

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the **Ecclesiastical Parish of Heathfield**

All Saints' Old Heathfield, St. Richard's Heathfield, and St. George's Broad Oak

For the year ended 31st December 2025



Heathfield Benefice

The Church of England in Your Community

In life. In love. In loss.

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Website:	www.heathfieldbenefice.org.uk
Incumbent:	Rev. David Packham
Church Wardens:	Miss Jane Eales Mrs. Heather Bruce
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Gary Hicks, FCCA 14 Meadow Way, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8AF.
Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc.

Heathfield Benefice

The Church of England in your Community

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a single church family,
offering a genuine welcome to all within a
caring, prayerful, worshipping community,
faithful to biblical teaching,
that inspires active discipleship.



Heathfield Parochial Church Council

Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Vicar's Report 2025

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical
- Knowing Jesus better and make Him better known
- Engaging with all sectors of the local community, including school, colleges, and public services, in order to embed the Church in the life of the local community
- Practical support and care for the people in the parish.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

Numbers attending worship across all three churches in the Parish have remained stable throughout the year, with at least one service of Holy Communion in the Parish every Sunday, a said service of Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings and a monthly BCP service of Holy Communion early on Sunday morning. We continue to be very grateful to our two retired priests, Revd. Canon Lucy Murdoch and Revd. Ann Pollington, who presided at most of our Holy Communion services, until the arrival of the new incumbent in July, and conducted all the Baptisms in 2025. The Benefice Choir sang at most morning services, on special occasions and at the

monthly Choral Evensong. In addition, the Junior Choir has sung at a number of services and a Youth Choir has now begun. We are very grateful to have Simon Hendry as our Benefice Choirmaster. Our Remembrance Sunday Service was well attended and included local uniformed organisations, while attendance during our Christmas services was up by 10% from last year. We are very grateful for the unstinting work of our Readers, Sacristans and Vergers, who have made so many of our services and related church activities possible.

Evangelism, outreach and pastoral care

Saint Richard's Hall continues to be used by many church and community groups such as the local Folk Dance Group, the Dementia Cafe and the Rainbows and Brownies. The Arts and Crafts Group and the Book Club continue to meet, in addition to the monthly free lunch that is run by church members but open to all. Two weekly Baby and Toddler groups run by church members meet at Saint Richard's Hall and in Saint George's Parish Room. Our provision of Sunday Church for children, during Sunday morning services, complements the Junior Choir and our partnership with All Saints' and St. Richard's School (our local voluntary aided primary school), to whom we make All Saints' Church available for school services throughout the year and to whom regular visits are made to lead Collective Worship or other activities.

The Benefice continues to support Heathfield Street Pastors and Heathfield School Pastors, who go into Heathfield Community College on a weekly basis during term time, supported by Prayer Pastors, which together form a collaborative Churches Together in Heathfield



initiative. We are very grateful to the local Mothers Union branch members for the support and help they provide in preparing candidates for Baptism, the monthly Wednesday Communion Service at Saint Richard's and the work done at All Saints' and St. Richard's School (often behind the scenes), including a wonderful Rainbow Collage made with the children last year, and showcased at our Christingle Service in December.

For older people, our partnership with Country Lunches offers a fortnightly lunch for up to 50 elderly residents, while links with Heffle Court (our local care home) have been maintained, in addition to a monthly service of Holy Communion at Holdenhurst (an independent living home). The highly valued Bereavement Cafe continues to meet once a month led by an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) to provide friendship to bereaved people, while Home Communion is taken to those unable to attend church services. It is heartening that we now have a second ALM to support our pastoral work within the Benefice, having completed the training in 2025.

November saw the second Nativity Festival at Saint Richard's Church, which was well attended and at which over 100 nativity sets were loaned and displayed. The Parish continues to support the diocesan-based Family Support Work charity, regularly donating food and other items for distribution and providing a hub for their local caseworker at Saint George's Church. The Heathfield Magazine continues to be produced with many diverse articles covering a large number of subjects for a broad appeal, acting as a key tool for our mission and a community voice. 1,400 copies were distributed monthly and it was made available on the Benefice website. In addition, the weekly Grapevine e-newsletter continues to provide an up-to-date source of information on our services and activities.

Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy

All the church buildings and grounds in the parish have been maintained by a team of committed and able volunteers. We are very grateful to FASCOH (Friends of All Saints' Church Old Heathfield) for raising the necessary funds that allowed the plans to redecorate the interior of All Saints' Church to go ahead. Work on the updated lighting and sound system began in January and was completed in September. This has augmented the interior and brought a brightness to the building, enhancing the opportunity for church members and visitors alike to worship or meditate. 2025 also saw the redecoration of the west wall and part of the chancel and sanctuary of Saint Richard's Church, highlighting the value we place on using our worship spaces as opportunities for the whole community to enjoy. The growing number of bell ringers, which now meets to practise twice a week, rang the bells before services at All Saints' Church on Sunday mornings and on special occasions. All three of our church buildings are open in daylight hours for anyone who wishes to make the most of the quiet and pray.

Looking ahead

It has been hugely encouraging that, despite the extended interregnum, so many church activities and commitments have continued and that the Parish's work and mission is supported by so many people. Having looked at how far we have come, the opportunity to grow a fresh vision, revisit the mission action plan and focus on local needs, supported by a stewardship campaign, gives great hope and confidence as we enter a new phase of God's mission, journeying together as his people in Heathfield.

Reverend David

David Packham
Vicar of Heathfield



Financial Review

The attached accounts represent the financial activity of All Saints' Church, Old Heathfield, St Richards Heathfield and St George's Church, Broad Oak, Heathfield during the year 2025. The accounts for these Churches are consolidated into one account.

The total receipts within the General and Unrestricted Fund were £312,451 and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned Giving through Envelopes and Bankers Orders decreased by 9% and the total overall income – including tax recovered – increased by 247%.

The largest item of expenditure was the Parish Contribution £50,000 to the Diocese to cover our Vicar, Curate and ministry costs. Our contribution for 2026 has increased by 2.5% to £52,500.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, the total of which is £190,394.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The PCC is a charity, and is registered with the Charity Commission and the registered number is 1201528 Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Power) Measure 1956.

Incumbent: Rev. David Packham

Church Wardens: Mrs Heather Bruce
Miss Jane Eales (Vice-Chair; Deanery Synod Rep; also on Diocesan Synod)

Deanery Synod Representatives: Dr Susan Greener (also on Diocesan Synod)
Mrs Diana Hughes

Elected Members:	Mr Alan Clark	Mrs Janette Reid
	Mr George Dearsley	Mr Colin Saunders
	Mrs Hazel Nicol (PCC Secretary)	Mr Alexis Stafford
	Mrs Judy Piper	Mr Peter Weaver

Ex Officio (Non-voting) Mr Nicholas Rayment (Treasurer)

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members, the vicar and lay readers licensed to officiate in the church, the church wardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods, and members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev. David Packham, Incumbent

David Packham

Date: *11 March 2026*



Financial Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Heathfield All Saints' Old Heathfield, St.Richard's Heathfield, and St.George's Broad Oak

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2025

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

	<i>Unrestricted</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Deposit A/C</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	273,373	-	-	720	274,093	91,042	
Charitable activities	3,594	-	-	-	3,594	5,298	
Other trading activities	30,509	-	-	-	30,509	27,537	
Investments	1,254	2,722	-	279	4,255	2,779	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total received	308,730	2,722	-	999	312,451	126,656	3
Expenditure on:							
Cost of raising funds	40	-	-	-	40	-	
Charitable costs	185,385	-	-	1,371	186,756	111,495	
Trading costs	31,557	-	-	-	31,557	25,837	
Other payments	-	-	-	(498)	(498)	(1,095)	
Total paid	216,982	-	-	873	217,855	136,237	4
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	91,748	2,722	-	126	94,596	(9,581)	
Transfers between funds	5,402	(5,402)	(373)	373	-	-	
Net movement in funds	97,150	(2,680)	(373)	499	94,596	(9,581)	
Bank accounts at 1 January 2025	66,243	36,879	6,909	39,021	149,052	158,633	
Bank accounts at 31 December 2025	163,393	34,199	6,536	39,520	243,648	149,052	A&L



Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	<i>Unrestricted</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowed	All Funds	All Funds
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2025	2024
Assets:	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank current account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank current account	656	274	158	-	1,088	735
Premium Deposit A/C	-	6,070	-	-	6,070	18537
Cash in Hand	22	-	-	-	22	48
Church Hall Current Account	929	-	-	-	929	8980
Church Hall Deposit Account	4,358	-	-	-	4,358	0
CBF Deposit Fund	156,161	27,855	6,378	-	190,394	81156
CBF Investment Fund	-	-	-	39,520	39,520	39021
PCC-owned bank balance	162,126	34,199	6,536	39,520	242,381	148,477
Parish Magazine	1,267	-	-	-	1,267	575
Total Bank and deposit accounts	£163,393	£34,199	£6,536	£39,520	£243,648	£149,052
Debtors						
Clergy Fees Diocese	-	-	-	-	-	2096
Gift Aid recoverable	690	-	-	-	690	427
GASDS Recoverable	1,432	-	-	-	1,432	1288
Total Debtors	£2,122	-	-	-	2,122	£3,811
Total assets	£165,515	£34,199	£6,536	£39,520	£245,770	£152,863
Liabilities:						
Gas and Electricity	324	-	-	-	324	715
Accountancy fees	500	-	-	-	500	500
Clergy & Other expenses	-	-	-	-	-	0
Parish Magazine Prepaid sales	6,444	-	-	-	6,444	8540
Fees payable to Diocese	£1,443	-	-	-	1,443	0
Total liabilities	£8,711	-	-	-	£8,711	9,755

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2025, including the notes following, was Approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by Rev. David Packham, Incumbent

David Packham

Date: 11 March 2026



Notes to the Annual Financial Report

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 **Analysis of total received:**

	Unrestricted		Designated Deposit A/C	Restricted funds	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	37,425	-	-	-	37,425	39,600
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	4,497	-	-	-	4,497	6,421
Loose cash collections	7,662	-	-	-	7,662	6,215
James Town	2,542	-	-	-	2,542	-
Gift Aid recovered	9,864	-	-	-	9,864	11,799
Fund Raising	1,892	-	-	-	1,892	2,385
Donations	3,461	-	-	600	4,061	3,000
Legacies	154,098	-	-	-	154,098	501
Grants	51,932	-	-	120	52,052	21,121
Donations and legacies	273,373	-	-	720	274,093	91,042
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,594	-	-	-	3,594	5,298
Charitable activities	3,594	-	-	-	3,594	5,298
Fees payable to Diocese	1,443	-	-	-	1,443	-
Sales of the parish magazine	14,359	-	-	-	14,359	16,470
Donations Parish Magazine	4,175	-	-	-	4,175	-
Other Hall Income	-	-	-	-	-	928
Church Hall Letting fees	10,532	-	-	-	10,532	10,139
Fund Raising	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	30,509	-	-	-	30,509	27,537
Bank deposit interest	65	212	-	-	277	580
CBF Deposit Interest	1,189	2,510	-	279	3,978	2,199
Letting of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	1,254	2,722	-	279	4,255	2,779
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total received on all funds	308,730	2,722	-	999	312,451	126,656



Notes to the Annual Financial Report

4 Analysis of total paid:

	Unrestricted		Designated Deposit A/C	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	General Fund	Designated Funds			All Funds 2025	All Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Summer fete expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Concert posters & musicians expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of raising funds	40	-	-	-	40	-
Cost of raising funds	40	-	-	-	40	-
Charitable grants and donations	1,062	-	-	1,371	2,433	3,019
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	47,300
Fees payable to Diocese	-	-	-	-	-	124
Clergy and other people's expenses	1,833	-	-	-	1,833	3,760
Mission & evangelism costs	304	-	-	-	304	40
Curate Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	6,818	-	-	-	6,818	6,600
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	10,182	-	-	-	10,182	8,175
Printing & photocopying	3,145	-	-	-	3,145	1,163
Other regular church running costs	7,161	-	-	-	7,161	5,104
Accounting and Examiner's fees	2,200	-	-	-	2,200	2,150
Church maintenance & redecoration	102,680	-	-	-	102,680	34,060
New building work	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable costs	185,385	-	-	1,371	186,756	111,495
Summer fete expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Magazine running costs	782	-	-	-	782	142
Church hall caretaking & cleaning	3,523	-	-	-	3,523	2,660
Hall maintenance & redecoration	3,689	-	-	-	3,689	385
Magazine printing	18,560	-	-	-	18,560	16,680
Hall Running costs	5,003	-	-	-	5,003	5,970
Other trading costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading costs	31,557	-	-	-	31,557	25,837
CBF Investment Profit/Loss	-	-	-	(498)	(498)	(1,095)
Total paid on all funds	216,982	-	-	873	217,855	136,237



Notes to the Annual Financial Report

5 Gift aid is recoverable on donations received up to year end

6 Payments to PCC employees

Remunerations

National Insurance

2025	2024
0	0
0	0
0	0

Summary of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
CBF Investment Fund Shares	39,021	499	-	-	39,520
Total of all endowed funds	39,021	499	-	-	39,520
Deposit account	6,909	-	-	(373)	6,536
Total of all restricted funds	6,909	-	-	(373)	6,536
General fund	56,688	280,152	186,298	6,275	156,817
Designated Funds	36,879	2,722	-	(5,402)	34,199
Parish Magazine	575	18,534	19,342	1,500	1,267
Church Hall	8,980	10,544	12,215	(2,000)	5,309
Total of all unrestricted funds	103,122	311,952	217,855	373	197,592
Total funds	£149,052	£312,451	£217,855	-	£243,648



Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Heathfield

(All Saints' Church Old Heathfield, St Richard's Heathfield and St George's Church Broad Oak)

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Heathfield (PCC) of All Saints' Church Old Heathfield, St Richard's Heathfield and St George's Church Broad Oak on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 1 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
3. The PCC has prepared receipts and payments accounts although a large legacy has taken them over £250,000 turnover, as they consider this to be a one-off occurrence.

Examiner's signature: 

Date: 3rd March, 2026

Examiner's name: Mr.G.A.Hicks, FCCA

Examiner's address: 14 Meadow Way, Heathfield, East Sussex. TN21 8AL



