

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Goring by Sea

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Goring by Sea

Registered Charity no. 1131418

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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Website:	Goringbyseaparish.org
Incumbent:	The Revd K Littlejohn The Vicarage, 12 Compton Avenue, Goring by Sea, BN12 4UJ
Parish Office	16 Ilex Way, Goring by Sea, BN12 4UZ
Independent examiner:	Steve Brentnall Cooksbridge, Lewes, BN8 4TH
Bankers:	Barclays Bank plc CCLA Lloyds Bank plc

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Trustees Annual Report for 2025

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in:

- the promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical
- to know Jesus better and make Him better known
- practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need
- providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, particularly, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For 2025 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches
- enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- putting faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations
- continuing our "Open Church" policy with both our churches
- improving the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- provision of assistance to the poor and needy of the parish
- raising funds for missionary organisations
- reaching out to the unchurched through provision of social events and services open to all
- maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the community.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

We were pleased that our Vicar, Fr Keith Littlejohn, was able to resume full duties at the beginning of the year, and as a Parish we have continued to be blessed, not only by Fr Keith's ministry, but also by the ministry of retired clergy. We welcomed the Revd Beverley Miles as part of the clergy team. Rev Bev, as she is affectionately called, is a Diocesan Course leader, and St Laurence's Church has become a training hub for the Diocese, Deanery and Parish. A Bishop's Certificate Course is due to begin there in January 2026. Attendance at Sunday worship and mid-week services remained good throughout the year. An additional monthly contemporary service was introduced at St Laurence's Church during the year, which is attracting a good congregation.

The All-Age Worship service each month continues to flourish with many families and young children attending regularly. In October a new children's weekly Sunday School group, known as Seekers, was formed with some of those children and their parents. Run by volunteers, the children return to Church to

receive a blessing during Communion. Several of the parents are staying for the service and there have been enquiries for Baptism from this group, both by children and adults.

The church family welcomes all visitors, whether parishioners or from further afield. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome people from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

Christmas is a very special time of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in our services, both formal and informal. The Carol Service and the Crib Services at St Mary's, and a candle-lit carol service at St Laurence's Church were, in total, attended by about 650 people.

Home Groups continue to meet, and during Lent and Advent these groups studied and discussed specific seasonal courses. We would like to expand the number of Home Groups to accommodate those members of the congregation who are not yet in a group.

During 2025 we held an Alpha Course, which was open to all. Another Alpha Course is planned for Autumn 2026.

In 2025, 4 weddings, 3 funerals and 12 baptisms were held.

We are particularly privileged to have two Church of England Primary Schools in our parish, with almost 1,200 pupils between them. Both schools hold services in church at Easter and Christmas, attended by both children and parents, and a Leavers' Service in July, and we look forward to welcoming them again in 2026. There are planned class visits to St Mary's Church, supporting the RE Syllabus, during the Spring Term 2026. The School/Church Covenant has continued during the year with meetings held with Fr Keith, Janice Lelliott (Deputy Churchwarden) and Headteachers of both schools, and when appropriate, RE Lead teachers attending. New to this group was Sally Turley, Churchwarden and a Foundation Governor of West Park School. In 2026, Fr Keith is intending to provide another Admission to Communion course for pupils of both schools.

Smarties, our toddler group, meets in St Mary's Hall weekly during term time. Staffed by volunteers it offers a safe playing environment with activities and craft for children. Children from birth to school age are welcomed, together with their adult relatives or child minders.

During the year, we have strengthened our relationship with the local uniformed organisations, when they attended the annual Remembrance Day service. The Rainbow group, which meets in St Mary's Church Hall, attends the All-Age Worship Service at other times of the year too, and has gifted us some bulb-planted tubs.

As part of our outreach to the community, we make our two church halls available to numerous groups including preschool groups, uniformed organisations, yoga, dancing and keep fit, together with more social groups who hold talks and gatherings on a regular basis.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

Like many parishes, we have kept our churches open most days. St Mary's is a Grade 2* Listed Building having been rebuilt between 1836-8 to designs by Decimus Burton. In 1954 a striking mural by the German artist Hans Feibusch entitled "Christ in Glory" was painted over the Chancel Arch. Many remark not only on how refreshing it is to find an open church but also on the sense of peacefulness and spirituality that pervades our churches, as is often recorded in our Visitors' Books.

Our churches are open every day, and there is the means in St Mary's to make a hot drink, together with a supply of biscuits.

There is also a children's play corner, which was recently refurbished thanks to the generosity of some members of the congregation.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

A lay-led pastoral team continues to support Fr Keith in visiting the sick and housebound, some taking home communion when necessary. The team meets regularly to review the pastoral needs of the parish.

There is a group of people who are updated regularly with names of those in need of prayer, and a weekly prayer meeting is held in the Parish.

A prayer shawl ministry, providing handmade shawls for the sick, the bereaved and those affected by the ill health of a loved one, also supports the pastoral work of the parish. The prayer shawl ministry also provides baptism shawls for babies and young children.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

We hold weekly collections for a local food bank. Monetary donations for home-made marmalade raise additional funds for Diocesan Family Support Work. Additionally, we raised funds through social events and retiring collections to donate to Home and Overseas charities e.g. Christian Aid.

An Events Group was formed which has been active in planning and holding events for fund-raising both for Parish needs and for overseas mission. A very successful Christmas Fair was held, which attracted many from the community.

Communications

Early in the year, we actively sought to employ a salaried Parish Administrator and in June this new member of staff, an experienced Administrator, began working in the Office, proving to be an excellent addition to the team. News and updates are given in a weekly newsletter which is distributed electronically to members or sent out by post to those who do not have access to the internet. There is also a monthly Newsletter Extra, where items from members of the congregations, photographs from events, news of our Mission Partners, as well as The Diary and bible readings for the month are included. The Website and Facebook page are much "visited".

Maintaining the fabric of the Churches

Church Wardens are responsible for maintaining the fabric of our buildings and for the safety of all who enter the buildings. A watchful eye is kept on all the buildings in our care and repairs carried out throughout the year as required. Some major repairs were made during the year. Repairs to the organ were completed just before Christmas. Earlier in the year the ornate ceiling bosses were checked and a repair carried out by a specialist stonemason. During this work, the mural by Hans Feibusch was also gently brushed off to remove cobwebs etc.

We have identified other major repair work, especially to the bells, and some masonry works that need to be done to the windows in the tower, and which will be started in the coming year. Other repairs have been made, especially where there may be a potential Health and Safety issue. The necessary annual checks were made. St Mary's Quinquennial Inspection was made during the year, and we await the report from the Inspecting Architect.

Financial Review

Our Overall Situation

In the last 18 months we have been blessed with Legacies totalling some £62k for which we are extremely grateful. This has enabled us to undertake significant maintenance work on our listed church and other properties in 2025, and future years.

On a day to day basis our regular outgoings exceed our regular income and thus these legacies, when received, provide a welcome injection to our finances and allows us to fulfil our obligations to the parish.

Church accounts can appear somewhat baffling giving an insight not only to the overall situation, but also to individual funds.

Our largest single outgoing in the year is our Parish Share to the Diocese of Chichester at £81.4k whereas our regular planned giving, including tax rebates, amounts to about £58k. Fortunately, and very generously, a number of our members also make significant, one-off donations, for which we are very grateful.

During 2025 we set up two new funds, an Organ Fund to receive monies to go towards repairs to our organ and also a Bell Ringers Fund when our ringers passed over funds that they were holding.

Staff Costs

During 2025 we took on an organist and a parish administrator which has led to a significant increase in our salary bill. The cost of our administrator is paid out of our Parish Development Fund.

Our Reserves

The Charity Commission issues guidance on the need to maintain adequate reserves so that the good work that has been undertaken can be maintained. To simplify our activities, we have set up separate funds to differentiate our activities and identify their income and expenditure.

It has been our quoted policy to hold a balance in cash on our unrestricted funds of at least three months' worth of unrestricted expenditure.

Management of risks and their mitigation

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the churches in the parish.

The PCC consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- The need to fund unexpected costs associated with our buildings, particularly as St Mary's Church is Grade 2* Listed
- The long-term fall in income, particularly given the dependence of the parish on a limited number of major regular donors and regular hirers of our buildings.
- The requirement to find willing volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation and the parish.

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by regular reviews. We aim to maintain our properties to as high a standard as we can afford and carry out the priority items of our quinquennial reviews in a timely manner.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Keith Littlejohn	Chairman
Wardens:	Janice Lelliott	Vice-Chairman (to March 2025)
	Alison Evans	(to March 2025)
	Andrew Freeman-Brown	Vice-Chairman (from March 2025)
	Sally Turley	(March-December 2025)

Elected Members

Jennie Boffee	
Jason Brown	
Anne-Marie Coe	
Frank Ffitch	
Jayne Gathergood	
Janice Lelliott	Deputy Warden (from March 2025)
Russell Marlow	
Graeme Richardson	
Ginny Ward	Deputy Warden
Penelope Corp	
Daniel de Conceicao Silva	(from March 2025)
Alison Evans	
Keith Lelliott	

Deanery Synod

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 3 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Keith Littlejohn, PCC Chairman

Keith Littlejohn



9 February 2026

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1991. During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex-officio members	
Incumbent:	The Revd Keith Littlejohn
Wardens:	Janice Elliott Alison Evans
Elected Members	Andrew Freeman-Brown
	Sally Tuhey
	Jennie Boffee
	Jason Brown
Deanery Synod	Ann Marie Cox
	Frank Fitch
	Jayne Gathergood
	Janice Elliott
	Russell Marlow
	Gracie Richardson
	Ginny Ward
	Penelope Corp
	Daniel de Conceicao Silva
	Alison Evans
Deputy Wardens	Keith Elliott
	(from March 2025)
	Deputy Wardens
	(from March 2025)
Chairman	Deputy Chairman (from March 2025)
	Vice-Chairman (from March 2025)
	(to March 2025)
	Vice-Chairman (to March 2025)

Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Goring by Sea

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Goring by Sea

Registered Charity no. 1131418

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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Report of the independent examiner

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	88,397	22,377	5,269	116,043	129,120	
Charitable activities	4,688	-	-	4,688	4,313	
Other trading activities	3,687	73,855	119	77,661	65,828	
Investments	5,754	-	-	5,754	4,018	
Other receipts	-	2,006	-	2,006	-	
Total received	102,526	98,238	5,388	206,152	203,279	3
Expenditure on:						
Cost of raising funds	677	-	-	677	180	
Charitable costs	128,631	36,891	3,107	168,629	125,379	
Trading costs	-	30,921	-	30,921	25,641	
Total paid	129,308	67,812	3,107	200,227	151,200	5
Reconciliation of funds:						
Net income or (net expenditure)	(26,782)	30,426	2,281	5,925	52,079	
Transfers between funds	27,153	(30,792)	3,639	-	-	
Net movement in funds	371	(366)	5,920	5,925	52,079	
Bank accounts at 1 January	25,972	108,940	378	135,290	83,211	
Bank accounts at 31 December	26,343	108,574	6,298	141,215	135,290	A & L

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets:						
Bank current account	24,478	-	-	24,478	18,597	
CBF Deposit Fund	1,865	108,574	6,298	116,737	116,693	
PCC- owned bank balance	26,343	108,574	6,298	141,215	135,290	
Total bank and deposit accounts	26,343	108,574	6,298	141,215	135,290	FR & P
Hall Hire charges not yet re- ceived		2,654		2,654	2,007	
Gift Aid recoverable	5,700			5,700	7,871	
Debtors	5,700	2,654	-	8354	9,878	
Freeholds at cost	85,337	-	-	85,337	85,337	9
Total assets	117,380	111,228	6,298	234,906	230,505	
Liabilities:						
Unpaid Diocesan fees	957	-	-	957	-	
Retiring Collections					141	
Trade Creditors	1,083		-	1,083	1,214	
Utilities used since last billed (est'd)	3,435	-	-	3,435	3,158	
					-	
Total liabilities	5,475	-	-	5,475	4,513	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd Keith Littlejohn, PCC Chairman:

Keith Littlejohn



9 February 2026

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	50,370	-	-	50,370	49,939	
Loose Cash Collections	8,672	-	-	8,672	9,618	
Donations and Appeals	10,830	-	5,269	16,099	12,845	
Gift Aid recovered	18,525	-	-	18,525	16,682	
Legacies		22,377	-	22,377	40,036	
Donations and legacies	88,397	22,377	5,269	116,043	129,120	
Fees for weddings & funerals	4,688	-	-	4,688	4,313	
Charitable activities	4,688	-	-	4,688	4,313	
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	3,687	-	119	3,806	5,812	
Temporary Letting of Property	-	18,500	-	18,500	17,850	
Hiring of Churches and Halls	-	55,355	-	55,355	42,166	
Other trading activities	3,687	73,855	119	77,661	65,828	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	5,754	-	-	5,754	4,018	
Investments	5,754	-	-	5,754	4,018	
Insurance Claim	-	2,006	-	2,006	-	
Total received on all funds	102,526	98,238	5,388	206,152	203,279	

4 Legacies

During the year further Legacies were received from two former members of our congregation in addition to the monies received from their estates in 2024, plus two new Legacies from other former members of our congregation, for which we are extremely grateful.

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated		All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	2025	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Cost of fundraising activities/events	677	-	-	677	180	
Cost of raising funds	677	-	-	677	180	
Charitable grants and donations	200	-	-	200	515	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	81,446	-	-	81,446	66,000	6
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	2,795	19,100	-	21,895	13,841	7
Clergy and other people's expenses	9103	-	-	9,103	9,396	
Young People	-	-	2,407	2,407	413	
Costs of church services	5,489	-	700	6,189	5,090	
Printing & photocopying	3,603	-	-	3,603	4,059	
Church utilities bills	7,107	-	-	7,107	11,251	
Other regular church running costs	4,107	-	-	4,107	1,221	
Church maintenance & redecoration	10,061	14,951	-	25,012	8,566	
Churchyard upkeep	-	2,840	-	2,840	89	
Insurance	3,792	-	-	3,792	4,278	
Examiner's and other financial fees	928	-	-	928	660	
Charitable costs	128,631	36,891	3,107	168,629	125,379	
Cost of letting Angus Road	-	3,306	-	3,306	3,146	
Hall maintenance & redecoration	-	10,026	-	10,026	7,749	
Church Hall utilities	-	13,006	-	13,006	11,724	
Church hall running costs (other)	-	4,583	-	4,583	3,022	
Trading costs	-	30,921	-	30,921	25,641	
Total paid on all funds	129,308	67,812	3,107	200,227	151,200	

6. The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. In 2025 we paid our full share of parish ministry amounts.

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

7 Payments to PCC employees:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries – upkeep of services	2,795	1,042
Salaries – church halls	13,272	12,633
Salaries – Office	4,843	-
Employer National Insurance	985	166
	21,895	13,841

8 Payments to PCC Members in the year amounted to Clergy Support: Council Tax: £4,092

9 Transactions with persons related to PCC members

This year there were no payments to relatives of PCC members.

10 Freeholds at Cost

The freehold land and buildings comprise the former Curate's house in Angus Road which cost £84,000 in 1995, the Molson Garden which was acquired at a cost of £1,101 in 1968, the land at St Mary's Church Hall was acquired for £235 in 1939 and St Laurence Church Hall which is included at a nominal £1. We have no details of the building costs of either of our Church Halls.

Insurance Cover for our buildings and contents is:

St Mary's Church Hall	£1,111,000
St Laurence Church Hall	£361,500
Angus Road House	£575,000

In addition, the PCC is responsible for paying the insurance premiums on our churches where the cover is:

St Mary's Church	£14,750,000
St Laurence Church	£3,660,000

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

11 Statement of funds

	Balances b/fwd 01/01/25	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31/12/25
	£	£	£	£	£
Flower Fund	142	219	700	839	500
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	149	-	-	-	149
Young Peoples' Fund	87	270	2,407	2,800	750
Organ Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Bell Ringers Fund	-	3,899	-	-	3,899
Total of all restricted funds	378	5,388	3,107	3,639	6,298
Angus Road I & E Fund (Des)	10,000	18,500	3,306	(12,409)	12,785
Halls Fund (Des)	10,000	55,355	41,872	(18,483)	5,000
Legacies Fund (Des)	40,036	22,377	14,951	-	47,462
Molson Gardens Fund (Des)	824	2,006	2,888	100	42
Parish Development Fund (Des)	48,080	-	4,795	-	43,285
Total of Unrestricted Designated Funds	108,940	98,238	67,812	(30,792)	108,574
General fund	25,972	102,526	129,308	27,153	26,343
Total of all unrestricted funds	134,912	200,764	197,120	(3,639)	134,917
Total funds	£135,290	£206,152	£200,227	-	£141,215

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent on their intended purpose.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides,

Independent Examiner's Report

To the PCC of St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches, Goring by Sea for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

registered charity number 1131418

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary's & St Laurence's Goring by Sea, on the annual financial report for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 7 to 12

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The churches' trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The churches' trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the parish is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

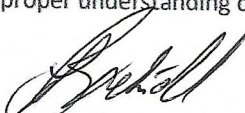
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts do 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 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.

Signed by:-


Steve Brentnall

1 Meadow View Cottages, Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

24th February 2026