

# **Christ Church** Southborough



## **2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Southborough**

2025 started on a sad note as our Rector, Rev Nick Cornell left us in January to take up the post as Archdeacon of Tonbridge in the Rochester Diocese. Due to issues with the 1870's Rectory, the Diocese made the decision to sell this property and buy another more modern property for our next incumbent. As a Parish we were placed into "suspension" and that is how we ended the year. The original Rectory was sold during December and a new property was sourced with an offer being made in January 2026. Once this property has completed we will be in a position to start advertising for a new Rector.

However, taking this into account we have continued to progress and grow and to encompass our aims to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### **Aims and Purposes**

Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of Christ Church, the attached Church Hall and Annexe in addition to having a majority ownership of the curate's house at 54 Holden Park Road, Southborough and full ownership of 2 rental properties - 32B London Road in Southborough and 38 Azure Court in Tonbridge.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our Parish community at Christ Church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes

suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable local people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through:

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

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Christ Church.

## **Reporting Public Benefit**

The "Our Vision" section of the Trustees Report provides a brief summary of the activities undertaken by Christ Church, Southborough to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. This section of the report also provides confirmation that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular on charities for the advancement of religion, when planning our activities.

The report specifically addresses the two key principles:

1. There must be an identifiable benefit – and the Trustees have explained the activities and benefits which flow from them to the Parish community.
2. The benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public – and the Trustees have explained their commitment to enable as many people as possible to worship and become part of the Parish community.

## **Reference and Administrative Information**

<b>Rector:</b>	Rev Nick Cornell (until January 2025 and thereafter vacant)
<b>Clergy – PTO:</b>	Rev Jim Stevens
<b>Licensed Lay Minister:</b>	Sheila Syms

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Rita Morland Jonathan Taylor
<b>Deanery Synod Representative:</b>	Barbara Bourne Graham Syms

Representation on the Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the Church. Deanery Synod Representatives are elected for a period of 3 years. Elections took place at the APCM in 2023 and therefore Representatives are eligible to serve until May 2026.

<b>Bank:</b>	Lloyds Bank Plc, Tunbridge Wells Branch
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Zachary Ramsden, 63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JT
<b>Charitable Status:</b>	The PCC is a corporate body (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1184093
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.christchurchsouthborough.com">www.christchurchsouthborough.com</a>
<b>Correspondence Addresses:</b>	Christ Church Office Prospect Road Southborough TN4 0EG
<b>Patronage Board includes:</b>	Church Pastoral Aid Society and The Mabledon Trust

## Structure & Governance

### PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC consists of the clergy, the Churchwardens, the Deanery Synod Representatives and the following elected members:

<b>Parish Treasurer:</b>	Lesley Clare
<b>PCC Secretary &amp;</b>	Lesley Clare
<b>Electoral Roll Officer:</b>	
<b>Representatives:</b>	Judy Stevens
	Tony Denyer
	Sue Shrubbs
	Jamie Roddy
	Fiona Hiscoke (from May 2025)
	Wenonah Weston (from May 2025)
	Angie Wright (from May 2025)

In addition to her duties as Churchwarden, Rita Morland is also our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Christ Church PCC met 8 times during 2025 and at times make further decisions via e-mail. Members of the PCC have personal and legal liability for the activities within the Parish. The average attendance at the full PCC meetings was 93%. PCC minutes, once approved by the PCC are displayed on the website.

**A Standing Committee** is required under Church Representation Rules and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Clergy, both Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator. This Committee met once in 2025 to discuss the process for recruiting a new Incumbent.

**APCM** – the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 11th May 2025 after the Sunday service and was also live-streamed for those who couldn't attend.

**Committees** – committees have been set up to make recommendations to the PCC on specific areas. These committees are:

1. Standing Committee
2. Youth & Children's Work
3. Sundays - Worship/Prayer/Discipleship

4. Mission/Tithe
5. Mission/Outreach

## **Safeguarding**

Rita Morland has been appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and she is the first point of call for all safeguarding issues and ensures that all DBS clearances and training are kept up to date. During 2025 Sue Shrubbs was appointed as Deputy Safeguarding Officer to support Rita in her role. In 2025 there were 30 volunteers with DBS clearances available to do children/youth work or pastoral care. During 2025 there were 16 people who had their DBS renewed.

Every year, parents are asked to complete the parental consent forms for groups, activities, trips and photographs and all children and youth volunteers are issued with a written code of conduct and safeguarding policy. The Church of England Safeguarding Handbook is kept in the vestry and displayed on the main Noticeboard, on the Noticeboard in the office and a summary document given to all volunteers in September. We had no reportable Safeguarding incidents during 2025.

The PCC has agreed and are committed to comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 which confirms that we will have regard to the House of Bishop's Safeguarding policies and good practice guidance. The PCC also agree every year, what activities are covered by the Safeguarding Policy and agree the procedure for reporting any allegations.

The Safeguarding Committee have adopted the Safer Recruitment requirements and continue to review policies using the Diocesan Dashboard system. We have currently completed Level 1 and are working towards Level 2. Rita Morland, Sue Shrubbs and Jamie Roddy have all completed the Safer Recruitment Training.

Safeguarding is always on the PCC Meeting Agenda and any Diocesan or National developments are discussed.

During 2025, 4 people undertook safeguarding training at Basic Level and 8 at Foundation Level. Kevin Clare & Angie Wright completed their Safeguarding Leadership Pathway Course during 2025 to add to Jim, Sheila, Jamie, Rita and Jonathan who had already completed theirs. In addition 2 people undertook

the Safer Recruitment Training and 7 people undertook the Domestic Abuse Module.

All PCC members have Enhanced DBS clearances.

## **Serious Incident Reporting**

Charities are required to report to the Charity Commission any serious incidents, both safeguarding and non-safeguarding.

The PCC agreed to delegate authority to the Diocesan Secretary to submit safeguarding Serious Incident Reports to the Charity Commission and to the PCC Secretary to submit non-safeguarding Serious Incident Reports.

## **Employees**

During 2025, Christ Church employed three members of staff, Sue Shrubbs, Church Administrator, Clair Tighe, Cleaner and Jamie Roddy as Children & Families' Pastor.

Sue is usually the first point of contact and she ensures the smooth running of the Church, assists the clergy and co-ordinates all aspects of church administration, whilst Clair ensures the Annexe and the Hall are clean and tidy for our hirers and hoovers the church. Jamie's role is to oversee all activities relating to children & youth and to build relationships with the school and the families attending any of the events we put on.

## **Major Risks**

The Trustees consider that major risks have been identified. Those which are not covered by insurance through EIG plc are namely Health & Safety and Child Protection. These topics are reviewed regularly by the PCC.

## **Our Vision**

### **“Faith Building, Bridge Building, Life Building”**

The above “strap line” summarises the vision statement adopted by Christ Church in 2011 and still remains relevant today. These three features are intended to focus all that we do as a Church.

## **“Faith Building”**

***We believe that the Bible reveals God’s will by His Spirit and we seek to enable people to understand its true meaning and apply it to their lives as true disciples of Christ. We seek also to create a worship environment in which the reality of God is experienced.***

As a CPAS patronage Parish our tradition is evangelical. We place a high value on biblical preaching, mission and worship. We stand firmly on the authority of the Bible as the revealed Word of God and believe that the Bible speaks to each new generation afresh and the Holy Spirit is at work in our world today.

### **Current Vacancy**

Rev Nick Cornell left the Parish, his last Sunday being 26th January. After this service we had a celebration with puddings! His Collation, Installation and Welcome Service at Rochester Cathedral in February was attended by a number of the congregation.

In July, the Ven Andy Wooding Jones (CPAS) and Rev Will North (Associate Archdeacon – Tonbridge) joined a PCC meeting to discuss the vacancy, the process and what we would need to do plus some timescales. This would be a more prolonged appointment than usual due to the decision taken by the Diocese to sell the current Victorian Rectory.

During the year the PCC (including Jim & Sheila) discussed what we would be looking for in a new Incumbent, agreed the strengths and weaknesses of the Parish and the vision for the next 5/10 years. From this information Sue Shrubbs and Lesley Clare were tasked with pulling together a Parish Profile to sell the Parish to any potential applicants. This was completed by the end of 2025 (with people’s comments) and the draft profile was agreed.

### **Clergy/Lay Ministers**

Rev Jim Stevens (retired) is licensed as Clergy PTO for the Parish and Sheila Syms is a Licensed Lay Minister and we are especially grateful for the effort, time, guidance and care that both Jim and Sheila undertook this year after Nick moved roles. Jim provides all the themes and readings for the services and Sheila continues to provide all the Life Group notes/studies. Michael Wightwick is also a Reader Emeritus at Christ Church.

We also had a number of guest speakers/service leaders during the year – and we are thankful to Rev Ian Aveson, Rev Jane Edwards, Rev Anthony Hammill,

Rev Simon Whiteside, the Ven Andy Wooding Jones, Rev Deryck Charnock and Rev David Kitley for assisting us with our services.

### **Services**

There is a Sunday morning service every week. The morning services include a monthly All Age Service which sees children and adults remain together with something for everyone and the emphasis on sharing the gospel through fun. Other morning services include Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. There is an evening service once a month for Prayer and Praise which is a reflective type of service. Before the All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month we have a reflective service including Communion.

On average 66 adults attended Sunday morning services each week and 13 children. Live streaming still takes place for all Sunday morning services, with the exception of the All Age Service, which allows for children to be more involved in the service without the fear of them being on camera reflecting our safeguarding policy.

During 2025, 8 adults started attending the church and 2 left, 3 children started attending while 2 left. There are 244 people attached to the church with the age break-down as follows:

Between 0 – 10 years	=	21
Between 11-17 years	=	16
Between 18 – 69 years	=	66
70+ years	=	40

In addition about 40 people watched the services from home and 6 members of the congregation are predominantly “Church at Home” worshippers.

### **Special Services**

During 2025, there were no Baptisms, Services of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child nor any services of Prayer & Dedication after a civil marriage in the church. However, we did have two weddings – where both couples were attached to Christ Church.

There was 1 funeral service held in church, and no services were conducted at the Crematorium.



## **Seasonal Services**

### **Christmas**

Leaflets were distributed to the community detailing the Christmas services. These were also advertised on-line and through social media. Christmas Lights were again put up around the church to light up the area and a group went carol singing around the local streets.

In addition to the standard weekly services, there were special Christmas services including a Morning Service which incorporated a Nativity Service, an Evening of Favourite Carols, Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle Service in the afternoon of Christmas Eve. There was a Christmas Day family service. A total number of 577 people attended the special services up to 23rd December and 220 people attended the Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services.

### **Easter**

Easter services were advertised both on-line and via social media. A Maundy Thursday Communion Service was held with a simple meal of soup and a roll and an All Age service on Good Friday, in addition to the usual service on Easter Sunday. 62 people attended the Good Friday service and 93 attended on Easter Sunday including 71 communicants. The Church was decorated with lilies over the Easter period which had mainly been donated by members of the congregation in memory of a loved one.

### **Others**

An All Age Harvest Festival was held in church with the produce being donated to the Community Larder and Nourish. This was also our annual Mission Gift Day.

A service was held on Mothering Sunday and posies of daffodils distributed to the ladies in the congregation. In November a Remembrance Sunday service was held where we joined in with the national 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am.

Both Angie Wright and Kevin Clare completed a course - Leading Worship – and they now have formal Diocesan permission to lead worship 12 times a year. Les Padfield undertook some training and has permission to preach at some services. Angie Wright started the *The Bishop's Certificate in Christian Ministry* course as the first stage of training to become a Licensed Lay Minister.

## **Mission**

Christ Church has 5 main missions which it supports both financially and through prayer – Education for Life in Kenya, Sovereign World Trust, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), CrossTeach and Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS). A number of smaller charities are also supported throughout the year on an ad-hoc basis. All our 5 main Missions each received £888 from our tithing.

A Mission Gift Day was held in October which raised £2,420 for our 5 mission partners – Education for Life £1,359, MAF £259, Sovereign World Trust £284, CrossTeach £259 and CPAS £259. Katharine Fairbairn from CrossTeach also visited to talk about their work in schools.

Every Christmas we make a collection for Education for Life for a specific need at that particular time. In 2025 we raised £587 which was put towards the large stationery order they have at the beginning of every school year (January).

Max & Genevieve Allen who had left us during 2024 to work in Nepal for KISC (Kathmandu International Study Centre) visited during June and during a service shared their experiences and their life in Nepal.

We participated again in Operation Christmas Child, operated by Samaritan's Purse, whereby shoe-boxes filled with presents are sent to children worldwide. Whilst the trend is now towards on-line donation, there are still a large number collected in church.

## **Community Larder**

The Community Larder, started in November 2020 as a 6 week project, is still required in the community with the need and number of users remaining constant. The Café after the Larder also continues to thrive.

Patrick Grice has overall responsibility for the Larder and it is going from strength to strength. The Larder received £5,084 in grants and donations during 2025 - £833 from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, £500 from Neighbourly, £150 from Churches for Tunbridge Wells, £600 from the Asda Foundation, £700 from the Southborough Lions, £226 from the Mayor of Southborough's Quiz and £2,075 from private donations.

Many volunteers help at this event either by manning the tables on a Thursday, providing refreshments in the café, or being involved in one of the

many pick-ups from supermarkets that are necessary to provide this service to the community. Whilst many of these volunteers are members of our congregation there are also a number of volunteers from other churches and the wider community.

### **Life Groups**

Life Groups continue to be an integral part in the life of the Church and there are currently 5 groups. They are held every fortnight during the day or in the evening to enable people to worship and pray together, explore their faith, ask questions to gain a greater understanding of both the Bible and Christianity and form a closer relationship with God and each other. Many Life Groups also had social meetings during the year.

During Life Groups we had sessions on Daniel, the “I Ams”, The Bible (History, Prophets and Versions) and the First Epistle of John and we sincerely thank Sheila Syms for faithfully choosing topics and producing these study notes throughout the year.

The Men’s Study Group started in 2024 on a Saturday morning twice a month called “Toast & Study” has a regular if small participant group.

### **Electoral Roll**

2025 was the year that the Electoral Roll undertakes a complete revision and this was completed prior to the APCM. After the revision there were 109 people on the Roll, a reduction of 19 from the previous year.

The Electoral Roll Secretary (Lesley Clare) reports the number on the Roll at the time of the APCM and it is this number, given to the Diocese, which is used to calculate the number of representatives we have on Deanery Synod. Electoral Roll additions, deletions and rolling totals are reported at each PCC meeting.

### **Ecumenical Life**

We are a member of Churches for Tunbridge Wells, support the Annual Week of Prayer for Tunbridge Wells and we are a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

The Group Ministry within Southborough called ACTS (Anglican Churches Together in Southborough) comprising ourselves, St Thomas, St Lawrence & St Peter continued to be involved in community events.

## **“Bridge Building”**

***We seek to ensure that the church is a visible and valuable presence in the community by welcoming and serving as many people as we can.***

### **Prayer**

Prayer remains a fundamental role in the ministry of the Parish and is at the centre of all we do. Regular monthly Women and Men’s prayer are held throughout the year. Staff prayers are held every Monday and regularly pray for members of the congregation. There are always designated people available to pray after the morning services.

The monthly prayer and praise evening service continued and prayer before the morning services continued. The small prayer groups continued to meet through the year and Sue continued to produce the monthly prayer diaries.

Jamie used to hold termly prayer meetings for Children & Youth Work, but he has suspended these during the vacancy with the aim for them to re-start once a new Rector is in place.

During 2025, a new prayer meeting was introduced after the service on the 4th Sunday every month, to pray specifically for the process of finding a new Incumbent, the sale and purchase of a Rectory and on-going events in the Church.

### **School Governors**

We continue to maintain and strengthen the good relationship we have with our local school – Southborough CE Primary School. During 2025, we continued to have 2 Foundation Governors – Les Padfield and Rebecca Large. Lin Hutchinson from St Peter’s is also a Foundation Governor.

Jamie continues to regularly run Collective Worship at the school and since Nick is no longer able to help him, Les Padfield has assisted.

During the year, services were held in Church for specific year groups which included parents. The service for the Reception year was attended by 100 parents. There were also year group visits by the children as part of their RE lessons. A School Leavers Service was held for Year 6.

### **Friday Lunch Club**

This club runs every Friday with Rita Morland, Judy Stevens & Lesley Grice providing the catering from the church kitchen. This activity is aimed at the elderly in the Parish. The lunches exist for fellowship for the elderly but also to minister to those in their latter years as many attendees are not members of the Sunday congregation. Volunteers provide transport to allow people to attend. There are regularly over 20 people who attend.

### **Tea and Toys**

The term-time toddler group for parents and carers to bring their pre-school children to play in a friendly and safe environment continues to thrive. This provides fun activities with lots of toys and opportunities to sing songs and listen to stories. Since September 2025, this session has included bible story time with relevant craft activities to try to make the most of the opportunity to share our faith with those who attend.

These sessions have continued to be extremely popular. An Easter Special session was held which included the Easter Story. Easter crafts and an Easter Egg hunt and a Christmas party was held in December during which a very “scratch nativity” was held!

### **Youth & Children**

#### **Children & Families’ Pastor**

Jamie Roddy continues as our Children & Families’ Pastor. During 2025 he attended a Growing Young Disciples Conference for Youth Workers based on the theme of “Christ: Prophet, Priest, King.”

#### **Youth Activities**

The Acts 29 Youth Life Group run by Angie Wright, Pole Voisey and Wenonah Bubb continued to meet on a weekly basis in the evening and the Pathfinders Group meet during Sunday morning services. Pathfinders was re-named Christ Church Youth in September 2025.

A very successful Youth Weekend Away was held in July at West Watch which was attended by 12 members of our Youth. To assist with the funding of this Weekend, the Youth held a Quiz Night in May.

Jamie maintains links with Unite (Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ) and encourages our young people to attend the Unite services and music events

during the year. For the last 3 years, he has led the Christian Union at Skinners School but from the end of 2025 has passed this back to Youth for Christ. He also maintains a link with CrossTeach and assists with leading the St Gregory's School Christian Union.

A Beach Themed Light Party was held on 31st October to celebrate Jesus the Light of the World and give an alternative for parents to trick and treating. This was aimed at primary age children with their parents and involved games, crafts, a tuck-shop, a disco and Bible Talk. It was much appreciated as a safe space during the evening and 432 people passed through the doors at this event.

### **Sunday School/JAM/Family Events**

JAM (Jesus and Me) continues every week with the exception of the first Sunday of the month. All children of primary age meet together in the Annexe. The under 5's group also continues. There continues to be a "Together Time" where JAM and the under 5s sing, learn a memory verse and play games together. In September 2025, JAM and the under 5s were re-named Christ Church Kids and Christ Church Kids Juniors.

During the August School holidays, children attending services were provided with Activity Bags which included various activities to do during the service.

### **Holiday Club**

A Holiday Club was held in 2025 and run over three mornings – the theme for this was the story of Jonah with bible teaching, games, songs and drama. This was attended by approximately 25 children each day from reception to Year 6. Not all could attend every day but great fun was had by all. A Holiday Club service was held on the Sunday following the event to share the experiences with the congregation.

## **“Life Building”**

***We believe that we are created to have a relationship with Jesus Christ by His Spirit. We seek therefore to give opportunities for people to discover for themselves the relevance of Jesus in their lives and to demonstrate this through our communal life and care for one another.***

### **Community Events**

Many events took place during 2025, some were focussed on outreach whilst the aim of others is to strengthen the community of the church.

**Coffee** – tea & coffee is served every week after church on Sundays and people are encouraged to stay and chat with other members of the congregation.

**Coffee & Chat** - a small group of predominately women meet every week for a time to enjoy fellowship and chat, coffee and biscuits! This group supports Max & Genevieve who left our congregation to work in Nepal and regularly send donations to them.

**Friday Café** – a termly café for the PTA particularly when they are holding a uniform sale in the Hall.

**Men’s Events** – included a Men’s Breakfast in February and a visit to St Michaels Church in Berwick.

**Men’s Curry Nights** – these continue on a monthly basis. Due to no local Restaurant being available the group have been meeting at Junahki in St John’s which is a car ride away. Numbers are fairly small but there is a committed group of around 6-10 attendees each month. In December there is usually an evening for both men and women but this year the men decided to continue to meet on their own, so the ladies arranged their own event on the same night at The Thai Orchid in Southborough which was attended by 12 people.

**Christmas Fair** – the annual Christmas Fair was held again at the end of November. This has always been an event for the community as well as fund-raising and was well supported raising over £1,800. Tony Denyer’s men’s singing group again provided entertainment during the Fair. A craft preparation evening was held prior to the Fair which was a fun evening for the participants.

**Harvest** – an Evening of Entertainment was held at Harvest time (October) showcasing talent within the Church – this included singing, drama, readings and playing instruments with various dishes of chilli made by members of the congregation. Over 100 people attended which included church members and also members of the community.

**Pancake Panto** – Les Padfield organised a Pancake Panto based on the Robin Hood story at the beginning of Lent. This event was a musical drama (much improvised and quite chaotic!) and involved a large amount of children and adults from the church. It was well attended and enjoyed by both the congregation and the community.

**Sunday Lunches** – Judy Stevens regularly provides Sunday Lunches for the congregation in the Church Hall and there were 2 held in 2025 plus there was a Church Party in June with a BBQ and various games which was attended by the church congregation and a number of larder users.

### **Other Events**

A Women's Breakfast was held in September when Ellie Roddy spoke about her life and Christian journey.

Ice Cream Sunday has rapidly become an annual event and was held in June on the Sunday when Max & Genevieve joined us.

Sue Shrubb, Rita Morland, Lindy Voisey, Lesley Grice and Jamie Roddy were involved in running Christian camps over the summer holidays.

The Brownie pack continued to meet on a weekly basis and in September they dug up their "time capsule" which had been planted 25 years ago.

Little Learning Tree Nursery held a Nativity Service in the church. Prior to this Jamie visited them to teach them the Nativity Story and to practice their Nativity songs with them.

A number of the congregation participated in the annual Ride & Stride event which raised £441. Many thanks to Steve & Annette Cole for organising.

### **Pastoral Care**

Where people have not been able to attend church due to sickness, Rev Jim Stevens or members of the Staff Team have visited them to celebrate



communion or to pray with them. Many lifts have been provided by members of the congregation to church, church events, hospital appointments and other medical appointments.

### **Bereavements**

Unfortunately during 2025 we had to say goodbye to 2 members of our current congregation – Barry Ward and Ken Grover. Both had been loyal and popular members of our congregation over many years. They will both be sorely missed and we are thankful for their many, many years of faithful service.

We were also sad to suddenly lose Tony Bourne in April, who although worshipped at St Paul's in Rusthall, often attended at Christ Church accompanying his wife Barbara and was always seen at special or social events.

### **Communications**

The Christ Church Facebook page continues to grow which now has 555 followers and services and events are regularly advertised via this medium and on the Southborough Forum FaceBook site. The Christ Church, Southborough YouTube Channel also has 166 subscribers. Our Sunday morning services continue to be live-streamed and is watched by around 40 people each week. Regular e-mails are sent to all the people on the church database (ChurchSuite) which now totals 133.

We continue to have a weekly notice sheet in addition to notices given out during services and Sue Shrubb regularly sends round by email anything of interest to the congregation. In addition, all information is provided on the website.

### **Buildings**

Both the Hall and the Annexe are normally hired out for community use with the Annexe proving to be particularly popular in the community. Lettings are extremely high and we have many regular weekly hirers who have been hiring with us for many years.

The properties we own – 32B London Road and 38 Azure Court – are both rented and help to fund the employment of our Children & Families Pastor. Both are managed through Estate Agents Wood & Pilcher who ensure all necessary maintenance is carried out.

**54 Holden Park Road** – this house is owned by ourselves (70%) and St Peter's (30%) and historically houses the curate if appropriate. However the last curate left in August 2023, the house has since been rented on a commercial basis. Again Wood & Pilcher manage this on our behalf.

**Re-ordering** – the re-ordering project is on hold pending a new Rector. However, we have still sought permission via a faculty for the disposal of the old font plus the electronic organ and are still awaiting a final confirmation that we are able to do so.

**Boiler Fund** – we are pleased to confirm that the new boiler was installed in January 2025. This was funded through the generosity of our congregation and the church has been a much warmer place this winter!

The following upgrades were made or purchased:

- 8 new blue chairs with arms were purchased as we needed to place a number permanently within the church and have some available in the Annexe (previously there had only been the set of chairs with arms in the Hall).
- A new water boiler (urn) was installed in the main kitchen (thank you to the anonymous donor)
- The Lightning Conductor was checked by Len & Jonathan
- The External front door was sanded down and repainted by Steve
- Steve filled in some holes in the Boiler Room
- The Annexe Boiler was serviced
- The fence between the Rectory and church was fixed by Jonathan & Steve
- Steve chopped down some the Ash Trees in the Rectory Garden which were causing issues with the Annexe

Steve Cole continues to keep all the garden area around the church in excellent condition and assists Jonathan in carrying out various minor internal repairs.

## **Voluntary Helpers**

Our church would not function without it's multitude of voluntary helpers and the PCC are eternally grateful to all the people who have helped over the year in any capacity. There are too many people to mention everyone but they include service leaders, children and youth workers, flower arrangers, cleaners, our gardener, the music group, life group leaders, providers of tea/coffee, event organisers, sides people/welcomers, people who carry out any pastoral

care, people on the prayer teams, those on the reading and prayer rota, plus many others.

We are extremely grateful for everybody's time/skills/efforts during 2025.

## **Stewardship/Financial Review**

A big thank you to the congregation for their generosity and faithful giving to the work of Christ Church over the last year particularly in light of the financial challenges we still continue to face.

Your giving has allowed us to continue to support our Mission partners as well as our own outreach groups within Christ Church. We have also been able to continue the Community Larder which helps so many local families.

The Parish Giving Scheme whereby an external company deals with all the regular direct debits and associated gift aid is working well for us and the majority of our regular givers' income comes through this system.

Our total income for 2025 was £169,559 (including restricted funds of £9,626) and our expenses were £171,191 (which included £24,676 of restricted funds) meaning that we made an overall loss of £1,632. However, our actual operating position is a small surplus of £462 after taking into account the cost of the Boiler (paid during 2025 but funds raised during 2024) and the interest raised on the funds we are holding for the re-ordering project and the funds held at the Diocese. This is an amazing achievement in a year without the leadership of a Rector.

Our reserves remain healthy and we have sufficient reserves for 3 to 6 months of expenses. Our reserves policy states that "it would be wise, in case of unforeseen expense or temporary reduction of income, to maintain reserves of unrestricted net current assets, insofar as these are within the PCC's control, at a level of between three and six months "normal" expenditure, ie, excluding items of large special or project expenditure."

In addition our Restricted Project Funds now stand at £45,075. (This is money which has been stipulated can only be used for building/lighting/re-ordering projects).

A copy of our independently reviewed accounts for 2025 is available on our website.

The Trustees Report and Financial Accounts was adopted by the PCC on 13th April 2026 and approved at the APCM on 10th May 2026.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:

Jonathan Taylor/Rita Morland .....  
**Churchwardens**

Date                      19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**The Parochial Church Council  
of the Ecclesiastical Parish  
of Christ Church, Southborough**

**Charity no 1184093**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31st December 2025**

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b>Total Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b><i>Unrestricted Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>	<b><i>Restricted Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>	<b><i>Total Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	81,642	9,626	91,268	84,154	30,543	114,697
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	31,327	-	31,327	23,411	300	23,711
Investment income	2(c)	46,964	-	46,964	43,251	-	43,251
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>159,933</b>	<b>9,626</b>	<b>169,559</b>	<b>150,816</b>	<b>30,843</b>	<b>181,659</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>							
Charitable activities	3	146,515	24,676	171,191	140,589	12,112	152,701
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>146,515</b>	<b>24,676</b>	<b>171,191</b>	<b>140,589</b>	<b>12,112</b>	<b>152,701</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		<b>13,418</b>	<b>(15,050)</b>	<b>(1,632)</b>	<b>10,227</b>	<b>18,731</b>	<b>28,958</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		13,418	(15,050)	(1,632)	10,227	18,731	28,958
<b>Balances at 1.1.25</b>		898,861	64,053	962,914	888,634	45,322	933,956
<b>Balances at 31.12.25</b>	10	<b>912,279</b>	<b>49,003</b>	<b>961,282</b>	<b>898,861</b>	<b>64,053</b>	<b>962,914</b>

# CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		31.12.25			31.12.24		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Notes</b>						
Tangible fixed assets	6	671,400	-	671,400	671,400	-	671,400
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>							
Debtors	7	1,729	-	1,729	1,142	-	1,142
Bank	8	263,168	49,003	312,171	255,617	64,053	319,670
		264,897	49,003	313,900	256,759	64,053	320,812
<b>CREDITORS:</b>							
Due within one year	9	24,018	-	24,018	29,298	-	29,298
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		240,879	49,003	289,882	227,461	64,053	291,514
<b>CREDITORS:</b>							
Due after more than one year		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		912,279	49,003	961,282	898,861	64,053	962,914
Represented by:							
<b>FUNDS</b>							
Funds		912,279	49,003	961,282	898,861	64,053	962,914
<b>Total</b>	11	912,279	49,003	961,282	898,861	64,053	962,914

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Jonathan Taylor

Chair of Trustees

Mr Jonathan Taylor - Churchwarden

# CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice as the applicable standard to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP(FRS102)).

### ASSETS

#### Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind (i.e. the church and vicarage) is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not classified in the financial statements.

#### Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included within the Church inventory.

#### Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity (functional fixed assets)

Larger items are capitalised and written off over their useful lives. Smaller items are written off as incurred.

Any expenditure on maintenance or improvements on fixed assets is written off as incurred.

#### Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit with the Diocese.

### FUNDS

#### Unrestricted Funds

These represent the income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC.

#### Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

#### Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted.

### INCOMING RESOURCES

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by church events and activities are accounted for gross, i.e. before any associated expenses.

#### Other ordinary income

Rental from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc. are accounted for when the event occurs.

#### Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received.

### RESOURCES USED

#### Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

#### Activities directly related to the work of the Church

The Diocesan Parish Offer in respect of clergy and diocesan costs are accounted for when paid.

Any additional amounts agreed by the PCC but not paid across as at 31st December are shown as creditors in the balance sheet.

### DEBTORS

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of income tax fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

#### Diocesan Church Repair Fund - Quinquennial Funds

The Diocesan Church Repair Fund consists of funds designated by the PCC for future repairs.

A contribution rate into the fund is agreed to pay for these repairs. The repairs specified in the survey report are funded by the Diocesan Church Repair Fund. Where insufficient funds are available, a loan (currently interest free) may be obtained from the diocese which is repayable over five years.

#### Pensions

PCC contributes to a pension scheme for its lay staff. Contributions are accounted for as they are paid. Contributions paid in the year were £807 (2024: £ 756).



**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**2. INCOMING RESOURCES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b>Total Funds Year to 31.12.25 £</b>	<b><i>Unrestricted Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>	<b><i>Restricted Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>	<b><i>Total Funds Year to 31.12.24 £</i></b>
<b>2(a) Donations and legacies</b>						
Donations	65,904	4,541	70,445	65,371	15,013	80,384
Income tax recoverable	14,238	325	14,563	14,616	2,297	16,913
Grants received	1,500	4,760	6,260	4,167	13,233	17,400
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>81,642</b>	<b>9,626</b>	<b>91,268</b>	<b>84,154</b>	<b>30,543</b>	<b>114,697</b>
<b>2(b) Income from charitable activities</b>						
Church activities	31,327	-	31,327	23,411	300	23,711
	<b>31,327</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,327</b>	<b>23,411</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>23,711</b>
<b>2(c) Investment income</b>						
Property Rental Income	37,241	-	37,241	32,219	-	32,219
Interest	9,723	-	9,723	11,032	-	11,032
	<b>46,964</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,964</b>	<b>43,251</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,251</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>159,933</b>	<b>9,626</b>	<b>169,559</b>	<b>150,816</b>	<b>30,843</b>	<b>181,659</b>

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**3. RESOURCES USED**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>31.12.25</b>	<b>31.12.25</b>	<b>31.12.25</b>	<b>31.12.24</b>	<b>31.12.24</b>	<b>31.12.24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	39,527		39,527	37,042		37,042
Utilities	6,980		6,980	4,238		4,238
Insurance	2,775		2,775	2,737		2,737
Parish share	68,004		68,004	70,044		70,044
Repairs & renewals	2,610	11,723	14,333	4,400	1,344	5,744
Church costs	5,723		5,723	8,511		8,511
Church activities	9,361	8,712	18,073	1,470	8,449	9,919
Property costs	4,197		4,197	5,181		5,181
Independent examination	715		715	750		750
Mission giving	6,292	4,241	10,533	6,216	2,319	8,535
Sequestration account	331		331			
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>146,515</b>	<b>24,676</b>	<b>171,191</b>	<b>140,589</b>	<b>12,112</b>	<b>152,701</b>

**4. GRANTS - Missionary and charitable giving**

	<b>2025 Unrestricted</b>	<b>2025 Restricted</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Paid to organisations	6,292	4,241	10,533
			-
	6,292	4,241	10,533

**5. STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND RELATED PARTIES**

**Staff costs (excluding clergy)**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Wages and salaries	38,721	36,286
Employers NI	-	-
Employers pension contributions	806	756
	39,527	37,042

No employees earn more than £60,000.

	<b>Number of employees</b>		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>2024</b>
Administrator	1.00	0.40	1.00
Youth worker	1.00	1.00	1.00
Cleaner	1.00	0.15	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>3.00</b>

**Payments to members of the Parochial Church Council and related parties**

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from the Charity (2024 - none).

No trustees' expenses were incurred in the year (2024 - none).

There have been no transactions with persons or entities that are closely connected to the charity or its trustees (2024 - none).

**6. FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
Brought forward	671,400	671,400
Additions	-	-
Carried forward	671,400	671,400
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Brought forward	-	-
In year	-	-
Carried forward	-	-
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>671,400</b>	<b>671,400</b>

Property cost £36,400 (70% ownership) was donated by the previous charity at cost. No depreciation is provided as the current value is greater than cost.

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

<b>7. DEBTORS</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Prepayments	400	-	-	400	366
Other debtors	1,329	-	-	1,329	776
	<u>1,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,729</u>	<u>1,142</u>

**8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

**2025  
£**                      **2024  
£**

**Bank accounts**

DBF Building Fund	30,585	29,577
DBF Church Repair Fund	27,151	23,818
DBF General Account	8,569	8,286
DBF Tithing Account	15,284	14,780
Lloyds Current Account	5,075	6,998
Lloyds Savings Account	72,783	89,161
Affirmative Deposit Account	144,283	138,844
DBF 54 HPR	8,441	8,206
	<u>312,171</u>	<u>319,670</u>

Of the total, £263,168 is for unrestricted purposes, and £49,003 for restricted purposes.

**9. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

**2025  
£**                      **2024  
£**

Creditors and accruals	11,136	18,266
Tithe	12,882	11,032
	<u>24,018</u>	<u>29,298</u>

Of the total, £24,018 is for unrestricted purposes.

**10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets	671,400	-	671,400
Current assets	264,897	49,003	313,900
Current liabilities	(24,018)	-	(24,018)
Fund Balance	<u>912,279</u>	<u>49,003</u>	<u>961,282</u>

**11. FUNDS**

	<b>Balance 1.1.25 £</b>	<b>Movement in Funds Incoming £</b>	<b>Outgoing £</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance 31.12.25 £</b>
<b><u>Unrestricted funds</u></b>					
General fund	892,974	159,933	(146,515)	(350)	906,042
New toys fund	5,887	-	-	350	6,237
	<u>898,861</u>	<u>159,933</u>	<u>(146,515)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>912,279</u>
<b><u>Restricted funds</u></b>					
Friday Lunch Club Fund	912	300	(731)	-	481
Lighting Fund	118	-	-	-	118
Screens	1,530	-	-	-	1,530
Building Project Fund	42,763	-	-	-	42,763
Gift day	-	-	-	-	-
Boiler fund	12,387	-	(11,723)	-	664
Larder donations	6,343	5,085	(7,981)	-	3,447
Mission giving	-	4,241	(4,241)	-	-
	<u>64,053</u>	<u>9,626</u>	<u>(24,676)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,003</u>
	<u>962,914</u>	<u>169,559</u>	<u>(171,191)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>961,282</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the  
Parochial Church Council of Christ Church Southborough**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Signed: *Zachary Ramsden*

Name: Zachary Ramsden FCA

Chartered Accountant

63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JT

Date: 23rd April 2026