

ST JOHN THE DIVINE WEST WORTHING



Parish Priest: Vacant

(Assistant Clergy Revd Roger Caswell and Revd Canon Rachel Bennett)

Bank:
CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent. ME19 4JQ

Legal Advisers:
Lings Solicitors
110 George V Avenue
Worthing
West Sussex. BN11 5RR

Independent Examiner:
Garry Lock ACA
21 Apsley Way
Durrington, Worthing
West Sussex. BN13 3RE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Registered Charity No: 1178660

Presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting
at St John the Divine, West Worthing on Sunday 17 May 2026 at 10.45 am.

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report-St John the Divine Church	2-4
Trustees' report- finance matters	5-6
Trustees' report-Preschool report	7-10
Independent Examiner's report	11
Consolidated statement of financial activities (including Preschool)	12-14
Consolidated balance sheet (including Preschool)	15-16
St John the Divine balance sheet	17
St John the Divine reserve funds	18
St John The Divine receipts and payments account summary	19
St John The Divine income analysis	20
St John The Divine expenditure analysis	21
St John's Preschool income and expenditure account	22
St John's Preschool statement of assets and liabilities	23
Notes to the accounts	24
Certification of the accounts	25
Group and committee reports	26-33

1. Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing ("the PCC") is a Charity ("the Charity") registered with the Charity Commission under No: 1178660. The members of the PCC, as Trustees, have the responsibility for co-operating with the Incumbent, or, during an interregnum, Deanery and Diocesan Officers to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Charity also has a responsibility for the maintenance of the church hall and grounds in Ripley Road. The vicarage is currently tenanted whilst there is no incumbent parish priest and the rental income is payable to the Diocese and not the Charity.

Membership

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules. In addition to those members of the church elected at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) it also includes Ex Officio members who are any licenced clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods. Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

PCC members are also Trustees and must accept the ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Charity for the benefit of the public for whom it has been set up, including deciding how the funds of the Charity are to be spent.

PCC members who are Trustees and have served at any time during the year 2025

were:-

Ex Officio Members

The Revd Canon Rachel Bennett- Licensed as Assistant Curate on 22 February 2024

Wardens

Martyn Shanks Appointed on 26 May 2024

Dorothy Smith Retired on 23 June 2025

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Kim Upton Appointed on 26 May 2024

Martin Lloyd Appointed on 23 May 2024 (also Safeguarding Officer)

Ros Ashton Appointed on 26 May 2024

Dorothy Smith Retired on 23 June 2025

Elected Members

Gillian Almond	Appointed on 29 May 2022
Mike Chatfield	Appointed on 26 May 2024 died on 5 April 2025
Caroline Burke	Appointed on 29 May 2022
Margaret Borbone	Appointed on 29 May 2022 (Secretary) retired on 11 May 2025

Co-Opted Members- There were no Co-Opted members.

2. Aim and Purpose.

The primary objective of the Charity is to promote the whole mission of the church.

- Pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical

The Charity together with the Churchwardens have supported and cooperated with the assistant clergy to continue to maintain the condition of St John's church, the church hall and grounds. The vicarage is tenanted during a time of interregnum of the parish priest. The rental income from the vicarage is payable to the Diocese. The church is a Society Parish which maintains the Anglo Catholic tradition for which it was founded in 1901 while still recognising that the world around us is always changing.

3. Objectives and activities.

The Charity is committed to enabling as many people as possible to both worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's.

The PCC makes suggestions of how our services can involve the many differing groups within the parish.

We put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year we considered ideas from our mission action group, especially: -

1. Provision of pastoral care for those living in our community, such as the many care homes in our parish.
2. Our community has many single people we need to consider in our outreach.
3. To facilitate this work, we need to be seen to be going out into our community to cover those areas that are being missed.

4. Achievements and performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of church services through the week and during the year that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling, in quiet reflective worship and also through fellowship after Sunday services.

Our Parish Clergy team continue to visit on a regular basis and offer communion to those people who for whatever reason cannot attend church.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work in making our church a lively and welcoming community, including the PCC, its sub committees, our honorary Clergy, servers, sacristans, sidespersons, lay ministers, magazine producers, pew sheets, website and flower arrangers, café team, social committee, work with children and all those who have worked so hard.

5. Review of the year

Prayer & Worship

Although we have been in vacancy for the whole of the year it has been possible to maintain the regular pattern of worship Sunday by Sunday and throughout the week. Numbers have remained consistent.

The clergy have continued to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound week by week.

During Lent, we followed the Diocesan Lent Course studying the Nicene Creed. Stations of the Cross, Mass and Lent Lunch were well attended and the parish giving for Lent was in support of Turning Tides.

During July, along with St Andrew's parish a number of us went on pilgrimage to the Cathedral and people from both churches joined the parish pilgrimage to Walsingham later that month.

Community

We have welcomed children, staff and parents from St John's Preschool and Elm Grove Primary School to celebrate Easter and Christmas, and as usual a leavers' service for the preschool. It is good to see how at home the children feel when they visit the church.

The Congregation

We have been pleased to welcome a number of new worshippers in the course of this year. However, are sad to record the deaths of Mike Chatfield, Greg Biggs and Malcolm Strudwick, for many years faithful members of our parish community. May they rest in peace.

Donations in memory of Mike enabled us to buy two Welcome Mats which have been placed at the North and South doors.

As is reported elsewhere, social events have continued and been well supported.

The future

The churchwardens had a number of meetings with the Archdeacon of Chichester to discuss the shape of future ministry in the parish. Bishop Will presided and preached at the Parish Mass on Sunday 3rd August, and gave us encouragement during this time of vacancy.

Links with St Andrew's

Various services and events throughout the year have continued to strengthen the relationship between our two churches.

Deacon Rachel Bennett

6. Financial Review

St John's Church achieved a total income of £69,838 (2024 £103,119). The increase in revenue in 2024 arose because of legacies and other donations.

The expenditure for the year was £77,668 (2024 £86,933), including a contribution towards our parish share for our clergy of £36,000 (2024 £33,000).

St John's church had a deficit in the year of £7,830 mainly as a result of having to replace the hall roof which cost £7,404. This can be compared with a surplus in 2024 of £16,186.

The market value of investments at 31 December 2025 was £26,638 which was a decrease of £1,109 compared to the value at 31 December 2024 of £27,747.

The net assets of St John's church after taking into account debtors and creditors at 31 December 2025 was £147,758 (2024 £156,697). The reduction in assets of £8,939 being as a result of the deficit in the year of £7,830 plus the decrease in the value of investments of £1,109.

The St John's Preschool results are included in the Charity's consolidated accounts. The Preschool made a surplus in the year of £18,966 (2024 deficit £3,720), after taking into account the hire of the church hall of £6,825.

The Charity's consolidated accounts show that its total assets at 31 December 2025 had increased to £218,292 (2024 £208,265). This increase of £10,027 was made up of the St John's Preschool surplus of £18,966 less the deficit incurred by St John's church of £8,939.

7. Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to retain a level of reserves appropriate to the Charity's future needs.

Roof funds-restricted and designated at 31 December 2025

The restricted roof fund is currently at a level whereby it is unlikely that any significant work can be undertaken to completely renew the church roof.

At 31 December 2025 the funds retained for the roof were £49,995 (2024 £42,681 made up as follows:-

- Roof restricted £34,086 (2024 £29,265)
- Roof designated £15,909 (2024 £13,416)

Restricted funds at 31 December 2025

At the 31 December 2025 the restricted funds totalled £67,477 (2024 £73,060 made up as follows:-

- Roof restricted £34,086 (2024 £29,265)
- Solar panels £11,624 (2024 £10,000)
- Pan Bailey legacy £12,729 (2024 £17,310)
- Specific purpose fund £4,244 (2024 £3,645)
- Children fund £723 (2024 £688)
- Redecoration fund £436 (2024 £415)
- Share revaluation fund £3,635 (2024 £4,745)
- Dividends on shares have been reallocated to the specific restricted funds in the year hence £nil (2024 £2,231)
- Interest on restricted funds has been reallocated to the specific restricted funds in the year hence £nil (2024 £4,761)

Designated funds at 31 December 2025

At the 31 December 2025 the designated funds totalled £24,460 (2024 £24,977 made up as follows:-

- Roof designated fund £15,909 (2024 £13,416)
- Church redevelopment-designated £4,967 (2024 £4,251)
- Hall designated fund £3,391 (2024 £4,921)
- Restoration fund £193 (2024 £nil)
- Interest on designated funds has been reallocated to the specific designated funds in the year, hence £nil (2024 £2,389)

Charity's reserves at 31 December 2025

The Charity's reserves at 31 December 2025 totalled £218,292 (2024 £208,265) made up as follows: -

- Restricted funds of £67,477 (2024 £73,060)
- Designated funds of £24,460 (2024 £24,977)
- Preschool designated funds of £70,534 (2024 £51,568)
- Unrestricted funds of £55,821 (2024 £58,660)

The movements in reserves are shown in more detail within those accounts.

Alan Caperon-Treasurer



St John's Preschool, West Worthing

Ofsted registration number: URN EY402776

Key Extracts from the Governors' Report for the period 1 January – 31 December 2025

Summary of the purposes of the Preschool as set out in its governing document. (SORP Ref: Para 1.17)

St John's Preschool is a not-for-profit early years setting registered with Ofsted that is part of the work and ministry of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing. The purpose of the Preschool is outlined in its constitution document:

Aim

'To provide the community with a valuable, high profile service by means of a Christian Preschool'.

Objectives

- 1 'To provide a first-class programme of preschool education, including spiritual development.'
- 2 'To provide a Christian environment in which children are encouraged to develop physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social skills, in work, play and social situations.'
- 3 'To develop links between the children, parents, carers and staff associated with the Preschool and St John's Church.'
- 4 'To operate in a Christian environment without discrimination concerning the child's religion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background or special needs.'
- 5 'To function in accordance with standards approved by appropriate governmental bodies eg. Ofsted.'

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

(SORP Ref: Para 1.17 and 1.19)

The Preschool operates in St John's Church Hall on Monday – Friday (Term time only) 8.30 am – 2.30 pm as a pack-away early years setting. It provides early years education through learning activities and play for children 2-4 years old.

The Preschool follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework from the Department for Education. This specifies requirements for learning and development, for safeguarding children and for promoting their welfare.

The Preschool supports children in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The curriculum delivered is designed to meet the individual needs of all children, with specific additional support given to SEND or disadvantaged children. Every child in the Preschool has key worker on the staff.

Regular assemblies and special events are held in church for the children, to which families and members of the congregation are often invited.

Statement confirming whether the Governors have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit
(SORP Ref: Para 1.18)

The Preschool's constitution reflects the 'benefit' and 'public' aspects of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, notwithstanding that it is not a separately registered Charity.

Contribution made by volunteers
(SORP Ref: Para 1.38)

All the Governors are volunteers; parents are being recruited to help as volunteers in the preschool.

Summary of the main achievements of the Preschool, identifying the difference the Preschool's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole
(SORP Ref: Para 1.20)

The Preschool is a happy, friendly, family environment where children, parents and staff all work together. The children learn through fun and play; these experiences give them a secure foundation for their future education and development, by building up their confidence and instilling in them an excitement for learning.

It also introduces the children to bible stories and to church; before the Covid pandemic, there were monthly assemblies in church led by one of the parish clergy.

Many parents return with siblings, demonstrating how happy they are with what the Preschool provides for their children.

Review of the Preschool's financial position at the end of 2025
(SORP Ref: Para 1.21)

The Preschool's financial position at 31 December 2025 remained strong, with a surplus in the year of £18,966 compared to a deficit of in 2024 of £3,720.

The Governors are aware that the majority of the Preschool's income is public funding which has been provided for the purpose of educational provision.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held
(SORP Ref: Para 1.22)

The Governors have designated specific funds as reserves to ensure they manage the financial risks effectively and the Preschool remains financially viable in the medium and long term.

The Governors also want to ensure there are always sufficient funds available to enable them:

- to meet their statutory responsibilities as employers,
- to provide a high quality of educational provision for the children,
- to create a safe environment for adults and children in the Preschool,
- to ensure the Preschool benefits the life of the parish and the local community.

Explanation of any uncertainties about the Preschool continuing as a going concern
(SORP Ref: Para 1.23)

The Governors recognise that the numbers of children on the roll fluctuate for several reasons the variation in the birth rate and the impact of other early year's provision being the main ones.

As the Preschool's income is linked directly to the numbers on roll, the Governors have agreed to hold designated funds as reserves, to manage the financial uncertainties caused by the fluctuation of numbers on roll in the short, medium and long term.

The Preschool's principal sources of funds
(SORP Ref: Para 1.47)

There are two principal sources of funding:

1. West Sussex County Council – government funding for all children eligible for free childcare.
2. Fees – paid by parents for children who are not eligible for government funded free childcare, or who wish to pay for more hours at the Preschool if their children are only entitled to 15 hours a week of government funding.

A description of the principal risks facing the Preschool
(SORP Ref: Para 1.46)

The Preschool's funding is based on the numbers of children on its roll. It is always very difficult to predict the numbers on roll on a year-to-year basis and they fluctuate considerably over the short, medium and long term.

Type of governing document
(SORP Ref: Para 1.25)

The constitution document for St John's Preschool was approved by the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing at its meeting on 14 July 2009 and amended slightly in September 2023 when co-opted governors were introduced.

Governor selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions
(SORP Ref: Para 1.25)

- The Incumbent of the Parish is an ex-officio foundation governor.
- Four foundation governors are appointed by the Parochial Church Council for a term of office of three years, which is renewable*.
- One parent governor is elected by parents.
- One staff governor is nominated by staff or the governors.

The Governors approved a new policy for the induction of governors in 2023. This policy will be reviewed every three years.

The Preschool relates to:

- The Parochial Church Council- Regular reports are given at PCC meetings and annual accounts are provided. A report is written for the APCM.
- Other Local Early Years Settings-There has sometimes been liaison with other local early years settings.
- Early Years Alliance-An annual membership fee provides access to the EYA website, advice and information.
- West Sussex County Council-Advice and support are received from the Early Years Team.
- Ofsted-An annual registration fee is paid to Ofsted; the Preschool has an Ofsted Designated Person who is responsible for ensuring that all the requirements of the Ofsted registration are met.

Sally Thompson
Chair of Governors

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and the Independent Examiner

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
2. To follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
3. To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the 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

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2025 comply with the requirement to produce consolidated accounts and include the Designated Funds of the Preschool.

I conclude as the Independent Examiner that the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 accord with the accounting records. The accounts therefore comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and provide a proper understanding of the accounts of the Charity.

Please ensure that the St John the Divine Financial Statements are filed with the Charity Commission.

Name: Garry Lock

Date: 14 April 2026



Relevant professional qualification: ACA, Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales Address: 21 Apsley Way, Durrington, West Sussex, BN13 3RE.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted funds	Total All funds 2025	Year to 31-Dec-24
	General	Designated	Designated Pre school			
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£	£	£
St John The Divine, income	18,808				18,808	19,540
Planned giving	13,959				13,959	17,361
Other gift aided donations	519			155	674	17,852
Other donations including legacies	3,416				3,416	4,176
Gift aid	0				0	688
Children fund	36,702			155	36,857	59,617
Donations and legacies total						
Pre school income			113,574		113,574	84,255
Fees for the year			1,476		1,476	492
Other income for the year			1,087		1,087	941
Other income-interest			116,137		116,137	85,688
St John The Divine, income					2,519	2,162
Weddings, funerals etc	2,519					
St John The Divine, income					2,567	3,999
Fundraising and social events	2,382	185			0	8,020
Insurance claim	0				193	150
Parish magazine sales	193				15,730	10,748
Hall and church hire	15,730				(6,825)	6,825
Hall and church hire-pre school	(6,825)				1,988	1,173
St Andrew's contributions/Walsingham	1,988				297	321
100 Club	297				669	769
Flower fund	669				0	2,150
Polling	0				1,348	582
Sundry income	898	450			120	60
Photocopying	120				288	288
Magazine advertisement fees	288				768	50
Catering	768				971	0
VAT recovered on repairs in 2024	971				0	18,114
Other Fundraising activities total	17,479	635				35,135
Bank and CBF deposit interest	1,770	978		2,005	4,753	5,452
CBF investment fund dividend				771	771	753
Investment income	1,770	978		2,776	5,524	6,205
TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES	58,470	1,613	116,137	2,931	179,151	181,982

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted funds	Total All funds 2025	Year to 31-Dec-24
	General	Designated	Designated Preschool			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable donations	1,711				1,711	1,809
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	36,000				36,000	33,000
Clergy property costs and clergy expenses	44				44	1,169
Weddings, funerals and baptisms etc	489				489	1,095
PCC governance costs	401				401	2,151
Total direct costs of charitable activities	38,645				38,645	39,224
Preschool expenditure						
Year to 31 December 2025			97,171		97,171	89,408
Pre school payments to St John's church			(6,825)		(6,825)	(6,825)
			90,346		90,346	82,583
Flowers for church	895				895	810
Church insurance	2,467				2,467	2,415
Accountancy and Xero licence	490				490	446
Hall, water, gas, electricity and refuse	3,666				3,666	4,675
Church water, gas and electricity	6,265				6,265	7,581
Hall cleaning	904				904	654
Hall wages	3,176				3,176	3,043
Hall maintenance and repairs	517	552			1,069	2,057
Hall insurance	1,860				1,860	1,812
Hall cooker replacement costs		1,578			1,578	0
Telephone and Internet	808				808	822
Bank charges	172				172	81
Other regular church running costs	506				506	875
Printing and photocopying	1,150				1,150	911
Church maintenance and repairs	3,815				3,815	10,884
Roof repairs				7,404	7,404	2,796
Walsingham	1,772				1,772	60
Subscriptions	232				232	266
Sundries	69				69	0
Advertising and fund raising costs	105				105	0
Cross					0	257
Path					0	2,480
Bike rack					0	149
Statue					0	3,630
Alter fabric					0	385
Depreciation	620				620	620
Total indirect costs of charitable activities	29,489	2,130		7,404	39,023	47,709
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	68,134	2,130	90,346	7,404	168,014	169,516

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Total All funds 2025	Year to 31-Dec-24
	General	Designated	Designated Preschool			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR						
Net income/expenditure for the year	(9,864)	(517)	25,791	(4,473)	11,137	12,488
Revaluation of shares				(1,109)	(1,109)	621
Preschool hall hire	6,825		(6,825)			0
Roundings				(1)	(1)	0
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2025	<u>58,660</u>	<u>24,977</u>	<u>51,568</u>	<u>73,060</u>	<u>208,265</u>	<u>195,178</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025	<u>55,821</u>	<u>24,460</u>	<u>70,534</u>	<u>67,477</u>	<u>218,292</u>	<u>208,265</u>

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Designated Pre School	Restricted Funds	Total All funds 2025	Total All funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	1,240		613		1,853	2,200
CURRENT ASSETS						
CAF Bank current account	7,344				7,344	3,481
Bank current account-pre school			51,684		51,684	33,996
Bank deposit account-pre school			40,053		40,053	40,053
Cash in hand	123		61		184	72
CBF Deposit fund	35,466	25,737		46,170	107,373	119,189
Children fund					0	666
Cash at bank	42,933	25,737	91,798	46,170	206,638	197,469
Investments						
1200CBF Investment fund shares				26,638	26,638	27,747
Investment assets at market value 31 December 2025				26,638	26,638	27,747
Total assets	44,173	25,737	92,411	72,808	235,129	227,406
DEBTORS						
HMRC	2,187				2,187	2,718
Hall rent	923				923	801
Christmas service donations	444				444	794
Interest	358	261		467	1,086	1,402
Hall prepayment	189				189	0
Flower fund					0	248
Sundry debtors	372		432		804	150
Donations	520				520	0
	4,993	261	432	467	6,153	6,113
CREDITORS						
WSCC and prepaid fees			(14,128)		(14,128)	(20,306)
Accruals	(169)		(3,697)		(3,866)	(2,008)
HMRC					0	(579)
Gas and electricity	(465)				(465)	(974)
Bank charges					0	(17)
Donation from church collection	(42)				(42)	(887)
DAF and EYPP			(4,484)		(4,484)	0
Trade suppliers					0	(463)
Petty cash expenses	(5)				(5)	0
Total liabilities	(681)	0	(22,309)	0	(22,990)	(25,254)
Funds transfers 2025	7,336	(1,538)		(5,798)		
NET ASSETS after debtors/(creditors)	55,821	24,460	70,534	67,477	218,292	206,265

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General £	Designated £	Designated Pre School £	Restricted £	Total All funds 2025 £	Total All funds 2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS						
CHARITY FUNDS					55,821	58,860
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	55,821					
DESIGNATED FUNDS					15,909	13,416
Roof		15,909			3,391	4,921
Hall fund		3,391			4,967	4,251
Church development fund		4,967			193	0
Restoration fund		193			0	2,389
Interest on funds					24,460	24,977
		24,460				
DESIGNATED FUNDS- Preschool			70,534		70,534	51,568
RESTRICTED FUNDS					34,086	29,265
Roof					11,624	10,000
Solar panels					12,729	17,310
Pam Bailey fund					436	415
Redecoration fund					723	688
Children fund					4,244	3,645
Special purpose fund					0	4,761
Interest on funds					0	2,231
Dividends					3,635	4,745
Share revaluation						
					67,477	73,060
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	55,821	24,460	70,534	67,477	218,292	208,265

**ST JOHN THE DIVINE BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted Funds	Total All funds 2025	Total All funds 2024
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
	1,240			1,240	1,860
CURRENT ASSETS					
CAF Bank current account	7,344			7,344	3,481
CBF Deposit fund	35,466	25,737	46,170	107,373	119,169
Cash in hand	123			123	0
Children fund				0	688
	42,933	25,737	46,170	114,840	123,338
Investments					
1200CBF Investment fund shares			26,638	26,638	27,747
Investment assets at market value	0	0	26,638	26,638	27,747
<i>Share valuation at 31 Dec 2025</i>					
TOTAL ASSETS	44,173	25,737	72,808	142,718	152,945
DEBTORS					
HMRC	2,187			2,187	2,718
Hall rent	923			923	801
Christmas service donations	444			444	794
Interest	358	261	467	1,086	1,402
Hall prepayment	189			189	0
Flower fund				0	248
Sundry debtors	372			372	150
Donations	520			520	0
	4,993	261	467	5,721	6,113
CREDITORS					
Gas and electricity	(465)			(465)	(974)
Bank charges				0	(17)
Donation from church collection	(42)			(42)	(887)
Church maintenance	(169)			(169)	(483)
Petty cash	(5)			(5)	0
Total liabilities	(681)	0	0	(681)	(2,361)
Funds transfers required	7,336	(1,538)	(5,798)		
NET ASSETS after debtors/(creditors)	55,821	24,460	67,477	147,758	156,697
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds			67,477	67,477	73,060
Designated funds		24,460		24,460	24,977
Unrestricted funds	55,821			55,821	58,660
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS				147,758	156,697

Charity reserves fund (adjusted for transactions received and paid in year to 31 December 2025)
Fund income & expenditure

Fund name	Balances b/f 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Adjustments	Balances c/f 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				599	4,244
Special purpose fund	3,645				
Pam Bailey legacy	17,310		(7,404)	2,823	12,729
Solar panels	10,000			1,624	11,624
Roof	29,265	155		4,666	34,086
Children fund	688			35	723
Redecoration fund	415			21	436
Interest received	4,761	2,005		(6,766)	0
Dividend income	2,231	771		(3,002)	0
Revaluation of shares	4,745			(1,109)	3,636
Roundings				(1)	(1)
Total of all restricted funds	73,060	2,931	(7,404)	(1,110)	67,477
Designated funds				2,493	15,909
Roof-designated fund	13,416			150	3,391
Hall fund	4,921	450	(2,130)	716	4,967
Church redevelopment-designated fund	4,251			8	193
Restoration fund		185			
Interest	2,389	978		(3,367)	0
Total of all designated funds	24,977	1,613	(2,130)	0	24,460
Total unrestricted funds	58,660	65,295	(68,134)	0	55,821
Total funds	156,697	69,839	(77,668)	(1,110)	147,758

ST JOHN' S STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total All funds 2025	Total All funds 2024
	General	Designated			
Income	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	36,702		155	36,857	59,617
Charitable activities	2,519			2,519	2,162
Other trading activities	21,350	635	0	21,985	30,722
Investments	1,770	978	2,775	5,523	6,205
Other receipts	2,954			2,954	4,413
Total received	65,295	1,613	2,930	69,838	103,119
Expenditure					
Charitable direct costs	(38,645)			(38,645)	(39,224)
Charity trading costs	(29,489)	(2,130)	(7,404)	(39,023)	(47,709)
Total paid out	(68,134)	(2,130)	(7,404)	(77,668)	(86,933)
NET EXPENDITURE	(2,839)	(517)	(4,474)	(7,830)	16,186
Net movement in funds	(2,839)	(517)	(4,474)	(7,830)	16,186
Revaluation of shares (see notes)			(1,109)	(1,109)	621
Cash & investments on 1st January 2025	58,660	24,977	73,060	156,697	139,890
Cash and investments on 31st December 2025	55,821	24,460	67,477	147,758	156,697

ST JOHN'S CHARITY INCOME FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total All funds 2025	Total All funds 2024
INCOMING RESOURCES					
	£	£	£	£	£
St John The Divine, income				18,808	19,540
Planned giving	18,808			13,959	17,361
Other gift aided donations	13,959		155	674	17,852
Other donations	519			3,416	4,176
Gift aid	3,416			0	688
Children fund	0				
Donations and legacies total	36,702		155	36,857	59,617
St John The Divine, Income				2,519	2,162
Weddings, funerals and other income	2,519				
St John The Divine, income				2,567	3,999
Fundraising and social events	2,382	185		0	8,020
Insurance claim	0			193	150
Parish magazine sales	193			8,905	10,748
Hall hire	8,905			6,825	6,825
Hall hire preschool	6,825			1,988	1,173
St Andrew's/Walsingham	1,988			297	321
100 Club	297			669	769
Flower fund	669			0	2,150
Polling	0			1,348	562
Sundry income	898	450		120	60
Photocopying	120			288	288
Magazine advertisement fees	288			768	50
Catering	768			971	0
VAT recovered on repairs in 2024	971				
Other activities total	24,304	635	0	24,939	35,135
Bank and CBF deposit interest	1,770	978	2,004	4,752	5,452
CBF investment fund dividend			771	771	753
	1,770	978	2,775	5,523	6,205
TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES	65,295	1,613	2,930	69,838	103,119

ST JOHN'S CHARITY EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total All funds 2025	Total All funds 2024
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable donations	1,711			1,711	1,809
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	36,000			36,000	33,000
Clergy property costs and clergy expenses	44			44	1,169
Weddings, funerals and baptisms etc	489			489	1,095
PCC governance costs	401			401	2,151
Total direct costs	38,645			38,645	39,224
Flowers for church	895			895	810
Church insurance	2,467			2,467	2,415
Accountancy and Xero licence	490			490	446
Hall, water, gas, and electricity	3,666			3,666	4,675
Church water, gas, electricity and refuse	6,265			6,265	7,581
Hall cleaning	904			904	3,697
Hall wages	3,176			3,176	0
Hall maintenance and repairs	517	552		1,069	2,057
Hall insurance	1,860			1,860	1,812
Hall Cooker replacement costs		1,578		1,578	0
Telephone and Internet	808			808	822
Bank charges	172			172	81
Other regular church running costs	506			506	875
Printing and photocopying	1,150			1,150	911
Church maintenance and repairs	3,815			3,815	10,884
Roof repairs			7,404	7,404	2,796
Walsingham	1,772			1,772	60
Subscriptions	232			232	266
Sundries	69			69	0
Advertising and fund raising costs	105			105	0
Cross				0	257
Path				0	2,480
Bike rack				0	149
Statue				0	3,630
Alter fabric				0	385
Depreciation	620			620	620
Total indirect costs	29,489	2,130	7,404	39,023	47,709
Total paid out on all funds	68,134	2,130	7,404	77,668	86,933

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

Income and expenditure account for the year to 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover		
Disability Attendance Funding	0	135
EYPP	3,099	2,136
Funding 2 Years	40,496	19,077
Funding 3/4 Years	50,690	47,519
Inclusion Funding	12,635	4,886
Invoiced Income	6,654	10,554
Total Turnover	113,574	84,307
Less: Administrative Costs		
Salaries	76,586	72,677
Employers Pensions - Nursery Staff	680	524
Audit & Accountancy fees	180	70
Cleaning and Hygiene Expenses	333	241
Consulting	1,370	630
Costs incurred (Fundraising funds)	234	213
Curriculum Costs	165	91
Donations	0	73
Depreciation Expense	126	0
Entertainment-100% business	106	200
Equipment Replenishment	1,629	459
EY Learning Resources	3,501	2,143
General Expenses	1,737	1,011
Inclusion expenditure	(84)	0
IT Software and Consumables	603	591
Legal Expenses	130	13
Mobile Phone Insurance	48	36
Office and Administration Costs	0	121
Payroll Advisor Fees	581	555
Postage	38	6
Pensions Costs - Administration Staff	0	491
Preschool Insurance	125	726
Printing & Stationery	347	225
Rent	6,825	6,825
Repairs & Maintenance	15	34
Staff Bonus	200	200
Staff Training	1,311	693
Subscriptions	79	0
Telephone & Internet	157	146
Uniform Costs	104	417
Website Maintenance	45	0
Total Administrative Costs	97,171	89,408
Operating surplus	16,403	(5,100)
Summary		
Operating Surplus (deficit) b/d	16,403	(5,153)
Fundraising	355	367
Donations	1,121	0
Bank compensation	0	125
Bank interest	1,087	941
Excess of income over expenditure	18,966	(3,720)

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	£	31-Dec-24
FIXED ASSETS	<u>613</u>	<u>340</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank accounts		
Bank account	51,684	33,996
Cash in hand	61	72
Deposit Account	<u>40,053</u>	<u>40,053</u>
	91,798	74,121
DEBTORS		
Sundry debtors	<u>432</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	92,843	74,461
LESS LIABILITIES		
WSCC prepayment and prepaid fees	(14,128)	(20,306)
HMRC	0	(579)
DAF and EYPP	(4,484)	0
Accruals	<u>(3,697)</u>	<u>(2,008)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(22,309)	(22,893)
NET ASSETS	<u>70,534</u>	<u>51,568</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Reserves b/f	51,568	55,288
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>18,966</u>	<u>(3,720)</u>
Reserves c/f	70,534	51,568

Notes to the accounts

1. St John The Divine has been registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission since 6 June 2018 and since that date has submitted its own accounts. Prior to that date, St John's Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") was a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. In order to provide a better understanding of the Charity's funds within the accounts, it was necessary in the year to review certain historical transactions. The outcome of the review has identified the source of certain of the Charity's funds and the specific bequests from the donors. These accounts properly reflect the Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds (which includes Unrestricted Designated Funds).
2. The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and current church accounting regulations.
3. The consolidated accounts separately identify the hall hire which is a cost to the Preschool and its corresponding income to St John The Divine but these transactions are still included in their respective accounts.
4. The consolidated accounts show the Preschool results as Designated Funds in accordance with the aim of the Preschool to provide the community with a valuable, high profile service by means of a Christian preschool.
5. St Andrew the Apostle reimbursed 50% of the clergy costs in 2024.
6. The share investment has decreased in value as at the 31st December 2025 by £1,109 to £26,638 (2024 increase by £621 to £27,747). The value of the shares is not realised until the shares are sold.
7. It was agreed at a PCC meeting on 26 March 2026 that the Hall Designated Funds be increased by a transfer from Unrestricted Funds by the Hall Surplus made in the year to 31 December 2025 of £5,302 made up as follows:-

Details	Total
Income-	
Hall hire	£8,905
Preschool-hall hire	6,825
Sub total	15,730
Less: Expenditure	
Wages	(3,076)
Cleaning materials	(905)
Hall insurance	(1,860)
Hall water, gas, electricity and refuse	(3,666)
Internet and telephone	(404)
Hall maintenance and repairs	(517)
Increase in hall designated funds	£5,302

8. Regular church running costs:-

This expenditure includes sacristy costs including candles and oil for candles.

Notes to the accounts

9. Other charitable costs

This expenditure includes:

- Repairs to church buildings, including the new hall roof.
- Drinks licence
- Website maintenance
- Telephone and broadband
- Payments for safeguarding

10. The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Balance sheet:

- a. Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.
- b. The church building on the corner of Elm Grove and Ripley Road, Worthing and the separate church hall building, situated within the church grounds in Ripley Road are excluded from the accounts by c. 10(2) of the Charities act 2011.

Trustees' annual report and financial statements presented at the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting on 17 May 2026.

Signed as approved



The Reverend Canon Rachel Bennett

Trustee

Reports from groups and committees

A. Fabric

Church:

The year started badly as we found out that all the heating in church breached the legal requirements and therefore was condemned and disconnected. As the diocese has a carbon net zero policy, the PCC have been investigating alternative ways to heat the church with a number of different systems and approaches still being reviewed. This is ongoing and we hope to have something in place before next winter.

The building is mainly water tight with the exception of a leak that was spotted recently in the Lady Chapel. There were a number of tiles that have slipped which required a roofer to come in with ladders. However, we are investigating "in-roof" solar panels, which will replace a lot of the tiles if we can get planning permission and diocesan approval. The in-roof solar panels will also provide power for a new heating system and potentially provide an income for the church.

General servicing is carried out as per the individual required schedules, fire extinguishers and lightning conductor annually.

Two new welcome mats were purchased in memory of Mike Chatfield creating a more welcoming and brighter entrance in both porches, and the north porch doors have been repaired and repainted.

With the changes to lighting regulation in the UK, it is getting difficult to get replacement bulbs for the lights in the nave. Two new LED fittings have been installed in the sanctuary to overcome this issue.

Working parties throughout the year have kept some of the grounds under control, clearing rubbish, removing weeds and the north porch path was jet washed to again make the entrance to the church more welcoming.

Hall:

In the hall we have an issue with storage, some items have been moved around to see if we can improve the situation. The preschool have agreed to purchase some shelving and the PCC have agreed to purchase some folding chairs which will take up less space, be safer to store and easier for people to access.

The roof behind the stage and kitchen, over the rainbow room and preschool office has been replaced as it was leaking. The skylights were tarnished and not letting in much light, they were replaced, now both rooms and the corridor are much brighter during the day.

The hall had an electrical inspection which raised a number of faults which needed to be fixed, some urgent, the work is ongoing.

As the hall is being used everyday now, the PCC have discussed, with the preschool, other improvements that could be made. These include decorating, replacing some of the windows, repairing or replacing the curtains. The windows on the east wall are single glazing and not particularly efficient, replacing them could help keep the hall warmer during the winter months and therefore reduce running costs.

Reports from groups and committees

The work is being priced, prioritised and being carried out as funds allow. The PCC will continue to work with the Preschool to keep the hall up to date.

Martyn Shanks

B. Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group has met regularly on Monday afternoons throughout the year to discuss the scripture readings for the forthcoming Sunday. We have a short introduction to the readings and discuss the threads which weave through the readings. We consider how the scripture readings encourage and challenge us as we grow in and deepen our relationship with Christ.

During Lent we followed the Diocesan Lent Course which took us on a journey through the Nicene Creed. Although some of the concepts were challenging the course helped us develop a deeper understanding of the Creed. We were delighted to welcome members of our congregation and from other ecumenical congregations who made this part of their Lenten discipline.

Members of the group have said how much they value the freedom they have to seek answers to their questions, and are enabled to grow in their understanding of the faith.

The session concludes with a short time of silence and then (of course) a cup of tea and time to catch up on news.

Deacon Rachel Bennett

C. Social Committee Report

The Social Committee met several times during the last year to discuss and plan various activities and to review past events in order to improve future ones. Designated charities were also discussed with Turning Tides being decided upon for our Harvest Thanksgiving Supper. Given the needs of St. John's it was agreed that all proceeds from the Christmas Fair would be used for our own purposes.

Lent Lunches were held on Wednesdays from 12th March 2025 and were well attended. They began with the Stations of the Cross and the Eucharist and were followed by a lunch of soup and bread and cheese.

On Saturday 19th July 2025 there was an Organ Recital and Afternoon Tea. We were fortunate to have as guest organist David Gammie, Organist and Assistant Director of Music at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon. We were treated to a varied programme of music excellently played with David also giving a short introduction to the pieces chosen. The afternoon tea that followed was delicious and all those present agreed it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The next item on the social calendar was the Harvest thanksgiving Supper on 4th October 2025 which was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. Good food, good company, fun quizzes, a raffle and much hilarity were in evidence.

Reports from groups and committees

Before long it was time for the Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December 2025 which was a resounding success. Although it was a cold and rainy day there was still a good attendance including Father Christmas! Our traditional Christmas Fair stalls were again boosted by the welcome addition of vendors from the Great Little Farmers' Market. They all enjoyed the experience of joining us and have expressed a wish to continue their association with St. John's, an association which we will be happy to endorse. Everyone attending enjoyed the Fair and we raised a substantial amount for church funds.

None of these events would have occurred or been successful without the willing band of volunteers – publicists, furniture movers and decorators, cooks and bakers, stall holders, donors of gifts and raffle prizes, numerous assistants or "goers" and last but not least all those who attend which make the events so warm and welcoming. The Social Committee thanks you all for your support.

Rosemary Stock (Secretary)

D. Sidespersons

We are grateful to the faithful team of Welcomers who week by week offer a warm welcome to all those who come to church. They keep an eye out for new visitors and offer assistance throughout the Mass. This is an important role. Genuine welcome reflects the hospitality that is experienced in our prayer and worship.

Martyn Shanks

E. Serving and Sacristy teams

During the year, sadly two of our serving team died. Mike Chatfield had been Head Server for many years and Greg Biggs also longstanding and faithful server. They were both Lay Ministers of Communion and assisted in the life of the church setting an example of faithful Christian discipleship. We owe a debt of gratitude to both the Sacristy team: Kim, Amber and Maggie and the Serving Team: Sharron, Jo, Hannah, Elliot and Eschel. Both teams reflect their dedication to serving the life and worship of St John's.

Martyn Shanks

F. St. John's 100 Club

A total of 56 tickets were sold in 2025, down 2 from 2024.

Each month there are 5 prizes of £5, and at Christmas two additional prizes of £50 and £25. At the end of this year, we gave £321 to Church funds.

I have run the 100 Club since 2012 when we started with 63 participants. Unfortunately, this continues to reduce year by year.

In the last thirteen years, we have given St John's a total of £4,495.22p.

Reports from groups and committees

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to purchase a number, please contact me.

Lyn Gough

G. Church Flowers

Donations have been generously given to commemorate an annual occasion, such as wedding anniversaries or remembering a loved one, or marking a special event.

At the start of the year, we had £248.38 remaining in the fund from 2024. Personal donations totalled £669, plus £100 came from Church funds, and the cost of flowers was £894.86. There was a surplus of £122.52 remaining for use in 2026.

I am always looking for volunteers, either to arrange flowers or to help in the preparation and clearing up. Easter and Christmas are particularly busy, so please me know if you can help.

There is a flower request list in the Church for you to complete with the details that you want placed by your flowers. A pedestal will cost from £25, but any donation is welcome.

I would appreciate at least two weeks' notice, with your donation.

Please see me or phone me on 07880796619

Lyn Gough

H. Parish Office

The Parish Office continues to be open on Thursday mornings 10am – 12 noon.

We print the pewsheets weekly with the Sunday readings on the reverse. Brian Hatton produces the parish magazine monthly and Sheila Hillary and I help by printing and stapling it.

Dcn Rachel is usually busy at work when I arrive on Thursdays. The idea is that I help her where I can but as her 'techie' skills are better than mine, it is sometimes the other way round!

While the church is cold, the Parish Office also provides a warmer venue for meetings. Space is a bit confined because we are currently housing two large redundant reprographic machines as well as plenty of other items which don't really belong there.

Looking forward it would be nice to get the Parish Office back to the very pleasant working space that it used to be.

We can offer small quantities of personal photocopying and laminating. We welcome enquiries for baptism, weddings and any other general church enquiries.

Lois Watson

Reports from groups and committees

I. Parish Magazine

Our Parish magazine is published monthly at no cost to the church, then printed into hard copy in the Parish Office and simultaneously processed electronically into a format suitable for addition to St John's Website.

It is essential that a Parish has a means of presenting upcoming church events to the congregation. Preferably in the format of initial outline early warning, then the details of the event and finally a reflective report on how successful the event was, or in the case of a service at the church just the times and any special information.

But the Magazine adds so much more. Members of the congregation can submit articles about their family events, and all are gratefully received. Also, it provides a means for St Johns to set out its wares. What we are about as a church, our attitudes to life and the universe. A show of the main movers and shakers in the church and a chat with them about their lives and achievements. Of course, we could not miss out the Warden's article on the progress we are making to maintain the fabric and staff.

Never forgetting the article central to the whole thing. The current religious situation or event selected by Father Roger for his monthly sermon.

We welcome advertisers who help cover the cost of printing, but our principle is that charity advertisements are free. Thus, we advertise every month the excellent services of the Preschool attached to the church.

Thanks go to everyone for their help in this regular effort which in some small way helps to sell our church to everyone who sees it.

Brian Hatton

J. St John's Hall

The hall is still very busy and continues to generate a very good income. We now have regular groups every evening and two groups one evening. Weekends are busy with birthday parties, social events and of course the monthly Lego club. I often receive positive feedback from hirers saying how much they like the hall and often booking their birthday party for the following year.

The new cooker and dishwasher are proving to be very useful additions to the kitchen. I can now control the heating from my phone which is proving very useful. An electric inspection took place in October 2025 and many urgent issues were highlighted that needed attention. The work was booked and carried out in February 2026 half term.

After many months of the roof at the rear leaking every time we had rain, a new roof was fitted.

Maintenance and repairs have been regularly carried out but there is always something that needs doing, thanks to Martyn for keeping on top of everything.

If anyone is interested in hiring the hall please contact me.

Caroline Burke

Reports from groups and committees

K. St John's Website www.stjohnwestworthing.org.uk

The website continues to be updated weekly with the Pewsheets and Sunday liturgy and monthly with the Parish Magazine.

When possible, I have featured upcoming events both sacred and secular on the website's home page. In this regard it would be very helpful if church members could send a flyer or information in good time so that I can update the website. When people move to or visit the area, they increasingly will use the internet to find a place of worship.

The C of E sponsors a website called 'A church near you' to help with this and our website is linked to it.

The program for the website is now old, cannot be updated and is becoming increasingly unreliable. A new, modern website needs to be developed to ensure this aspect of St John's outreach and witness cannot only continue but be enhanced. I understand action will now be deferred until we have a new incumbent who can then be included in discussions about appearance and content.

Meanwhile I will try to keep the reluctant old program going a bit longer...

Will Oakeshott webmaster@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk

L. St John's Preschool

I am very proud to inform you that after a difficult year for pre school we are doing exceptionally well.

Faith became our pre school manager and spearheaded an amazing team. We were awarded an Outstanding ofsted report, which in today's world is not easy to achieve.

We have an amazing assistant Manager in Sam and together she and Faith are leading a very strong and considerate team.

We also have a new Bursar, Sandra who has really got a good grip on our finances and is very proactive and organised.

We have very thorough and future facing plans to continue to offer a family centred /embracing and welcoming environment for our children and their families.

Our future is looking secure with regards to the number of existing and prospective children.

We very much look forward to welcoming our new Priest to re develop a strong link with our church and embracing Christian values and ethos.

Finally, we have a very strong team of governors who bring invaluable skills. We all feel that our new priest will unite our values with those of the church and give us welcome support.

Sally Thompson-Chair of Governors

Reports from groups and committees

M. Safeguarding

In our parish, the safeguarding of everyone, and especially of children and vulnerable adults, is at the heart of everything we do in our life and worship together. Abuse and mistreatment can take many forms and we are fully committed to following up any safeguarding concerns appropriately, in line with parish, diocesan and national church policies.

St John the Divine has continued to receive support in 2025 from those with a range of expertise in the Diocesan Safeguarding Team based at Church House in Hove. This support was particularly helpful in responding to safeguarding concerns raised in one particular case in the church this year.

The importance of safeguarding in our parish was demonstrated by having reports at every PCC meeting in 2025. The contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officer are also easily accessible in a prominent position on the front page of the parish website.

Throughout the year, a number of DBS disclosure checks were carried out for people in leadership roles at St John the Divine, and for governors and staff at St John's Preschool. All members of the PCC have had a DBS disclosure check. In line with Diocesan policy since January 2023, all DBS disclosure checks will be renewed every three years.

Martin Lloyd

Parish Safeguarding Officer

N. Deanery Synod

On 4 February 2025, a special evening deanery service was held at St Mary's Church, Broadwater. This was one of many deanery services held in early 2025 across the diocese to celebrate 'The Year of Faith'. The church was packed and the highlight of the service was a combined choir from St Andrew's, Davison and Sompting Abbots schools. The Bishop of Horsham and the Dean of Chichester also spoke at the service.

On 7 May 2025, the Worthing Deanery Synod met at St James the Less Church, Lancing. There was a very interesting presentation at the meeting from Buff Stone, the Diocesan Environment Officer. The synod also said goodbye to Revd Felix Smith, and thanked him for his work as Rural Dean, as he moved to take up a new role with the national church.

In July 2025, Revd Shirley Tupper, Vicar of St Andrew's, Ferring was appointed by Bishop Martin as the new Rural Dean. Sadly, Heather Crookes, the Deanery Development Officer for the last two years, resigned as she took up a new role as the Parish Administrator at St Mary's, Goring.

On 1 October 2025, the Worthing Deanery Synod met at St Andrew's Church, Ferring. There were two interesting presentations at the meeting; from Worthing4Refugees and Mission Direct. The synod also agreed to recruit a new Deanery Development Officer in 2026, to be funded by both the deanery and the parishes in the deanery.

Reports from groups and committees

Key roles in the Deanery Synod in 2025:

Rural Dean:

Revd Felix Smith – Vicar of South Lancing and Sompting, and Lancing with Coombes (until May 2025)

Revd Shirley Tupper - Vicar of St Andrew's, Ferring (from July 2025)

Lay Chair:

Martin Lloyd – St John the Divine, West Worthing.

Treasurer:

Liz Farrow - St Mary's, Broadwater.

Deanery Development Officer and Secretary:

Heather Crookes – Lancing Parishes (until July 2025)

Martin Lloyd