



St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31st December 2025

incumbent:

Revd Fiona Grove

**Registered Charity
No. 1156459**

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Annual Report of the PCC
Year Ended 31st December 2025

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St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Annual Report of the PCC
Year Ended 31st December 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield, present its annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Aims and Purposes

St John the Baptist Church's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of collaborating with the Associate Priest and Area Dean, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Study Centre of St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John the Baptist. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist and Study Centre.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Reverend Canon David Isaac left us as our Associate Priest at Candlemas and Reverend Jill Phipps assumed the leadership for the spiritual wellbeing of the parish.

2025 has continued to see Sunday worship alternating with our sister church in the benefice on alternate Sundays. It is very encouraging to see members of each congregation going to the services in the other church. From January until Easter all services were conducted in St John the Baptist Church due to major restoration work at St Nicholas Church, Wickham.

School links with both our Primary School and with Fairlands Nursery continued to be fostered and to flourish, with the Mothers' Union key to this growing relationship. Pupils have visited the church on a number of occasions, for workshops and worship.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals have continued. These occasional offices are significant public events which, as well as serving the personal needs of those involved, create a major connection with the wider community.

Our regular pattern of services has continued under the leadership of Reverend Canon David Isaac (up to Candlemas), Reverend Jill Phipps and Licenced Lay Minister Stephen Campion. In May Revd Fiona Grove was installed as the Rector of the Benefice. This year has seen the continued inclusion of the Lay worship team leading services following their commissioning in St Nicholas Church Wickham.

All are welcome to attend all our services. There were 63 on the Electoral Roll in March 2025 (76 March 2024). This significant change was due to a statutory revision of the Electoral Roll that happens periodically. The average weekly attendance for services was 63 (61 in 2024) with the October count in the parish being 39 (36 in 2024). Remembrance Sunday service saw 116 (162 in 2024) worshipping with us and over the Christmas period we had 688 people (1027 in 2024) attending both school and church services.

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As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. During this year we have celebrated 9 baptisms (5 in 2024), 8 weddings (5 in 2024) and 12 funerals (14 in 2024). The ministry team have also officiated at the Parish Council cemetery and interment of ashes services in the church's memorial garden. Members of the ministry team have also led funerals at local crematoria.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is firmly embedded in the culture of this church. It is everybody's responsibility, not just the Churchwardens and PCC. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (Julia Jordan) ensures that all those who need DBS checks have those completed. Anybody who is required to have a DBS check is required to do some Safeguarding training dependent on their role that is usually online but can be done in person if sufficient numbers warrant a visit from one of the diocesan safeguarding training team. In the wake of the Makin report and other incidents involving the Church of England, the diocese has a policy of all required training being completed six months following their appointment or DBS checks.

Deanery Synod

The Bishops Waltham deanery has been led by the Area Dean Reverend Canon David Isaac and Lay Chair Paul Quinn (Hambledon). From May 2025 onwards Reverend James Hunt became the Area Dean and Reverend Fiona Grove, Assistant Area Dean with Lay Chair remaining, Paul Quinn. As part of the Deanery Plan, an application for central church funding was granted for the development of the diocesan vision, Renew, Revive, Revitalise. As a result, it was possible to begin the process of appointing additional priests to serve in the deanery. Lay leadership training, which was successfully started in our benefice by Reverend Canon David Isaac, is being developed in the wider in the diocese. Chris Glover has filled the second Deanery Synod place allocated to our parish.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Canon David Isaac, Reverend Fiona Grove, Reverend Jill Phipps and Mr Stephen Campion (our PtO Licenced Lay Reader) have visited all church members who have requested it. Home Communion has remained an important ministry enabled by a team of Home Communion Visitors.

Mission and Evangelism

Mission and evangelism are priorities for the ministry team. Links with St John the Baptist Primary School, Fairlands Nursery and Shedfield Lodge are strengthening however Shedfield Lodge remains difficult to connect with despite multiple attempts. Reverend Fiona will try again in the coming year. PCC members are encouraged to engage in thinking about how the church's outreach can be broadened across the three villages in the parish. We reach all members of the parish through the parish magazine which has been online and delivered all year. We have a weekly email bulletin which goes out to 94 addresses.

The monthly Parish Lunch and Tuesdays@10 continue to be popular. Two new initiatives have taken off: Lego Lunch Club and Mindful Stitchers. Lego Lunch Club meets in the school holidays and half-terms and has proved very popular. Mindful Stitchers meets monthly in the Study Centre for conversation and crafting. Very many thanks to the volunteers who lead these activities and those who assist.

The re-branded Shedfield Shindig continues to be popular in the parish with the move from June to September. It is planned to have it on 5th September 2026.

Ecumenical Relationships

We have well established links with the local Methodist church.

The Church Fabric

Expenditure on the church building was £1,936 (2024: £3,000). This expenditure was mainly for routine maintenance and architect fees associated with the faculty application for the restoration of the bells. All of the items in the last quinquennial report have been completed. The bells require restoration and re-hanging. The

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estimated cost is in the region of £80,000. There is a long-term concern about the main roof of the church that will need work at some stage, and we are aware that the current resources are insufficient for any repair.

The Churchyard

The churchyard team have gone from strength to strength, and it is apparent to anybody the amount of work and effort that has been invested in looking after the churchyard sympathetically. All the 499 graves have been re-mapped. The expenditure on the churchyard was £639 (2024: £2,627) for footpath repairs and general maintenance.

The Study Centre

The Study Centre income and activities have increased in 2025. This year has seen income from the Study Centre of £18,997 (2024: £13,666). The Study Centre Management Committee led by Mr Brian Southon looks after the day-to-day management and bookings. The PCC is most grateful to Brian and the committee for all the work they have done to keep the Centre going.

Financial Review

Total receipts on all funds were £111,408 (2024: £100,624): up on last year by £10,784. The planned giving has decreased by £834 to £38,787 (2024: £39,621). Membership of the Parish Giving Scheme gives the church a steadier cash flow as the Gift Aid is realised from HMRC monthly. Using the church envelopes, standing orders and gift aid envelopes requires regular submissions to HMRC to claim the refund. The Shedfield Shindig raised £2,459 (2024: £2,473). Our parish share was £40,000 (2024: £47,759). That is our largest annual commitment to the diocese which has reduced due to a diocesan consultation and review of parish share. The parish share costs the church £769 per week. We have met the cost of the parish share in full. Along with the expenses, costs for building repairs and churchyard maintenance described above and other running costs, the end of year surplus is £8,336 (2024: £8,105).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on the unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £35,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. We are significantly above this level but with the quinquennial expenses and other unforeseen events, the reserves may quickly diminish. The PCC has agreed to maintain the reserves at £40,000.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the welcoming community it is. There are too many individuals to pick out for special mention so thank you to all for your continued commitment and support.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St John the Baptist the membership consists of the Incumbent (our vicar), Churchwardens, the Licensed Lay Minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services and members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Please speak to Ms Sarah Weston for information about the Electoral Roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC, and all have received training on the responsibilities of being a trustee.

The PCC met 9 times during the year 2025 with an average attendance of 78%. The Standing Committee, composed of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer and Fabric Officer, met six times and has the authority from the PCC to spend up to £1,000 without referring to PCC. Any spending decision must be reported to the PCC at the next meeting.

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Administrative information

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Reverend Canon David Isaac (until February 2025)	
Reverend Fiona Grove	Vicar (From May 2025)
Adrian Jordan	Churchwarden, Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council
Carol Hotchkiss	Churchwarden
Trina Hillier	Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod
Julia Jordan	Verger, Benefice Safeguarding Officer
Jenny Barker	Buildings and Fabric Officer
Chris Glover	Deanery Synod (from May 2025)
Andrew Golding	Treasurer
Gill Hamill	
Brian Southon	Study Centre
Ann Stone	
Ian Treveil	H&S Officer
Tanya Tye-Reeve	Foundation Governor, St John the Baptist School
Rosemary Yeoman	Secretary

Looking Forward

The Study Centre business has increased in 2025 and current activity should continue. The increase in energy prices and general global instability is having effects nationally and internationally and we are not immune to these events. The church gas and electricity contracts had to be renewed towards the end of 2024 so there was an increase in the cost of utilities in 2025.

The Standing Committee and PCC shall continue to hold their meetings and so the routine business of the church will continue. There is no outstanding work to be completed from the quinquennial report. Existing funds should cover most eventualities and our efforts at fundraising continue with the Shedfield Shindig in September 2026.

The major expenditure looking forward will be the restoration of the bells. This project will cost in the region of £80,000. Funds are beginning to come in for this project with a generous legacy of £5,000 and a generous donation of £7,000 beginning to bring in funds for this project. A concerted effort to raise money for the bells will have to take place in 2026. The Listed Places of Worship Scheme was supposed to close on 31st March 2026 but has closed early so we cannot reclaim the VAT on any project going forwards.

The PCC concentrated on mission opportunities in 2025. The Lego Lunch Club that launched in February 2024 has proved successful as has Mindful Stitchers that meets monthly. The PCC is always looking for other opportunities to build connections between the church and the community.

A concern going forwards is succession planning. Both of the Churchwardens have served for well over the allotted 6 years due to the suspension of the rule limiting churchwardens to a maximum of 6 years by the Meeting of Parishioners a few years ago. As a church we need to encourage others to step forward to serve in these roles and be encouraged to join the PCC to learn about church governance.

The lack of a parish administrator has put an additional burden on the clergy and churchwardens. We are most grateful that Mrs Jane Goulson, the parish administrator in Wickham, has taken on the responsibility for co-ordinating baptisms, weddings and funerals across the benefice. In 2026 it is hoped that we will recruit a benefice administrator who will work out of the office in the Study Centre.

On behalf of the Shedfield P.C.C.



Incumbent

10th March 2026

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC
Year ended 31st December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Giving and donations	3	44,996	5,858	---	50,854	50,682
Income from activities	4	54,380	1,753	---	56,133	45,652
Investment income		4,421	---	---	4,421	4,290
Total Income		103,797	7,611	---	111,408	100,624
Cost of generating funds	5	4,726	---	---	4,726	3,522
Charitable activities	6	96,657	144	---	96,801	95,694
Total Costs		101,383	144	---	101,527	99,216
(Deficit)/Surplus		2,414	7,467	---	9,881	1,408
Change in market value	7	(1,576)	---	31	(1,545)	6,697
Net movement in funds		838	7,467	31	8,336	8,105
Fund balance brought forward		132,509	1,293	1,259	135,061	126,956
Fund balance carried forward		133,347	8,760	1,290	143,397	135,061
<i>Represented by</i>						
Unrestricted						
General Fund		117,116	---	---	117,116	115,865
Designated						
Old Tower		4,808	---	---	4,808	5,000
Parish Magazine		11,423	---	---	11,423	11,644
Bell restoration fund		---	7,467	---	7,467	---
Magazine						
Restricted						
Junior Church		---	1,123	---	1,123	1,123
Un-named (Graves)		---	170	---	170	170
Endowment						
Stanley Grave Trust		---	---	1,290	1,290	1,259
		133,347	8,760	1,290	143,397	135,061

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Balance Sheet
Year ended 31st December 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Current Assets	8		
	Investments (CCLA)	101,646	103,222
	Barclays Communities Account	1,244	6,234
	Barclays Deposit Account	24,686	10,134
	Lloyds Current Account (Magazine)	11,161	11,616
	Gift Aid/VAT debtor	1,190	1,065
	9 Stanley Grave Trust (Endowment)	1,290	1,259
	Account Receivable	6,626	4,576
	Prepayments	---	1,260
Total Current Assets		147,843	139,366
Liabilities			
	Accruals	650	300
	Agency collections	253	228
	Magazine Pre-paid Advertising	3,543	3,777
Total Liabilities		4,446	4,305
Net Asset Surplus		143,397	135,061
Represented by Funds:			
Unrestricted		117,116	115,865
Designated		16,231	16,644
Restricted		8,760	1,293
Endowment		1,290	1,259
Total		143,397	135,061

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 9 to 12 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Revd Fiona Grove

Incumbent


.....
Mr Andrew Golding

Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No.1156459.

Accounting Policy. The basis of preparation of the accounts is prepared on the accruals basis.

1. Funds

The General Fund represents funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for all general or planned purposes of the PCC. Donations, and fundraising events made or carried out for restricted purposes will be categorised as Restricted Funds and may only be applied to the purposes for which those funds were raised or donated. Endowment Funds allow for income from such funds to be applied without restriction; however, the capital is not normally available for use.

The accounts include monetary transactions, and monetary assets and liabilities, for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following types of assets are not valued in the Balance Sheet but are insured by the PCC for replacement:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

The following assets are recognised, and a monetary value given as part of the Statement of Financial Activity and are identified in the Balance Sheet:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue (Gift Aid) where a formal claim can be made.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December.

Closing bank and cash balances reflecting the PCC funds balances as shown in the Balance Sheet.

The following liabilities are included in the Balance Sheet and are also identified in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced or costs are known or estimated by 31 December, principally charges for gas and electricity.

Amounts raised/donated/collected for special purposes before 31st December not paid to beneficiaries by that date ("Agency Collections").

Parish Magazine advertising charges received before 31st December for publications after that date until the end of the magazine advertising cycle.

Any loans made to the PCC where the loans are repayable at any future date (none at present).

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2025

3. **Principal sources of voluntary income**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Collections/envelopes	6,312	4,685
Standing orders	8,672	10,502
Parish Giving Scheme	23,803	24,434
One-off donations (baptisms, weddings etc.)	375	200
Gift Aid	5,644	9,039
Legacies	5,000	---
Other	1,048	1,822
Total	50,854	50,682

4. **Income from activities**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wedding/funeral fees	6,228	4,150
Fees for others	9,430	8,130
Parish Magazine	10,525	10,295
Shedfield Shindig	2,459	2,473
Lunch Club	3,203	2,466
Tuesdays@10	219	---
Study Centre hire	12,837	10,695
Study Centre catering	6,160	2,971
Other income	1,856	3,558
Listed Places of Worship VAT refund	3,216	914
Total	56,133	45,652

5. **Cost of Generating Funds**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Study Centre catering	1,872	1,056
Tuesdays@10	39	---
Lunch Club	2,669	2,147
Lego Lunch Club	146	319
Total	4,726	3,522

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2025

6. **Charitable Activities**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Parish Share	40,000	47,759
Honoraria and bookkeeping	3,800	3,800
Ministry Team Expenses	1,757	110
Fees Paid	9,096	6,979
Church Insurance	3,650	2,884
Church Repairs	1,936	3,000
Churchyard Upkeep	639	2,627
Church Utilities	2,907	1,925
Parish Magazine	10,746	11,212
Study Centre Repairs	5,791	---
Study Centre Maintenance	---	1,064
Study Centre Utilities	3,071	1,985
Study Centre Insurance	923	721
Study Centre Cleaning	5,112	5,012
Office costs	3,164	2,067
Flowers	524	330
Old Tower Costs	192	192
Other	3,493	4,027
Total	96,801	95,694

7. **Change in Market Value**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment Reserve	(1,576)	6,660
The Stanley Grave Trust	31	37
Change in market value	(1,545)	6,697

8. **Investments with CCLA**

The following investments are held with CCLA.

All the units held are designated "CBF-CoE" and are Income Units

Fund	Holding Units	Cost	2025	2024
		£	£	£
CoE Property	44,181.44	1.2319	54,736	54,427
CoE Global Equity	11,927.96	3.2154	36,212	38,353
Fixed Interest	7,002.39	1.4912	10,698	10,442
Total			101,646	103,222

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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9. **The Stanley Grave Trust** is an endowment fund consisting of 844 Fixed Interest Units.

Fund	Fixed Interest Units	2025 £	2024 £
Stanley Grave Trust	844	1,290	1,259

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 7 - 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 included 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 any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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3/5/26

