

The Parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill



Change, Grow, Serve

APCM ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The proposal to create a joint Benefice with the two parishes of Brasted and Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill was carried forward during the year. A draft Benefice Proposal incorporating the decisions made in 2024 was delivered to the PCC by the diocese in early summer and agreed by the PCC after some discussion in June. In September, the final version of the Benefice Proposal was issued by the diocese, along with official public notices, announcements in the churches, and a period of three months (to December) for any objections to be raised. This period passed without objections, and the legal creation of the joint Benefice was promulgated in January 2026, with an effective date of February 1st 2026. This marked a new era in the Benefice of Brasted and Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill.

Having guided the parish through this period of change, The Reverend Lynette Leithead completed her period of service in the parish on January 4th 2026. In anticipation of this, in March the PCC agreed that a joint 'working group' should be formed with Brasted parish to prepare a Benefice Profile, a key component in the future recruitment of a new minister for the benefice. The working group members from the parish were Jane Belle, Lynne Rutherford, Jo Rutter (churchwardens) and Althea Chapman (churchwarden until May and PCC member). The group met six times and developed an excellent working relationship with the Brasted churchwardens. The group produced a draft Benefice Profile which was discussed by the PCC in September. The PCC broadly approved the draft and asked that an additional phrase be added to include the need for a positive attitude to diversity and inclusivity from any new incumbent. The Church of England rules mean that further steps in the recruitment of a new minister could not be taken until after the official departure of the current incumbent.

Safeguarding work continued, with Safeguarding Sunday in November, an emphasis on training for PCC members and the re-adoption of Safeguarding statements and policy. See the separate Safeguarding Report.

The PCC continued the project to use the Glebe field at Ide Hill as an extension to the Churchyard for future burials. Frustrating contacts with the National Trust and their lawyers all year finally resulted in a legal Deed establishing access rights over a small strip of land between the access road and the graveyard extension, signed in December. However, the parish are still awaiting Land Registry registration before the Churchyard extension can be consecrated by a Bishop.

In January, The PCC officially approved the 'Flushing Hill' project at Ide Hill, to build a toilet and tea station at the back of the church in the choir vestry. The PCC was kept informed of the project stages and snags (don't mention locating the stopcock) through the year and the work started in mid-November. See the Churchwardens' Fabric Report and the Ide Hill friends report for more information.

The PCC has continued to review and establish a number of formal policies. These include:

- Safeguarding Policies – renewed and displayed
- Lone Working Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Privacy Policy and Consent Form (GDPR)
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy

These policies are available in the churches or by application to the PCC Secretary

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Churches, Services and Meetings

The PCC oversees three centres of worship; St Mary's Sundridge, St Mary's Ide Hill and the Toys Hill Chancel. The year also saw closer cooperation with Brasted parish and St Martin's church. For most of the year, parish services were held on the first and third Sundays of the month at St Mary's Sundridge and on the second and fourth Sundays at Ide Hill. A Holy Communion service was held at Toys Hill on the first Sunday of the month. St Mary's Ide Hill was closed in late October to allow extensive building works to begin. During the closure, all services were held at St Mary's Sundridge, and Toys Hill continued in the usual pattern.

There have been three baptisms, no weddings, seven funerals and ten burials of ashes in the parish during the year.

A rota from the Friends has continued to open and close St Mary's Sundridge every day until dusk, with over a hundred visitors recorded in the visitors' book. St Mary's Ide Hill has been open every day until the temporary closure, thanks to a dedicated team of openers and closers.

The Rev Lynette and her team of a LLM, Readers and supporting ministers have maintained a full programme of services and celebrations across the parish, including some joint services with St Martin's Brasted. The major festivals brought a sunrise service at Easter and at Christmas a candle-lit carol service, and a Crib service, which were all well attended. There have been special services for ringing in the New Year, a special bellringing for the 80th anniversary of VE-Day, the Flower Festival, an open-air service with animal friends, Harvest festivals, an Advent hymn service, Remembrance Sunday services and a joint 'Time to Remember' with Brasted, for those who have been bereaved. Under the leadership of Joanna Campbell and the valued training of Mary Byers, organist, the 'High Days and Holidays' parish choir performed at seven services and events in the parish and one with the Brasted choir.

Prayers for the Parish meetings, open to all, met regularly. Some informal 'Café Church' gatherings were held at Sundridge church in the early part of the year.

Friends of the Churches

We are grateful for the hard work of church members and both the Sundridge and Ide Hill "Friends of St Mary's" who have organised fundraising activities which have been open to community and church alike. See separate reports).

Work with Children and Schools

Rev Lynette and Barbara Lockey continued to take the lead in working with our local schools, Sundridge & Brasted CoE Primary School, and Ide Hill CoE Primary School. See the separate Local Schools report.

Led by Diana Pickard and Jane Rosam, Forest Church was embedded within the Morning Worship service at Ide Hill (and Sundridge while Ide Hill church was closed). Forest Church met on the second Sunday of the month, usually outdoors. Thank you to the Page Family for a lovely visit to Scords Farm in December. Thank you also to Lynne Rutherford and Jane Belle for their help.

People

Reverend Lynette Leithead came back to us in 2023 after a difficult time for the parish and completed her service for us at the end of 2025. Her gift for healing and bringing people together was evident from the beginning, and under her leadership a dedicated and cohesive team was built. The sign of great leadership is when the leader is no longer there, but the team carries on as effectively as before. This is so true and is a legacy for which Lynette will be remembered. Her spiritual and practical guidance is much appreciated by us all.

Ruth Barrow formally retired from her role as Reader to the parish. In January she was honoured by Bishop Jonathan in a commendatory letter and certificate appointing her Reader Emeritus. The service at Ide Hill on 23rd February was dedicated to Ruth, where she spoke movingly of her 62 years of service to the parish, and received the universal approbation of those gathered for the celebration. Ruth always ran such lovely services where the children of the parish were involved, and her contributions were much appreciated by us all.

We are grateful for the work and dedication that our Deacon, **Rev Angela Baker** so willingly gives to our Parish. Rev Angela was very much involved with church services until she had an operation in the Autumn. We look forward to having her up at the front of the church again soon.

Our thanks and appreciation go to **Jane Rosam**, LLM, for all the services she has run in Ide Hill, Sundridge, and Toys Hill over the past year, including funerals. Jane is an essential part of Forest Church and always makes sure that the themes for the service and the activities for the children are aligned.

Barbara Lockey was awarded the Bishop's Certificate in March and continued her studies and practical work towards becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in 2026.

Many thanks are due to the many volunteers and helpers who contribute massively to the mission and running of the churches – the readers, the intercessors, the caterers, the flowers team, the bellringers, the organists, the locker-uppers, the cleaners, the working parties, the path sweepers, the churchyard volunteers, the donations collectors and bankers, and the maintenance teams.

Charities Supported

The PCC again decided that the collections on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day would be shared between three chosen charities: Porchlight, Open Doors and the Sharp Memorial School for the blind. The total amount distributed was £900.

Porchlight are a lifeline to people who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental ill health, and social exclusion. They provide housing, education, and personal development to support the most vulnerable and isolated people in our communities.

Open Doors is a charity that distributes bibles and resources, so that Christian believers can be nourished by God's word. It supports victims of violence and disaster so that they can live independent and fulfilled lives and brings hope to the Middle East so that Christians can live with dignity and hope.

Sharp Memorial School for the Blind lies in the foothills of the Himalayas and is the oldest school for the blind in India. It is a Christian Mission school for girls and boys of all casts and creeds. In both Ide Hill and Sundridge church you will see the recent report from the Sharp School. Please do take time to read it and get to know the school better.

The Remembrance Day donations of £562 was passed to the **Royal British Legion**.

'Ride and Stride' raised almost £2000 in sponsorship, shared 50/50 by the **local churches** and the **Friends of Kent Churches**.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2025

The accounts have been independently examined and are summarised in the accompanying statement that has been approved by the Independent Examiner.

At the end of 2025 there was a loss of £13789 on day to day expenditure which was reduced to £10802 as a result of investment income. This compares with a surplus of £4405 in 2024. Investments reduced in value by £4318. Total reserves reduced by £12000 to £279,854.

Planned Giving remained substantially unchanged from 2024 but collections and donations were significantly reduced on 2024 as were fees from weddings and funerals.

Gift Aid from HMRC and VAT from the LPWG Scheme has been claimed for the year and is included in the accounts. This included claiming back VAT on expenditure on the Flushing Hill Project at Ide Hill. Unfortunately, the LPWG scheme will cease at the end of March 2026 due to new government policy. However, Ide Hill Friends have confirmed that they will pay any VAT due on Flushing Hill invoices so the PCC will not be out of pocket on any Flushing Hill expenditure.

We were again pleased and grateful to receive a grant of £2000 from the Parish Council towards the cost of grass cutting in Sundridge Churchyard.

We paid a small sum in connection with the IH graveyard extension in 2025 but the bulk of the costs have been paid in January 2026 out of the IH Churchyard Fund.

Since we are sharing the Parish Office in Sundridge with Brasted parish, it has been agreed that the two parishes will share equally the costs of the office, and also those costs of the clergy that relate to both parishes. This has resulted in a payment to us of £1053 from Brasted in 2025.

The PCC's offer to the Diocese of Rochester was £25,000 (up from £20000 in 2024), and the nominated charities by the PCC received £2088.

We are grateful to the Churchwardens and others who have made sure that our funds are utilised sensibly and prudently. We especially wish to thank Fiona Parkin, Simon Pickard, Ed Dixon and Phil Chapman for managing & banking the weekly collections and providing the Treasurer with detailed

documentation. Finally, on behalf of the PCC, thank you to Gary Davison, our Independent Examiner, who has kindly examined the PCC's accounts at no cost to the Parish

GOVERNANCE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) in 2025 consisted of

Chair:	Reverend Lynette Leithead (Priest in Charge)
Vice-Chair and Churchwarden, Deanery and Diocesan Synod:	Jane Belle
Churchwardens:	Althea Chapman (to May), Jo Rutter (from May), Lynne Rutherford
Deacon:	Rev Angela Baker
Licensed Lay Minister:	Jane Rosam
Treasurer:	Robert Skone-James
Secretary:	Terry Corbett
Elected Members	Simon Pickard, Barbara Lockey, Robert Skone James Althea Chapman (from May), Lynne Rutherford (until January), Marilyn Page, Ginny Ashworth, Terry Corbett (from May), Prue Seddon (until October)
Co-opted Member	Sue Armstrong (from November)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets every two months and has met six times this year. Reports from the Treasurer, Churchwardens and Parish Safeguarding Officer have been received at every meeting.

The Electoral Roll was completely renewed in May 2025, with our Roll now standing at 71. Thank you to Althea Chapman, our ERO, for completing this considerable task. After Althea stepped down from this role, Wendy Fallon was elected as the Electoral Roll Officer.

After many years as a dedicated churchwarden for the parish, Althea was given the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the parish and the PCC when she stepped down from the role in May. She continued as an elected member of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is a statutory PCC committee that may carry out some of the work of the PCC between meetings (e.g. if an urgent matter arises for which a full PCC Meeting cannot be called). The Standing Committee reports to the PCC. The size of a Standing Committee is dependent on the size of the parish Electoral Roll. The Minister is always an ex-officio member, and the PCC must appoint others from its own lay membership.

The Standing Committee in 2025 consisted of four PCC members: Lynette Leithead, Althea Chapman, Lynne Rutherford and Simon Pickard. The Secretary may attend for Minutes. The Standing Committee did not meet in 2025. A number of smaller but urgent decisions were made by email consultation with the PCC.

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORTS FOR THE PARISH IN 2025

ST MARY'S SUNDRIDGE

We are most grateful to all who help to keep the Church well maintained, clean and polished, and to those who keep the building open 365 days a year! We have many visitors who come in to pray, light a candle, write a prayer or just sit quietly. Having the church open is much appreciated by many.

We are also very grateful to the bellringers who keep the bells and the ringing chamber in good order. In particular our thanks to Paul Brown who has done a lot of work helping to dismantle and reinstall the Tenor Bell Headstock which was cracked and needed repairing at the bell foundry. Paul is monitoring the repaired crack monthly. He has also done a large amount of work cleaning and repairing in the bell chamber.

We are grateful to our small band of Flower Arrangers under the leadership of Beryl Norman who make the church beautiful all year round. Nigel Belle has repaired several items in the church, Andy Cook climbs the ladder to change the light bulbs, John Banbrook has repaired and sorted out problems – we are very grateful to them and other volunteers who keep our beautiful church in such good order.

The Fabric Committee continues to look for funding/grants to complete phase 3 of the WaterLoo project (to install a tea station to improve Café Sundridge facilities). Other current projects are to improve the lighting in the Tower Room, move the sound system into the Nave, repair the northside lychgate and put in a handrail on the slope leading to the War Memorial.

The Churchyard is in good order and many thanks to those who help to keep this large space looking beautiful. Special thanks to Andy Cook who has taken apart the compost area and removed all the plastics that had been left there. He has cleaned and cleared the whole area and made a considerable difference. The southside lychgate has been expertly repaired funded by The Friends.

The Memorial Stone engravings are up to date.

My thanks also go to my co-warden, Jo Rutter; and to Althea Chapman for her work and help, particularly with the churchyard, the organ and organists. Also our grateful thanks to Barbara Lockey who looks after the heating, the sound, the WiFi and so many other things.

Jane Belle

ST MARY'S IDE HILL

2025 was a busy year with the Faculty application for the toilet and tea station and the preparation of the inside of the church for the works to take place. The faculty was granted and we have worked closely with Thomas Ford and Partners to select contractors, get the required building permissions and work with Thames Water on drainage and water supply. The church has been closed since the end of October and building work started on November 10th. Although the project was completed in February 2026, and not in the scope of this APCM, we are delighted to report that we now have a beautiful tea station and disabled toilet in our church. The path has also been restored as part of the project.

As part of the preparation for the contractors to come in, we had a “declutter” and the beautiful Campbell family screen at the back of the church is now completely visible. It has made a huge difference to the interior look and feel of the church.

Our four memorial stones in the Memorial Garden have been cleaned and the names repainted. We have had positive feedback and thanks from family members. Our faculty for a fifth memorial stone was successful, and this has been installed.

All required inspections have been undertaken and the Logbook is up to date.

The graveyard extension project is ongoing, and at last, thanks to the perseverance of Jane Belle, it is now with Land Registry.

Thanks go to PJ Rutherford and Paul Meredith, who ensure that the Churchyard is mowed and decluttered on a regular basis, to the team of openers and closers who ensure that the church is open every day all year round, and the church cleaning team and the flowers team who keep our lovely church looking its best at all times.

To Peter Duke who manages the heating and the sound system, we also say thank you.

Lynne Rutherford

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2025

Area Dean: Rev Tim Edwards (Rector Knockholt & Halstead)

Lay Chairman: Brig. Ian Dobbie

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Fr Robin Jones

Standing Committee: John Colyer, Lela Weavers, Jane Belle.

There were two Synod meetings: one on 13th January at St Luke's Sevenoaks when the Bishop of Rochester visited. However, there was only four days' notice of this meeting, so few attended, and as I was unable to attend at such short notice and no minutes were circulated, I cannot report what the meeting discussed. There was a second meeting held in June at St Margaret's Underriver when the Archdeacon, Ven Nick Cornell spoke about his Christian life. Unfortunately, there is still no Deanery Secretary, so information and communications about the Deanery are sketchy.

Jane Belle (Standing Committee member Deanery Synod)

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2025

Safeguarding Sunday was marked in church services in November with prayers and reflections. Positive feedback I received after the service was appreciated.

Training has remained a priority

Safeguarding training for PCC members remains a priority. The commitment shown by the PCC members and Churchwardens to complete this is to be commended. 'Awareness of Domestic Abuse' training is being renewed.

Policies and Safeguarding statements

The House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement' was re-adopted. The parish Safeguarding Policy was reviewed.

Diana Pickard – Parish Safeguarding Officer, St Mary's Sundridge and Ide Hill with Toys Hill

OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS REPORT 2025

Fortnightly worship in both Ide Hill and Sundridge & Brasted schools continued until the summer break with the worship in Sundridge church being extended to parents and carers. Because we couldn't fit all the children from Ide Hill school into the church, we offered a few sessions of 'Godly Play' to the younger children. This is an imaginative, educational way of teaching children through hands-on play to explore bible stories and parables.

The Easter service for Sundridge & Brasted was held at Brasted church with the whole school using the church in the morning, with the service being well attended by parents and carers in the afternoon. Special thanks must go to the Stanhope Arms for allowing us to use their facilities and to Muriel and David Edgar for being on hand to mop up spillages and return the church to its 'Sunday' state afterwards.

We've attended biscuit making with hedgehog class and taken part in the regular termly sessions where villagers from the community are invited to 'fun and games sessions' where the pupils entertain us. These are fantastic opportunities for pupils to converse with people they don't know, ask questions, and learn from each other. We now have a core team of villagers from both Brasted and Sundridge who make these days happen.

Lynette and I ran a stall at the highly successful FOSBS (Friends of Sundridge & Brasted School) in the summer. This was a great community outreach and many people attended. Both schools held leavers' services in July and Sundridge held their harvest festival and Christingle service with parents and carers invited.

Sundridge & Brasted's Nativity service was held in Brasted church and Lynette was presented with some gifts and lovely cards from each of the classes as it was her last service with them. Lynette and I appreciate the Churchwardens who have given up their time to attend the church services and assemblies.

Barbara Lockey

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SUNDRIDGE REPORT 2025

As has become a tradition, the Friends were pleased to offer mulled wine and mince pies to those attending the Ringing In event at noon on 1st January 2025. Bad weather was the order of the day, with gale force wind and driving rain, but those brave enough to venture out listened to the magnificent bells ringing out over the village of Sundridge, making it a memorable start to the New Year.

The 21st Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 24th March, followed by a talk from Bob Ogley on his latest book "The Story of Sundridge". There was an excellent turnout to listen to Bob's introduction to his very comprehensive book and he sold many copies which he also signed. The first draw of the 2025 Friends' 100 Club also took place, drawn by our Honorary President, Sir Michael Fallon. The event was successful in recruiting six new members to the Friends. Bob very generously offered to donate the profits from the book, after the expenses of publication, to The Friends of St Mary's Church and subsequently handed over a cheque for £1,100. The Friends are extremely grateful to him for this huge contribution to our funds.

On 12th May The Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge and The Friends of Ide Hill Church collaborated in setting up gazebos, chairs and tables and providing refreshments for an Open Garden generously hosted by Bob and Fern Ogley in their magnificent garden at Brasted Chart. The event raised over £1000 which was split between the two churches.

A group of 15 members and friends travelled up to the City of London Guildhall on 11th September. We were given a very informative tour of different areas of the magnificent Great Hall and our guide gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the building, interspersed with anecdotes about some of the famous people who have been associated with the City of London from time immemorial. The group dispersed for coffee, lunch, exploring old haunts and, for one pair, visiting 7 City churches. A most enjoyable and illuminating visit enjoyed by all.

All those attending the Friends' Christmas Social on Monday 8th December enjoyed a very convivial evening. The raffle was extremely popular due to a fine selection of prizes and raised £200. Bob Ogley gave a short talk about his latest fascinating book – The Story of Knole Park – and he was happy to sign copies afterwards. The final draw of the year took place for the Friends' 100 Club and five lucky winners took away prizes of £200, £120, £80 and two of £50.

At their regular meetings, the Executive Committee plan future events and consider requests for support from the Rector and PCC. The Friends' are pleased to have met the cost of the repair to one of the church lychgates and are committed to paying for the repair of the second one in due course.

Kenneth Ludlam

Honorary Chairman - The Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge

ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLRINGERS REPORT 2025

Our year started with ringing in the New Year at midday. Mince pies and mulled wine supplied by the Friends of St Mary's were enjoyed whilst the bells were rung, followed by a short service to celebrate the bells.

During the refitting of the clappers on the number 5 and 6 bells in 2024 a crack was found in the headstock of the number 6 bell. During September 2025 Whites of Oxford came and removed the headstock and took it away for repair. This involved the opening of the trap door in the tower and lowering the headstock on chains. This was returned the following week and refitted by Whites. We received a grant towards the cost of this from KCACR.



Jo Rutter completed the ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) training to train new bellringers and is hoping to get a new recruit to join the team.

Maggie Amos who has rung for over twenty years at Sundridge and has been the Secretary/Treasurer for many years has moved away to join her family. The bellringers thank her for all of her hard work and dedication and wish her all the best for the next chapter in her life.

We continue to practice on Thursday evenings and ring for Sunday services when we are able. Anyone interested in visiting the tower or learning to ring please contact:

Rita Cox (Captain) 01732 750324

Joanne Rutter. 07738782135 jorutter@hotmail.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S IDE HILL REPORT 2025

The purpose of The Friends is to strengthen the role of Ide Hill Church as an asset for the Church and the Community of Ide Hill for all to enjoy for generations to come.

This report covers the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

I would like to start by paying tribute to Anne Beasley who passed away in July 2025. Anne was our founding secretary and played a big role in getting the Faculty through for our project to install a toilet and tea station in the church. She also produced the beautiful booklets available in the church tracing the history of our lovely windows. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul and his family. Anne is sadly missed by us all.

In February we held a Love Concert in collaboration with the Ide Hill Book Club. This brought a different audience into the church, raising more awareness of The Friends and the work we do. Music ranged from Adele's 'Make you feel my Love' to Puccini's 'O Mio Babbino Caro'. The music was interspersed with extracts from books that the Book Club had read, such as The Alchemist, Captain Corelli's Mandolin, Wolf Den and Still Life. The concert raised £1200 towards our project (known as Flushing Hill).

We held a garden party jointly with The Friends of St Mary's Sundridge, and thanks to the generosity of Fern and Bob Ogley who opened their beautiful garden to visitors we added to the funds of both Friends' charity accounts.

Once again we hosted a MacMillan Coffee morning in September, which brought many visitors into the church, most of whom stayed for the whole event, enjoying the coffee, cake and fellowship. We were pleased to be able to give £224 to MacMillan and this will be an annual event.

Ride and Stride, which raises money for Friends of Kent Churches was supported by The Friends in the form of providing refreshments for visitors to the church. Thanks to the efforts of our Riders and Striders, they raised almost £2000, of which 50% comes back to us. It was lovely to see the Toys Hill striders join in.

Thank you to the Ide Hill Community Shop who made a donation of £4250 towards project Flushing Hill. And to the Village Hall Trust who donated £600. We had very generous donations from members of our congregation who wish to remain anonymous and we really appreciate them.

We are grateful to Jane Wiltshire who managed to obtain grants from The Friends of Kent Churches and The Benefact Trust. So much work goes into the applications. Thank you Jane.

The church was closed from November 10th for the building works to take place, and I am delighted to say that the completion date of February 27th was achieved.

Thank you to Lynette for her support and trust in us. The support from the community and the members is also truly appreciated.

We have had 2 new Trustees join us – a warm welcome to Sarah Fribbens and Tom Niven. Thanks and appreciation go to Sally Bawn who has resigned as Trustee as she has moved away.

Lynne Rutherford (Chairman)

THE FLORENCE HARDING FUND - TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Income for the year increased to £5,897 (2024: £5,639) as a result of higher interest rates. Payments of £571 were made for Bibles. In addition, a donation of £30,000 was made to the Ide Hill Flushing Hill project and £1,000 to the Sundridge & Brasted Primary School Voluntary Fund.

The Balance Sheet shows that General Fund has decreased to £173,235 (2024: £178,442) due to lower returns in the global stock markets.

The Accumulated Income Fund, available for distribution at the discretion of the Rector, Churchwardens and PCC, (comprising cash held in commercial bank accounts and in Diocesan loan accounts) has a balance of £19,268 (2024: £45,041) following £31,000 of significant 2025 donations.

The year-end valuation of the Florence Harding Fund has cash and investments to the value £192,604 as at the 31 December 2025 (2024: £223,485).

At the Florence Harding Trustees Committee meeting, following the Parish AGM, in April 2025 the Rector and Churchwardens were confirmed as Trustees. Mr Terry Corbett was appointed as Secretary, and Mr Julian Parkin was appointed Treasurer for 2025 but has requested to be replaced for the 2026 year and a new Treasurer is being identified

Julian Parkin - Treasurer

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT 2025

There were four synod meetings: March, July and two in November.

In March Bishop Jonathan welcomed new members, expressed gratitude to clergy and lay members for their efforts supporting the Church's mission during challenging years. He acknowledged the Church of England's failures in safeguarding and apologized for the impact on parish workers. He highlighted the encouraging increase in church attendance during Christmas and the growing interest among younger generations.

The Diocese's bid for £11.1 million from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board was approved, enabling the implementation of the Diocesan Vision and Strategy, which focuses on growing missional churches, leaders, disciples, and revitalizing fragile churches. There are plans to seek further funding in 3 years. Recruitment for a Racial Justice Officer is planned to address diversity and racial justice issues.

Safeguarding: Bishop Jonathan reported on the Archbishops' Council and National Safeguarding Team discussions regarding concerns raised in December 2024. The Bishop encouraged prayers for wisdom, openness, and support for those affected by safeguarding failures. A new working group will define "safe and healthy culture," and create an action plan. The Diocese now has the Safeguarding Hub to assist parishes. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook is being updated and Parish Safeguarding Officers are being sought for a working group. A new safeguarding officer has been appointed.

Environment and Sustainability: The newly established Net Zero Team aims to help parishes achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and promote eco-friendly practices. A Net Zero Action Plan has been actioned. Churches are encouraged to complete the Energy Footprint Tool. Boiler hardship grants are available for parishes. Future projects like solar panels, energy efficiency, and environmental awareness were discussed.

In July the Bishop reported on his June Zimbabwe visit, including participation in Bernard Mizeki Commemoration with 20,000 attendees. He highlighted Zimbabwe's challenges: poverty, underexploited land, limited natural resources benefits. The importance of partnership with Diocese of Harare and Rochester was emphasised. The Bishop praised Zimbabwean faith, and resilience during political exile (2007-2012) and advocated learning from ubuntu concepts, contrasting Western individualism, especially in debates like assisted dying.

Financial Reports for Diocese: 2024 results showed a surplus of £1.3m, with reserves of £82.15m. It was noted that a £1.4m deficit before investment gains and parish offers fell below budget (£705k shortfall). Clergy vacancies (18%) stipends (62%), ageing clergy, and the impact on parish life was reported. Other major costs are for parish support, and property maintenance (£1m for clergy housing). The need for increased parish contributions was emphasized for sustainability. Diocesan finances have been reviewed, including investments (£26.2m), assets (£82.15m). Highlighted was the importance of maintaining clergy numbers, rural ministry, and mission growth.

The November synod was held in the newly renovated church of St John's Chatham which has been totally transformed. It was closed for many years, but local people fought to have the church back in action. Grants were obtained, advice from the DAC given, and it has risen like a phoenix! It is amazing – go and have a look. A special synod about "Living in Love and Faith" took place also in November at St John's.

Jane Belle – Diocesan Synod Member, and Diocesan Advisory Committee Member

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2025

Section B Balance sheet

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Notes 5&6)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
CRF	B02	-	82,412	-	82,412	82,809
Investments (Note 5)	B03	-	-	112,957	112,957	117,275
Total fixed assets	B04	-	82,412	112,957	195,369	200,084
Current assets						
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 7)	B06	12,598	-	-	12,598	10,946
(Short term) investments	B07	15,750	-	-	15,750	15,000
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	B08	71,632	17,837	-	89,469	67,161
Total current assets	B09	99,980	17,837	-	117,817	93,107
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)	B10	32,432	900	-	33,332	1,321
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	67,548	16,937	-	84,485	91,786
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	67,548	99,349	112,957	279,854	291,870
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	B13	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets	B15	67,548	99,349	112,957	279,854	291,870
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted funds	B16	67,548	-	-	67,548	74,661
	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	B18	-	99,349	-	99,349	99,934
Endowment funds (Note 11)	B19	-	-	112,957	112,957	117,275
Total funds	B20	67,548	99,349	112,957	279,854	291,870

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Mrs P J F Belle	18.03.26



St Marys Sundridge with Ide Hill & Toys Hill PCC			Charity No (if any)
Annual accounts for the period			
Period start date	01.01.2025	To	Period end date

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Details of own analysis	Note	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03
Incoming resources (Note 3)					
Incoming resources from generated funds			-	-	-
Voluntary income	livings& giftaid,grants, gifts f	S01	45,949	5,882	
Activities for generating funds	ete, flower fes & Ride & Strid	S02	1,549		
Investment income		S03	894		2,987
Fees weddings and funerals and extras	church activities	S04	3,275	5,043	
Other incoming resources	Flushing Hill grants	S05		40,875	
Total incoming resources		S06	51,667	51,800	2,987
Resources expended (Notes 4-8)					
Costs of Generating Funds			-	-	-
Church activities	Offer,clergy costs,DBF	S07	25,898	2,030	
fund raising/admin costs	Mag,admin, presents for Ly	S08	1,560	1,765	
Church running costs	ilinsurance ,heating etc	S09	19,361		
Charitable activities	Mission giving donations	S10	30	2,058	
Repair and maintenance	including major work	S11	7,453	44,135	
Other resources expended	Churchyard	S12	10,966	2,000	
Total resources expended		S13	65,268	51,988	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		S14	- 13,601	- 188	2,987
Gross transfers between funds (church repair fund)		S15	5,739	2,752	- 2,987
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		S16	- 7,862	- 2,940	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		S17	-	-	-
Gains and losses on investment assets /Refunds		S18	750	2,355	- 4,318
Net movement in funds		S19	- 7,112	- 585	- 4,318
Total funds brought forward		S20	74,660	99,934	117,275
Total funds carried forward		S21	67,548	99,349	112,957

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31.12.2025	



Total this year	Total last year
£	£
F04	F05

-	-
51,831	54,871
1,549	1,556
3,881	3,889
8,318	11,383
40,875	1
106,454	71,700

-	-
27,928	25,597
3,325	142
19,361	18,258
2,088	1,692
51,588	11,657
12,966	9,949
117,256	67,295
- 10,802	4,405
	-
- 10,802	4,405

-	-
- 1,213	6,029
- 12,015	10,434
291,869	
279,854	291,869

Section B

Balance sheet

		Note	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets (Notes 5&6)	B01		-	-	-
CRF	B02		-	82,412	
Investments (Note 5)	B03		-		112,957
Total fixed assets	B04		-	82,412	112,957
Current assets					
Stock and work in progress	B05		-	-	-
Debtors (Note 7)	B06		12,598		-
(Short term) investments	B07		15,750		-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	B08		71,632	17,837	-
Total current assets	B09		99,980	17,837	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)	B10		32,432	900	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11		67,548	16,937	-
Total assets less current liabilities	B12		67,548	99,349	112,957
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	B13		-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14		-	-	-
Net assets	B15		67,548	99,349	112,957
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted funds	B16		67,548		
	B17				
Restricted income funds	B18			99,349	
Endowment funds (Note 11)	B19				112,957
Total funds	B20		67,548	99,349	112,957

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print I

	Mrs P J



Total this year
£

F04

-
82,412
112,957
195,369

Total last year
£

F05

-
82,809
117,275
200,084

-	-
12,598	10,946
15,750	15,000
89,469	67,161
117,817	93,107

33,332	1,321
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84,485	91,786
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279,854	291,870
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-	-
-	-

279,854	291,870
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67,548	74,661
	-
99,349	99,934
112,957	117,275

279,854	291,870
---------	---------

Name	Date of approval
F Belle	

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill PCC**

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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 Commission under 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 includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements of the 2011 Act.

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.

Name of Examiner: Gary Davison

Signed



Address:

Poplars, Church Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 6AU

Date:

25th February 2026