churches in the Parish, as well as from a range of visiting speakers. We are most grateful too for the incumbent and retired priests who come to preach and/or preside at our Holy Communion services. Attendance at Sunday morning services have remained steady at around 50.

This year was the 60th Anniversary of the church meeting in Drewery Drive. We welcomed back former Team Rectors Brian Senior and Chris Butt and their wives, as well as a number of former members who had moved away from the area. Special displays recorded the life of the church and people who have shaped the life of the church over the years. There was also a humorous concert by the Good Gnu's. The four churches joined together for our Parish Patronal service with Sandra McCalla, the new Archdeacon of Rochester preaching and presiding at Holy Communion.

Christmas and Easter services, and Christingles were well attended but a bit lower than previous years. Regrettably, due to continually very low numbers, St Matthews 8:30am Holy Communion Service ceased.

St Matthews is a very welcoming and safe place for our congregations and those who come to any of the services or activities organised by the church. Our huge thanks go to Hannah Willson, our Safeguarding Officer for ensuring all our safeguarding training and other requirements are kept up to date and for helping people who needed help with their training online.

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Fairview Primary school and have many opportunities to engage with the children and sow seeds of faith. These include Experience Christmas & Easter, lessons, church visits and 'It's your Move' for year 6 leavers'. These are always very much appreciated by children and teaching staff alike.

Our regular outreach activities have continued, with Film Club, Place of Welcome, Knit & Natter and 139 Coffee Morning all having steady attendances. Thursday Club numbers have increased significantly, and the second Christmas Wreath Making Workshop had nearly 50 attenders. Some of those attending these activities now come to church.

The 2025 Quinquennial Report on the fabric of church reported no significant problems. The community centre has very high usage but too appears in good order. We are especially grateful to Andy Mann for regularly cutting all the



grassed areas and for fixing many of the problems that arise from our two large buildings. We experimented by having a maintenance evening rather than being on a Saturday morning. This had a good attendance and so will be repeated again.

There were several fund-raising events through the year, notably a Plant Sale and an Elton John tribute act. Financially, we rely heavily from the income generated from both regular and occasional hiring of the Community Centre. Huge thanks go to Jackie Wright our Booking Secretary who patiently deals with all our Occasional Let hirers and enquirers.

St Matthew's District Church Council (DCC) meets every two months to guide both the spiritual focus and the practical running of the church. The Council currently has nine members who share responsibility for decision-making and oversight of our church life.

I have thanked a few people already but there are so many more people to thank for supporting the day to day running of the church, its services, our outreach and the pastoral care which is often unseen.

We are deeply grateful to Geoff Hufton—not only for his faithful preaching and leadership across so many of our services, but also for stepping in to lead the key services and events of Remembrance, Experience Christmas, Easter, and the Christingle services.

Looking ahead, the Diocese will be advertising again for a Team Rector after Easter. As we continue through this period of waiting, we must be persistent in prayer and steadfast in supporting the life of our churches and for all who carry responsibilities among us. We trust that, in God's time, he will call the right person to lead our Parish into future opportunities and growth.

Finally, I can report that the Church Log Book of alterations, additions and repairs is up to date and that the Communion silver is all accounted for and in good order.

Paul Bellerby, Churchwarden

Treasurers Reports

St Paul's Church – Treasurers Report

2025 has been a year when, as a church, we can thank the Lord for all his provision and while this report will cover key income and expenses do not hesitate to ask me questions at any time.

Key income figures for 2025

The total income received by the church in the year 2025 was £64,926.46. This has been a decrease from 2024 of £8,354.54 as the total income in 2024 was £73,768.73. The difference is partly due to a decrease in numbers of people giving to the church and a slight decrease in Church Lettings. We have also received gift aid on our giving which is closely monitored by a member of St

Matthew's for all the churches in the Parish. This year it amounted to £5,920.08. This gift aid amount is additional to the gift aid received by members who have changed from Standing Order to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme.

Standing Orders and the Parish giving scheme monthly amount combined was £2,521.11 this was very similar to 2024 of £2,492.50 per month but with fewer giving so thank you to all who have increased their giving. The plate averaged £247 per month, this was a decrease from 2024 of £339 per month.

Church hall lettings, over the year raised £14,897.25 some £5,000 lower than 2024 at £20,000 for the year but still higher than the 2023 amount of £12,000.

Key expenditure for 2025

The total expenditure for the year was £64,287.04 a reduction of some £5,000 from 2024 of £69,416.89.

Through your generous giving as a church, for the year we have been able to give to the Parish £42,000, this is the same amount as 2024. This amount contributes to the ongoing costs of the Parish covering the running costs for our vicars, legal advice and many more areas in the diocese of the Church of England.

As a church we have given away to charities 10% of the amount calculated from the giving in members Envelopes, Standing Orders, and offerings to the 3 nominated charities agreed at the last ADCM meeting.

The agreed nominated charities for 2025 were:

Cancer Research UK
Support & Action (to end Domestic Abuse)
Medway Foodbank

Each charity nominated received a sum of £1,000, emails of thanks have been received.

Alongside the designated 'Away Giving' amount, other charities have benefited, receiving donations from the Hub and specific donations you as members have identified. In total a sum of £3,285.00 has been given to various charities as 'Away Giving'.

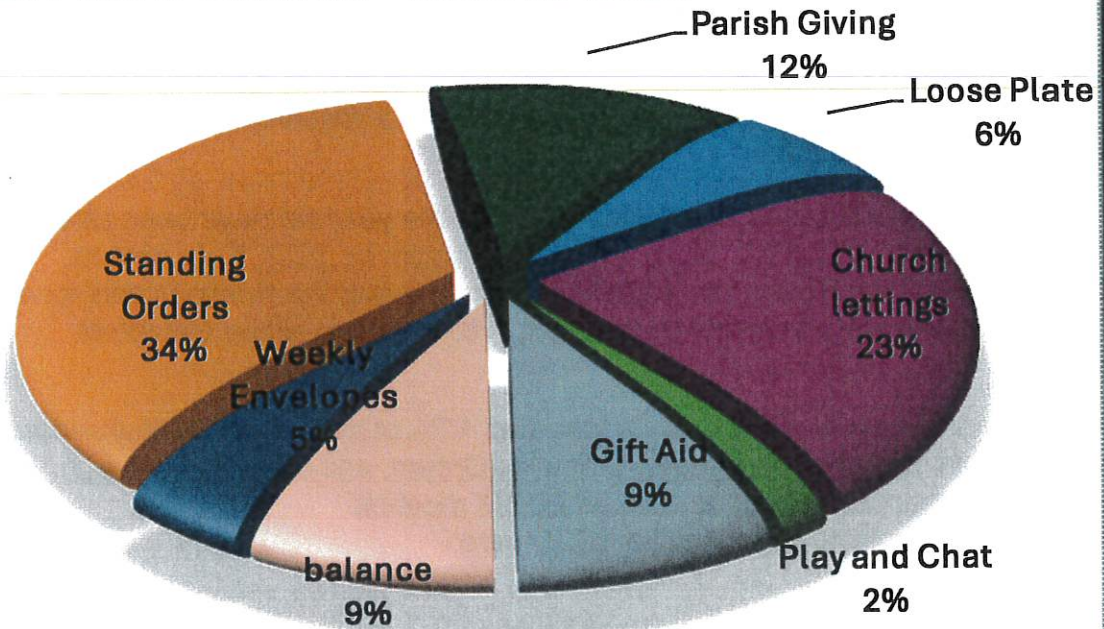
During 2025 the church had to change energy supplier as the previous contract expired. There have been some issues with the change over, but these have now been resolved. The total cost for the utility services in 2025 is shown in the table below and compared to previous years' totals. Energy bills are being monitored closely and each month estimates produced are very close to the invoices received. This has helped to produce accurate predictions for energy usage throughout the year. Below are the utility costs for the last five years as a comparison.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Electricity	£725.74	£1246.31	£1,141.60	£1,977.65	£1,061.17
Gas	£1665.12	£2402.11	£2,730.99	£2946.03	£2,200.03
Water:	£348.10	£581.00	£626.67	£919.02	£836.00

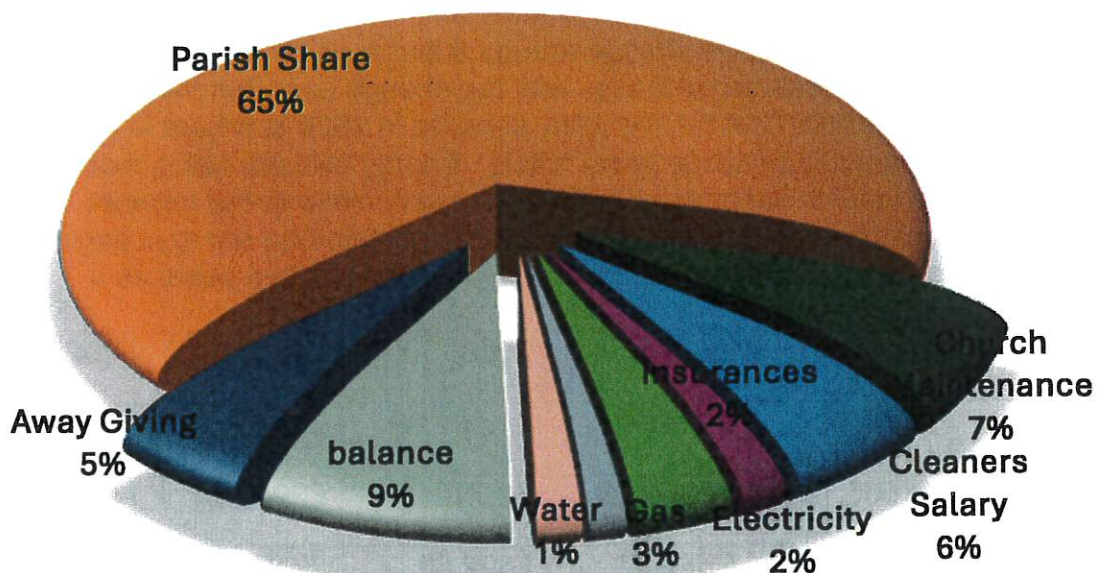
*Electricity and gas bills have taken time to sort out so part of the payment made at the start of 2026 reflects the end of year in 2025

The following two pie charts give an overview of key items of income and expenses for the church as a percentage of the total budget for the year.

St Paul's Church - Income 2025



St Paul's Church - Expenditure 2025



The church allocates a small amount of income each month as a precautionary measure should an emergency occur in the church building requiring major repairs. There are three additional accounts, these are as follows:

Church Repair Fund	£12,465.77
Diocese Project and Development Account	£ 3,821.47
Diocese Deposit Account	£ 1,084.47

We thank the Lord for his continued blessing on this church as overall the church ended 2025 with a surplus budget.

Thank you for all your support to your church and community enabling St Paul's church to demonstrate another year of the love of God to those living in the area.

Mark Johnson, St Paul's Treasurer

All Saints' Church, Treasurers Report

All Saints' Church ended the year with a £1649 surplus although the DCC has yet to agree on the 2025 away giving allocation to charity (s) of £1000. The church repair fund stands at £4151 but this will reduce once the surveyors bill is received for the inspection recently undertaken.

Although quite popular, Food for Thought ceased being organised due to the amount of work involved. After the reconstruction of the car park in 2024 it was decided to engage a gardener to maintain the front garden / lawn. This has been successful and a Garden Fund was opened for donations. At the year the fund had a balance of £623 but was awaiting some invoices from the gardener (now received).

The heating and lighting fund has also been successful with a current balance of £749.87 which will be used over the next few months. The contract with Total Energy ceased in September and All Saints transferred to a new supplier (Smartenergy.) The transition has not been smooth, and problems are still ongoing with getting invoices etc.

The church still supports Interserve and welcomed representatives last year describing their work and support; both spiritual and practical that they offer to the people they serve in that country. They also send a fairly regular Newsletter. In return, a few of All Saints' congregation support them by sending donations totalling £60 per month via Interserve. Unfortunately, it dropped to £50 per month during 2025, but All Saints' is still sending £60 per month.

All sources of income were less than 2024 resulting in a drop of £3,577. The Parish Giving scheme was launched and thank you for the two of you who have signed up to it – it is working very smoothly.

Finally, a couple of heartfelt thankyou's, firstly to all the visiting clergy, readers and all those visiting the church to take services, who are entitled to claim expenses, but don't – your sacrifice is much appreciated. Secondly a big thank



you to all of you who help to bring money into the church by organising events, faithfully, counting the money and looking after the church equipment to ensure that it is always ready and available.

Stephen Manning All Saints' Treasurer

St Matthew's Church & Community Centre, Treasurers Report

The year ended by showing a surplus of £10,221 which is mainly the result of a decrease in expenditure of £20,000. However, except for the Thursday Club all sources of income were less than 2024 and no legacies were received. The Parish Giving scheme was launched during the year with now 17 people signed up

The DCC agreed that the Annual Away Giving of £6000 should be tailored to 6 organisations.

1. £500 Poverty & Hope Appeal +
2. £500 Medway Food Bank
3. £1,250 Church Army, but specifically to go to the Chatham Centre of Mission.
4. £1,250 Sat-7.UK
5. £1,250 Friends of the Holy Land.
6. £1,250 Open Doors UK & Ireland.

During the year other donations totalling £432 was sent to RBLI to commemorate VE & Remembrance Day.

The Christingle Services raised £325 for the Children's Society. Dharma Jyothi received £467.50 which has been sent out. Also, with Infant Mary a £100 donation was sent out in May, but both charities will no longer be supported by St Matthews and they have been notified.

In August, Cakes for Good Causes raised money for 4 charities: - Music Man £203.50, More Than Words £310, Friends of the Holy Land £160 and Foodbank £183.40

Income from Community Centre Lettings fell slightly from £40,944 to £39,151. Thursday Club continues to thrive with a healthy bank balance of £9,314.

The target of paying the Indicative Offer pledge of £78,726 for 2025 was not possible to keep, so the decision was taken to commit to sending £4,275 per month (£51,300 pa) which was achieved. Energy costs dropped by £1,828 to £7,166. Donations to the heating fund totalled £664 which was much appreciated.

St Matthew's has Net Assets of £70,239 of which £17,016 is restricted and a thank you to all who have helped contribute in so many ways to ensure that the finances of St Matthew's remain positive.



Also, a thank you to all the money "counters" who faithfully do it week in week out and get it right!! It is much appreciated as we progress along the various changes in the way we handle and bank our money.

Stephen Manning, Parish Treasurer

St Peter's Church, Treasurers Report

Our total income from all sources, through the year (listed in the Budget 2025/2026 Table 1.) was £27,178.92. Please note this did not include Church Shop (see *Church Shop report Agenda Item 6.2*).

Our total expenditure (which includes non-payment of the parish share for three months) in the Table 2 was £41,223.74. Please note this does not include expenditure on projects which is taken from the appropriate designated/restricted funds.

The expenditure for 2025 therefore exceeded income by £14,044.82.

On the same basis the projected budget for 2026 shows a predicted overspend of £6,709. This includes all twelve parish share payments.

BUDGET 2025/2026	TABLE 1. INCOME		
	Proposed Budget 2025 (£)	Actual Budget 2025 (£)	Proposed Budget 2026 (£)
0110 WEEKLY ENVELOPES	4400	3223	2400
0201 STANDING ORDERS	13400	13695	14040
0301 PLATE COLLECTIONS	1300	1889	1884
0302 WEDDING COLLECTIONS	50	0	0
0304 BAPTISM & THANKSGIVING	50	0	0
0550 DONATIONS	0	2591	0
0601 GIFT AID PAYMENTS IN	4500	1926	2500
0902 BIKE RIDE	0	590	0
0903 CHRISTMAS FAIR	0	0	0
0904 SUMMER FETE	0	0	0
0905 HARVEST SUPPER	100	215	215
1020 BANK & DIOCESE INTEREST	100	641	545
1101 FEES FOR WEDDING AND FUNERALS	3500	210	0
1402 INCOME FROM PCC ...	1250	1450	1450
1404 OTHER INCOME	0	52	0
Sum-Up payments	1000	697	600
Totals	29650.00	27178.92	23634.00

BUDGET 2025/2026	TABLE 2. EXPENDITURE		
	Proposed Budget 2025 (£)	Actual Budget 2025 (£)	Proposed Budget 2026 (£)
1770 COSTS OF FETES & OTHER EVENTS	50	0	0
1771 VILLAGE HALL HIRE	300	295	0
1860 AWAY GIVING ST PETERS	2000	3089	1890
1910 PARISH SHARE	21410	16056	21,408
2171 CHILDRENS WORK	0	0	0
2260 UPKEEP OF SERVICES	400	1887	400
2261 CHURCH PUBLIC LICENCES	240	0	240
2265 ORGAN & PIANO TUNING	200	0	0
2266 VERGER FEES	0	0	0
2268 CHOIR FEES	0	0	0
2270 UPKEEP OF CHURCH GROUNDS	500	1887	1000
2330 CHURCH MAINTENANCE	0	8147	1000
2331 CHURCH CLEANING	50	17	50
2360 ADMIN	100	4904	100
2401 CHURCH RUNNING - ELECTRIC	1500	1297	1300
2420 CHURCH RUNNING - WATER	200	179	200
2430 CHURCH RUNNING - OIL	700	1501	800
2701 CHURCH MAJOR REPAIRS			
CHURCH RUNNING - INSURANCE	2000	1965	1955
Totals	29650.00	41223.74	30343.00
Income/Expenditure Variance	0.00	14044.82	-6709.00

Regular Giving

Income from collections at services (plate, envelopes and SumUP) plus regular giving by standing orders totalled £18,807 compared with £20,461 in 2024.

Utilities

Our expenditure on electricity, water and oil totalled £2,977, compared with £2,166 in 2024.

Parish Share

Our Parish share commitment for 2025 was £1,784 per month, a total of 21,408 for the year. We were unable to pay the Parish Share for October, November and December so our total payments for the year were short by £5,352.

Our proposed Parish Share for 2026 is £1784 per month, the same as for 2025. Based on the projected budget full payment is likely to be challenging.

Away Giving 2025

Beneficiary to date	£
Demelza Christmas Card 2024	62.00
Lent Breakfast Christian Aid	250.00
Poverty & Hope Appeal	180.00
Ride & Stride	295.00
Remembrance Day (RBL)	97.00
Motor Neurone Disease	321.00
21 Together	321.00
The Leprosy Mission	321.00
Total	1,847

Church Funds 30 December 2025

		Income/Debit Accruals	Balance for 2026
Common/General Fund*	7159.46	-10,660.00	-3,500.54
Transfer from Diocese accounts to offset designated expenditures**		+10,711.53	+10,711.53
TOTAL	7159.46	51.53	7,210.99

*Common/General Fund is held in a CAF Bank account and covers day to day transactions.

The account includes £10,660 Church Shop funds which are shown as a debit accrual as funds will be used for church shop away giving in January.

** Money owed to the Common/General Fund from Diocesan accounts where funds gain quarterly interest. Shown as an income accrual for transfers made into the CAF account in January to offset previous year expenditure from designated funds.

Diocesan Accounts	End of 2025	Accrued Debt to Common Fund	Balance for 2026
Projects & Preservation	18,582.70	4,416.10	14,166.60
Quinquennial	2142.62	0.00	2,142.62
Churchyard	3847.62	547.01	3,300.61
Legacy	41,410.21	5,748.42	35,661.79
Total		10,711.53	

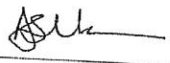
£10,711.53 is to be transferred from Diocesan accounts to offset expenditure in other funds.

Significant expenditures 2025 (Maintenance & Projects)		
Date	Reason	Expenditure (£)
24-Mar	Chapel Door Repair	450.00
16-Apr	DH 4 Interim Account for Legacy Project	583.44
29-Sep	Buttress	3692.16
24-Nov	DH 5 Interim Account for Legacy Project	2,865.60
27-Nov	Replaster of Ceiling*	3000.00
01-Dec	DH 6 Interim Account for Legacy Project	1,109.04
2025	General Maintenance of Church and Grounds	1,886.93

* £2,750 claimed on insurance

To note: Full accounts are being prepared for the PCC and auditors by the Parish Treasurer Stephen Manning. I am prepared to continue my role as Honorary Treasurer for the near future.

Alan Wainwright, St Peter's Honorary Treasurer

 ANDREW MANN

Signed:
Mr Andrew Mann
Vice Chair of the Parochial Church Council



**PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Notes		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £
	INCOMING RESOURCES			
2(a)	Voluntary Income	268,918	6,018	274,937
2(b)	Activities for generating funds	64,587	11,185	75,773
2(c)	Investment Income	5,708	217	5,925
2(d)	Church activities	9,169	209	9,378
2(e)	Other	8,531	22,806	31,337
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	356,914	40,435	397,349
	RESOURCES USED			
4(a)	Church activities	243,360	15,812	259,173
4(b)	Raising funds	2,659	60	2,719
4(c)	Other	-	21,862	21,862
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	246,019	37,734	283,754
	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	110,894	2,701	113,594
	Transfers between funds	(120,094)	-	(120,094)
	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(9,200)	2,701	(6,500)
	FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY 2025	157,858	71,846	229,703
	BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025	148,659	74,546	223,203

**PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
2(a) Voluntary Income	154,067	4,644	158,711
2(b) Activities for generating funds	77,050	9,639	86,689
2(c) Investment Income	6,503	886	7,388
2(d) Church activities	11,985	1,350	13,335
2(e) Other	5,686	19,852	25,538
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	255,290	36,371	291,662
RESOURCES USED			
4(a) Church activities	281,626	31,896	313,522
4(b) Raising funds	3,994	2,559	6,553
4(c) Other	200	15,341	15,541
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	285,820	49,796	335,616
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(30,530)	(13,425)	(43,954)
Transfers between funds	22,331	(22,331)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(8,199)	(35,756)	(43,954)
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY 2024	166,273	107,498	273,771
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024	158,074	71,742	229,817

**PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Notes

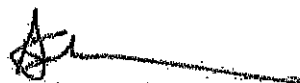
	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		
6 Tangible fixed assets	-	-
1 (d) Investment assets	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	11,273	23,278
Short term deposits	179,532	164,605
Cash at bank and in hand	70,963	74,685
	<u>261,768</u>	<u>262,568</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	22,634	32,869
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>239,135</u>	<u>229,700</u>
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>239,135</u>	<u>229,699</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	166,446	157,856
Restricted	72,688	71,847
	<u>239,135</u>	<u>229,702</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by:

31/03/2026

Chairman

P Bellamy



Member

M Egan

↓

The notes on pages 41 to 51 form part of these accounts.

**PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 2016 as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at fair value.

b. Funds

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted funds - These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds - These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend as capital income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

c. Incoming resources

Recognition of income and endowments

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

1. the PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources;
2. and the inflow of economic benefits is probable; and
3. the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Fundraising costs - Funds raised from events and trading activities (e.g. a fete, a garden party or sales of books and magazines) are reported gross in the SOFA - i.e., before any related costs that may have been deducted from the gross proceeds.

Grants and donations - Grants and donations are included in the SOFA when any preconditions preventing their use by the PCC have been met. For collections and planned giving this is when the funds are received.

Gift Aid Tax claims, etc. - Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the cash donations to which they relate.

Gifts in kind - Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their fair value at the time of gift, if feasible, or else at the amount actually realised from their disposal.

Donated services and facilities - These are included in income (and at the same time in resources expended) at the estimated fair value to the PCC of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help - The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Rental income - Rental income from the letting of the church is recognised when the rental is due.

Investment income - This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment gains and losses - This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

d Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition - Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Governance costs - Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants payable without performance conditions - These are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to be met for entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property - In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Movable church furnishings - These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church - These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings*	Nil
Fixtures & Fittings	20 years
Computers	3 years
Motor vehicles	x years

* No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial. An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified and included in expenditure for the year.

Investments - Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose values derive from them (CIFs, etc.) are valued at market value at the year end. Other investments assets are included at trustees' best estimate of the market value.

Trading Stocks - These are valued at the lower of cost (or gift value) or year end fair value.

Short term deposits - Include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Envelopes and standing orders	96,819	(96)	58,742	98,897
Income Tax recoverable	19,409	333	19,742	23,158
Collections	143,885	475	144,360	13,250
Donations and appeals	8,768	5,306	14,074	12,785
Grants	38	-	38	-
Legacies	-	-	-	10,498
	<u>268,918</u>	<u>6,018</u>	<u>274,937</u>	<u>158,588</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Church hall and other rents	58,168	105	58,273	66,267
Fund Raising (Fetes, Bazaars)	6,420	11,080	17,500	20,423
Parish Magazine - advertising	-	-	-	-
	<u>64,587</u>	<u>11,185</u>	<u>75,773</u>	<u>86,690</u>
2(c) Investment Income				
Bank & Diocesan Interest	5,708	217	5,925	7,388
	<u>5,708</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>7,388</u>
2(d) Church activities				
Magazines, bookstalls, publications	-	-	-	87
Fees for weddings and funerals	9,169	209	9,378	11,898
	<u>9,169</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>9,378</u>	<u>11,985</u>
2(e) Other				
Insurance claims	2,750	-	2,750	1,356
Other income	5,781	22,806	28,587	24,181
	<u>8,531</u>	<u>22,806</u>	<u>31,337</u>	<u>25,537</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>356,914</u>	<u>40,435</u>	<u>397,349</u>	<u>290,188</u>

PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

3	Analysis of Staff Costs	2025	2024
		£	£
	Salaries, Insurance, Pensions costs	30,095	28,162

4 RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
4(a) Church activities				
Missionary and Charitable giving	16,739	12,665	29,404	26,607
Ministry:				
Parish Offer	115,556	-	115,556	102,627
Clergy Expenses	1,536	-	1,536	1,759
Clergy houses expenses	1,934	-	1,934	8,287
Parish running expenses:				
Light and heat	16,671	1,084	17,755	20,086
Insurance	9,395	-	9,395	7,803
Magazines, bookstalls and publications	27	-	27	-
Organ and choir	1,471	-	1,471	1,440
Church Maintenance	24,890	-	24,890	68,466
Churchyard	2,190	442	2,632	4,345
Education / training & children's work	2,983	1,182	4,165	3,558
Outreach Activities	390	-	390	603
Upkeep of Services	5,366	127	5,493	12,209
Church - major repairs	222	313	535	10,766
Administrators & Cleaner's salary & Nic	30,095	-	30,095	28,162
Other administration costs	9,393	-	9,393	12,607
Printing stationery & telephone	1,567	-	1,567	1,671
Equipment	1,017	-	1,017	697
Independent Examiners fees	1,920	-	1,920	1,830
	243,360	15,812	259,173	313,523
4(b) Raising funds				
Fund raising costs	2,659	60	2,719	6,552
	2,659	60	2,719	6,552
4(c) Other				
	-	21,862	21,862	15,541
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	246,019	37,734	283,754	335,616

PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

5 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Transfers between funds were interschurch transfers within the South Gillingham group of churches.

5(a) RELATED PARTIES

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member or persons closely connected or related to them.

5(b) PAYMENTS BY PCC MEMBERS

Total donations made to the PCC by PCC members and related parties, in the year, was £21,325.

6 FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
<i>Cost</i>	
At 1st January 2025	-
Added	-
At 31st December 2025	-
<i>Depreciation</i>	
At 1st January 2025	-
Charge for the year	-
At 31st December 2025	-
<i>Net book value</i>	
At 31st December 2025	-
At 31st December 2024	-

Depreciation is charged at 25% of cost.

7 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Income Tax recoverable	11,271	14,725
Prepayments and accrued income	2	8,552
	<u>11,273</u>	<u>23,278</u>

8 LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year

Creditors for goods and services	15,063	23,532
----------------------------------	--------	--------

9 LONG TERM LIABILITIES

There are no long term liabilities as at 31st December 2025

10 NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	166,446	72,688	239,134	229,702
Current Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances	<u>166,446</u>	<u>72,688</u>	<u>239,134</u>	<u>229,702</u>

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Funds

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31st December 2025 £
		Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	
	£	£	£	£	£
PCC	22,689	143,737	(138,123)	(2,320)	25,952
All Saints	18,251	19,133	(17,740)	-	19,644
St Matthews Wignmore	40,834	94,955	(85,444)	-	50,345
St Paul's Parkwood	23,962	53,013	(62,503)	-	24,472
St Peter's Bredhurst	326	29,087	(27,931)	(450)	1,032
	<u>106,032</u>	<u>349,925</u>	<u>(331,742)</u>	<u>(2,770)</u>	<u>121,445</u>

Designated Funds

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31st December 2025 £
		Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	
	£	£	£	£	£
PCC					
CYPA Fund - Children & Young People Activities Fund	1762	316	-2317	2659	2,420
Clergy Housing Fund	-	-	(177)	177	-
Equipment Fund	1,301	-	(626)	-	675
Mission Fund	-	-	(321)	321	-
Training Fund	269	-	-	-	269
Parish Events	115	742	-	-	857
Visit Wexense Fund	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Wexense Fund	120	-	(1,440)	1,320	-
	<u>5,568</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>(4,882)</u>	<u>4,477</u>	<u>6,221</u>
St Peters - Quinquennial Fund	-	-	(450)	450	-
St Peters - Legacy Fund	36,901	1,481	(4,703)	-	33,679
St Peters - Legacy Fund Wall art	-	-	-	-	-
St Peters - Churchyard Fund	1,415	1,370	-1887	-	898
St Peters - Projects & Preservation Fund	3,461	2,780	(6,692)	481	30
Mission Fund	4	52	-	-	56
	<u>41,781</u>	<u>5,683</u>	<u>(13,732)</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>34,663</u>
All Saints - Outreach FFT fund	604	-	-	(604)	-
	<u>604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(604)</u>	<u>-</u>
St Pauls - Alternative Hub	60	213	-	-	272
St Pauls - The Hub	-	-	-	-	-
St Pauls - Legacy Donations	294	-	-	-	294
St Pauls - Equipment Fund	70	-	-	-	70
St Pauls - Children's & Youth Activities	603	-	-	-	603
	<u>1,027</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,239</u>
St Matthews - Projects, Preservation Inc Boiler	2,842	-	-	-	2,842
Dharma Jyothi	-	36	-	-	36
	<u>2,842</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,878</u>
	<u>51,822</u>	<u>6,989</u>	<u>(18,614)</u>	<u>4,804</u>	<u>45,001</u>
	<u>167,497</u>	<u>356,915</u>	<u>(350,356)</u>	<u>2,034</u>	<u>176,089</u>

PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31st December 2025 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	
PCC					
CYP Fund - Children & Young People Activities Fund	900	1564	-805	-1659	-
St Peter Choir	230	209			439
Events - Parish Events	149	1,517	(60)		1,606
Mens Mission (donations towards supporting charitable projects local & national)	-				-
Mission Fund	659			(321)	338
Energy Fund (Parish Utility bills)	-				-
Hardship Fund	2,290				2,290
Training Fund	948				948
Ukraine Fund (Support Ukrainian Refugees)	-				-
Wekense Fund (to support the Kondaa Diocese)	868		(44)		824
Visit Wekense Fund (to support future Parish Representatives)	2,398				2,398
WWS Fund (to support the Wekense water project)	2,119		(2,119)		-
All Saints					
Garden Fund for maintaining the church grounds	(0)	-461	(442)	604	623
Mission Fund (donations for parish appeals for overseas and local mission work)	1,744	110	-	(36)	1,818
Sunbeams (Donations for providing equipment for the Sunbeams group)	578	454	(377)	(150)	505
Projects Glass Doors + Donations for all church projects	500	-	-	-	500
Legacy Fund (Donation towards stalls and building projects)	5,100	-	-		5,100
Flower Fund (Donations to provide flowers for the church)	(0)	-	(49)	49	(0)
Matt & Lydia Fund (Donations to provide money for interserve partners)	-	684	(845)	36	(125)
Heating & Lighting Fund	416	245	(61)	150	750
St Matthews Wigmore					
Thursday Club (Weekly meeting for the social care of the local community)	8,829	20,563	(20,078)	-	9,314
Wigmore Community Centre 200 club (A lottery for members.)	736	(202)	(530)	(4)	(0)
Flower Fund (Donations to provide flowers for the church)	311	85	(313)	-	82
Mission Fund (donations for parish appeals for overseas and local mission work)	3,637	895	(127)	-	4,405
Dharmi Jyothi (Restricted collections for specific children in India)	467	80	-	85	632
Infant Mary (Restricted collections for specific children in India)	60	25	-	(85)	-
Projects (Donations for all church projects.)	2,535	-	-	-	2,535
Heating & Lighting Fund Donations	503	664	(1,023)	-	144
	35,974	27,352	(26,874)	(1,331)	35,122

PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM TEAM MINISTRY
CONSOLIDATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

12 RESTRICTED FUNDS
(Continued)

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31st December 2025 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	
St Pauls					
Alternate Hub Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Hub Fund (<i>Pledged donations to help support the running of the Monday Hub social gathering</i>)	1,034	1,661	(1,784)	-	910
Kitchen Fund (<i>Pledged donations to help maintain and purchase equipment for the church's kitchen.</i>)	(0)	-	-	-	(0)
Mission Fund (<i>Various donations for mission work local or overseas</i>)	2,113	40	-	-	2,153
Events Fund (<i>Donations to promote Church events at St Pauls</i>)	50	-	-	-	50
Heating Fund (<i>Donations towards the maintenance of the heating system in the church</i>)	2,054	-	-	-	2,054
Project & Development Fund (<i>Donations towards the upkeep of the roof</i>)	2,599	-	-	-	2,599
St Peter's Bredhurst					
Mission Fund (<i>donations for parish appeals for overseas and local mission work</i>)	-	-	-	-	-
Church Shop Restricted fund	151	10,820	(9,657)	-	1,315
Projects & Preservation (<i>Donations for all upkeep of the church including projects and repairs.</i>)	14,430	217	-	(481)	14,167
Projects & Preservation (<i>Donations allocated for replacement Boiler</i>)	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Churchyard & Grounds (<i>donations for all works to maintain the churchyard and grounds</i>)	2,192	210	-	-	2,402
Legacy Funds (<i>legacy gifts for St Peters</i>)	1,983	-	-	-	1,983
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	72,582	40,300	(38,314)	(1,811)	72,755



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The Parish of South Gillingham

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2025

**Charity no
(if any)** 1130544

Set out on pages

41 to 51

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025

**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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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**

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Date: 04/06/2026

Name:

Adam Dowdy

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCCA ACA

Address: JAD Associates Limited
4 Bloors Lane, Rainham
Kent, ME8 7EG

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.