

St Mary's Church, Standon

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Address:
The Vicarage
Kents Lane
Standon
Hertfordshire

Registered Charity Number 1131081

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Standon

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Standon PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England which operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church building, its contents and the churchyard. It is in a benefice with the parishes of The Mundens with Sacombe.

All of our services are joint ones with our benefice partners. Our average attendance was 62 at our 10.30 services and 11 at our 8.00. We offer:

- monthly choral evensong services, attracting an average of 54 worshippers
- Christmas services: Nine Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve Christingle and Christmas Eve midnight
- an annual Remembrance Sunday service
- a service of memories in October
- a Good Friday meditation
- Wednesday morning worship and discussion; average attendance was 11
- during the year we hosted 3 services for our local church school

During the year, we conducted 9 funerals in the church. We baptised 8 children in mainstream services. In May, the Bishop of Bedford joined us for baptism and confirmation services held for members of the benefice congregations. The day started with one adult baptism in St Mary's church. Then, with around 70 witnesses, 2 adults were baptised by full immersion in the river Rib, with 2 others re-affirming, by full immersion, their earlier baptisms. The day concluded with 5 adults being confirmed in a service at St Mary's. In the summer, our Rector baptised a teenager in the river Rib.

Throughout the year we have unlocked our church during daylight hours, and it has been used by many for prayer and reflection. We hosted the annual World Day of Prayer service as well as concerts by external groups, including the local community choir, which rehearses weekly in St Mary's.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Our 2025 annual meeting took place on May 11th after the morning service.

Our Rector retired on 19th October. Michael Smith was elected Lay Chair and will chair PCC until a new incumbent is appointed.

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

Rector	Rev John Chitham (until 19.10.25)	Elected Members	Mrs Angie Adamson
Wardens	Mr Keith Plummer		Mr Cliff Beeston
	Mrs Marion Smith		Mrs Stephanie Beeston
Reader	Mrs Caroline Franks		Miss Lizzy Franks
Officers	Miss Lizzy Franks	Hon. Secretary	Mr Derek Goodall
	Mrs Caroline Franks	Hon. Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Goodall
	Mr Michael Smith	Lay Chair	Mr Mark Korczyk (until 11.05.25)
			Mr Michael Smith
Deanery Synod	Mrs Angie Adamson		
Representatives	Mrs Diane Moss		
Banks	CAF Bank Ltd		
	25 Kings Hill Avenue		
	Kings Hill		
	West Malling, Kent		
	ME19 4JQ		
	The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund		
	80 Cheapside		
	London		
	EC2V 6DZ		

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Investment Funds	The CBF C of E Investment Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ	Independent Examiner	Sarah Crispin ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage London EC1Y 8AB
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Financial Responsibilities of the PCC

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. We are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and taking reasonable steps to prevent fraud and other irregularities.

Policy on Reserves

The PCC recognises the need to hold reserves to allow the protection of its core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which the PCC can spend at its discretion to further its objectives but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated.

At the end of 2025, the PCC held £43,961 in its unrestricted General Fund. This sum is significantly below the amount stipulated in our agreed policy to hold between 12 and 18 months' anticipated expenditure, and we are continuing actively to consider how we will reverse the dwindling of our reserves. We have received a number of legacies in recent years, and we are holding those for the time being in case they are needed to fund our activities. Funds beyond our immediate needs are held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, which provides us with as competitive a rate of interest as any, but with low risk and instant access.

At the end of 2025, in addition to our unrestricted general fund, we hold unrestricted designated funds of:

- £59,734 in the Legacy Fund
- £5,529 in the Tithe Fund and
- £215 in a fund for the repair and replacement of streaming equipment

We have received one legacy in 2025. When we receive a legacy, we transfer 10% to the Tithe Fund, to be used for others as appropriate needs come to our attention.

The restricted restoration fund has received grants from the Friends of St Mary's and another charitable trust to fund remedial work on our tower, highlighted in our latest Quinquennial report. More grant funding has been pledged and will be received in 2026, but at the end of the year, the restoration fund was showing a deficit. There were sufficient funds in our unrestricted general and legacy funds to bridge the shortfall. An application has been submitted in January 2026 to the Listed Places of Worship scheme, to recover the maximum permitted amount of VAT paid on capital projects.

Risk Management

Any charity, in carrying out its objectives, must have an eye to the risks involved. We are responsible for an ancient building, designed with no thought for the needs of frail or disabled people. We deal frequently with people who are vulnerable. We work with children. Our income is by donation and often some of the PCC have access to confidential information.

We try to guard against risk without letting risk-limiting measures get in the way of our ministry.

Where we can, we insure against financial loss.

Where this is not practical, we try to minimise risk in other ways. For example, we have treated the lead on our church roof with Smart Water and installed an alarm system; we have also asked our neighbours in the High Street

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to report any suspicious activity around the church, and we leave the flood lights on until after the pub opposite has closed and the High Street is quiet.

We have installed a CCTV system to monitor activity at our main doors.

We hold a comprehensive set of risk assessments which are reviewed regularly.

One of our church wardens fulfils the role of Health and Safety Officer and there is a Health and Safety Policy in place.

We have installed handrails where they are needed.

We have a care to the qualifications and integrity of those to whom we entrust sensitive information or access to our funds and take sensible precautions to protect them and those with whom they interact, including safer recruitment procedures and the use of encryption or other security systems on the appropriate computers.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (which sets out the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults).

We make sure that all trustees of the charity (which works regularly with children and vulnerable adults), as well as those working regularly in groups with children and vulnerable adults are subjected to DBS checks in line with Thirtyone:eight guidelines and are conversant with our Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guidelines. We adopt the National Church of England policy statement 'Promoting a safer church' and have an agreed statement on Domestic Abuse. All policies and procedures are reviewed yearly in line with the House of Bishops Policies and Best Practice Guidance.

We ensure that all involved in the work of our church are safely recruited including having the required level of safeguarding training and DBS checks, according to Church of England best practice guidelines. All work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are risk assessed and reviewed yearly. Our benefice Safeguarding Officer, who advises the PCC, has extensive experience of child protection and safeguarding issues in relation to her role as Designated Senior Person at school and her work as Safeguarding Officer at CPAS summer camps.

The financial functions of the PCC are shared between three people, working independently.

All work undertaken by volunteers is subject to review.

Committee Structure and Review of the Year

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the full PCC. Other than the Standing Committee, the PCC committees do not have delegated decision making powers; they make recommendations to the PCC, which is responsible for all decision making.

Standing Committee

This, the only committee required by law, has power to transact PCC business between its meetings, subject to directions given by the council. It is comprised of the Rector, our Reader, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer and meets when necessary. The Benefice Administrator also attends these meetings.

Electoral Roll

At the end of 2025, there were 75 members on the electoral roll. 17 of these live outside the parish.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Highlights of the work of our benefice

All of the services in our benefice are joint ones of St Mary's, Standon, All Saints, Little Munden and St Catherine's, Sacombe. We continue to stream our main Sunday services online, as people find this useful if they're unable to attend in person. We also lead a monthly service in a local care home for adults with learning difficulties.

We offer friendship, practical help and pastoral care to any in our community who need it. Our home groups and Bible study groups have mixed online and in-person meetings, and participants have continued to find them

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helpful. We have continued with our, 'Midweek Music' recitals and time of social interaction monthly on Wednesday lunchtimes.

Our groups all prepare reports for the annual meeting and those contain more detail about our work than is included here.

World Mission Group

This committee is benefice-wide and considers matters to do with world-wide mission, including the way we support our missionary partners overseas, primarily, through prayer and encouragement.

Special Appeals

Once again, special appeals were well supported during 2025.

- Regular giving for our mission partners in Burundi amounted to £1,492 including gift aid tax recovered. During the year, we sent £1,700, collected in 2024 and early 2025. The balance of the amount collected in 2025 will be sent in 2026.
- We also support the Ellis family, who run a church in Zimbabwe. A total of £4,010 was sent from our sister churches, including £50 received through our account.
- £1,553 was received in donations and gift aid tax for the 2025 harvest appeal, which was shared equally between the same two mission partners.
- £70 was received for 2025 Operation Christmas Child.
- £508 was given at our Remembrance service for Combat Stress, which works with veterans suffering from combat related mental illness, and their families.
- In December 2025, our appeal was again for our local food bank, whom we support throughout the year. In total, £2,880 was raised by the benefice in 2025, with gift aid yet to be collected in early 2026. The amount raised is spent on grocery deliveries directly to the distribution centre, as and when they are needed. We collect items for the local food bank in all of our churches, but we have also continued to organise online supermarket deliveries directly, and £6,790 of deliveries were sent during 2025.
- We have run a monthly Pop-Up Shop after our family service, its profits contributing to the Foodbank total.

The total of the amounts collected through the Standon PCC account in 2025 in response to appeals to help others totalled £7,843, including the amount given for our regular missionary partners.

Members took part in Operation Christmas Child, filling shoe boxes to be sent to parts of the world where children affected by war or disaster have no other hope of receiving a gift at Christmas. 127 boxes were sent in November, bound for Ukraine, Malawi and Liberia.

Youth and Children's Work

Our youth work has continued to provide a wide range of activities for young people.

- Our children's and youth work has continued on Wednesday afternoons after school in term time
- Our after school club at Roger de Clare School ceased in the summer, but we ran a lunchtime club in the final half term of 2025, preparing children to take part in the school Christmas service in church.
- Little Angels, our toddler and carer group in St Mary's on Friday mornings continues to thrive and grow
- The Little Munden School choir rehearses in All Saints under the direction of our benefice Director of Music, and has taken part in our main Sunday services in Holy Week, in the summer and at Christmas.
- In the summer we offered our annual Holiday Bible Club for children aged 4 to 11. Over four days, we considered the story of Esther, linking the story with Jesus. 46 children attended over the week, with more than 36 each day, and it was appreciated by both the children and their parents. Another Holiday Bible Club is planned for 2026.
- We have provided Collective Worship weekly for both of our church schools. Since our Rector retired, a team of 4 church members with experience of working in primary schools have shared this ministry.
- Lizzy continues to be an overall leader of Orwell 3, a CPAS Pathfinder Holiday, and in August we helped fund several youngsters from our benefice who attended the week long camp organised and run by a team of trained volunteers.

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Finance Committee

This committee of representatives of PCC, church members and the other benefice treasurers considers all aspects of PCC finances. It is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of budgets, review of the current financial position and for advising the PCC on financial matters.

Our financial results for this year show a deficit on our unrestricted general fund of £11,204. £75,572 was spent during the year on providing Christian ministry from St Mary's. This includes parish share payments to the Diocese of £64,426 to support diocesan costs such as clergy stipends and housing, training for clergy and readers and the many support services we have available to us in our parish ministry.

In addition, we spent £16,587, including £701 from the restricted Friends of Standon Churchyard Fund, on the running and maintenance of the church and churchyard, and £7,882 on administrative and other costs. We have spent £199,129 from the restricted Restoration Fund on capital projects, wholly funded by grants and donations for that purpose. Some of that funding had not yet been received at the end of 2025, but has been committed by the funding bodies concerned.

Other High Points of the Year

Our aim is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the practices of the Church of England. All our activities are organised against this background. Our stated aim, with which all our service materials are badged, is 'Being witnesses to Jesus, making disciples of Jesus, growing leaders for Jesus'. This aim permeates all that we do.

Being witnesses to Jesus includes being his presence in our community. We have continued to provide pastoral support, events and opportunities for people to gather together, practical help through our support of the local foodbank and taking every opportunity we see to express our faith in a way that demonstrated God's love for all, and what he offers to any who come to him. Our pastoral team has worked to offer support to those who need it. Our funeral ministry has been particularly important, a source of hope and comfort for grieving families, and our community has appreciated the church building, as we've used it for pastoral services and community events as well as welcoming visitors for whatever reason they come. Our toddler group continues to thrive, as do our monthly concerts with time to get together beforehand over a cup of coffee or tea. A group of bereaved spouses meet monthly to offer each other support, and a group of people who are on their own meets monthly for lunch at a local pub. Members of our churches continue to be involved in many of the organisations in our parishes.

Making disciples of Jesus includes nurturing new Christians and developing our existing congregations. We aim to run entry level courses whenever they are needed. We have followed several Biblical teaching series in our mainstream services, particularly at our midweek services, where we have followed the traditional sermon with a period of discussion. Our home groups continue to stretch participants, as well as providing mutual support and encouragement. We seek to encourage and develop a desire among our members continually to be learning and growing as Christians.

We have worked closely with our two benefice church schools, continuing the strong ties between church and school and working to draw some of the children and, with them, their parents into church family life. We have welcomed our church schools to our churches for their harvest, Easter, end of school year and Christmas services. Most of the Little Munden School pupils attend our Wednesday café in All Saints, taking part in the activities and teaching provided, and often involving their parents too.

We try to organise worship that will draw in members of our community. Our benefice choir is highly admired in our area, and enhances our worship, particularly at our monthly choral evensong services. We continue to offer Book of Common Prayer services as well as Common Worship ones, and on the fourth Sunday of each month we hold an informal service where families are encouraged to come and join in activities as well as more traditional worship.

Our monthly churchyard working party continues to draw in people not otherwise associated with the church as well as keeping our churchyard looking attractive and tidy.

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Growing leaders for Jesus focusses more on our own people. We encourage and offer help to any in our congregation who are hearing God's call, to explore what that might mean. There is funding available for any for whom structured training is appropriate.

Our beautiful, ancient, grade 1 listed building presents us with real challenges as we strive to be the living church in these villages. The Friends of St Mary's continue to raise funds to finance restoration projects, and following our quinquennial inspection in 2022, we have undertaken significant work to the tower in 2025. The last bits of the work have carried over into 2026, and at the time of writing this report, we are waiting for the final certification from the architect. The restriction of the scope of the LPW scheme for 2025/26 and its abolition from March 2026 onwards has had a significant effect, but we thank God that we were able to complete the project in time to reclaim at least some of the VAT expended.

The Friends of Standon Churchyard team manages the churchyard for conservation and the protection of wildlife as well as for the benefit of the bereaved, forming a working party on the first Saturday morning of each month, which anyone interested is welcome to join.

Much has been achieved during 2025, but, as ever, there is much still to do as we shape our vision for the next years. We are ready and eager to carry our work forward, and, with God's help, plan to be instrumental in spreading his gospel ever wider in this community and abroad.

Looking forward

Great care has been taken by the team which has headed up the preparation of our Benefice Profile, and the advertisement for our new Rector went live in mid January 2026. We are praying for the person God has chosen and is preparing to lead us in the next stage of our mission and ministry in this community. While we wait, we are continuing to build on what we have been doing, working to reach ever more people with the good news of the gospel and to grow in our own Christian discipleship.

Limitations of this report

Because we strive to operate in everything as part of a united benefice this report, from just one parish of the three, does not provide a complete or fully accurate picture of our work. It should be read in conjunction with reports of what is happening in our sister parishes of The Mundens and Sacombe.

This report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Michael Smith (Lay Chair).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH, STANDON

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church, Standon ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages 8 to 12 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Sarah Crispin ACA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date:

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Standon
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary income	2a	80,316	0	9,147	89,463	86,609
Legacies and grants	2b	0	20,048	119,275	139,323	25,143
Income from investments	2c	3,737		1,130	4,867	6,696
Church activities		3,504		864	4,368	8,690
Other incoming resources		1,170			1,170	1,009
Total Receipts		<u>88,727</u>	<u>20,048</u>	<u>130,416</u>	<u>239,191</u>	<u>128,147</u>
Payments						
Church activities	3	99,803	0	209,959	309,762	137,173
Governance costs	4	1,128			1,128	1,080
Total Payments		<u>100,931</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>209,959</u>	<u>310,890</u>	<u>138,253</u>
Net Receipts / (Payments)		(12,204)	20,048	(79,543)	(71,699)	(10,106)
Transfers between funds		1,000	(1,000)		0	
		<u>(11,204)</u>	<u>19,048</u>	<u>(79,543)</u>	<u>(71,699)</u>	<u>(10,106)</u>
Balance as at 1st January 2025		55,165	46,430	31,826	133,421	143,527
Balance as at 31st December 2025		<u>43,961</u>	<u>65,478</u>	<u>(47,717)</u>	<u>61,722</u>	<u>133,421</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Standon
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Balances and Cash		
Short term deposits	4,497	86,250
Cash at bank and in hand	57,225	47,171
	<u>61,722</u>	<u>133,421</u>
Of the total cash, £30,663 is restricted.		
Other Assets and Liabilities		
Assets:		
CBF interest received 04.01.26 for 2025	45	969
Gift aid tax recovery not yet received	3,963	4,447
VAT recoverable (Listed Places of Worship Scheme)	25,000	1,021
Bookstall stock at cost	642	167
Other monetary assets	4,041	3,175
	<u>33,691</u>	<u>9,779</u>
Liabilities:		
Unbilled fee for independent examination	1,350	1,128
Other amounts due	1,824	1,410
	<u>3,174</u>	<u>2,538</u>
Investments		
Market value 01.01.25	40,673	39,763
Unrealised gain/(loss) in the year	(1,626)	910
Market value 31.12.25	<u>39,047</u>	<u>40,673</u>
The investment comprises shares in the Central Board of Finance, as follows:		
	No. of shares	No. of shares
Chancel Fund	286	286
Chapman Bequest	292	292
Sadleir Bequest (Grave Trust)	134	134
Standon Church Charities	1,047	1,047
	<u>1,759</u>	<u>1,759</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf.

Mrs Marion Smith (Church Warden)

Miss Lizzy Franks (PCC secretary)

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

The value of the PCC's endowment funds at 31st December is £15,805 (2024 £16,463).

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given.

Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

The value of the PCC's restricted funds at 31st December is £47,717 (2024 £31,826).

Another £24,209 of restricted funds are invested in CBF Investment Fund Income Shares.

Designated funds represent income set aside by the PCC for payment of specific expenses.

The value of the PCC's designated funds at 31st December is £64,478 (2024 £46,430).

Unrestricted funds are general funds which may be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

The value of the PCC's general fund at 31st December is £43,961 (2024 £55,165).

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Receipts					
2a Voluntary income					
Planned giving	58,504		1,302	59,806	48,712
Income tax	13,813		1,004	14,817	13,204
Collections and donations	6,052		1,214	7,266	12,876
Grants and appeals	1,013		124,902	125,915	10,304
Contributions	934			934	1,513
	<u>80,316</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>128,422</u>	<u>208,738</u>	<u>86,609</u>
2b Legacies and grants					
Legacies		20,048		20,048	6,000
Grants			115,000	115,000	15,637
VAT recoverable from LPW scheme			4,275	4,275	3,506
	<u>0</u>	<u>20,048</u>	<u>119,275</u>	<u>139,323</u>	<u>25,143</u>
2c Income from investments					
Dividends			1,130	1,130	1,104
Interest	3,737			3,737	5,592
	<u>3,737</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>4,867</u>	<u>6,696</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Standon
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st December 2025

3 Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas Missionary Societies	509		1,700	2,209	4,333
Overseas relief and development agencies			90	90	175
Home missions and other Church societies			640	640	554
Secular agencies			7,328	7,328	9,215
	<u>509</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,758</u>	<u>10,267</u>	<u>14,277</u>
Parish share	64,426			64,426	62,653
Other ministry expenses	11,146		325	11,471	16,053
Church running expenses & maintenance	15,886		701	16,587	22,615
Other expenses	273		46	319	101
Administrator	4,810			4,810	4,579
Other administrative expenses	2,753			2,753	2,299
Capital projects			199,129	199,129	14,596
	<u>99,803</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>209,959</u>	<u>309,762</u>	<u>137,173</u>

Capital Projects

The project to repair the stonework on the tower is nearly complete.

In total, £199,129 has been spent on this in 2025, with another approximately £30,000 due to go in 2026.

A grant of £50,000 has been pledged by an anonymous donor; £30,000 of this was received in 2025.

A claim of £4,275 was paid by the LPW scheme in March 2025, and the maximum £25,000 has been claimed in January 2026.

The Friends of St Mary's have pledged to fund any remaining amounts needed; £85,000 has been received in 2025 and the balance will be received in 2026. The Friends have sufficient funds in their reserves to cover the amounts needed.

4 Governance costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination fee	<u>1,128</u>	<u>1,080</u>

5 Staff and Trustees

The PCC has no employed members of staff. Other than the Rector, who is not employed by us, its activities are generally carried out by volunteers.

Michael Smith, a Trustee, received £6,954 during the year in his capacity as Benefice Director of Music (2024 £6,624). This amount is permitted by the governing document of the charity, and the cost is shared with our other benefice churches. No remuneration was paid to any other trustee during the year nor to any person connected to them.

The fees of the organist are included in ministry expenses.

PCC members and officers were reimbursed for any PCC expenses they incurred.

Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Standon
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st December 2025

6 Movement in Funds

	Balance 01.01.25	Income	Transfers between funds	Expenses	Balance 31.12.25
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	55,165	88,727	1,000	(100,931)	43,961
Unrestricted Funds - Designated					
Legacy Fund	41,690	18,044			59,734
Tithe Fund	3,525	2,004			5,529
Transport Fund	1,000		(1,000)		0
Streaming equipment Fund	215				215
	<u>101,595</u>	<u>108,775</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(100,931)</u>	<u>109,439</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restoration Fund	1,290	119,459		(199,129)	(78,380)
Appeals	10,114	6,351		(7,419)	9,046
Leadership Training Fund	1,500				1,500
Bells Appeal	7,097				7,097
Friends of Standon Churchyard	1,724	1,500		(702)	2,522
Piano Fund	100				100
Choir Fund	1,557	942		(370)	2,129
Standon Church Charities	6,657	673		(640)	6,690
Overseas Mission Partners	1,252	1,492		(1,700)	1,044
Pastoral Fund	535				535
	<u>31,826</u>	<u>130,417</u>		<u>(209,960)</u>	<u>(47,717)</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>133,421</u></u>	<u><u>239,192</u></u>		<u><u>(310,891)</u></u>	<u><u>61,722</u></u>

Legacies received are allocated to the Legacy Fund (90%) and the Tithe Fund (10%).

The Restoration Fund has ended the year in deficit. The shortfall is bridged by unrestricted funds, pending the receipt of further grants pledged for the tower work.

7 Connected Charities

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon Charity Commission No. 1088516

Main objects: The preservation, beautification and improvement of the fabric of the church.

These are pursued by raising funds and making donations to Standon PCC towards the cost of the work it supports.

The charity is run by a committee made up of 6 people appointed by Standon PCC and 6 people elected by its annual general meeting.