



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Parish of St. Bartholomew's
Wickham Bishops with
St. Nicholas' Little Braxted

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING**

Sunday 26th April 2026

at 12 noon

in St. Bartholomew's

Church Hall



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcome to the Annual Report for the year 2025

The agenda for the meeting, together with last year's minutes are available as separate documents, along with the Accounts and nominations for the election of PCC members and Churchwardens.

Our thanks go to all who have contributed to this report.

Thanks too to those who have given so generously of their time and skills in supporting the work of our two churches during a second challenging year of interregnum.

There are many unsung heroes to thank, not least our flower ladies, those who clean the church, look after our altar linen, make the coffee, manage our numerous rotas and many more!

Additional volunteers are always welcome..

THANK YOU
volunteers



Index

	Page Number
Administrative information	4
PCC Members and Officers	5 - 6
Electoral Roll	7
Vice Chairman's Report	8 - 9
PCC Report	10
Clergy cover during vacancy	11
Safeguarding	12 - 13
Deanery Synod	14 - 15
Fabric Report	16 - 17
Finance	18 - 19
Worship <i>inc. Choir and St. Nicholas</i>	19 - 23
Pastoral	24
<i>Including Drop-in</i>	25
Community	26 - 27
Discipleship	28 - 29
Fundraising and Social	30 - 31
Edward Bear	32 - 33
Guardians	34
Contacts	35

Administrative Information

The Parish of St Bartholomew Wickham Bishops with St Nicholas Little Braxted is situated in the Witham Deanery, part of the Diocese of Chelmsford. It has responsibility for two principal places of worship - St Bartholomew's Church, the Parish Church, which is situated in Church Road, Wickham Bishops and St Nicholas Little Braxted. St Nicholas is situated in Witham Road, Little Braxted. Information about the churches in Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted is also available at - www.churchinwickhambishops.org.uk and also on A Church near You website

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted is a Registered Charity No. 1159874.

Witham Deanery is undergoing a period of transition and strategic engagement focused on sustaining ministry and mission beyond 2026. The restructure has been in process for 2 years and can only come into practice when the Legal process has taken place.

The Parish has been in interregnum since April 2024 and with the restructure we are now moving into a United Benefice of 18 parishes. Within that Benefice we are part of a new 'Cluster' of churches called the Beacon Parishes. This comprises, our two churches, Great Totham, Little Totham and Goldhanger. There will be 4 clusters within the 18 parish Benefice, each with a full-time stipendiary priest.

The new priest may reside either in the Wickham Bishops Rectory or the Great Totham Rectory. The post will come under the leadership of a Team Rector who will be based in Tiptree. We will also have the

services of a paid Benefice Administrator who will take on enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

Geraldine Spearman
PCC Secretary

PCC Members

Officers as at January 2026

Priest in Charge:	Vacant
Priest with Permission to Officiate:	Revd. Derek Clark
Churchwardens:	Vacant Position x 2

Elected Representatives

To April 2026

John Baker
Kate Dawson

To April 2027

Dorothy Kerr
Maggie Drewett
Barry Cousins
Elizabeth Joslin
Graham Wingrove

To April 2028

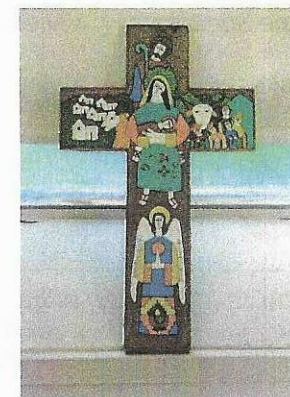
Graham Spearman
Francine Cope (Standing down 2026)

Ex-officio

Geraldine Spearman - PCC Secretary

Deanery Synod Reps

Christine Bealer
John Gilbert (standing down 2026)

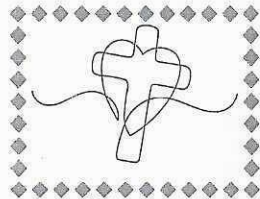


Other Officers

PCC Vice-Chair & Treasurer:	Graham Spearman
Safeguarding Officer:	Brian Joslin
Safeguarding Training:	Francine Cope
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mary Brown
Deputy Churchwarden:	Graham Wingrove
Pastoral Assistant:	Christine Bealer

Sidespersons:

Kath Adkins	Norma Hayward	Kate Dawson
Lester Firkins	Dorothy Kerr	Stuart Parish
Wendy Firkins	John Kerr	John Wratten
Francine Cope	Denise Yelland	Dick Yelland
Geraldine Spearman	Vivienne Lodge	
Chris Baker	Allan Baker	



If you're interested in becoming a Sidesperson or reading one of the lessons at the services, please speak to Dorothy Kerr.

Electoral Roll

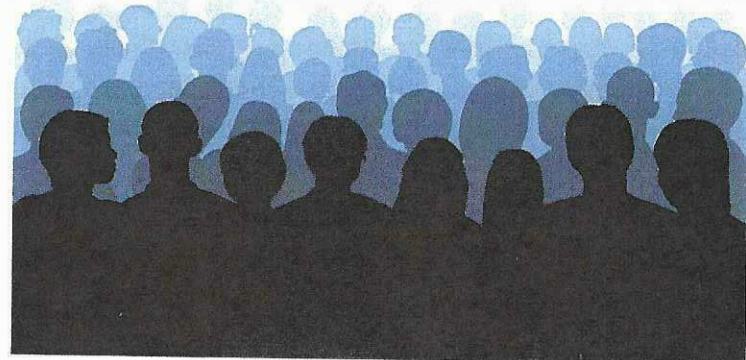
This is Year2 of the fully revised Electoral Roll and requires that all members are contacted to ascertain whether they wish to remain for 2026. No form filling this year. Emails/some letters were sent out, and some phone calls were made. I am grateful for the speedy responses.

In total there are 98 people on the 2026 Church Electoral Roll; of these 74 live in the Parish, and 24 are non-resident.

One member requested removal from the Electoral Roll and one member has sadly died during the last year. Three of the members who did not return their form last year (and were removed from the 2025 Roll) have asked to be reinstated, and their forms have now been received.

Thank you to everyone for your co-operation in preparing The Roll for 2026.

Mary Brown, Electoral Roll Officer



Vice Chairman's Report

Whilst I am writing this report I must acknowledge that I have only held this role since November 2025. I wish to thank my predecessor John Gilbert for all his hard work and contributions during most of 2025.

Well here we are 2 years having passed without an Incumbent.

I hope everyone agrees that we have done well in maintaining our pattern of worship which is what the PCC agreed following Reverend Hilary's retirement. This is largely down to Barry Cousins and an extraordinary amount of effort he puts in to find clergy to officiate. Please see Barry's report on this topic. I wish to re-iterate his thanks to Reverend Derek who has enabled us to continue with our Eucharistic services at St Bartholomew's. It is great for us that Derek has indicated that he is prepared to continue with the same arrangements.

Unfortunately Barry's job is getting increasingly difficult. Two clergy have been lost from the Deanery, Reverend Ann- Marie Renshaw and Reverend Natasha McMichael having moved away to new posts in other parts of the country. This will be compounded with Rev Noah Cockett applying for posts now that he is coming to the end of his Curacy at St Nicolas Witham. Hence there are fewer clergy to call on.

As well as our services we have maintained our Bible Study Groups, Womens Christian Fellowship, Drop In and Edward Bear. We need to recognise and thank all those who work so hard to enable these events to happen.

The proposed new Benefice of 18 Parishes, 19 Churches, seems to be moving very slowly. In early March we received from the Diocese the

Draft Proposals for creation of the new Benefice to be known as "the Blackwater Benefice." Views on the draft proposal are asked to be forwarded to Canon Nathan Whitehead at the Diocese as soon as possible and not later than midnight on 8 May 2026.

If anybody wants to know more please talk to me.

I can also advise that the vacancy for Team Rector Designate, to be based at Tiptree, is now being advertised.

The advertisement for a Team Vicar for our Cluster, to be known as the Beacon Cluster was due to be published in March.

We are meeting with the other three Parishes in our Cluster and thanks to Maggie Drewett who has started a monthly prayer group as well as a Prayer Chain for our own Parish.

Where we are now is only because there are so many people who have contributed a lot of effort so often quietly in the background I am reluctant to name names because inevitably I will miss someone out. You all know who you are so thank you.

Whilst I must acknowledge my bias, we really do need to say a huge thank you to our PCC Secretary, Geraldine. She has worked very hard on all the Parish administration for the past two years. Hopefully some of this is going to be taken on by the Administrator of the current Blackwater Group. That said we have some reservations because of the lack of local knowledge which is so often necessary.

We do not know what the future holds but I do think that we have a healthy and supportive congregation as well as being recognised in the village community. Whatever happens in the coming months your PCC will do it all it can to sustain our Parish Life.

Graham Spearman
Vice-Chairman



PCC Report

The PCC members are Charity Trustees and have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the church is solvent and well run. Our Electoral Roll membership in 2025 entitled our Parish to 9 laity PCC members plus 2 Deanery Synod Reps. Rev. Derek Clark and Secretary Geraldine are both ex-officio members. The post of Churchwarden remains vacant. The Standing Committee, which decides on the PCC agenda items, is comprised of the Chair, Secretary, Pastoral Assistant and Deputy Churchwarden. Rev. Hilary retired in April 2024 and the Parish has been in interregnum since this time.

We have had our usual PCC meetings six times this year with the addition of extra ones to discuss the proposed re-organisation and re-structure of the Benefice. These included attendance from Bishop Roger, the Area Dean and Archdeacons. John Gilbert valiantly stepped in as Vice-Chair, in the absence of a Priest in Charge and latterly, Graham Spearman has taken the Vice-Chair's role.

Safeguarding and Finances are standard agenda items for discussion along with reports from the 4 committees. The Parish Safeguarding Officer has attended meetings to give regular updates. The re-structure has understandably become the focus of some of our meetings and the changes that are ahead, as we move into the new Beacon Parish cluster of 5 churches and the 18 Parish Benefice. We have tried to maintain 'business as usual' and PCC members have taken on additional responsibilities to ensure that services and other activities could continue without too much disruption to our church life. PCC members have also been invited to attend additional meetings of the Cluster, the Benefice and presentations of the new structure plans and the Legal aspects required.

We are hoping to benefit from the services of one of the Benefice Administrators to take on some of the tasks which currently are

carried out by myself as PCC Secretary. This will come into place once the funding of the role has been confirmed.

The PCC is to be thanked for their increased workload and commitment during this time and thanks again to members for their support and patience throughout 2025.

Geraldine Spearman
PCC Secretary



CLERGY COVER DURING VACANCY

Thank You We approach a third year in Vacancy; it is two years ago that Rev Hilary moved on into retirement! We have been blessed with many and various ordained ministers, both serving and retired who have valiantly stepped up to maintain our regular and occasional services. We are and remain extremely grateful for their services week in and week out. [and I'm not sure that many if any, have claimed their fiscal dues]. The list is quite long, and most would not want to see their names in print, but I believe that there are a few stalwarts that deserve to be honoured for their unstinting and regular support. Sparing his blushes we must especially thank Rev Derek for his valiant support dashing from an earlier service at Ulting Sunday after Sunday. Very regular support has come from other retired priests, especially Rev John Chandler and Rev Rose Braisby.

There are many others currently in service in the Diocese. Archdeaconry and Area Deanery who have provided frequent and/or occasional support in their busy lives – we are grateful for their continuing help and happily polish their halos!

Barry Cousins



Safeguarding

Norma Hayward had worked for many years as the Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Bartholomew's Wickham Bishops with St Nicholas Little Braxted. I am very grateful to Norma for the guidance that she continues to give to me as her successor in that role.

The Church of England (CofE) prioritizes safeguarding as an integral part of its mission, aiming to create a safer church for children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Key measures include robust policies, mandatory training, safer recruitment (DBS checks), and collaboration with statutory authorities. The National Safeguarding Team oversees these, with local responsibility held by parishes.

My role as a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to:

- *Work closely with the incumbent (and in the absence of an incumbent, the PCC) to advise within the parish on all safeguarding matters relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults;*
- *Receive, with the incumbent, any concerns about children or adults in the parish and make sure that proper advice is sought and proper referrals are made;*
- *Report all matters relating to concerns and allegations of abuse against church officers, in liaison with the incumbent, to the DSA [Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser] who will liaise with the statutory agencies, as required. Concerns about the incumbent should be raised directly with the DSA;*
- *Ensure that any ex-offenders with offences against children or vulnerable adults known to be in the church community are notified to the DSA and contribute to managing Safeguarding Agreements;*
- *Promote safer practices in all activities and make any recommendations required taking into account the particular arrangements of the parish;*

- *Seek to ensure that Safer Recruitment practice is followed, with the support of diocese.*
- *Attend diocesan safeguarding training at least every three years;*
- *Maintain safeguarding records;*
- *Complete national, diocesan and parish safeguarding self-assessments as required;*
- *Contribute to the annual review of parish safeguarding arrangements;*

I regularly report on safeguarding in the parish. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting.

I am also responsible for:

Being the DBS Administrator [within the Diocese of Chelmsford we use the term Registered Recruiter]

Supporting other church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults;

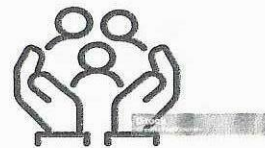
Providing or arranging provision of safeguarding training safeguarding learning and development modules for parish workers (both volunteers and paid staff, in liaison with Francine Cope..

Displayed around the Churches in Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted are a variety of safeguarding posters which give contact details for safeguarding concerns. I try to ensure that these are kept up to date.

Each of the two churches has a supply (on prominent display) of our Safeguarding Policy and Useful contact details for safeguarding – contacts both within and outside the Church of England.

The Diocese of Chelmsford has a Safeguarding Dashboard which I regularly access to ensure that the policies and procedures we have in place are regularly reviewed and brought up to date.

Brian Joslin
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Deanery Synod

A deanery is part of the governance structure of the Church of England, linking to the Diocesan Synod and to General Synod through elected representatives. Meetings are chaired by the Rural Dean, in our case Rev. Simon Garwood and a Lay Chair, Simon May. Synod meetings are held up to four times a year and regular business includes updates on the Deanery's Parish Share payments, events and activities in the Parishes and perhaps a session on a matter of interest. A report of the latest meeting of the General Synod can also be circulated.

The word "synod" comes from a Greek word meaning "assembly" or "meeting".

A Deanery Synod consists of all the clergy licensed to a Benefice/parish within the Deanery and elected lay members - each parish is allocated a number of lay places on the Deanery Synod based on the size of their electoral roll. Deanery Synod members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to serve a three-year term.

What does a Deanery Synod do?

The Deanery Synod makes decisions at a deanery level. It acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish and the synod of the diocese as a whole. Deaneries also have the power to bring proposals and motions to Diocesan Synod for debate.

What do Deanery Synod lay members do?

Deanery Synod members are invited to attend four Deanery Synod meetings per year. These are held at various locations in the Deanery, and are generally approximately two hours long. The agenda and papers about matters to be discussed are circulated to members in advance. Some decisions are put to the vote. Deanery Synod members are also automatically members of their parish's Parochial Church Council (PCC), and so attend those meetings as well.

During the last year, presentations at our Deanery meetings were as follows:

February 11th 2025 :

Introduction to the Strategic Mission & Ministry Investment Board by Wendy Lidgate.

Deanery Plan Restructuring presentation by Rev.A-M Renshaw

June 18th 2025:

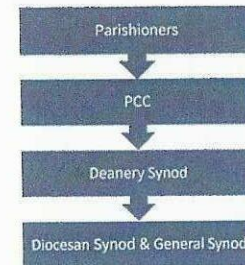
Developing Lay Ministry by Caroline Harding

Progress on the new Central Benefice

October 22nd 2025:

Generosity, Giving & Diocesan Support by Michelle Cottis & Becky Hills. Update on the New Central Benefice

Christine Bealer & John Gilbert



Fabric

After the extensive redecoration of St Bartholomew's completed by Baker's last year, activity levels have been quieter.

Rick Smith stepped down as Chairman of the Fabric Committee in January, his contributions were deeply valued.

In May, the Committee welcomed Allan Baker who assumed the role and has proven to be a great asset.

John Popham, a valued member of the Fabric Committee, sadly passed away this year. His kindness and active participation greatly benefited the church and community.

....Fabric Report
continued



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S - June 8th saw the return of the superb biennial Wickham Bishops Garden Festival and the Garden Festival Concert held in September. In November proceeds from the festival funded the porch renovation. The porch along with three doors were stained and treated by Ollies Garden Services, greatly enhancing the entrance's appearance. The light at the front entrance of the porch was also replaced. During last year's interior refurbishment works the choir stall heaters were disconnected. Sigma restored the connection earlier this year and the heaters are working again. The fan heaters in the church hall stopped working because of a faulty switch, however Sigma repaired the switch and the heaters are back in operation. Drainage/Foul water - Following Jiggin's annual inspection of the pump and chamber a fault in the float stop was located and a temporary rig installed, the replacement float was installed in February. Following the Open Gardens event in June a routine cleaning of the pump chamber and jetting of pipes was carried out; however a tangled lead was left in the high-level pump chamber causing a false alarm, this was remedied by Jiggins. The cleaning of the gulleys and valleys was deemed necessary as they tended to become blocked and overflow causing dampness to penetrate the walls. This year it was arranged for DNPS Building Contractors to carry out an inspection and clean the gulleys and valleys twice a year. There had been problems with the pulpit light. When the pulpit light was turned on the lights in the

vestry went out. The fuse was removed and a temporary LED portable light used instead. The light has been fixed by Sigma with replaced circuitry and reflector. Lighting protection, PAT testing, and fire extinguisher inspections were all completed in 2025.

The Community Payback team do a splendid job in keeping the churchyard grounds tidy. Beth Lunn from the Probation Service annually reviews the documentation to ensure a thorough and up to date risk assessment. This year the new agreement form was written in more detail, Beth Lunn forwarded the documents to the Fabric Committee for review. The Memorandum of Understanding and Risk Assessment were reviewed and agreed by the Fabric Committee Meeting and then forwarded to the PCC for sign off and approval at the October 2025 meeting.

The maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard is managed by dedicated volunteers, who are organised on a rota by Dick Yelland. Additionally, two scheduled clean-up efforts in March and November have ensured that the area remains well-kept and presentable. Also undertaken this year was the cutting back of the laurels along the border of the neighbouring property at the rear of the church.

ST NICHOLAS - The replacement Corona at St Nicholas was completed last year and a Dedication Service held December 2024 at the carol service. Quinquennial inspection undertaken by Hilary Brightman. Quotations for works have been received, and Lodge and Sons will be recommended to the PCC. Rainwater hopper/valley and gutter clearing carried out by DNPS twice a year. Works to collapsing gravestone have been completed.

Thanks go to Jonathan Aldis for keeping the church grounds in good order.

Maggie Grice
Committee Secretary



Finance Report

For a full report please see the published accounts.

There are some important points to be reiterated in this report.

Once again we did not pay our Parish Share in full. The amount paid was £41,000 down from £46,000 paid last year. Unfortunately, due to ill health as well as other changes the Magazine Advertising income was significantly reduced which together with a small reduction in planned giving our overall income to General Funds was lower. The PCC remember that Parish Share is an entirely voluntary contribution. Unfortunately the Diocese are saying that if Parish Share is not met in years to come then the number of clergy will have to be reduced.

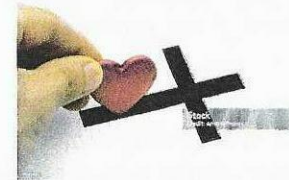
Another major cost is maintenance of the Fabric. The Quinquennial report for St Nicholas was undertaken last year and having obtained three quotes, we have instructed Lodge and Sons to undertake the work. When we redecorated St Bartholomew's we were able to reclaim the VAT. That scheme has now been withdrawn by the current Government so we are going to have to pay an additional 20% from the St Nicholas Fabric Fund. Luckily, that fund has benefitted from a generous bequest so there are sufficient funds to pay the bill.

I am pleased to report that both Restricted funds are in a relatively healthy state. St Bartholomew's fabric fund benefitted significantly from the Gardens Festival and once again thank you to Stewart Adkins and his committee. I understand that the event will take place again in 2027 under the Chairmanship of Wendy Wallace.

Once again I must express my thanks to John Baker for his continuing work as Gift Aid Secretary which reduces my workload. John's efforts have resulted in an additional £10,860.

Furthermore John has stepped up to deal with the Magazine Advertising revenue for this year. John, as my predecessor in this role, has also been of great support and guidance as a Mentor. To close thank you all for your giving but please keep the amount you contribute under review. If anyone would like to join the Parish Giving Scheme please come and talk to me.

Graham Spearman
Treasurer



Worship

The Service Planning Group consists of a small group of people who have continued to try and work together to take the lead in arranging the service schedule and content for the two churches in our parish, whilst the search for a new team vicar continues. They are;

Choir and Music lead for St Bartholomew's Church - Graham Spearman.

Morning Praise Lead - Lester Firkins

Morning Praise Music Lead - Ben Southgate

Acting Deputy Church Warden - Graham Wingrove

Authorised Local Preachers - Barry Cousins, Elizabeth Joslin, John Gilbert and Christine Bealer

Having only met twice during the last year the group have remained united in maintaining the usual consistent pattern of Eucharistic and non Eucharistic services (8am and 10.30am at St Bartholomew's Church in Wickham Bishops and 9am on third Sundays at St Nicholas' Church in Little Braxted, previously offered before the interregnum started.

In order to accomplish this pattern, our sincere and grateful thanks go to Barry Cousins, who continues to devote many hours looking for and chasing down priests to cover our Eucharistic services. Special thanks also goes to Rev Derek Clark, who has consistently found his way up to St Bartholomew's Church on several Sunday mornings each month, quietly joining us part way through the service to take the Celebrant role for our Eucharistic services. Without his support, we would have found it very difficult indeed, if not entirely impossible, to continue our usual pattern of services.

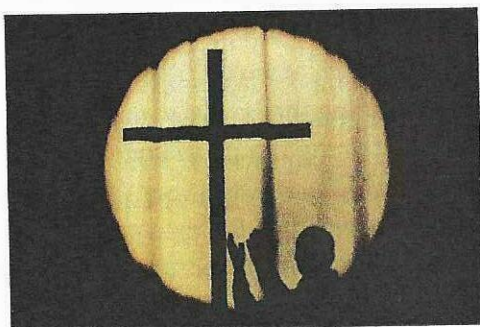
Graham Spearman, has also, amongst his many other duties, been tireless in acquiring organist support - special thanks go to Richard Overill, Gillian Ward-Russell and Stuart Wilks for their ongoing support.

The changes made earlier in the interregnum will continue, as we endeavour to make our Eucharistic services more welcoming and accessible to those who are immune-suppressed or otherwise medically vulnerable, or have mobility issues and find navigating steps difficult.

As we continue to bring God's word to the inhabitants of our village, we are mindful to try and welcome the very youngest newcomers into our church family and look forward very much to the future and/or the new challenges and changes that may bring.

Christine Bealer

Chair - Worship Committee



Choir



As a reminder this is how I opened last year's report. "The purpose of the Choir is to lead the congregation in Worship. That may be either leading the hymns and Eucharist settings or performing a piece of music to lift the congregation."

The Choir continued to provide leadership throughout the year and also sung an Anthem on Easter Sunday as well as providing a service of 9 Lessons and Carols at Christmas. This was, as ever, well supported by the village with a congregation of about 120. This was only achieved with the help of visiting singers to augment the regular choir and visiting musicians to play and conduct.

Once again I must express our thanks to Steven Rumsey who took numerous practices, particularly for the Christmas and Easter music.

I would also like to express my thanks to our visiting Organists, Stuart Wilks, Richard Overill, Gillian Ward-Russell, Jonathan Turner and Brian Fletcher who played for our 9 Lessons and Carols service. I should also say Thank you to Jayne Jennings who plays at St Nicholas and from time to time at St Bartholomew's.

The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) who have sadly disbanded area committees and so area events. However, Emma Gibbins, Director of Music at Chelmsford Cathedral, organise a Diocesan Choral Evensong Festival which a few of us attended in 2025. This event is being repeated in May and a few of us will be attending again.

I make no apology for repeating what I said last year. Sacred music at Parish level is sadly in decline and I am very pleased that at St Bartholomew's we have, so far, been able to maintain the

tradition which is a major part of our culture. There was a most enlightening article by the Precentor of Chester Cathedral on the importance of music in Worship in Parish Churches as well as Cathedrals. If anyone would like to read it please ask me for the article.

It is an ongoing challenge to find musicians to play and singers to sing for our regular services as well as at major festivals. So, if any one would like to sing or play or knows people in the village who sing and or play please contact me.

Graham Spearman - 07721 505296



St. Nicholas

ST NICHOLAS' LITTLE BRAXTED in the parish of Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted.

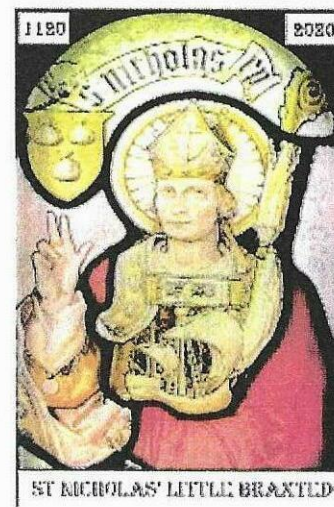
The Parish continues to maintain this ancient and spectacular church in both structure and for worship. The building is designated as a Chapel of Ease with a licence as a wedding venue. During this Interregnum or 'Vacancy', services of HolyCommunion using the Prayer Book style of 1662 have been maintained, monthly and, as a 'Festival Church' additional worship and praise has been offered at special times such as Good Friday, Easter Sunday, St Nicholas' Day and at Christmastide.

For the regular monthly services congregation members come mainly from Gt Totham, some from Wickham Bishops with others from Chelmsford and Witham. It is noticeable that there are no, or hardly ever worshippers from the civic parish of Little Braxted although there may be one or two on the Electoral Roll.

Thanks are due to the many and various 'stand-in priests' who preside at our services while the parish remains in Vacancy. We are extremely grateful to Jayne Jennings for playing the organ at both regular and special services. Many thanks Jayne! The church is always decked out with fresh flowers, and we must thank Elsie who continues to supply them despite moving to Great Totham and having to rely on taxis or lifts. Elsie and Donald also ensure a Poppy display for Remembrance time and have provided a wonderful array of strings of battery lights for the Patronal Festival, the mid-week Carol Service and Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

The church is clearly well known across the globe for its decoration and wall paintings and remains open most days of the week. It is evident from the Visitor Book that there is a continuous flow of 'pilgrims' from far and wide and especial thanks are due to Trudy and Kit for daily unlocking and locking over so many years. As they move into their new home 'up-the-road' we look forward to Beth and Daniel maintaining the family tradition as they move into the 'Hall' next door.

Barry Cousins



Pastoral

The committee supports the pastoral care in the church and local community. This includes visiting the sick, lonely and bereaved; Drop In sessions, Welcome Packs, Parish Magazine, Edward Bear, Services at Little Oaks and Home Communion.

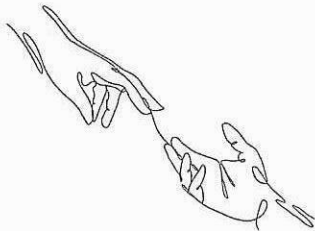
The Parish magazine has continued to be delivered to every household during the year. We were delighted to welcome Helen and Louis as the new editors after Elaine stepped down in readiness for her move. We are so thankful to her for stepping in and taking the magazine forward. We are very grateful to the willing band of helpers who ensure the delivery of the magazine and are always looking out for new people to join the ranks. Welcome packs have also been delivered to newcomers to the village by our Welcome visitors.

We once again organised the delivery of cyclamen plants to the sick and bereaved at Harvest time and these were much appreciated. We also assisted with the planning of the Service at All Souls and provided refreshments.

We continue to visit Little Oaks once a month for a short service with Holy Communion and to chat with the residents. Christine, in her role as Pastoral Assistant, does a wonderful job in regularly visiting and taking Holy Communion to many in the parish as well as supporting the Edward Bear Club at their weekly meetings.

We all, with members of our church family, try to lend support where we can to the bereaved, the elderly and those not so well.

Jayne Jennings
Chair - Pastoral Committee



Drop-in Sessions

Drop In sessions are on the second Monday of each month and are free. The Parish magazine has details and a contact number. Drop In provides refreshments, friendship and a sympathetic ear if anyone wants to talk in confidence. The Christmas party in December is always popular. There are seasonal snacks, Secret Santa presents, crackers, carols and lots more.

Attendance in 2025 was between 9 and 21. There is a dedicated and small hardworking team who have Safeguarding qualifications. Two people lead the session each month. The helpers are Geraldine, Christine, Jayne, Kate, Kath, Maggie and Sue.

Sue Clements



COMMUNITY

Foodbank

We continue to support the work of the Trussell Trust Foodbank with a permanent collection box in St. Bartholomew's and also working in conjunction with the village One Stop Shop. The Manager and staff of One Stop are very supportive, promoting the collections and providing additional items at Christmas and Easter from their Community Fund. We're very grateful to them.

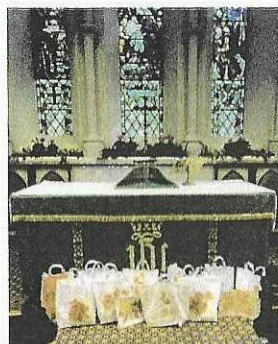
Once again there was a splendid Harvest Collection of food delivered to the church and shop by members of the congregation and the wider Parish, The children of Wickham Bishops Nursery made a special visit to the church with their Harvest gifts presented in prettily hand painted paper bags. They took part in a special prayer and were told how some people needed extra help to provide food for their families.

The food is delivered every month to the Trussell Trust



Geraldine Spearman

Warehouse in Braintree from where it is distributed to the Witham area as well as Halstead and Braintree. People can collect food parcels at the Witham Methodist Church in Guithavon Street. Vouchers are provided by GPs and Social Care providers.



Bowls Club

Another good year for the St. Bart's Outreach Bowls Club. As members are becoming a little older, the lifting of the mat is often an issue and we are looking at ways to rectify this.

The club enables people to meet and socialise, whilst learning to play bowls. There is always a break for tea, cake and chat! All are welcome. Contact Cindy or Gillian if you would like to come along and give it a try.

Hopefully we can still continue in 2026.



Cindy Baker



Discipleship



Bible Study Groups

Monday afternoon

Our Monday afternoon Bible studies continue on the first and third Mondays of the month with an attendance of between 10 and 13 regulars. Our topics are varied and we are blessed with the range of conversations and knowledge that we have from those who come along, finishing with group prayer.

Over the last year we have studied 'Journeying through Lent' from the New Daylight series of books by BRF; 'Resurrection' by Kristie Berglund; 'Advent for Everyone' by Tom Wright and now looking at 'In and Out of Caves', a Lent study written by a Methodist Minister from Nassau in the Bahamas. Do come along and join us, we would love to see you. We start at 2pm.

Gillian Wingrove and Maggie Drewett

Tuesday evening

The group meets twice a month and currently 10 people attend. All are welcome and anyone interested in attending should speak to Christine Baker for more details. We meet in a different home each time and take it in turns to facilitate the evening, although there is no requirement for anyone to offer to host or lead the group but would still like to attend.

We focus on a book of the bible. (This past year we have studied the Gospel of Mark and are currently studying Paul's Letter to the Romans). We have very wide ranging discussions relevant to our Christian lives and current events to help us in our daily living. The group is very welcoming, relaxed, friendly and open to hear everyone's views and sharing of experiences of God's goodness and our daily walk with Him.

Steve Carter



Womens Christian Fellowship

The group has had another good year with varied speakers and activities. The membership has stayed around 30 with average attendance about 20. and we have had the pleasure of a few gentlemen at meetings which have interested them.

Talks have included a local locksmith, Colchester Zoo and a speaker from The National Garden Scheme

Added to this our annual Daffodil Walk at Oliver's Garden Centre, Summer Afternoon tea and Christmas lunch.

Refreshments are always served at the end of the meetings leaving plenty of time for, tea, chat and plenty of company.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Church Hall at 2.30pm and are open to everyone.

Denise Yelland

Prayer group

In November we started a prayer group, meeting on the first Saturday in the month at different churches across the Beacon group, from 9.30am to 10am (coffee/tea from 9am). This came out of one of the meetings that the PCC had with the other churches in our new Beacon group of churches, us, and St. Nicholas with the Parish churches in Little and Gt. Totham and Goldhanger. We pray for our communities whilst getting to know each other more.

We have now launched our email prayer chain:

prayer@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk This is for anyone who wants those on the prayer chain to pray for them or their circumstance.

An addition to the prayer request cards that are in the church for folk to come in and complete. If you want to join the prayer chain then please let

Maggie Drewett know via the email address above.



Fund Raising & Social

In 2025 we were fairly active, coordinating a reasonable number of fund raising and social events, as well as making a significant contribution to the extremely successful Garden Festival in June and supporting the Concert in September.

Our three fund raisers were the Quiz in February (£536), the Spring Coffee Morning in March (around £832) and the Christmas Market in November (approximately £1,842). All were enjoyable, well supported occasions as well as financial successes.

One of our purely social events was the Harvest Festival Bring and Share Lunch in October, which was a pleasant and reasonably well attended occasion with a plentiful and varied selection of food. Next was the decoration of the Christmas Tree by the uniformed groups at the beginning of December. This was a successful evening and better supported than the previous year. Our committee provided refreshments for the young people, which were very well received, as were the seasonal ones we provided after the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols later in the month.



All in all, a good year! Our committee of eight couldn't achieve what it does without the support of others within the Church family and the wider community, for which we are most grateful. We hope we can count on that continuing throughout 2026 and that it will be an enjoyable and successful year.

Kath Adkins
Chair - Fund Raising and Social
Committee



Garden Festival & Concert

The Garden Festival, held on June 8, 2025, was a wonderful celebration of community spirit and teamwork.

We welcomed 800 visitors and raised an impressive £14,600 from the Festival itself and an additional £2559 from the associated concert held on September 20 and attended by 160 people across the two performances.



At the heart of our success were more than 80 dedicated volunteers. Their tireless efforts—whether setting up gardens, running stalls, guiding visitors, making and serving food and drinks, or organizing the Scarecrow Trail—created a warm and welcoming atmosphere that truly set our festival apart. The camaraderie and joy shared by everyone involved was inspiring, and we are deeply grateful for each volunteer's contribution.

This year, we introduced a taxi bus service and enjoyed a fantastic potting demonstration by Perrywood Garden Centre, which brought fresh interest and new faces to the event. Our ever-popular Scarecrow Trail featured over 40 imaginative entries, delighting families and visitors in the run-up to the festival. The continued support from sponsors, donors, and local residents—much of it secured before the event—was crucial in ensuring both the festival's financial success and its inclusive, welcoming spirit.

Under the leadership of incoming Chairperson, Wendy Wallace, a new committee will be formed, comprising some former committee

members and a few new faces. They will organise the next event in June 2027.

If you'd like to join the team or share your suggestions, please contact Wendy Wallace at wendydwallace146@gmail.com. Together, we can continue to grow this wonderful tradition and make the 2027 Garden Festival even more special!

Stewart Adkins

Chair of the Garden Festival Committee (2020-2025)

EDWARD BEAR CLUB

Edward Bear Club is a welcoming, energetic, and thriving group that meets at the church every Monday during term-time. Our club consists of children from birth to four years old, who attend with their special grown-up. The Club is run by Emma Turner, with help from Stella Scrivener and Christine Bealer providing the backbone of support and lead us in prayer each week.



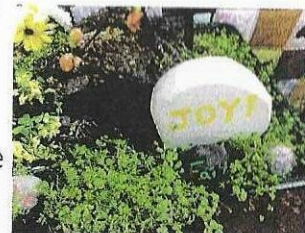
Edward Bear Club is built upon the core Christian values with emphasis on love, respect, and kindness. Each session is based upon a key theme which is structured around the Christian and wider annual calendar of events; whereby craft activity and book mirrors this theme. For example, we have celebrated National Roald Dahl day making dream catchers and marvellous potions, Martin Luther King Day in learning to love and respect everyone, story of Nativity and recently learning about the Winter Olympics with our own races and medal presentation.

The sessions are built around structure but also open play; whereby the children thoroughly look forward to going into the church to sing and find the hidden bears. Spending time in the church allows the children to ask questions about who God is, the furnishings, stained glass windows and lay-out of a church.

During the colder months we spend our time in the hall extension, however when the weather warms, we move to the outside area where the children continue to learn, ex-



plore, play, and value the Christian values. We remain thoroughly grateful to the church for their continuous support for our annual 'Christmas' party and 'School Leavers' party.



The group has grown in the last 9-months gaining new members and a lifeline to their 'special grown-up' for example who is new to the village, a first-time parent, an older carer providing childcare or just in need of a safe space for children to play and them to enjoy company of others around them.

Emma Turner

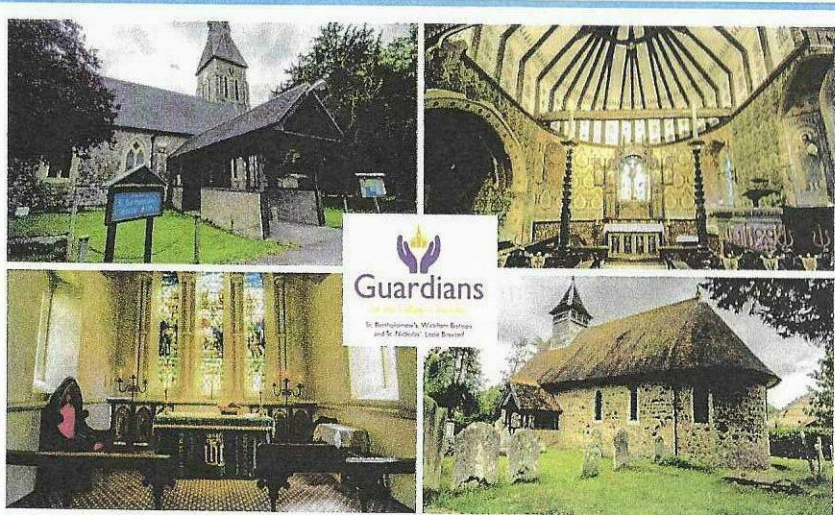
Edward Bear Lead

Guardians of the Village Churches

With the increasing cost of repairing and maintaining our historic churches, The Guardians of the Village Churches was established to address the challenge of ensuring that these beautiful buildings are preserved for the next generation – to secure their future as multi-use resources and returning them to the heart of the communities they serve.

Regrettably, in the absence of an incumbent, the Guardians committee is currently dormant. It is hoped that when the time is right the committee will be reactivated and we will be happy to hear from anyone who wishes to be part of that group to share their energy and ideas to start the ball rolling once again!

Graham Spearman



Parish Contacts

Priest in Charge	Vacant	
Acting Vice - Chairman and Treasurer	Graham Spearman	07721 505296
Rev. Derek Clark	The Leas Farm	01245 380627
Permission to Officiate	Wickham Bishops Road Hatfield Peverel CM3 2JL	07860 235778
Pastoral Assistant	Christine Bealer	07958 263128
General Enquiries	admin@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk	07544 973705
Churchwardens	Vacant	
PCC Secretary	Geraldine Spearman gspearmanpcc@gmail.com	07870 166008
Church Hall Bookings	Kath Adkins kathrynadkins57@gmail.com	01621 891143
Drop In	Sue Clements	01621 892032
Prayer Chain	prayer@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk	
On-Line Worship	Via Facebook	
Churches open	Daily from 9.30am to 4pm	
Church website	www.churchinwickhambishops.org.uk	
Parish Magazine	magazine@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk	

Wickham Bishops & Little Braxted PCC

Registered Charity 1159874

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2025

**WICKHAM BISHOPS AND LITTLE BRAXTED
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

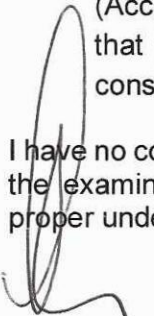
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Barnes FCA
Independent Examiner
30 Coombe Rise
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 7DG

13 April 2026

Treasurer's Report

In respect of our General Funds, notated as Unrestricted funds, which cover day to day running costs we have experienced a downturn to our financial position. The Diocese continue to request what I consider to be an excessive sum by way of Parish Share particularly when we compare our figure against similar parishes. In 2024 we paid £46,000 to the Diocese in respect of Parish Share against a request for £53,208. This resulted in a reduction to our General Fund of some £9,300. For 2025 we were asked for a contribution of £53,476. The PCC has continued with our agreement to withhold any payment of Parish until the financial year end when we could ascertain what we could afford. Unfortunately, we have seen a reduction to the Planned Giving Scheme together with lower amounts in collections and donations. Furthermore, there was a delay in collecting fees for advertising in the Parish Magazine although this has been energetically rectified by John Baker to whom I am so very grateful. At the PCC meeting in January 2026, it was agreed that a payment of £41,000 be made. So, at the financial year end General Funds were reduced to £42,102 down from £50,308. Hopefully this will be largely rectified by the 2026-year end as we should see £14,000 advertising revenue included in this year's income. As Trustees of our own Charity, we are expected to make responsible financial decisions and hold sufficient funds to cover 6 months of expenditure. With annual expenditure approaching £90,000 I am anxious to maintain a reserve of £45,000 to £50,000.

Turning to Restricted funds both fabric funds are in a relatively healthy state. St Bartholomew's fabric fund benefitted significantly from the Gardens Festival and once again thank you to Stewart Adkins and his committee. The St Nicholas Fabric fund is in a healthy position and hopefully we will be able to undertake most of the work required in the quinquennial report.

The scheme for repayment of VAT has been running since 2001. Unfortunately, this scheme is ending at 31st March 2026. Whilst a new scheme is being launched which includes churches it is being suggested that we will have to cover VAT on any future works. This is obviously going to be a significant burden as we will have to raise 20% more than we did previously.

While saying thank you, a particular thanks to John Baker for his continuing work as Gift Aid Secretary. John's efforts have resulted in an additional £10,860 of income. John, as my predecessor in this role, has also been of great support and guidance as a Mentor.

To close thank you all for your giving but please keep the amount you contribute under review. If anyone would like to join the Parish Giving Scheme please come and talk to me.

Graham Spearman 26/01/2026

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Planned giving	£32,316.89	-	£32,316.89	£36,554.84
Collections and other giving	£1,601.50	-	£1,601.50	£3,303.26
Other voluntary receipts	£4,393.32	£62.31	£4,455.63	£43,280.90
Gift Aid recovered	£10,859.90	-	£10,859.90	£23,974.60
Other receipts	£4,814.50	£2,022.46	£6,836.96	£5,981.92
Youth Club	-	-	-	-
Receipts from church activities	£12,537.80	£19,162.77	£31,700.57	£14,480.38
Total income	£66,523.91	£21,247.54	£87,771.45	£127,575.90
Missionary and Charitable Giving	£651.50	£267.50	£919.00	£1,729.88
Parish Share	£41,000.00	-	£41,000.00	£46,000.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	£4,028.59	-	£4,028.59	£3,558.16
Church Running Expenses	£27,908.04	£2,468.31	£30,376.35	£27,494.82
Youth Club	-	-	-	-
Hall Running Costs	£1,981.54	-	£1,981.54	£1,916.91
Church Repairs & Maintenance	£279.00	£5,761.32	£6,040.32	£100,714.66
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-
New Building work	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	£75,848.67	£8,497.13	£84,345.80	£181,414.43
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(£9,324.76)	£12,750.41	£3,425.65	(£53,838.53)
Gross transfers between funds - in	£190,956.63	£221,092.12	£412,048.75	£36,816.97
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£181,854.74)	(£230,194.01)	(£412,048.75)	(£36,816.97)
Gains/losses on investment assets	(£7,882.84)	£7,882.84	-	£7,882.84
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(£8,105.71)	£11,531.36	£3,425.65	(£45,955.69)
Total funds brought forward	£50,307.64	£44,913.75	£95,221.39	£141,177.08
Total funds carried forward	£42,201.93	£56,445.11	£98,647.04	£95,221.39

General fund	£42,201.93	-	£42,201.93	£42,424.80
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Guardians Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Refugee Fund Cash In Hand	-		-	-
Wickham Bishops Deposit CB3022304	-	-	-	-
Bowls Club Restricted Funds	-	£843.14	£843.14	£843.14
Guardians Restricted Funds	-	£14,710.46	£14,710.46	-
Guardians Restricted Funds Cash In Hand	-	£19.80	£19.80	£9,221.20
Little Braxted Fabric Fund CB3022306	-	£36,139.94	£36,139.94	£36,018.96
Ukrainian Refugees Restricted Fund	-	£245.36	£245.36	£506.48
Ukrainian Refugee Fund Cash In Hand	-	£0.94	£0.94	-
Wickham Bishops Fabric Fund CB3022305	-	£4,485.47	£4,485.47	£6,206.81
Total funds	£42,201.93	£56,445.11	£98,647.04	£95,221.39

Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
6501	Co-op Bank current account	£1,944.17	-
6502	CAF Cash Account 00022245	£36.88	£11,753.05
6503	CAF Gold Ukrainian Refugees	£0.94	£506.48
6504	CAF Gold Guardians	£14,710.46	£9,221.20
6505	CCLA deposit account608143001D	£41,041.38	£39,264.44
6506	Co-op Bank Ukrainian Refugee Fund	£245.36	-
6510	CCLA deposit account Church Restoration	£4,485.47	£6,206.81
6515	CCLA deposit St Nicholas Fabric	£36,139.94	£36,018.96
6590	Cash in hand	£22.64	£133.29
6591	Cash in Hand Guardians	£19.80	-
Total Current assets		£98,647.04	£103,104.23
Liabilities			
6601	Loans received	-	-
Z04	Accounts Payable	-	£7,882.84

Total Liabilities		-	£7,882.84
Net Asset surplus (deficit)		£98,647.04	£95,221.39
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	£3,425.65	£28,327.96
Z01	Starting balances	£95,221.39	£59,010.59
Z02	Gains/(losses) on reval of fixed assets	-	£7,882.84
Total Reserves		£98,647.04	£95,221.39
Represented by Funds			
	General (Unrestricted)	£42,201.93	£50,307.64
	Designated	-	-
	Restricted	£56,445.11	£44,913.75
Total		£98,647.04	£95,221.39

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Total			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	This year	Last year
RECEIPTS				
Planned giving				
0110 - Envelopes	-	-	-	£90.00
0201 - planned giving	£32,316.89	-	£32,316.89	£36,464.84
Planned giving Totals	£32,316.89	-	£32,316.89	£36,554.84
Collections and other giving				
0301 - collections	£1,586.50	-	£1,586.50	£3,188.26
0501 - Gift Aid Envelopes	£15.00	-	£15.00	£115.00
Collections and other giving Totals	£1,601.50	-	£1,601.50	£3,303.26
Other voluntary receipts				
0302 - Charity Collections	£616.90	-	£616.90	£641.88
0550 - Other Giving	£360.00	-	£360.00	£360.00
0551 - Donations	£3,353.42	-	£3,353.42	£3,971.25
0553 - Flower Fund	£63.00	-	£63.00	-
0554 - Music Fund	-	-	-	£81.50
0701 - Legacies/Grants	-	-	-	£38,105.11
1000 - Friends of Little Braxted	-	-	-	£66.16
1001 - Guardians	-	£62.31	£62.31	£55.00
Other voluntary receipts Totals	£4,393.32	£62.31	£4,455.63	£43,280.90
Gift Aid recovered				
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£10,515.24	-	£10,515.24	£9,876.60
0602 - Tax Refund - Church Restoration Fund WB	£344.66	-	£344.66	£14,098.00
Gift Aid recovered Totals	£10,859.90	-	£10,859.90	£23,974.60

Other receipts

0901 - Other funds generated	£351.56	-	£351.56	£100.00
0914 - Trading Income	£98.06	-	£98.06	£22.30
1020 - Interest - General Fund	£1,838.13	-	£1,838.13	£2,061.31
1021 - Interest WB Church Restoration Fund	-	£226.95	£226.95	£1,420.04
1022 - Interest LB Fabric Fund	-	£1,621.02	£1,621.02	£1,103.52
1024 - Interest Ukranian Refugee Fund	-	£7.32	£7.32	£22.06
1025 - Interest on Guardians Account	-	£167.17	£167.17	£275.50
1500 - In/Out	£2,526.75	-	£2,526.75	£977.19
Other receipts Totals	£4,814.50	£2,022.46	£6,836.96	£5,981.92

Receipts from church activities

0909 - Fund Raising - Open Gardens Flower Festival	-	£19,162.77	£19,162.77	-
0910 - Fund Raising	£3,054.02	-	£3,054.02	£4,227.06
1100 - Fees to Diocese	£1,206.34	-	£1,206.34	£428.66
1101 - Parochial Fees for weddings and funerals	£3,244.00	-	£3,244.00	£1,699.02
1103 - Memorial Book Income	£60.00	-	£60.00	£10.00
1210 - Greeting Cards sales	£70.60	-	£70.60	£68.15
1240 - Church hall lettings	£3,763.25	-	£3,763.25	£4,082.50
1241 - Tea/Coffee	£309.59	-	£309.59	£260.69
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	£830.00	-	£830.00	£3,675.00
1337 - Drop In Donations	-	-	-	£29.30
Receipts from church activities Totals	£12,537.80	£19,162.77	£31,700.57	£14,480.38

Receipts Grand totals	£66,523.91	£21,247.54	£87,771.45	£127,575.90
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PAYMENTS

Missionary and Charitable Giving

1801 - Charity Donations	£651.50	-	£651.50	£785.88
2336 - Ukranian Refugee Expenditure	-	£267.50	£267.50	£944.00
Missionary and Charitable Giving Totals	£651.50	£267.50	£919.00	£1,729.88

Parish Share

1901 - Parish Share	£41,000.00	-	£41,000.00	£46,000.00
Parish Share Totals	£41,000.00	-	£41,000.00	£46,000.00

Clergy and Staffing costs

1104 - Fees to Diocese	£1,212.00	-	£1,212.00	£428.00
2001 - Other Clergy Expenses	£361.59	-	£361.59	£496.63
2050 - Wages Honoraria & Support	£2,455.00	-	£2,455.00	£2,480.00
2130 - Rectory expenses	-	-	-	£153.53
Clergy and Staffing costs Totals	£4,028.59	-	£4,028.59	£3,558.16

Church Running Expenses

1730 - Costs of Fundraising	-	-	-	£163.10
1733 - Costs of Fundraising- Open Gardens	-	£1,184.28	£1,184.28	-
2301 - Insurance - Wickham Bishops	£2,662.84	-	£2,662.84	£2,572.27
2302 - Insurance - Little Braxted	£1,273.69	-	£1,273.69	£1,208.84
2330 - Church maintenance WB	£2,717.63	£310.00	£3,027.63	£4,701.70
2331 - Church Maintenance - LB	£169.78	£620.04	£789.82	£276.78
2337 - Pastoral Care	£150.43	-	£150.43	£169.88
2339 - Children & Youth Work	£485.12	-	£485.12	£194.00
2340 - General Costs	£1,815.33	-	£1,815.33	£2,227.26
2341 - Flowers for Church	£692.16	-	£692.16	£239.04
2343 - Music Fund	-	-	-	£108.94
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard WB	£884.04	£353.99	£1,238.03	£1,750.35
2351 - Upkeep of Churchyard LB	£680.00	-	£680.00	£510.00
2360 - Administration	£859.45	-	£859.45	£639.46
2401 - Church running - Utilities WB	£6,254.53	-	£6,254.53	£6,300.44

2410 - Church running - Utilities LB	£286.85	-	£286.85	£535.30
2501 - Magazine expenses	£5,940.00	-	£5,940.00	£4,864.93
2510 - Greetings Cards costs	£135.60	-	£135.60	£47.20
2521 - Tea/Coffee Costs	£192.54	-	£192.54	£256.33
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	£120.00	-	£120.00	£120.00
4000 - In/Out	£2,588.05	-	£2,588.05	£609.00
Church Running Expenses Totals	£27,908.04	£2,468.31	£30,376.35	£27,494.82
Hall Running Costs				
2520 - Hall running costs	£1,981.54	-	£1,981.54	£1,916.91
Hall Running Costs Totals	£1,981.54	-	£1,981.54	£1,916.91
Church Repairs & Maintenance				
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	-	£3,478.03	£3,478.03	£2,020.80
2702 - Church Major Repairs - Structure St Nich	-	£200.00	£200.00	£2,816.28
2703 - Guardians Costs	-	-	-	£9.59
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	£1,852.80
2711 - Capital Expenditure	£279.00	-	£279.00	£499.00
2720 - Church interior and exterior decorating	-	£2,083.29	£2,083.29	£93,516.19
Church Repairs & Maintenance Totals	£279.00	£5,761.32	£6,040.32	£100,714.66
Payments Grand totals	£75,848.67	£8,497.13	£84,345.80	£181,414.43

WICKHAM BISHOPS & LITTLE BRAXTED P.C.C. ASSETS

ASSETS

General Fund:

CAF Bank: £ 36.88
 Co-Op Bank: £ 1,101.03
 CCLA: £41,041.38
 Petty Cash: £ 22.64
 Total: £42,201.93

Restricted Funds

Bowls Club Restricted Fund (held in General Funds)	£ 843.14
Guardians Restricted Funds	£14,730.26
Ukrainian Refugees Restricted Fund	£ 246.30
Wickham Bishops Church Restoration	£ 4,485.47
Little Braxted Fabric Fund	£36,139.94
Total:	£56,445.11

Bookstall Stock: £ 600

Church Hall	£500,000	Step Ladder	£ 109
Tables & Chairs	£ 3,000	Lawnmowers	£ 2,000
Kitchen Equipment - Storage boxes, Urn, Cutlery, Microwave etc	£ 1,500	Strimmer	£ 150
Crockery & Glasses	£ 500	Hedge Trimmer	£ 150
Vacuum Cleaners	£ 200	Shed X 2	£ 1,500
Video, Sound System, Heaters	£ 1,600	Piano X 2	£ 2,700
Choir Robes	£ 1,500	Projector	£ 430
Dishwasher	£ 1,500	Floristry equipment	£ 2,000
Mevo Camera	£ 350	Photocopier	£ 2,500
WiFi Router & booster	£ 120		

**WICKHAM BISHOPS AND LITTLE BRAXTED
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

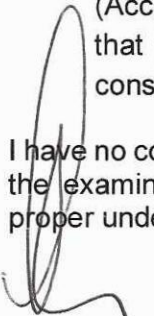
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Barnes FCA
Independent Examiner
30 Coombe Rise
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 7DG

13 April 2026