



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH

Registered Charity 1132562

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
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Annual Report for 2025

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the annual report for 2025. I arrived in post just over halfway through the year, joining a busy church with many dedicated volunteers and, of course, a slightly less newly arrived colleague in the Revd Canon Robert Riley-Braley. We're both grateful to everyone who provided cover during the vacancy, and to all church members who worked hard to keep the church going during what is always a difficult season. It has been a joy to begin to get to know the congregation and the wider community, but I am very aware that even as places begin to feel familiar, my few months here are a mere blink of an eye compared to the lives of people whose families have been here for decades. There is always more to learn about a parish.



Highlights of the year have included our visits from Spellbrook school, with Revd Robert leading the leavers' service on the day of my installation. I've also shared in Nativity plays at Spellbrook and Tiny Tots, and our own "scratch nativity" in church. I was so impressed, too, with the transformation of the church for the Festival of Light when our town Christmas lights were switched on. It has been good to add a second 8 o'clock Sunday service to the calendar, reintroducing provision once a month from the Book of Common Prayer.

Great St Mary's has big plans for the future of its estate, and the work of the Re-imagining Group has continued. Sarah Vickers stood down in the autumn as chair of the Group. We thank her for the work leading the re-imagining project over the past few years as we move to thinking about concrete steps for action. My arrival and subsequent questioning have slowed the process a little, but I am keen that we see progress next year and the report from the Group below is encouraging. The usual fabric repairs and problems have been faithfully addressed over the course of the year by Peter Clark and the Fabric & Churchyard committee. We saw the handover of churchyard maintenance to East Herts District Council; this has not been without difficulty and our own churchyard working parties have been necessary.

You will see reports from many other parts of life here – we are fortunate to have many active volunteers who contribute to the life of Great St Mary's. As well as the committee chairs and PCC members listed in this report there are faithful people carrying out the small, behind-the-scenes jobs that make a difference – you are all appreciated and you all have my thanks.

I do want to record grateful thanks to Anthony Heard and Gilly Squire, our churchwardens, for their support to Robert and me as their new clergy.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Sara

Aim and purpose

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sawbridgeworth ("the PCC") is registered as charity, number 1132562. The members of the PCC have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The primary object of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It fulfils this responsibility through periodic meetings and a range of other activities.

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Our church community

In May 2025 the Revd Canon Robert Riley-Braley was licensed as associate minister. He was joined by the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale, our new Incumbent, who was licensed in July. At the beginning of Advent 2025, our Lay Reader, Diana Kitson announced that she would be retiring in early 2026 – more on this in next year's report.

As at the end of 2025, there were 87 people entered on the church Electoral Roll, 13 of whom were not resident within the parish. We were pleased to welcome new regular worshippers and visitors. We hold in our prayers those who no longer worship with us regularly or who moved away during 2025.

During 2025 we baptised four children and one adult and married two couples. We wish them joy and love on life's journey. We conducted 12 funerals and eight interments. Our dear friends are remembered with love, and we keep their families in our prayers.



This beautiful kneeler was made and presented at our Harvest service by Hazel Mead, celebrating 300 years of the Rivers Nursey.

PCC and church members work in three key subcommittees – Outreach, Fabric & Churchyard, and Stewardship & Finance. Their work is recorded below and on page 11.

Safeguarding

The PCC complied with its duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults (section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). There were no serious incidents during 2025.

Safeguarding is now a regular, separate item on the PCC agenda. We are meeting all our obligations re DBS checks and safeguarding training, including the new requirement from January 2025 for all bellringers to complete basic training. One-to-one and small group training has been facilitated for those unable to take online courses at home, which has enabled discussion about issues raised. We have overhauled our safer recruitment procedures and reviewed all our safeguarding documentation. As part of our endeavours to embed a culture of safeguarding we intend to share the Volunteer Code of Conduct and Responding to a Safeguarding Concern or Allegation with a much wider group of volunteers than previously.

Fabric & Churchyard Committee

Chair: Peter Clark

This Committee, in collaboration with the Vicar and Churchwardens, has oversight of the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church building, St Mary's Lodge, the Parish Hall, Church House, and outbuildings. It held three full meetings during the year, with all urgent matters dealt with via emails.

2025 saw the transition of churchyard maintenance from the PCC and this Committee to East Herts District Council (EHDC). Understandable teething troubles have been encountered and addressed by the Churchwardens, and good working relationships with EHDC have developed. By the end of 2025 the remaining issues were largely the timeliness of work and how to address litter and bin management. The Churchyard Working Party still meets to complement work of the EHDC. A young Robinia tree was planted in May 2025 in memory of Joanna ("Jo") Pigram.

The church building remains in a good state of repair but there is outstanding work left over from the Quinquennial Report still awaited. This is due to a backlog of work built up by Lodge & Sons due to shortage of skilled heritage builders and the illness and sad death of their manager who was in charge of work here. The work involves lime mortar, so will now be done in the warmer months of 2026.

The Friends of Great St Mary's arranged for conservation of the large Viscount George Hewyt monument in the chancel. Skillington Workshop achieved very fine results. The work was entirely funded by The Friends,



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Church Care/The Pilgrim Trust and the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme for reclaiming VAT. The Friends proposed similar conservation for the William and Elizabeth Hewyt Monument above the lectern. A faculty was obtained from the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) and work took place in January 2026.

A complication now affects all faculty applications, including the Re-imagining project (see page 6). Bats have re-appeared in the church, and we have a legal obligation to state what steps we are taking to protect them. A survey has been booked for 2026.

The gale-broken flagpole was repaired. Ecclesiastical Insurance paid for the temporary repair and for replacing the flagpole in 2026. In the autumn, rain leaked from the nave roof to near the organ console below. Lodges identified cracking in a fold under the overlapping lead roofing panels, which will need to wait for warmer weather to tackle. Routine maintenance has continued and included replacement of failed lights in some of the highest parts of the church and the restoration of spire lighting with LEDs. There were also repairs to the organ (see page 8).

The church noticeboard was wood-treated and updated, and unveiled during our new Incumbent's welcome. A firm, which had won by the competitive tender, serviced the car park bollards. The six-monthly service in October 2025 diagnosed problems which they claimed required both bollards and the controller to be replaced, at great cost. An alternative firm was identified in early 2026 and repair work is being undertaken at a much lower cost.



A new security camera system was installed in line with Deanery recommendation, to provide some level of protection for staff lone working in the Parish Office (see below). The Parish Hall had a serious macerator failure which was expensive to fix, and we had to re-locate regular bookings to Church House and cancel others. We will consider back-up options so that the hall can remain open at all times.

St Mary's Lodge is now occupied by the Associate Minister. A gale blew down a substantial tree branch, which was efficiently cleared early the next morning by a local tree surgeon. At the end of the year, planning permission was sought for further tree work in early 2026.

With special thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers in the Churchyard Working Party during the transition to EHDC, our church cleaners and our hard-working hall caretaker.

Health and Safety

This covers the physical environment and all church activities. Peter Clark continued as H&S Officer, with First Aid Officer Debbie Cubitt. There were no RIDDOR reportable incidents during the year. Two falls in church did not result in serious injuries but were carefully reviewed and steps taken to reduce the likelihood of happening again. Risk Assessments were either updated or put in place for new activities. These were a mix of generic templates, for schools' services for example, and specific assessments for one-off activities.

Regular inspections of the church for slip and trip hazards took place and there are programmes for gas, electrical, fire extinguisher and lightning conductor testing. A First Aid course was tailored for our parish volunteers, and the defibrillators and first aid boxes were regularly checked. Advice from the Deanery concerning lone working led to the installation of the video door entry system in Church House (see above).

Events: Outreach Committee

Chair: Gilly Squire

The Committee promotes the engagement of the church with the community through outreach at social events. In 2025, we focused on building upon established successes.

This year we held a single, Frugal Lunch on Good Friday, offering a poignant time for communal reflection. The May Day Fayre saw the return of the Teddy Bear Zip Wire, which remains a firm family favourite, and it's

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not only teddy bears that take the plunge. We also introduced a Fictional Ghost Walk around town, which proved a popular and imaginative new fundraiser during the summer months. To meet high demand, our Murder Mystery Night moved to a larger hall, proving to be a significant social highlight for the year.

We maintained our presence at the Festival of Lights and hosted a successful third Christmas Tree Festival. Refreshments were also provided following the All Souls and Christmas Carol services. Running from Advent 2025 to Ash Wednesday 2026, the spire was illuminated as a quiet witness to the town. Lights were sponsored in memory of loved ones or for celebrations, with proceeds put toward a new church flag.

Looking ahead, we hope to embrace several new initiatives for 2026.

Events: ad hoc

Other events in 2025 included a Remembrance themed evening of music, and a war graves tour. A concert featuring an accordion duo from Kyiv raised money for a charity supporting those affected by the war in Ukraine. And local choir, The Harmonaires, performed and raised money for Isobel Hospice.



Re-imagining Group

Co-chairs: Sarah Vickers (until 22 October 2025) and Nick Heslop

The Re-Imagining Group met nine times during 2025 and continued to work hard behind the scenes to clear the necessary hurdles for Phase 1 of work in the **Church** – opening the West Door. The arrival of our new Incumbent slowed progress a little as Revd Sara got up to speed with the project and its work to date. However, by the end of 2025 progress had been made in several areas, including:

- Our architect, Jeremy Lander, has been formally contracted and has completed the specific plans for the West Door opening.
- We have engaged an Archaeologist and a Quantity Surveyor; both have visited the site, and we are currently awaiting their formal reports.
- A heating engineer has provided initial recommendations. To ensure a sustainable future, we are currently conducting a long-term temperature and humidity survey using discrete monitors placed throughout the church building.
- The presence of bats was confirmed by a report from Natural England, and full surveys will be carried out in May and June 2026.
- "Clutter" in the west lobby and first floor storage room was removed.
- The extensive paperwork needed to support a DAC application were drafted and compiled.

Thanks to successful grant applications, all expert reports and fees paid to date for church re-imagining work have been fully covered by external funding. This means that up to the end of 2025, this vital preparatory work cost the PCC nothing.

Work also continued on plans for works to **Church House** to create flat access into and around the building, and to refurbish the top floor flat and first floor to create a two-bedroom dwelling, which can be rented as a source of income. It is expected that planning permission will be submitted in 2026.

There is still considerable work to do on both streams of the project. Sarah Vickers, who had chaired the project from its inception, stood down in the autumn of 2025 and as yet no permanent chair has been identified.

Parish activities

Children and Young People

Tiny Tots continued to meet in the Parish Hall. Sessions run weekly during term time on a Tuesday morning. Between 10-15 children with carers, parents and grandparents attend. The group is supported where

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possible by Mothers' Union members, who offer refreshments. Two new volunteers joined in 2025 to help continue Kathy Steward's work. The year ended with a nativity play and Christmas party.

Sunday Club for younger children met most weeks during 2025. Sessions took place in the church, Church House or the churchyard, depending on the activities and the weather. Attendance ranged from one to 12 young persons aged between two and 13 years old. Three leaders, Gilly Squire, Becky Burton and Emily Groom take it in turns to prepare and lead each week. Highlights of the year included sailing boats in paddling pools, pancake races and air-dry silk clay craft activities.



Remembrance & St George's Day Parade services: Sawbridgeworth's uniformed groups were welcomed into church for two major events in 2025. The St George's Day parade service saw almost a hundred under 16s present. Young people were also very much in evidence for the Remembrance Day service in November.

School services: At Christmas, carol services for all local primary schools took place. Fawbert & Barnard, Reedings and Mandeville brought songs and readings to share the story of the nativity – as did Spellbrook, our CoFE school.

Spellbrook Church of England School

Spellbrook School is our voluntary-controlled Church of England primary school. It is legally owned by the trustees of its Church of England foundation but is controlled by Hertfordshire Local Education Authority which has full financial responsibility for its maintenance. The school's mission is to provide the best education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community.

Becky Burton was appointed as foundation governor in March 2025. The Vicar is ex-officio foundation governor and took up her role in the autumn. Mr Fisher left as headteacher in July, and Mrs Cousins joined the school in September. The Vicar and Associate Minister lead collective worship each week in school. The whole school attended church four times during the course of the year – at Easter, the end of the summer term, Harvest and Christmas. It continues to be a joy to welcome the school to their church.

Mothers' Union

Branch Leader: Debbie Dear

Our branch met on a third Tuesday of each month. During 2025 we had a variety of guest speakers. In January we were honoured to welcome The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. For our April meeting we had a speaker from Grove Cottage, a voluntary organisation which provides social and educational activities for people of all ages and learning disabilities and special needs. In May we had two speakers from the Land Sheriffs who gave a very enlightening presentation on their individual roles in providing a service which helps to keep our railways safe for travellers. In July the CEO of the Harlow Foodbank gave a very interesting and insightful talk on the wonderful work of this charity. And in September we welcomed an MU Speaker who talked about the unusual things that are in the MU archives. We held an afternoon tea in June for our 'Summer Fund Raiser' event where we raised £240 for the MU Summer of Hope Appeal, one of the Mothers' Union Worldwide Projects.

In 2025 we put together 21 toiletry bags from items donated by members for the Geriatric ward at Princes Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, and one of our members knitted two blankets for the Neonatal ward. We ended the year with an Advent service followed by seasonal refreshments in Church House, a lovely end to a blessed occasion enjoyed by all.

Music

Organist and Director of Music: Jonathan Palman

In January 2025, I was delighted to join as Director of Music. Our dedicated church choir continued to provide music at 9.30am Sunday Eucharists, a full Holy Week, St George's Day, the Civic Service and Remembrance Sunday. We also had our annual Advent and Christmas Carol Services, both with augmented

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choirs and well attended by the Sawbridgeworth community. Very few parish churches maintain a tradition of both an Advent and Christmas carol service, much less with the calibre and variety of repertoire provided at Great St Mary's, so I give my most sincere thanks and appreciation to the choir – preparing for two major services so close together is no easy task. In addition, we had Revd Robert's licensing and Revd Sara's installation services.



The organ deteriorated further during the year, with the splits to the Swell soundboard and subsequent running worsening significantly. Approval was obtained and Andrew Stevens was commissioned to do a significant repair/partial rebuild in November, which was successfully completed in time for Remembrance Sunday. Also, the church baby grand piano was tuned and repaired. Unusually for church pianos, ours stably maintains concert pitch and is of a high quality, making it an asset to church services and groups from the wider community who use Great St Mary's as a rehearsal or concert venue.

We are extremely fortunate to have a small but very committed and experienced choir, meaning that for most Sundays we are able to field four parts and provide a wide range of anthems. As ever, our biggest challenge is that of numbers – new members are always very much welcome! I would like to thank our dedicated choir members and very appreciative congregation; everybody has made my first year at Great St Mary's incredibly enjoyable and rewarding.

Bellringers

Bell Tower Captain: Fred Bone

The bellringers rang for morning service on every Sunday but one, with attendance ranging from three to nine. Bells were also rung for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension, the Licensing of Revd Robert and the Induction of Revd Sara as Vicar. In addition, bells were rung for the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day and one wedding. Four quarter peals were rung: for the May Fayre, Licensing, Induction and Harvest Festival.

Practice nights have generally been well attended and busy, with up to 15 present. One new recruit and one experienced ringer have joined, and we have several regular visitors whose help is invaluable and much appreciated. On Monday 24 February, practice night was attended by a group of Ukrainians. The practice included a touch of 156 call changes, commemorating 3 years (156 weeks) since the invasion of Ukraine.

Volunteers

Great St Mary's runs on the faithful service of volunteers across many different areas, not just the PCC. The work and dedication of all volunteers is to be commended. There are volunteers who are on the coffee rota, or cleaners, part of the Churchyard Working Party, flower arrangers, sacristans, readers, intercessors, welcomers, Sunday Club leaders, and choir members. Many people have more than one role from this list.

There is capacity for additional volunteer help in all areas of church life. As congregation members' ability to commit to continuing duties wanes, activities may be scaled back or curtailed – this could have an effect not just on the social or liturgical life of the congregation but on our ability to impact the wider Sawbridgeworth community.

Future plans

Revd Sara will continue to consider ways in which we can extend the mission of Great St Mary's, building on existing activities, introducing new ones and widening our reach within the wider community. We have re-introduced monthly services on late Sunday afternoon and have an interesting mix of full choral evensongs and songs of praise services planned for 2026, and we will run Lent and Advent courses.

The Re-imagining Group will continue its work, and will submit the formal applications for Church Phase 1 and Church House. Skillingtons Conservators have already assessed the font to confirm that it can be safely moved, and the findings of the archaeologist, quantity surveyor, heating engineer, and bats surveys will be considered. When reliable estimates of the actual construction costs for the two projects have been

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obtained, a robust funding strategy will be developed. This will involve a combination of grant applications, community fundraising, donations and other streams of financial support.

Financial matters

Mission and giving

It is PCC policy to give a percentage of regular committed stewardship (plus tax recoverable) to other charitable causes, of which 60% is allocated to overseas causes and 40% to U.K. causes. Details of the amounts given in 2025 from 7.5% of 2024 stewardship income are detailed in note 10 to the financial statements. Charities supported in this way were Shiksha Rath, Friends of the Holy Land, Holy Trinity Night Shelter, Grove Cottage, and Red Kite Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service. In addition, whenever possible throughout the year, the PCC made collections and undertook fundraising for specific causes. Details of payments made are also detailed in note 10.

In February 2026, the PCC reviewed its Mission Giving Policy and agreed that mission giving in 2027 will be 10% of 2026 planned giving plus tax recoverable.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. We confirm that all solicitations are managed internally, without involvement of commercial participators, professional fundraisers or third parties. The day-to-day management of all income generation is delegated to the Vicar, Churchwardens and appointed officials (see page 12). Although the Charity is not required to be bound by any regulatory scheme, the Charity complies with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities (2024: none).

Additional financial support was received, with thanks, from Sawbridgeworth Ecclesiastical Charity, The Friends of Great St Mary's and others.

Financial Review

In 2025, expenditure on the estate increased by over £20,000, but this was more than covered by a significant increase in grants received. There was a decrease across the board in regular income – notably, a fall of over £20,000 in hall hire income – and increases in some regular costs. The net decrease was partly offset by the receipt of over £15,000 in legacies and bequests. The overall net impact was **a loss of £52,317 on day-to-day income and expenditure** (excluding investment income) but **a net inflow of £2,682** to the restricted fund.

At the end of the year, due to ongoing uncertainty in the global financial markets, our investments with CCLA decreased in value by £25,672, and £20,000 was redeemed in December to meet expected invoices on estate works. Investment income was £25,274, up slightly on the previous year. Overall, therefore, there was **a net decrease in our total funds of £50,033**.

The investment policy is considered at regular intervals by the Stewardship & Finance Committee (SFC) and the PCC. Both investment funds are actively managed, allowing CCLA to anticipate or respond to market developments. In November 2025, the PCC agreed to retain its investments with CCLA but to rebalance the equities to bonds ratio within the portfolio. It delegated the process of rebalancing to SFC (see page 11).

Going Concern

Looking forward to 2026, it is possible that Re-imagining project works might begin later in the year (see page 6), but planning permissions are awaited and costs are not yet fully known. We have changed to more cost-efficient energy providers, we are considering how we might improve our regular stewardship and other income sources, and we intend to increase expenditure on mission (in addition to our annual mission giving to other charities). We predict **a deficit of about £50,000**, excluding any capital gain or loss on our investments, and excluding re-imagining costs and grants/donations.

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The PCC believes it is financially viable for the next 12 months, even with the ongoing deficit of income to expenditure. The general unrestricted reserves balance remains above the appropriate level of reserves and is sufficient for activities to be maintained for 12 months.

Reserves policy

The accounting rules under which the financial statements are prepared require funds to be analysed between those that, on the one hand, are restricted to specific purposes and those that, on the other hand, are unrestricted. Restricted funds comprise special collections and other fundraising activity for specific causes, together with fundraising and grants for certain fabric and insurance costs.

Unrestricted funds comprise all other funds, which may be designated for various purposes. The PCC has designated three unrestricted funds:

- a property capital fund, which at all times equals the balance sheet value of the properties
- a legacy capital fund, being the accumulation of legacies received
- a general fund containing the balance

The PCC considers that the amount of reserves necessary to ensure the work of the church continues at present levels is around £200,000 – approximately 12 months of recurring expenditure, excluding mission giving and payments to specific causes, and restoration of monuments (which will be fully covered by grants). As the unrestricted general fund stood at £295,082 on 31 December 2025 (see page 15; £362,824 at the end of 2024), there was an excess of just over £95,000, which is held to finance working capital and capital projects. Restricted funds on 31 December 2025 stood at £15,562 (2024: £12,880).

Structure, governance and management

The PCC

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC met seven times in 2025, all meetings were conducted in person, and average attendance was 79%. In addition to routine business (which included regular Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Estate and Financial reports), major items of business included:

- Appointing a new Incumbent and Associate Minister
- Agreeing recipients of mission giving from 2024 stewardship
- Agreeing faculty applications
- Receiving the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024
- Ensuring the PCC's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to addressing wider environmental impacts was considered across all activities, on an ongoing basis

The PCC's responsibilities

The PCC is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The PCC is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the financial activities of the PCC for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the PCC members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in operation

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The PCC is responsible for keeping proper books and accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC, and that enable it to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and, hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The PCC members confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant information of which the PCC's independent examiners are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as PCC members to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the PCC's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Much of the PCC's business is achieved by delegating certain responsibilities to its committees. Their terms of reference were reviewed by the PCC in May 2025. The committees' work is outlined on pages 4-6 and below.

Standing Committee

In September 2025, the PCC reviewed the membership of the Standing Committee with reference to the Church Representation Rules. The Committee now comprises the Vicar, Churchwardens, Chair of the Fabric & Churchyard Committee, Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Officer. It has the power to act on behalf of the PCC for issues that need urgent attention between PCC meetings and to approve new expenditure items in accordance with the PCC's Financial Controls Policy. The Committee did not meet in 2025, but it agreed via email correspondence to sign a contract with the architect for the Re-imagining project.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Chair: Julie Patterson

This Committee has oversight of the PCC's finances and stewardship activities. To fulfil this responsibility, it monitors both incoming and outgoing resources, as well as monitoring the deployment of the net assets, including investment policy and performance. It provides advice and support to the Treasurer, who reports regularly to the PCC on the financial position, financial controls and all matters impacting the PCC's finances.

The Committee met five times via Zoom in 2025. At each meeting, the Committee received a report from the Treasurer on the PCC's financial position. It reviewed the draft Annual Report & Financial Statements 2024, monitored actual income and expenditure against the 2025 forecast approved by the PCC in December 2024, considered whether and when a significant drawdown from investments was needed, and agreed to rebalance the PCC's investment portfolio by making monthly switches of £30,000 from the Investment Fund (equities) to the Fixed Interest Securities Fund. In November, it considered the provisional outturn for 2025 and a draft forecast for 2026, which were presented to the PCC in December.

The Committee also reviewed and made recommendations to the PCC on relevant PCC policies and procedures, the due diligence undertaken on Charities of the Year nominations (for mission giving), and on discretionary fees and other rates to be applied in 2026.

Risk Management

The PCC recognises that in areas relating to health and safety, the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and the security of physical and financial assets, IT systems and data protection, there is always a potential threat. We reviewed all our risk management and related policies during 2025, introduced a church hire policy and made further enhancements to our IT security.

Data Protection

The PCC complied with the requirements of the *General Data Protection Regulation*. We reviewed our Data Protection and Records Management Policy and the Data Privacy Notice on the church website.

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Administrative information

Address: The PCC oversees the activities of Great St Mary's church, which is situated in Church Street, Sawbridgeworth. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Church House, 1 Vantorts Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AH.

Website: www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Data privacy: Contact the Parish Office. You can also contact the Information Commissioner's Office on 0303 123 1113 or via <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/>.

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Sara Batts-Neale, The Vicarage, Sheering Mill Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9ND, from 22 July 2025.

Ministry team: The Reverend Canon Robert Riley-Braley, Associate Priest, from 21 May 2025, and Diana Kitson, Lay Reader, until 1 February 2026.

Office staff: Angela Kenny, Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary.

The **members of the PCC** who served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale	<i>Incumbent (Chair) from 22 July 2025</i>
Gilly Squire	<i>PCC Chair until 22 July 2025; Churchwarden, Chair of Outreach Committee</i>
Valerie Bright	
Peter Clark	<i>Health & Safety Officer, Chair of Fabric & Churchyard Committee</i>
Deborah Cubitt	<i>First Aid Officer</i>
Anthony Heard	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Jane Johnson	<i>Parish Safeguarding Officer</i>
Diana Kitson	<i>Reader until 1 February 2026, Deanery Synod Representative</i>
Kofi Otu	
Julie Patterson	<i>Treasurer, Chair of Stewardship & Finance Committee, Deanery Synod Representative; Diocesan Synod Representative from 15 March 2026</i>
Revd Canon Robert Riley-Braley	<i>Associate Priest from 21 May 2025</i>
Sarah Vickers	<i>Co-Chair of Re-imagining 2025 Project Group until 22 October 2025</i>

Among others that contribute considerable time and resources to the work of Great St Mary's, there are officers who are not members of the PCC:

Becky Burton	<i>Spellbrook CoE School Foundation Governor from March 2025</i>
Fay Clark	<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>
Nick Heslop	<i>Co-Chair of Re-imagining 2025 Project Group</i>
Huw Lewis	<i>Stewardship Recorder</i>

Architect/surveyor: Jeremy Lander, 77 North Street, Burwell, Cambridgeshire CB25 0BB

Bankers: TSB Bank plc, 88-89 High Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM21 1DX and until 27 October 2023 Barclays Bank plc, 10 North Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2LU

Independent Examiners: Price Bailey LLP, Causeway House, 1 Dane Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3BT

SBatts-Neale

21. 4. 2026

Signed **Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale**
Vicar of Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth

Dated

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of The Parochial
Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sawbridgeworth**

I report to the members of the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Michael Cooper-Davis FCCA ACA
For and on behalf of Price Bailey LLP
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire CM23 3BT

Date: 24 April 2026

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total	2024 Total
INCOME					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving		35,251		35,251	39,703
Other donations	2	7,333	1,554	8,887	11,340
Collections for other charities	3		3,006	3,006	4,850
Tax received/claimed	4	9,889	1,187	11,076	13,043
Grants	5		51,211	51,211	22,783
Legacies	6	15,027	-	15,027	2,912
		67,500	56,958	124,458	94,631
<i>Church activities</i>					
Fees - weddings & funerals	7	9,315		9,315	12,606
Property lettings	8	38,284		38,284	58,761
Fundraising & sponsorship			6,510	6,510	7,720
Other		59		59	425
		47,658	6,510	54,168	79,512
<i>Investment income</i>	9	25,274		25,274	24,405
Total income		140,432	63,468	203,900	198,548
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Church activities</i>					
Mission & charitable giving	10	5,300	3,144	8,444	9,390
Ministry	11	73,506		73,506	72,052
Regular church services	12	12,632		12,632	9,717
Fees paid – weddings & funerals	13	4,971		4,971	7,161
Properties	14	38,114	55,909	94,023	71,452
Fundraising costs			1,733	1,733	2,381
Administration	15	25,528		25,528	21,464
Other	16	5,024		5,024	4,821
		165,075	60,786	225,861	198,438
<i>Governance</i>					
Independent examination fee		2,400		2,400	2,322
Total expenditure		167,475	60,786	228,261	200,760
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		(27,043)	2,682	(24,361)	(2,212)
Divestment proceeds		20,000		20,000	30,000
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments	18	(45,672)		(45,672)	(8,296)
Fund transfers	14&22	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(52,715)	2,682	(50,033)	19,492
Funds brought forward		1,398,353	12,880	1,411,233	1,391,741
Funds carried forward		1,345,638	15,562	1,361,200	1,411,233

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH**
Registered Charity 1132562

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible	17	490,000	490,000
Investments	18	819,398	865,070
		1,309,398	1,355,070
Current assets			
Debtors	19	11,051	16,563
Short term deposits	20	6,434	6,161
Cash at bank and in hand		41,179	37,908
		58,664	60,632
Liabilities			
Creditors payable within one year	21	(6,862)	(4,469)
Net current assets		51,802	56,163
TOTAL NET ASSETS		1,361,200	1,411,233
Funds	22		
<i>Unrestricted</i>			
Property capital		490,000	490,000
Legacy capital		560,556	545,529
General		295,082	362,824
		1,345,638	1,398,353
<i>Restricted</i>		15,562	12,880
		1,361,200	1,411,233

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale – Vicar



Anthony Heard – Churchwarden

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except that properties are included at valuation and investments are included at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the PCC members believe that no material uncertainties exist. The PCC members have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure deficit is covered with the support of withdrawing funds from the investments, as held within unrestricted general funds, and therefore enables the PCC to continue as a going concern. A detailed commentary on its impact is detailed in the Annual Report on page 9.

Funds

- *Unrestricted designated funds*
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the PCC for specific purposes. The property capital fund is represented by the value of property held. The legacy capital fund is the aggregate of legacies received and is represented by assets held for future major capital projects.
- *Unrestricted general funds*
Unrestricted funds are those funds which can be used for the ordinary purposes of the PCC.
- *Restricted funds*
Restricted funds arise where collections are made or fundraising undertaken for specific causes, or where income is subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or grant-making organisations.

Incoming resources

- *Stewardship, service collections and donations*
Amounts are recognised when received; at which point income tax recoverable is accounted for.
- *Other voluntary income*
Grants and legacies are recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.
- *Church fees*
Wedding and funeral fees are recognised when the event occurs.
- *Property lettings*
Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when due.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

- *Investment income, fundraising and sponsorship*
Income is recognised when received.

Gifts in kind

Assets donated to the PCC are included in the financial records at valuation at the date of gift.

Resources expended

Amounts are recognised when payable and include irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly allocated to the relevant activity and fund.

Tangible fixed assets

- *Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings*
Consecrated and benefice property is excluded from the financial statements under the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings that require a faculty for their disposal as they are considered by the PCC as inalienable property.
- *Other real estate*
Given the unusual nature and features of the freehold properties, the properties are held at residual value based on valuations by Wright & Co, a local estate agent, in November 2010 (17). Thus, no depreciation has been charged.
- *Fixtures and fittings*
Items costing up to £10,000 are written off in the period in which the assets are acquired.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses arising from movements in market values during the year are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement value before any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar accounts.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at the settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date. All financial instruments of the charity are measured at cost.

Financial assets include the bank balances, trade debtors and other debtors, but exclude prepayments and taxation.

Financial liabilities include trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and deferred income, but exclude social security and other taxes due.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

Key Source of Judgement and Estimate Uncertainty

No significant judgements, accounting policies or assumptions have been made by the PCC in applying the Charity's accounting policies.

Transactions involving members of the PCC and connected persons

Members of the PCC are obliged to declare any interest in any proposed transaction that involves them or connected persons, and to withdraw from any discussions and not participate in any vote taken. Any transactions undertaken by or on behalf of the PCC and involving members of the PCC and/or connected persons are detailed in notes 11 and 23.

2. Donations, other than planned giving	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations under Gift Aid (unrestricted)	1,452	2,267
Other donations (unrestricted)	3,531	3,321
Collections in church services (unrestricted)	2,350	2,492
Donations towards restricted expenditure	1,554	3,260
	<u>8,887</u>	<u>11,340</u>

In 2025, there were no large donations towards restricted expenditure (2024: two large donations totalling £2,500 including tax recoverable). Unrestricted donations totalled £7,333 (2024: £8,080) and restricted £1,554 (2024: £3,260).

3. Collections for other specific causes (restricted)

The figure of £3,006 (2024: £4,850) comprised £551 (2024: £1,769) of giving under Gift Aid and £2,455 (2024: £3,081) of other giving. (See also note 10).

4. Tax received/claimed

Tax recoverable on giving under Gift Aid in 2025 is estimated at £9,022 (2024: £10,941 estimated; £10,995 received). £2,000 was received under the small donations scheme for the tax year 2024/25 (2023/24: £2,000), all of which was recognised as claimable in 2024, and a further £2,000 has been recognised as claimable in 2025. Of total tax received or claimed, £9,889 was in relation to unrestricted funds (2024: £11,160) and £1,187 restricted (2024: £1,883).

5. Grants (restricted)	2025	2024
	£	£
The Sawbridgeworth Ecclesiastical Charity:		
- Church insurance	5,263	5,082
- Church costs	12,665	12,390
Ecclesiastical Insurance	4,400	1,010
The Friends of Great St Mary's	16,575	-
Archbishops' Council	5,000	-
Francis Coales Charitable Foundation	-	2,000
DCMS Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme (VAT claim)	7,308	2,301
	<u>51,211</u>	<u>22,783</u>

6. Legacies

In 2025, legacies were received from Miss Frances Lane for Spellbrook Church & School charity (£27), and from the estates of Roy Ward (£5,000) and Betty Taylor (£10,000) (2024: £2,912 from Miss Frances Lane for Spellbrook Church & School charity).

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

7. Fees - weddings and funerals (unrestricted)

In accordance with normal church accounting practice, fees receivable exclude amounts due to the clergy. The fees shown comprise amounts earned by the PCC and amounts payable to the Diocese and to assistants for their participation at weddings and funerals (see also note 13).

8. Property lettings (unrestricted)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Church House	6,396	15,080
Parish Hall	14,488	13,156
Car park	12,300	11,825
The Lodge	5,100	18,700
	<u>38,284</u>	<u>58,761</u>

9. Investment income (unrestricted)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest on CCLA Deposit Fund	352	394
Dividends on CCLA Fixed Interest Fund investment	4,352	3,130
Dividends on CCLA Investment Fund investment	20,570	20,881
	<u>25,274</u>	<u>24,405</u>

10. Mission & charitable giving

	2025	2024
	£	£
Mission grants to organisations – unrestricted		
India Touch Trust (Shiksha Rath) – <i>overseas mission giving</i>	1,225	1,105
Friends of the Holy Land – <i>overseas mission giving</i>	1,225	-
Tools with a Mission – <i>overseas mission giving</i>		1,105
Holy Trinity Night Shelter – <i>UK mission giving</i>	816	1,472
Grove Cottage – <i>UK mission giving</i>	817	-
Red Kite rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service – <i>UK mission giving</i>	817	-
World Vision	300	300
St Luke's Clergy Wellbeing Centre	100	-
	<u>5,300</u>	<u>3,982</u>
Distribution of collections for specific causes – restricted		
Women's World Day of Prayer	185	191
Sawbridgeworth Scouts and Girl Guides (St George's Day Service)	114	115
Train-a-Priest Fund (Lent lunches and Licencing service)	523	98
Diocesan Ordination Fund (Installation & Licencing service)	114	-
Christian Aid (collection tins and fundraising)	141	462
The Sawbridgeworth Mayor's charities (Annual Town Civic Service)	115	161
The Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal	61	470
The Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal (Remembrance Day Service)	379	259
The Children's Society (Advent Lunches, Christingle and Crib Service)	393	1,124
Crisis UK (Christmas collections)	771	1,023
DEC Myanmar	216	-
Hurricane Beryl	-	158
DEC Middle East Appeal	-	1,164
Funeral collections (local charities)	132	183
	<u>3,144</u>	<u>5,408</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

11. Ministry (unrestricted)	2025	2024
	£	£
Diocesan parish share	67,882	69,920
Clergy expenses	5,040	1,596
Outreach	584	536
	<u>73,506</u>	<u>72,052</u>

The Vicar and non-stipendiary priest are reimbursed for expenses incurred on PCC business.

12. Regular church services (unrestricted)	2025	2024
	£	£
Organists	9,452	7,085
Other costs	3,180	2,632
	<u>12,632</u>	<u>9,717</u>

13. Fees paid – weddings and funerals (unrestricted)	2025	2024
	£	£
Diocesan fees	2,793	5,123
Fees paid to service assistants	2,178	2,038
	<u>4,971</u>	<u>7,161</u>

The PCC retains the difference between the total of fees received and the total of fees paid.

14. Properties – maintenance, repair and utilities	2025	2024
	£	£
Church	45,239	12,706
Churchyard	1,670	9,463
Church House	5,277	6,859
Parish Hall	6,510	1,834
The Lodge	2,323	7,304
Car park	794	397
Utilities	23,358	25,208
Insurances	8,852	7,681
	<u>94,023</u>	<u>71,452</u>

£55,909 was in relation to restricted funds (2024: £19,985) and £38,114 unrestricted (2024: £51,467). Restricted costs comprised £42,823 for the church (2024: £9,119), £714 for the churchyard (2024: £2,892), £1,611 for Church House (2024: £3,162), £4,380 for the Parish Hall (2024: nil), £1,118 for The Lodge (2024: nil), and £5,263 for church insurances (2024: £4,812).

15. Administration (unrestricted)	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	16,758	16,189
Bookkeeping	1,594	1,699
Committee expenses	29	105
Telephone	1,389	1,422
Equipment	3,368	48
Printing	1,265	1,121
Office supplies	1,125	880
	<u>25,528</u>	<u>21,464</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

The figure for staff costs in 2025 comprises £16,257 for salaries and wages (2024: £15,595), £500 for payroll administration (2024: £569) and training costs nil (2024: £25). The figure for salaries and wages in 2025 included pension costs of £1,094 (2024: £1,057). The figure for office supplies now includes an annual website hosting fee of £263 (2024: nil)

The average number of employees during the year was one in 2025 (2024: one). The PCC considers its key management personnel to comprise the Vicar, Churchwardens and appointed officials (see page 12). No employees received over £60,000 remuneration during the year (2024: nil). No PCC members or other officers were remunerated for their role (2024: nil).

16. Other expenditure (unrestricted)

The figure for other expenditure in 2025 of £5,024 included £412 on website re-design (2024: £1,500), £240 on IT systems changes (2024: £432), £1,265 on recruitment (2024: £1,331), £2,180 on licencing receptions and £89 on gifts (2024: £200).

17. Tangible fixed assets (unrestricted)

	Freehold land & buildings	Fixtures & fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Valuation / Cost – <i>beginning and end of year</i>	490,000	7,899	497,899
Depreciation – <i>beginning and end of year</i>	-	(7,899)	(7,899)
Net book value - <i>beginning and end of year</i>	490,000	-	490,000

The amount of freehold land and buildings comprises valuations of St Mary's Lodge £335,000, the Parish Hall £45,000 and Church House £110,000, provided by local estate agent Wright & Co in November 2010 and reflecting current usage. Fixtures and fittings comprise the sound system

18. Investments (unrestricted)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at beginning of year	865,070	873,366
Additions/(withdrawals) at cost	(20,000)	(30,000)
Gain/(loss) on revaluation	(25,672)	21,704
Market value at end of year	819,398	865,070
<i>The portfolio consists of investments in:</i>		
CCLA CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund	218,014	124,779
CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund	601,384	740,291
	819,398	865,070

19. Debtors (receivable within one year)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Francis Coales Charitable Foundation	-	2,000
DCMS Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme	-	926
Tax recoverable (of which £1,187 restricted (2024: £1,820) – see note 4)	11,022	12,941
Hire fees due (unrestricted)	-	696
Uncleared cheque/unbanked cash charitable donations (restricted)	29	-
	11,051	16,563

20. Short term deposits (unrestricted)

These cash deposits are held with The Central Board of Finance Church of England Deposit Fund, which is managed by CCLA.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

21. Creditors (payable within one year)	2025	2024
	£	£
Wedding deposits (unrestricted)	300	-
Diocese – Parish Fees (unrestricted)	247	-
Distributions of collections to specific causes (restricted)	1,273	2,147
Lodge & Sons (restricted)	331	-
Corona Energy (unrestricted)	1,615	-
Ecclesiastical insurance – The Lodge (unrestricted)	696	-
Independent examination fee (unrestricted)	2,400	2,322
	<u>6,862</u>	<u>4,469</u>

22. Funds

	Balances end-2024 £	Income in 2025 £	Expenditure in 2025 £	Fund transfers £	Balances end-2025 £
<i>Unrestricted</i>					
Property capital	490,000	-	-	-	490,000
Legacy capital	545,529	15,027	-	-	560,556
General	362,824	125,405	(193,147)	-	295,082
	<u>1,398,353</u>	<u>140,432</u>	<u>(193,147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,345,638</u>
<i>Restricted</i>					
Monies for specific causes	-	3,144	(3,144)	-	-
Specific grants & fundraising	12,880	60,324	(57,642)	-	15,562
	<u>12,880</u>	<u>63,468</u>	<u>(60,786)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,562</u>
Total	<u>1,411,233</u>	<u>203,900</u>	<u>(253,933)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,361,200</u>

For an explanation of restricted funds, see page 16. See notes 3 and 10 second part for restricted funds comprising monies for specific causes and £138 in reclaimable tax (2023: £519). The end-year balance comprises nil for other charities (2024: nil). See notes 2, 5 and 14 for restricted donations, grants and expenditure. In addition, there was £1,052 in reclaimable tax (2024: £1,364), restricted fundraising of £6,510 (2024: £7,720) and fundraising costs of £1,733 (2024: £2,381).

Prior year funds	Balances end-2023 £	Income in 2024	Expenditure in 2024 £	Fund transfers £	Balances end-2024 £
<i>Unrestricted</i>					
Property capital	490,000	-	-	-	490,000
Legacy capital	542,617	2,912	-	-	545,529
General	358,966	176,844	(172,986)	-	362,824
	<u>1,391,583</u>	<u>179,756</u>	<u>(172,986)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,398,353</u>
<i>Restricted</i>					
Monies for specific causes	38	5,370	(5,408)	-	-
Specific grants & fundraising	120	35,126	(22,366)	-	12,880
	<u>158</u>	<u>40,496</u>	<u>(27,774)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,880</u>
Total	<u>1,391,741</u>	<u>220,252</u>	<u>(200,760)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,411,233</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH
Registered Charity 1132562**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

23. Payments to PCC members and connected persons

PCC members were reimbursed £1,766 (2024: £1,088) for purchases on behalf of the PCC, of which restricted costs were £320 (2024: £817), and paid £600 (2024: £1,020) for vergers and chorister services (unrestricted in both years). No other payments to PCC members and connected persons were made (2024: nil).