

# ST MARY'S LENHAM PCC

England & Wales · Charity number 1205196

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2023-10-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Len Valley Benefice Office  
Church Road  
Harrietsham  
Maidstone  
ME17 1AP

**Phone** 01622850604

**Email** [churchoffice@lvb.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk)

**Website** [www.lvb.org.uk](http://www.lvb.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** The activities of St Marys include services of Christian worship and bible study. We also offer a food bank, a weekly drop-in coffee morning, a drop-in toddler area, and a quiet place for contemplation. The church is located on the Pilgrims Way and attracts visitors from around the world.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Kent

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£103,493	£95,401	-	-
2024-12-31	£70,621	£47,393	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Richard Parfett		2023-04-09
Frank David Bradshaw		2024-04-07
Gillian Ann Simes		2014-04-01
JONATHAN PETER HOLLAND		2025-04-13
JULIA MARGARET THOMSETT		1975-01-01
Jaquilyn Hascombe-Brook		2025-04-13
Karen Suzanne Jeanette Bates		2025-05-05
Margaret Baldwin		2017-04-16
NICHOLAS LONG		1987-01-01
Sharon Ann Prior		2026-04-12

**ST MARY'S LENHAM PCC**

England & Wales - Charity number 1205196

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
ST. MARY, LENHAM



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 12.00pm**

**GROUP REPORTS**  
**2025-2026**



## **Churchwardens' Report 2025 – 2026**

2025 was a sad year for St. Mary's, we had to say farewell to Revd. John who retired after looking after our spiritual welfare for the last 8 years, as well as being instrumental in the formation of The Lenham Village Hub project. Unfortunately, his last few months with us were complicated by health issues, thankfully resolved before his departure, enabling, hopefully a long and stress-free retirement. However, with the help of our wonderful, retired clergy, we were able to continue the pattern of worship across the Benefice during his treatment and convalescence. A memorable farewell service was hosted in Lenham on September 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by a lunch and presentation in the Community Centre provided and organised by the whole Benefice and attended not only by the church congregations but people across the whole community who John had met and befriended during his time with us.

The Benefice has received permission to advertise for a new Priest in Charge. The Parish profile has been written and now we pray that someone will feel inspired to take on this position in the not-too-distant future. St. Mary's, of course, is not on its' own, we are part of a four church Benefice and all the churchwardens work together to ensure the continuation of worship in our churches during this period of interregnum. We are blessed, as I mentioned before, with the support of our retired clergy, Readers and the Breakfast Service team. Thanks are given to Millie, Richard, David, Pamela, Karen and Jon. Special thanks are also due to Sarah, our Benefice administrator, without whom I, for one, would be completely lost!! And of course, Brian Parfett whose knowledge and expertise in the faculty application process has proved invaluable.

Sadly, after many years' service with the PCC Malcolm Simmonds decided to retire, although he still organises the Reader and Intercessor Rota, if anyone feels able to offer their services in these areas, and also as sides people and welcomers, I would love to hear from you! Maggie also felt

unable to continue as Churchwarden, wishing, instead, to concentrate on Eco Church.

In 2025, the starting date for the re-ordering project was confirmed and the first quarter of this year has seen major work taking place at the rear of the church. At the same time, urgent repair work to the tower roof, identified in last year's Quinquennial report has been carried out. This was funded by The Friends of St. Mary's with grants from the Hatch Charity, Benefact and Friends of Kent Churches, the Hub Committee has been responsible for obtaining this money many thanks to them. Due to the ongoing work, Wednesday Lunch and Coffee Mornings have been temporarily suspended but during 2025 they continued to be popular, even though the provision of lunch was reduced by kitchen limitations. Normal service was resumed as soon as possible!!

The Annual Service of Remembrance was well attended, standing room only, in spite of a much-reduced REME presence. Many thanks to Frank Bradshaw for organising this, and guiding the Parish Council who will be taking over the organisation in future, and Revd. David Bates for leading. The Christingle at the Lights Switch on and the Carol Service were also very well attended. All these occasions serve as a reminder that, although Sunday services may not be as full, St. Mary's is still seen as an important part of our community. We have however welcomed several newcomers to our worshipping community and hope they find a spiritual home with us.

All Parishes in the Diocese were asked at the end of 2025 to identify 3 areas of Mission and we have undertaken to:

- Grow the Christian life in the village, demonstrating our faith through action.
- Reduce our carbon footprint as custodians of the church building, and enabling bio-diversity in our churchyard.

- Identify ways to work with schools and the wider community using the facilities that will be available at the completion of the Hub Project.

I hope that all members of the church community are able to play a part in achieving all these aims.

At the end of a challenging year there are many more people to thank. Chris Allen, our patient Treasurer who keeps our finances under control, Louisa Jones, our Safeguarding Officer, Ciara our organist, Valerie, who leads worship at Chippendayle Care Home and, when available provides music for our monthly Worship Service, Sue and the flower arrangers David and Jean, who until recently did the church cleaning and Anna, caterer extraordinaire! We all have talents, gifted to us by The Holy Spirit and in the coming years I pray that we all work together to ensure that St. Mary's remains at the beating heart of the Community.

**Gill Simes**



# Lenham St Mary's APCM Financial Report 2025

## 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

We again find ourselves in the position where we are unable to pay the requested Parish Share.

Both Donations and Fundraising fell in 2025 while the request for Parish Share continued to rise.

Parish Finance Return Category	Total		
1. Tax efficient planned giving	£10,559.00	<b>£103,493.37</b>	Total Income
2. Other planned Giving	£1,829.33		
3. Other collections at services	£7,243.99		
4. All other RECURRING giving / donations	£0.00		
9. Gross income from fund raising activities	£9,259.45		
6. All tax recovered through Gift Aid	£4,746.46		
5. All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (incl. special appeals)	£1,107.83		
7. Legacies received (capital value)	£0.00		
8. Recurring grants	£94.29		
8a. Non-Recurring or one off grants	£62,020.00		
10. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)	£0.00		
11. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)	£2,283.16		
12. Gross income from trading	£0.00		
13. Other income resources	£4,349.86	<b>£95,401.78</b>	Total Expenditure
17. Costs of generating funds (cost of activities, events etc.)	£0.00		
18. All mission giving and charitable grants and donations	-£448.75		
19. Parish share paid to diocese	-£18,000.00		
20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)	-£8,740.38		
21. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)	£0.00		
22. Mission and evangelism	£0.00		
23. Regular church running expenses	-£4,391.19		
24. Church utility bills	-£6,253.72		
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.	£0.00		
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.	£0.00		
26. Governance Costs	£0.00		
99. Other outgoing resources	-£52,200.74		
27. Major repairs to the church building including decoration	-£5,367.00		
28. Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property	£0.00		
29. New building work	£0.00		

**Surplus**

**£8,091.59**

At first glance one would be forgiven for thinking the PCC is in a very strong financial position with an income of £103,493.37 and a healthy surplus of £8,091.57. Unfortunately, this is not the case as these figures are affected by the very large sums of money that pass through the account by means of grants for the Hub project and tower roof repairs etc. £50,000 from the sale of Harrietsham Rectory being the largest.

The actual income and expenditure were

Income	£38,126.57
Expenditure	£38,452.28
Loss on year	£ 325.71

Expenditure includes £18,000 paid as Parish Share against a request of £43,024.20.

We are also holding more cash in the Bank account for the Bell Ringers and grants for repairs to the church etc.

Money held at Bank 1 January	£25,211.98
Ring Fenced Money	£ 2,444.45
PCC Funds 1 January	£22,767.53

Money held at Bank 31 December	£33,303.57
Ring Fenced Money	£10,861.75
PCC Funds 31 December	£22,441.82

Deficit 2025 £325.71

The account is kept in balance by adjusting the Parish Share paid to reflect the available cash.

## Hub Project bank account

The Hub project continued to receive donations from individuals, gifts from village groups and made many applications to grant-making organisations. While some of the grants have been received, others are only paid once work has been completed. The PCC agreed to commence the first phase of the project and work got underway in January 2026.

Money at bank 1 Jan 25	£ 38,155.46
Money at bank 31 Dec 25	£121,390.29
Total income	£ 86,738.12
Total expenditure	£ 3,503.29
Increase in money held at bank 2025	£ 83,234.83

Points of interest:

Fund Raising 2024	£10,570.86
Fund Raising 2025	£ 9,259.45
Reduction in Fund Raising	£ 1,311.41

Regular Donations 2024	£20,663.97
Regular Donations 2025	£19,632.32
Reduction in Regular Donations	£ 1,031.65

Parish Share request 2025	£43,024.20
Parish Share paid 2025	£18,000.00
Deficit 2025	£25,024.20

Historic Deficit	£69,741.86
Deficit 2025	£25,024.20
Total Deficit 31 December 2025	£94,766.06

The Parish Share request for 2026 is £43,562.00 an increase of 1.5%

The increase has been kept to a minimum in recognition of the difficulty experienced by the parishes in paying. The Diocese are also exploring other ways to fund the service.

Based on previous experience, the suggested forecast is to keep the target share payment the same at £18,000.

**Chris Allen, Treasurer**

## **Friends of St. Mary's, Lenham**

In January 2026, we have 136 paid up members.

Our subscription rates remain the same at £15 /year single, and £25 /year family.

Gift Aid is claimed.

In 2025, we held two events:

A quiz night which raised £1500.

The Annual Barn Dance which raised £1275.

We attended the Apple Pressing Day, where we sold Christmas cards and magnets , raising £250.

We are contributing £15,000 to the Tower roof repair , which begins on Feb 26th, with the erection of scaffolding.

We have two events planned for 2026, namely:

1. A Jazz concert in St. Mary's , on July 11th at 6.0 pm.
2. Annual Barn Dance, September 19th at 7.0pm.

**Andrew Barr, Chairman**

## **Building work at St Mary's**

After several years of planning, work to upgrade many of the amenities in St Mary's got underway in early 2026. Sadly, the work has, temporarily, disrupted both our Saturday morning coffee and cake event and Wednesday lunches.

Both events have been missed by villagers and visitors alike. We hope that everyone will return once the work has been completed.

### Lenham Village Hub

In 2025 the Hub team, which includes people from the PCC, community and the Friends of St Mary's, decided that the project should be divided into two phases. The first phase would include the kitchen, new emergency exit, a cesspool for the kitchen's waste water and a fire alarm.

The team spent the year fund-raising. By late Autumn we had raised over £200,000, either by being sent a donation or from promised grants that will be paid once the work has been completed which enabled the work to be commissioned. Funds have been received from individuals, village groups, family foundations, and grant-making organisations including the Hatch Charity, Marshalls and Congregational & General. We have also received a grant from Canterbury Diocese from the sale of Harrietsham Rectory.

We are very grateful to all the individuals and organisations who have given so generously.

The decision to phase the project was taken for several reasons, including to show people that the project would be undertaken, and to have a more achievable financial goal.

Our Architect, Lee Evans Partnership, appointed two contractors, H Goodsell & Son to install the fire exit, cesspool, fire alarm and prepare for the kitchen to be installed. The work started in mid-January and is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. H Goodsell & Son have carried out the work so far. Unfortunately, the company identified to install the kitchen went out of business prior to starting work, another contractor is being sought.

The PCC and Hub team reviewed the scope of Phase 2, particularly to find ways to reduce the costs and to ensure that the proposed heating systems will be affordable and provide sufficient warmth for users to be comfortable.

Fund-raising for this phase will commence once plans are in place and a revised Faculty has been approved. Phase 2 is to include a level area at the west end of the Nave which will link the north door, kitchen and toilets, the reuse of the Jacobean timber from pews that will be removed, the conservation of both the west door and the 14<sup>th</sup> Century wall painting and the restoration of the uneven floorboards along with the levelling of the pulpit. We will also be rewiring and installing an audiovisual system.

Once completed the amenities in St Mary's will comply with current regulations and, therefore, will be available for use for worship and the local community. We have already had enquiries about using the church for concerts and work with children.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project, particularly the project team and those who have made donations.

### Tower Roof Replacement

Our 2024 Quinquennial Inspection identified that the tower roof, which had been repaired on several occasions, needed to be replaced along with work to the door to the roof and the replacement of lime mortar to the parapet. Funds for this work have been raised from the Friends of St Mary's, Benefact Trust, Friends of Kent Churches, the Hatch charity and the Lenham Parish Council. We are very grateful to all the organisations who have helped fund this important work.

Rye Roofing started work in early March, they are due to finish by mid-April.

### Village clock face

While the scaffold is in place, the clock face is being refurbished with funds from the Friends of St Mary's and the Hatch charity. Being on the north side of the church tower and, because the backing plate is aluminium, the paintwork deteriorates rapidly. This will be the third refresh since 2013.

Gillett & Johnston have been engaged to undertake the work; they plan to use specialist paint to help the refresh last longer, hopefully more than 10 years. The work is due to be completed by the end of April.

**Brian Parfett**

## **Fund raising**

Our team for fundraising for the PCC has reduced in numbers, and for that reason we did not have as many events during 2025/2026. Our main event was providing refreshments for the Switching on of the Lenham Lights and with two stalls and a raffle, we raised over £400. St Mary's has not paid its dues to Canterbury for some years now, and the cumulative debt is now over £94,000. We must find a way to increase our fundraising team and we ask that each of us thinks about how we can offer time or money, with prayer.

Karen organised an effort to raise funds by people filling small jam jars with change. This has been reasonably successful, and will be started again when we fully open the kitchen.

In 2026, we have booked a Concert on the 14<sup>th</sup> November with a group called The Good Gnus. The trio are Dr David Flood, (retired organist and music director at Canterbury Cathedral) , Dr Chris Price and Dr Jon Williams who are Cathedral singers. They give light hearted concerts, singing Flanders and Swann, Noel Coward and more. More details of this will be distributed later in the year. Dr David Flood and also offered to give an organ recital at St Mary's, and hopefully this will be in the Summer.

We hope to have a plant stall in May 2026, possibly on a Saturday morning with the Coffee morning.

All fundraising events need a good team of people who can help organise and run the fairs, concerts etc. There are only three of us now, so if you have ideas on how we can raise more funds to pay our way and attract more people to help run events, please speak to either Julia Thomsett or Maggie Baldwin.

**Maggie Baldwin, Julia Thomsett and Karen Bates**

## **Safeguarding Report – Len Valley Benefice**

There are no active safeguarding concerns.

In keeping with the Diocese statement that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, it is an agenda item at all Parish Meetings. The Parish Safeguarding Officer attends jPCC meetings and shares current issues/concerns with all Church Wardens. We are currently developing systems to ensure any new volunteers or events are shared with the Safeguarding officer to ensure all relevant DBS and training is completed.

In August 2025, the system the Diocese was using to process DBS checks was hacked . As a result, the Diocese moved to a different provider. There were delays in login details being shared for the new provider, but it is now all in place. As a result of the delays, some DBS checks are behind schedule. The diocese are aware of this and have supported with new applications being would find this a challenge.

The Safeguarding officer attends regular network meetings led by the Diocese and the Annual safeguarding conference. This has supported with setting up the new system.

**Louisa Jones**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## **Breakfast Church**

We have had another fruitful year, sharing our faith and encouraging and supporting personal spiritual growth. Whilst we still aim to accommodate families and children the attendance during 2025 has been mainly adults from across the Benefice. Accordingly, we have been able to have more in depth Bible teaching within our established format of guided informal discussion. In this way, everyone attending can take as much or as little part in the services as they feel comfortable. The informal format of the services has also meant that we have been able to share how God has blessed us and helped us through difficulties week by week.

During the early part of 2025 we used the Evangelical Alliance 'What Kind of Church?' resource, considering and challenging who we should be and what we should be offering as a Church to our community and the world around us. We also made good use of the Bible Project resource which provides excellent video commentaries on books, themes and people in the Bible. For example, we spent six weeks learning more about some of God's attributes, and over a number of weeks we looked at the first half of the book of Daniel.

For 2026 we will be continuing our use of the Bible Project videos spending time learning more about who Jesus is, what He has done for us and what our salvation means for us. We are trusting God for growth both spiritually and in numbers through the coming year.

**Jon Holland**

## **Messy Church**

Since John left in the summer of 2025, Messy Church within the benefice has been very successful. Our small team of 3 or 4 organisers has grown, with many volunteers returning to support the planning and running of events, and new members joining up.

Our Messy events aim to welcome families into our churches, provide a range of fun activities, share the gospel and share a meal, allowing time for conversations.

So far, we have made Christingles at the Christmas lights switch on event in Lenham (where we ran out of oranges), held a Messy Christmas in Lenham and a Messy Valentine's in Harrietsham. Both events were very well attended. At our most recent event, we welcomed 30 families.

We are hoping to run a Messy event every 2 months with a break over the summer. We have decided to concentrate events in Lenham and Harrietsham this year as we build momentum, and hope to be able to utilise the other churches in the benefice in the future.

**Caroline Wells**

## **Lenham and Boughton Malherbe Mothers Union**

We continued as a Branch to meet regularly throughout the year. Member numbers have increased from thirteen to fifteen. We welcomed The Reverend Millie Hart in January and The Reverend Marian Bond at the end of the year. The Annual Programme included several speakers. In May a representative from Mission Aviation Fellowship spoke and gave a presentation about the Missions work in Africa. Our second speaker in June our Diocesan President, Jackie Hurd, related her personal journey in her work and her faith. Other topics in our meetings included a talk about antiquarian books and Bibles and a session of craft led by Gill

Simes. For our summer outing we enjoyed our visit to the Blackthorn Trust. In November members generously donated food and outdoor clothing for the Maidstone churches winter shelter.

Being a part of St Mary's is fundamental to our Branch. Mid-week communion is held monthly in St Edmunds Chapel. In March the Mothers Union Wave of Prayer held in the chapel was for South Sudan, Nigeria and Canterbury. Members supported the gifting of daffodils placed in the church porch on Mothering Sunday to passersby and worshippers. On Easter Sunday, a flower garden was set up at the base of the cross at the altar, with the worshipping congregation invited to add their own flowers. In November/ December. The 16 days of Activism, which is a national campaign against violence suffered by all women and girls was recognised by the Branch. It raises awareness by placing a red chair in church, representing the void left by all victims of violence, including vastly growing digital abuse.

In total twenty-four birthday cards were sent to baptism children between the ages of one to five. Thanks are given to Jean Gibbons who diligently continues with this role. Archdeaconry meetings and Diocesan meetings have been attended by Julia Thomsett and The Reverend Millie Hart. It is heartening that we have welcomed new members, but the average age range is rising. We need to raise our profile to encourage new membership in our Branch to further our involvement in the life of St Mary's.

**Julia Thomsett**

## **Eco Church**

When it was decided that St Mary's should work for the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award, we realised that we have made a good start to encourage biodiversity in and around our church. We have an owl box, bee hives, a bluetit nest in the porch, a bug hotel built by Messy Church and bats who live inside the church building, but it is felt that we should continue to improve the churchyard to encourage more wildlife. Climate change is happening, and with the warmer November and December the bees were still out and about looking for nectar which illustrated this. As there were few sources of nectar in the churchyard, we were worried we might lose the bees. The good news is that despite the weather and the lack of flowers, they seem to have survived.

The A Rocha award scheme involves far more than just planting flowers for pollinators and encouraging wildlife. As a congregation we need to be committed to reducing our carbon footprint, both in St Mary's and at home. The reordering of the back of the church for The Hub and the installation of an air source heat pump at St Mary's contributes to an effort to be more carbon neutral. It is hoped that we could have more outdoor services, maybe celebrate Rogation Sunday, or perhaps have a Pet Blessing service to encourage children, and possibly eco -friendly themed activities. If you are at all interested in helping with this project, or have good ideas as to what we can do, please contact Maggie Baldwin.

**Maggie Baldwin**

## **Wednesday Lenham Feast**

The lunch has had a mixed year so far.

We have had 2 very rewarding visits again to The Living Well, where we led the group further along their journey in meeting with Christ. Leading on from these days some of the 'Lunchies' have started attending St Mary's services and events. Which is very encouraging and we continue to pray for The Holy Spirit's work in this area.

The numbers coming along for lunch has dropped by about 50%. This is mainly due to not being able to prepare and cook a Full hot main meal, as we had to restrict the use of the kitchen.

Now that the kitchen is in the process of being brought up to legal requirements we look forward to being able to provide a 'normal' service in the future.

**Anna Livesey**

## **The End of The Rainbow Food Station**

The Food Station has been running since December 2022. The Station is available to anyone who needs a helping hand; it is very well used and provides support to our community. The Lenham School has been very generous with food donations, along with the Harrietsham Co Op and M&S Lenham.

The Hatch Charity have donated substantial funding to allow us to keep running. We are blessed to have volunteers who collect the food daily and to St Mary's Church, in the centre of Lenham, which opens each day, allowing folk to pop in and help themselves, without being judged.

**Sharon Prior**

## **Bellringers report**

Over the last year we have been able to ring for most Sunday services, usually with the help of ringers from Charing and Egerton and East Sutton. Our recruits have continued to progress well and all have been elected as full members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers. In the summer months we have occasionally moved our practice to nearby towers to gain experience on different bells. We have rung for a number of weddings and funerals. Increasingly weddings are arranged mid-week, which makes it more difficult to gather a full band, however we have been able to do this so far, with the help of ringers from nearby towers. If we are to continue to ring every Sunday that there are services, we need more recruits. If you are interested in learning to ring, come up the tower any time you hear the bells ringing and find out what is involved, we are very friendly and welcoming. We practice on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00pm.

**Richard Birch**

## **Choir Report**

The choir has continued to support Sunday worship each week throughout the year. Members meet once a month with the choirs from Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe to rehearse and prepare music for Benefice services.

They have also joined with the other choirs in the Benefice to sing at weddings and funerals when requested. In December, the combined choirs led the carol services across the Benefice.

**Ciara Crossley-Roberts**

# The Holigans Choir

## A Year in Harmony – Holigans' 2025 Highlights

It has been a landmark year for the choir, marked by a significant increase in membership and a calendar filled with community spirit. As our voices grew in number, so did our presence across the local area.

- **Community & Celebrations:** Our 2025 journey took us to the heart of local festivities and poignant milestones.
- **Summer Sounds:** We were delighted to perform at the Harrietsham Big Lunch, sharing music with neighbours under the summer sun.
- **Fond Farewells:** The choir provided the soundtrack to Vicar John & Lorraine Huggins' farewell lunch at the Lenham Community Centre—a bittersweet but beautiful occasion.
- **Local Traditions:** We embraced the crisp air of autumn, performing at the Lenham Meadows Trust annual apple pressing day.
- **Bringing Joy:** It was a privilege to be invited to sing for the residents of Chippendales Care Home in Harrietsham on two separate occasions.
- **Competition & Charity:** This year, we set our sights on the big stage by recording "Hallelujah" as an entry for the Leeds Castle concert. While we were "pipped at the post" by another talented local group, the effort wasn't in vain—several of our members were thrilled to win free tickets to the spectacular event!
- **Christmas:** We concluded the year on a high note with our annual Christmas Concert. For the first time, we introduced a raffle, and the response was overwhelming. The event was so well-attended that we reached capacity and had to limit numbers! Thanks to your incredible generosity, the concert raised significant funds, which were split between the Heart of Kent Hospice and The Lenham Hub project.
- **Looking ahead** Holigans were certainly in demand in 2025! We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community and the dedication of our members. We enter 2026 with voices warmed up and hearts full, eagerly looking forward to another year of song.

**Jaquilyn Hascombe-Brook**

St Mary's Lenham

The 2025 Accounts are included in the Annual Report.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES/MEMBERS OF  
ST MARY'S CHURCH LENHAM  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

This report is on the Accounts for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

**Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act)
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiners 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters in the statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met or

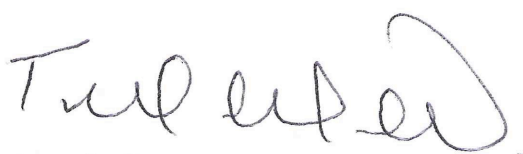
2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Tracy Ford

13 Hay Meadow

Lenham ME17 2FG

Signed:



Qualification: By Experience

Date:

26.2.26.

**ST MARY'S LENHAM PCC**

England & Wales - Charity number 1205196

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# Accounts

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The Parish Church of  
ST. MARY, LENHAM



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 12.00pm**

**GROUP REPORTS**  
**2024-2025**



## Priest in Charge Report 2024 - 2025

2024 was an interesting year for me personally in the Len Valley Benefice in that it was the first full year in which I was the only ordained minister serving you in a non-retired capacity since my arrival. I learned that, unsurprisingly, the level of activity expected by the four parishes was unachievable, because one person cannot cover what at least one and a half had done previously. Nevertheless, this offered opportunities for some, especially the lay preachers who have now been trained up to serve in LVB. A big thank you to Millie and Richard for their help as retired clergy, and to Pamela, our Reader, and a big welcome to Revd David and Karen Bates, retired priest and a reader, who moved to us from Chelmsford Diocese.

As I do each year, I want to thank everybody who has been involved in the life of St Mary's Lenham. In particular, I want to thank Maggie and Gill as church wardens, alongside Chris, our treasurer. Also, a big 'thank you' to Brian Parfett, who has taken on many jobs behind the scenes, for example in setting up faculties and moving forward the Lenham Village Hub fund raising activities. I also want to thank Sarah for her work as part-time church administrator, particularly for the quality publicity and monthly new sheets that she produces, as well as her pastoral skills in dealing with enquiries of all types as the person most often called first by outside enquirers. Thank you to Sandie Parfett for her role in dealing with fees associated with funerals and weddings for us. Thank you to Ciara Crossley-Roberts, who has become so important to us for music. And thank you to **you** in the ways that you support St Mary's both financially and practically.

Our monthly Benefice services this year have followed the theme of 'God and God's Kingdom', taking the "I am" sayings of Jesus (as recoded in John) for our inspiration. These services continue to be encouraging, providing greater "critical mass" to worship together with enthusiasm. They provide a form of church which is 'less like work' for our church

wardens and also give me a week where I take one service one Sunday instead of three. Breakfast Church has changed in identity during the year, seeing far less young kids and families but more people who just favour an open, discursive form of service. Messy Church continues in popularity, focusing on three events each year.

There were 29 funeral events in 2024 and 10 baptisms in our churches but, surprisingly, only 5 weddings. Amanda Abbitt, a funeral minister from Marden- has been a great help with some of the funerals- thank you. The reason for the remarkable drop in weddings is not entirely clear. We have far more planned for 2025.

St Mary Lenham continues to be well-placed to develop local contacts through interactions with schools, councils, Friends and the community more generally to flourish in 2024. I continued as one of four Foundation Governors at Harrietsham C of E Primary School this year. The school did well in both SIAMS and OFSTED inspections in 2024. Pamela and I continued weekly Collective Worship in both Harrietsham and Ulcombe C of E Schools, which is welcomed and, I believe, beneficial in enabling those children to take part in Christian Worship, nearly all of whom never attend church. There has also been special service input for Christmas and Easter with Lenham Primary.

The Lenham Village Hub project absorbed much energy in 2024 and a separate report on progress is included.

My personal research towards a PhD in the area of how hope motivates Christians to care about, and be active in countering, climate crisis has proceeded well behind the scenes, and I have presented its outcome during 2024 in academic and local church settings, including our own.

Again, thank you to all- and especially to those who have served Jesus Christ our Lord in 2024 in St Mary's, Lenham either in the forefront or the hugely important background- and in so many ways.

## Churchwardens' Report 2024 – 2025

### Services

The services held at St Mary's has continued in the same pattern. The Breakfast Service is at 9.30 on the first three Sundays of the month. The numbers of attendees have remained steady. Holy Communion is at 11 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month with Morning Worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. An 8 am Holy Communion (BCP) has also been held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, members of the Lenham congregations have attended the Benefice Service, held at different churches in turn. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, we have creative services in our own church.

### The Building

The Friends of St Mary's continue to support the maintenance of the church building, for which we give our thanks. The Lenham Village Hub Project is now spearheaded by a separate group, and a full report on their progress has been submitted separately.

### General Events and Actions

In September 2024, the Lenham Wednesday Feast was launched, the idea of Anna Livesey and with her professional experience and enthusiasm has become a popular weekly event. It is organised for anyone to attend, and a two-course lunch is served, with people giving what they can afford. The Feast is an outreach project, and over the weeks and months we have marked Remembrance, Christmas, St Valentines Day, Burns Night (with haggis and neeps!) and St Patricks day. The meal starts with a prayer or a reading. Thank you, Anna, for your energy to keep this running.

The Rainbow Food Station is still situated at the back of the church, supported by the Parish Council, Co-op store in Harrietsham, the local schools and by parishioners. Our Harvest Supper was held at Harrietsham on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and a wonderful evening was had by all.

The Annual Service of Remembrance held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, was well attended, and soldiers from 133 Company, REME also attended. Pilgrims from all over the World continue to walk into St Mary's and it is astounding how many there are, and how far they have come to witness our beautiful church, and find peace, and a place for prayer.

## **Final Thanks**

Sadly, but not unexpectedly, at the end of 2024 John informed the Benefice of his plans to retire in September 2025. Meetings have been held across the Benefice to plan how to organise the four churches, and it is felt that we will work well together. Recruiting a new Vicar will be difficult, but we hope and pray that there is a candidate who would like to continue their Ministry in leafy Kent. Our final thanks will come later in the year but thank you John for leading us over the past 12 months, for your guidance in worship, and your energy and enthusiasm in chairing the Hub Project.

Thank you to Millie, Richard, Pamela, Jon, Lousia, Karen, David and Gill who have supported all services in the parish of St Mary's. Thanks to Ciara for taking over the busy post of Music Director, and playing the organ beautifully at services across the Benefice.

We should thank Chris Allen, our Treasurer, who is doing a fantastic job doing our accounts, and advising us on controlling our expenditure.

At St Mary's we have a lot of unsung heroes, who quietly do a lot for us during the year. Thank you, David and Jean, who have cleaned our church weekly. Thank you Sue for organising flower arrangements throughout the year. Thank you to our readers, coffee makers, people who lock and unlock the church, greeters to newcomers and visitors.

Thank you to Brian who has become our chief troubleshooter on many occasions. There are so many unsung heroes!

Everyone has a part to play, and there are many ways to make St Mary's a church which is known for being welcoming and sharing God's love.

**Gill Simes & Maggie Baldwin**



## **Report of the Treasurer**

### **Overview of Lenham St Mary's Church Accounts 2024**

We ended 2024 in a strong position, this was due mainly to a major fund raising effort and a substantial reduction in parish share paid to the diocese.

An increase of cash at bank of £6,984.44 in 2024 compared with a loss of £3,855.53 in 2023 giving a net increase of £3,128.91 over the two year period.

Regular giving in 2024 reduced by £4,432.00 which is amplified by the accompanying reduction in Gift Aid.

Fund raising increased in 2024 thanks to all of those involved, by £1,310.30 to a total of £10,570.86.

Parish Share is a significant issue which grows in magnitude each year. The Lenham allocation in 2024 was £40,282.00 we forecast payment of £18,00.00 but due to a drop in income during the year we paid only £13,500.00

### **PCC bank account**

Money at bank 1 Jan 24	£18,227.54
Money at bank 31 Dec 24	£25,211.98
Increase in money held at bank 2024	£ 6,984.44

Ring Fenced money held at bank £2,444.45

The Hub Project continued in the pursuit to establish a sound financial basis from which to launch a major fund-raising project. I further £16,243.13 was added to the bank account.

### **Hub Project bank account**

Money at bank 1 Jan 24	£21,912.33
Money at bank 31 Dec 24	£38,155.46
Total income	£20,143.05
Total expenditure	£ 3,899.92
Increase in money held at bank 2024	£16,243.13

With respect to a forecast for 2025 it is becoming more difficult to predict what might happen in the coming year but if fund raising continues at its current level, regular giving is maintained and energy prices are reasonably stable we could achieve a gross margin of £18,000 - £20,000.

## Points of interest

### Gross Margin over 2-year period

Gross Margin 2023	(Loss)	-£3,855.53
Gross Margin 2024	(Gain)	£6,984.44
Gross Margin Over 2 years	(Gain)	£3,128.91

1. All other RECURRING giving / donations	£19,234.00		
2. All other NON-RECURRING giving / donations	£3,569.80		
3. All other RECURRING giving / donations	£0.00		
4. All tax recovered through Gift Aid	£0,288.49		
5. All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (incl. special appeals)	£78.00		
6. Legacies received (capital value)	£0.00		
7. Recurring grants	£106.16		
8. Non-recurring or one-off grants	£0,131.12		
9. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)	£0.00		
10. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)	£1,000.00		
11. Gross income from trading	£1,400.00		
12. Other income resources	£000.00		
13. Total Income	£26,727.47	£26,727.47	Total Income
14. Costs of generating funds (cost of activities, events etc.)	-£64.88		
15. All mission giving and charitable grants and donations	£0.00		
16. Parish share paid to diocese	-£3,500.00		
17. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)	-£0,033.26		
18. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)	-£3,274.06		
19. Mission and evangelism	£0.00		
20. Regular church running expenses	-£0,783.47		
21. Church utility bills	-£7,167.14		
22. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc)	£0.00		
23. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc)	£0.00		
24. Governance costs	£0.00		
25. Other outgoing resources	-£33.00		
26. Major repairs to the church building including decoration	-£0,162.88		
27. Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property	£0.00		
28. New building work	£0.00		
29. Surplus	£6,984.44	£6,984.44	Total Expenditure

## Reduction in regular donations

Income from regular donations 2023	£18,526
Income from regular donations 2024	£14,094
Reduction in donations	£ 4,432

## Fund Raising (Coffee & Cake plus all fund-raising events)

2023	£ 9,260.56
2024	£10,570.86

## Parish Share

Parish Share from previous years	£42,960
Parish Share request 2024	£40,282
Parish Share paid 2023	£24,000
Parish Share paid 2024	£13,500
Parish Share Outstanding 1 January 2025	£69,742

## Lenham Village Hub

The Lenham Village Hub project obtained approval from the DAC last year and the hard work of fund raising is now being undertaken by a committed group of volunteers. 2024 focussed on engaging some of the more financially-blessed people in the area and 2025 will focus more on local charities. The success of the Saturday coffee and cake mornings in St Mary's point clearly to this future vision for the church. Plans for reordering the western part of St Mary's hub to facilitate activities of this type have proceeded well, and a separate report is included.

**Revd. John Huggins**

## **Friends of St. Mary's, Lenham**

1. Membership is slightly down but remains strong at 140
  2. Events held in 2024:
    - Safari lunch in June
    - Barn Dance in SeptemberThe two events together raised over £3,500
  3. Other events supported:
    - We had stalls at the Annual Parish Meeting, The Apple Pressing Day, The Lights Switch On event/Christmas Fair.
    - We sold Christmas Cards, History of St. Marys books and Fridge Magnets.
  4. We have received several generous donations, some of them gift-aided, which continues to show how St. Marys, Lenham is fondly thought of locally.
  5. We have a deposit account earning interest for the Community Hub.
  6. Next projects:
    - a) The Tower roof lead which is cracking up. We have asked three roofing contractors for quotes, but a Faculty will have to be applied for, and we may have to raise some more funds for a grant to help with the cost.
    - b) The clock face is another project which is more cosmetic, but is important.
    - c) A solution to the cracked tiles in the Porch is also on the list.
- So, as always, there is a lot to do.

**Andrew Barr, Chairman**

## **Fund Raisers Group Report**

The newly formed group arranged several fund-raising events during the year.

Recycling of items including old cameras coins jewellery and stamps were collected and contributed to our first fund raiser. In the summer the strawberry tea held in the Vicarage garden was very well attended and raised over £800. Following this ,in the summer , was the serving of refreshments in the Church when the Freedom of the Lenham was granted to the REME. This again was very well attended and raised £300.

Our Fund raiser in November was our Christmas fayre with Father Xmas in the Church. This coincided with the Lenham Christmas light switch on and raised over £1200. It was well attended.

In addition to this fund raising, the Saturday morning coffee and cakes, led by Gill with helpers , has raised a really significant amount of money for our church funds totalling with our efforts around £10.000 . Our thanks and congratulations are extended to Gill for her commitment and baking for this popular and much needed community event.

Looking ahead the group plan to help, on a rota, the Saturday Coffee and cakes to help with Gills workload. More volunteer helpers are very welcome.

Looking further ahead to the end of the year, a major fund raiser will be a Christmas Tree festival. This will run throughout the first week of December in St Marys .

**Julia Thomsett**

## **Coffee and Cake**

Coffee and Cake on Saturday morning remains as popular as ever. When Vera started this many years ago as a fund raiser towards the loos, I wonder if she thought it would still be as profitable all these years later. There used to be a substantial core of cake makers and helpers but now, unfortunately, due to increasing age, and people no longer with us it relies on just a small group of people able to contribute time and cake.

Since this has become a village institution and a popular stop off for walkers and cyclists, I intend to carry on as long as possible. It gives people an opportunity to meet and chat and enjoy reasonably priced goodies as well as a useful income generator. Thanks to the faithful few helpers, particularly Tony who comes into the church every Friday to set out the tables and chairs and assists me on Saturday, I wouldn't cope without him!!

**Gill Simes**

## **Breakfast Church**

Breakfast church continues to meet on the first 3 Sundays of the month.

A change that has happened recently is that Breakfast Church has become multi generation rather than focusing on families and children.

In 2024, we used the bible society Lyfe resources which proved to be an excellent stimulus for discussion. If anybody would like to be involved in Breakfast church, or even its leadership, please do speak to Jon Holland or John Huggins.

**John Huggins**

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church has organised several events over the past year. The team agreed to focus on reaching families where they are, rather than just expecting them to come to our venues.

We joined in the Harrietsham School Summer Fayre and played 'Knock down the cans' which was really popular, and we were able to make contacts with many people. We recreated the stable at Harrietsham School's Christmas fayre and families took the opportunity to dress up as nativity characters and pose for photos. We gave out Christmas story books and invitations to the Messy Crib Service at Harrietsham Church. This was well supported by the church, for which we are really grateful. .

We are looking forward now to our Easter Walk to the Cross at Lenham. We pray that the message of the cross will really mean a lot to those who come. Then in the Summer, we plan to join Lenham Primary School Summer fayre. We'll be needing donations of cans of fizzy drink please!

We thank the congregations for all their support, donations, and prayers. As always, we welcome any who feel they could help the team - we are just a few and would value more help please, especially as Rev John has been steering this outreach: we will need others when he has retired.

God bless our benefice.

**Liz Holland on behalf of the Messy Church Team**

## **Lenham Wednesday Feast**

A Community Initiative

On 16th September 2024, we started offering lunch to the community. The lunches have been well supported by a wide cross-section of Lenham and the surrounding area, the majority of whom do not attend church regularly.

## Community Engagement

The initiative has been fully booked every week and often 2 or 3 weeks in advance. The “Pay what you can” scheme has worked well, not only covering costs but also enabling the purchase of several items for the kitchen. It has provided an excellent opportunity to share our Christian faith through various means such as:

- A time of prayer
- Reflection and lighting of candles for Remembrance Week
- Celebrating all our Christian festivals
- Conversations around the lunch table

Additionally, we've been asked to pray both face to face and for more sustained praying for particular worries and concerns. It has been of great encouragement to see The Lord answer every prayer request.

## Day of Reflection

In May, we are taking 16 friends from the lunch, most of whom do not attend church regularly (as yet), for a Day of Reflection to The Living Well. This provides an opportunity for deeper spiritual engagement and reflection.

## Collaborations and Future Expansion

We are now working with the Social Care department of Golding Homes to identify areas of need, friendship, food, and furniture. We are looking into ways to expand the lunches even more, and we kindly ask for prayers for our team of wonderful volunteers.

**Anna Livesey**

## Rainbow Food Station

We continue to receive and distribute good as part of the Rainbow Food Station. There is a steady flow of people who collect the food and young families and children are particularly grateful.

An enormous thank you to everybody in the church and village community who work so hard on this and to the local schools who have contributed.



**John Huggins**

## **Safeguarding Report**

Over the course of the last few years, the cycle of volunteers DBS checks and training updates have been brought together to support easier renewals as they become due. The backlog of DBS training needed to be carried out, due to a change in requirements from the Diocese, have now been completed and we are moving into a period of renewals becoming due.

The one area of the Church volunteers that have not yet been brought into this cycle is Bellringers. Recent communication between Tower Captains and the Parish Safeguarding Officer have ensured the renewed guidelines are known and being followed, meaning DBS and training requirements will soon be completed. Thanks goes to the Bellringing team for their on going support with this.

Following support from the Diocese, renewed Safeguarding posters are now on display and the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is in use. This will hopefully support swift renewals and understanding of changes in advice and recommendations.

There are currently no active safeguarding cases within the Benefice. All contacts made over the last year have been shared with the Diocese and advice followed.

**Louisa Jones**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## Lenham and Boughton Malherbe Mothers Union

Member numbers have been maintained with regular monthly meetings and monthly communion in St Edmunds Chapel. The programme for the year has been varied and has included several speakers. In the summer we were given a talk by a representative from the charity MAF working overseas which distributes essential medical supplies by flight to remote areas of the world. Nearer to home our support continues with the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter. Following a talk in September from a member of the shelter staff we were updated on their work with the homeless in Maidstone, Bags of clothing and food were collected by members for the shelter which opens in January each year for three months. The Charity Asian Bears talk at another of our meeting gave us a distressing insight into the dreadful cruelty of bears in captivity for commercial gain. This organisation was invited to our Church Christmas Fair to promote their charity and raise funds for their cause.

Fellowship enjoyment and prayer are at the core of the Mothers Union and our group has enjoyed meetings of prayer with flowers and at another meeting a challenging attempt at Origami making doves. Instructed by our Gill! The Doves were placed in the Church on a red chair promoting and supporting the Sixteen days of Activism in Nov/Dec.

Earlier in the year we distributed daffodils on Mothering Sunday. Placed at the entrance of the Porch the congregation as well as passers-by were invited to take a token bunch. In August our summer outing was to Ayelsford Priory for a cream tea and a lovely walk around the grounds and chapels to enjoy the peace and tranquillity.



As a branch we are very much a part of the Archdeanery and we hosted their bi annual meeting in June. This is always an opportunity to meet other members and hear of events and projects from the five other branches in the area.

The Mothers Union is a worldwide organisation celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In recognition of this we celebrate the work of our founder Mary Sumner and we welcome anyone who would like to come and join us here in St Marys.

**Julia Thomsett**

## **The Holigans Choir**

2024 was another FUNtastic year for the local choir “Holigans”. Working in collaboration with St Mary’s church Holigans performed two successful concerts, which were well attended by the public.

Through these concerts, Holigans raised a total of £2,104.00, which was shared between St Mary’s Social Hub program and Heart of Kent Hospice.

But apart from charity and entertainment, the Holigans choir helps people’s well-being. It is beneficial for the audience, as it strengthens the community spirit and sense of belonging, and it helps choir members. No surprise then that the choir has grown, and now it has over 40 members, with new people continuing to join.

Holigans are looking forward to bringing more joy to the community. In 2025, the choir will be exploring the potentials and preparing to bring a great Christmas concert to the community at the beginning of December.

**Vladimir Barkanov**

## **Bellringers report**

This year has seen a few changes for the bellringers. Laurence and Jackie, who have been Tower Captain and Secretary for the last few years have moved away. And, sadly, Neil rang for the last time in the autumn and died in December. Since then, we have elected James as our new captain and Sarah as Secretary. Richard has taken over from Neil as Treasurer.

Over the last few months, we have been able to ring for most Sunday services, usually with the help of ringers from Charing and Egerton. We have welcomed some new recruits, and they are progressing well. If we are to continue to ring every Sunday that there are services we need more recruits. If you are interested in learning to ring, come up the tower any time you hear the bells ringing and find out what is involved, we are very friendly and welcoming.

**James Davis/Richard Birch**



Account	Lenham PCC Main Account
Sort Code	09-01-54
Account No.	81117083
Status	Unrestricted

Date	Month	Category	Parish Finance Return Category (vlookup)	Description	Amount	Balance
Mon 01-Jan-24				Opening Balance		£18,227.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order no Gift Aid declaration	2. Other planned Giving	REGULAR TRANSFER FROM MRS VERA WINIFORD CONGDON REFERENCE - CONGDON	£40.00	£18,267.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	REGULAR TRANSFER FROM MRS GILLIAN ANN SIMES REFERENCE - ST MARYS CHURCH LE	£40.00	£18,307.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		- Gas	24. Church utility bills	DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT TO E.ON NEXT REF A-3AC74C9B-001, MANDATE NO 0026	-£750.00	£17,557.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.CHURCH FROM MRS & MR REDMORE	£10.00	£17,567.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT FROM WOOD BL & GS	£25.00	£17,592.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.ELVINS FROM ELVINS S.	£40.00	£17,632.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.HUGGINS FROM REVEREND HUGGINS	£145.00	£17,777.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.HOLLAND - GIFT AID FROM HOLLAND JP	£50.00	£17,827.54
Tue 02-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.B & S PARFETT FROM Parfett Sandra	£75.00	£17,902.54
Thu 04-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.RICHARD BIRCH FROM MRS SYLVIA B BIRCH	£125.00	£18,027.54
Thu 04-Jan-24		+ Funerals	11. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.FEES FROM LEN VALLEY (Mick Gurr)	£139.00	£18,166.54
Fri 05-Jan-24		- Water	24. Church utility bills	DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT TO CASTLE WATER LTD REF SE0010345054, MANDATE NO 0019	-£13.88	£18,152.66
Fri 05-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT FROM SIMMONS M R&MA	£112.00	£18,264.66
Fri 05-Jan-24		+ Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration	1. Tax efficient planned giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT FROM RUTH PAPWORTH	£125.00	£18,389.66
Mon 08-Jan-24		+ Standing Order no Gift Aid declaration	2. Other planned Giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.J.COLEMAN PLEDGE FROM J COLEMAN	£20.00	£18,409.66
Mon 08-Jan-24		+ Standing Order no Gift Aid declaration	2. Other planned Giving	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT FROM DEEKS GK	£30.00	£18,439.66

**St Marys Lenham**  
**Income statement 2024**

Parish Finance Return Category	Total		
1. Tax efficient planned giving	£12,524.00	<b>£50,477.63</b>	Total Income
2. Other planned Giving	£1,569.80		
3. Other collections at services	£6,570.17		
4. All other RECURRING giving / donations	£0.00		
9. Gross income from fund raising activities	£10,570.86		
6. All tax recovered through Gift Aid	£5,288.49		
5. All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (incl. special appeals)	£715.00		
7. Legacies received (capital value)	£0.00		
8. Recurring grants	£106.16		
8a. Non-Recurring or one off grants	£9,131.15		
10. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)	£0.00		
11. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)	£1,699.00		
12. Gross income from trading	£1,605.00		
13. Other income resources	£698.00		
17. Costs of generating funds (cost of activities, events etc.)	-£44.58	<b>-£43,493.19</b>	Total Expenditure
18. All mission giving and charitable grants and donations	£0.00		
19. Parish share paid to diocese	-£13,500.00		
20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)	-£4,033.26		
21. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)	-£3,272.06		
22. Mission and evangelism	£0.00		
23. Regular church running expenses	-£5,783.47		
24. Church utility bills	-£7,167.14		
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.	£0.00		
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.	£0.00		
26. Governance Costs	-£20.00		
99. Other outgoing resources	-£510.00		
27. Major repairs to the church building including decoration	-£9,162.68		
28. Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property	£0.00		
29. New building work	£0.00		

## Cashflow Description

- + Standing Order with Gift Aid declaration
- + Envelope scheme with Gift Aid declaration
- + Standing Order no Gift Aid declaration
- + Envelope scheme no Gift Aid declaration
- + Offertories
- + Church box donations
- + Coffee Morning
- + Other fund raising
- + Gift Aid Recovered
- + Other non-recurring donations
- + Special appeals
- + Legacies received
- + Grant received (recurring)
- + Grant received (one off)
- + Interest
- + Dividends
- + Income from property
- + Weddings
- + Funerals
- + Sales
- + Miscellaneous
- Fund raising costs
- Charitable donations paid
- Parish share one off
- Parish share standing order
- Salary, Youth Worker
- Salary, Administrator
- Salary, Organist
- Salary, Choir
- Salary, Bell Ringer
- Expenses, Clergy
- Expenses, Pastoral Staff
- Expenses, Youth Worker
- Cost of services
- Insurance
- Cleaning
- Admin costs
- Routine church maintenance
- Upkeep of services
- Churchyard maintenance
- Gas
- Electricity
- Water
- Oil
- Rates / council tax
- Advertising
- Magazine costs

- Audit fees
- Other
- Major repairs to church
- Major repairs to other property
- New building works
- + Typical months standing order donations

## Parish Finance Return Description

1. Tax efficient planned giving
1. Tax efficient planned giving
2. Other planned Giving
2. Other planned Giving
3. Other collections at services
4. All other RECURRING giving / donations
9. Gross income from fund raising activities
9. Gross income from fund raising activities
6. All tax recovered through Gift Aid
5. All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (incl. special appeals)
5. All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (incl. special appeals)
7. Legacies received (capital value)
8. Recurring grants
- 8a. Non-Recurring or one off grants
10. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)
10. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)
10. Income from investments (dividends, interest, income from property)
11. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)
11. Statutory Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings, Funerals etc.)
12. Gross income from trading
13. Other income resources
17. Costs of generating funds (cost of activities, events etc.)
18. All mission giving and charitable grants and donations
19. Parish share paid to diocese
19. Parish share paid to diocese
20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)
20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)
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20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)
20. Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator etc)
21. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)
21. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)
21. Expenses (Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Youth Workers etc)
22. Mission and evangelism
23. Regular church running expenses
23. Regular church running expenses
23. Regular church running expenses
23. Regular church running expenses
23. Regular church running expenses
23. Regular church running expenses
24. Church utility bills
24. Church utility bills
24. Church utility bills
24. Church utility bills
24. Church utility bills
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.
25. Costs of trading (Magazine, hall, bookstall costs etc.

- 26. Governance Costs
- 99. Other outgoing resources
- 27. Major repairs to the church building including decoration
- 28. Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property
- 29. New building work
- Typical months standing order donations

**Independent Examiners Report to the trustees/members of  
St. Mary's Church Lenham  
Parochial Church Council**

This report is on the Accounts for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2)) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act)
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiners Report

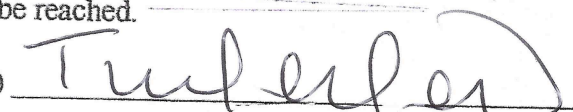
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters in the statement below.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with requirements of the 1993 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.

(signed)



Qualification(s): By Experience

Date: 8 November 2025

Mrs Tracy Ford  
13 Haymeadow  
Lenham  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME17 2FG