



The Parish of St Mary's, Higher Brixham

In the Mission Community of Brixham, Churston Ferrers, Galmpton and Kingswear

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Team Rector: Revd Dr Philippa Bellows

Team Vicar: Vacancy

Bankers: Santander plc, Bootle, Merseyside

Independent Examiner

Mr I A Webb ACMA, CIMA, MCIM

Grosvenor House, 1 New Road,

Brixham, Devon TQ5 8LZ

St Mary's Church is a registered charity with the Charity Commission No: 1208262

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Higher Brixham

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

Aim and Purpose

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has, since August 2023, the responsibility of promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As well as the Church itself, which is a Grade I Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church Hall.

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 family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, 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; and
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services, not only on Sundays, but also during the week, that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Wednesday morning services of Holy Communion or Morning Worship provide a traditional form of service, Morning Prayer on Monday mornings provides a time of reflection, whilst the main Sunday Service is livelier.

We have been successful in welcoming new members into our Church, and every second Sunday of the month we have a Family Worship Service.

At present there are over 80 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, whilst the average attendance at the 11am service on Sundays is 55, although for special occasions such as Christmas it increases.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There have been 3 Baptisms, 2 weddings and 26 funerals during the year.

Those who are no longer able to come to Church are not forgotten. There is a team of trained pastoral visitors to take communion to these congregants. We also have a number of licensed lay readers. Some of our LLM's and congregation members have trained as Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends to offer spiritual support in later life to our more elderly parishioners. It is sad to note we have lost a good few of our regular friends and Congregation.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sat on the Torbay Deanery Synod, Mrs Susan Francis (Deceased Jan 26) and Mrs Lesley Roberts. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us and with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from General Synod which usually meets 3-4 times per year.

Church Fabric

The fabric of the building still needs considerable repairs, but plans have been drawn up for major alterations. Our Church is a Grade 1 listed building so any repairs or alterations must be carefully considered.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The Mission Action Plan includes opportunities for fund-raising efforts, and we regularly consider ways of supporting charities, both local and overseas. This year for our Lent appeal we raised over £1,000 for Cr2ee, plus several other charities also received donations.

We are now the main collection point for the Christian Response Christmas Appeal (Cr2ee) each year, and this year we have received, checked and packaged over 700 shoeboxes. Parishioners, schools & local colleges donated a considerable amount of money and filled boxes as well as items to fill empty boxes such as warm clothing, personal care items and toys. Many people volunteered to help fill, check and pack boxes which will go to Moldova and Ukraine. Our thanks go especially to Lindsay Williams and Hilary Hyde for all their dedication and hard work in organising this very special event.

Pastoral Care

Our Messy Church organisers work hard each month running the group for over 30 children, arranging activities, and giving them and their parents a meal prior to going home. Thanks go to Lindsay Williams and Lesley Roberts, the organisers, as well as all the other helpers for continuing this work for our after-school children. All are CRB checked

There is also a weekly meeting for the *Mummy and Me* group, mothers with young babies, and we have a Youth Group which meets monthly.

The church also looks after our adult members with a weekly social meeting in the Church Hall on Saturday morning where drinks and usually cake are available plus lots of chat.

Financial Review

Our accounts show a large loss on our general account (£10,861) and a loss on our Church Hall account (£2,733), but the year ended overall with an excess of receipts over payments of £3,705. This is well down on 2024, which had an excess of £11,620.

The Restoration fund received a grant of £28,706 from The Friends of St Mary's when that was wound up. The congregation has worked hard all year to raise funds and boost this account.

Our outgoings have increased this year with an Administrator being appointed to serve throughout the BMC at a cost per church of £1,050. Plus, the contribution to the Diocese was increased again by over £5,500 to £39,817, we have been able to meet this cost in full so far.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to invest any surplus funds with CCLA, through the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, their Investment Fund units, and their Property Fund units. The Financial Statements which follow have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations. Our grateful thanks go to Ian Webb Accountants for their work on our accounts.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Thanks go especially to our two Churchwardens, Mr Roger Holtom and Mrs Susan Francis (now deceased), for all their exceptional hard work during this year.

The PCC also wishes to express grateful thanks to the retired clergy who assisted us during the interregnum including Revd Canon Chris Malkinson, Revd Pam Wheeler, Revd Steve Betson, Revd Ian Blyde and Revd Joyce Williams, and continue to do so. Thanks also go to our Associate Priest, Revd Angela Sumner, and Licensed Lay Ministers.

Structure, Governance and Management

We were delighted to welcome Revd. Dr Philippa Bellows as our new Team Rector in November 2024, following a lengthy interregnum.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Licensed Lay Ministers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met most months during the year, and they have several sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include Worship, Mission and Outreach, Buildings and Finance, and Youth Work. Each sub-committee reports back to the full PCC with the minutes of their meetings.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated in Drew Street, Higher Brixham and is part of the Brixham Mission Community within the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is via Mr David Roberts of 13 Smardon Avenue, Brixham TQ5 8JN who is the PCC Secretary, assisted by Mrs Rachel Fox. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006). The following PCC Members were elected on the 27 April 2025. All previous members stood again for the PCC, and one new member was elected and two co-opted.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission under No: 1208262.

Team Rector	Revd Dr Philippa Bellows
Team Vicar	Vacancy
Self-Supporting	Revd Angela Sumner
Churchwardens	Mr Roger Holtom - Vice-chair of PCC Mrs Susan Francis (now deceased)
Treasurer	Mrs Alison Lodge
Secretary	Mr David Roberts
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Susan Francis (now deceased) Mrs Lesley Roberts
Elected Members	Mr Stephen Aldridge Mr Richard Brown Mr Colin Francis Mrs Hilary Hyde LLM Mrs Mandy Seffert Mrs Lindsay Williams Mrs Rachel Fox Ms Penelope Inett Mr Roger Holtom Miss Anne Rickwood (co-opted) Mrs Mandy Palmer (co-opted)

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on its behalf by:

Revd. Dr Philippa Bellows (Chair)


Mr John Roger Holtom (Churchwarden)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Higher
Brixham

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

An Excepted
Charity

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**.

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 Trust'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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to
undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of
applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that
disclosed below *) 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

6/3/2026

Name:

Ian Webb

Relevant professional

Accountant

qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACMA CGMA MCIM

Address:

1 New Road, Brixham, TQ5 8LZ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BRIXHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Book & card sales	324		190	
Clergy & Staff income	2,786		4,932	
Collections at Services	2,772		3,863	
Donations	3,077		2,493	
Envelopes - Gift Aid	3,545		4,123	
Gift Aid Tax recovered	6,305		6,986	
Grant: Exeter Diocese Fuel	0		1,168	
Grant: feofees	2,000		1,900	
Grant: Listed Places of Worship Grant	611		1,000	
Legacies Joan Robeson-Bailey	5,083			
Online donations	600		1,472	
Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)	16,767		15,647	
Sundry Income	385		86	
		44,255		43,860
<u>Trust income and investments</u>				
Bob Bell	689		338	
Henrietta Lane Charity CFB 592S	3,234		3,159	
Rest' Deposit Account CBF Interest & Dividends	3,419		3,332	
		7,341		6,829
<u>Church Activities</u>				
BMC receipts	64			
Fund raising	425		0	
PCC Wedding & Funeral fees	5,004		5,498	
		5,493		5,498
Total Receipts		57,089		56,187

PAYMENTS:

<u>Costs of generating funds</u>				
Fundraising costs	823			
Online giving costs	112		172	
		935		172
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Clergy and Staff expenses	2,786		4,853	
Messy Church costs	347		259	
Organist and music costs	2,229		2,328	
Parish Share	39,817		37,260	
		45,179		44,699
<u>Church Expenses</u>				
Bank charges	10			
BMC Payments	5,311		110	
Church Insurance	6,016		5,564	
Church Repairs	2,694		4,372	
Church Running expenses	1,510		1,830	
Church Utilities	5,340		4,843	
Sundry outgoings	956		720	
		21,837		17,438
Total Payments		67,951		62,309
Excess of receipts over payments		-10,861		-6,122
Transfer to Sundry (50% of CB3025458 dividends & int')	-1,709		-1,666	
Transfer to Sundry 50% feofees	-1,000	-2,709	-950	-2,616
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025		14,761		23,499
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025		1,190		14,761

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BRIXHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2025	2024
	£	£
CHURCH HALL (Designated)		
RECEIPTS		
<u>Church Activities / Income from Investments</u>		
Church Hall Ground Rent & Insurance	684	3,667
Church Hall Donations	140	0
Church Hall Lettings	4,255	1,560
Total Receipts	5,079	5,227
PAYMENTS		
<u>Church Activities</u>		
Church Hall Cleaning	960	1,054
Church Hall Insurance	4,652	4,309
Church Hall Annual Inspections: Fire alarms	114	264
Church Hall Repairs	672	0
Church Hall Utilities	1,414	1,720
Total Payments	7,812	7,346
Excess of receipts over payments	-2,733	-2,119
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024	5,582	7,701
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025	2,849	5,582

	2025	2024
	£	£
CHURCHYARD FUND (Restricted)		
RECEIPTS		
<u>Churchyard Activities</u>		
Monument Fees PCC	1,243	666
Churchyard Trust CB3006959 Income	681	665
Churchyard Dividends retained CB3025456	5,440	4,581
Interest paid on CB3025456 retained	3,298	5,313
Non Conformist share waste collection	519	519
Total Receipts	11,180	11,744
PAYMENTS		
<u>Churchyard Expenses</u>		
Churchyard Maintenance	0	0
Refuse collection	1,556	1,556
Total Payments	1,556	1,556
Excess of receipts over payments	9,624	10,188
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025	45,488	35,300
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025	55,112	45,488

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BRIXHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

DEFIBRILATOR FUND (Restricted)

	2025		2024	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations	0			
Total Receipts	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0
Payments				
Total Payments	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	
Excess of receipts over payments				0
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025		665		665
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025		<u>665</u>		<u>665</u>

MISSION & CHARITY FUND (Restricted)

	2025		2024	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Giving				
Charitable receipts	1,625		1,748	
Outreach	855		1,212	
Total Receipts		2,480		2,960
Payments				
Outreach costs	136			
Charity Giving: Christian Response	205			
Charity Giving: Shoalstone Pool	200			
Charity Giving: Rowcroft Hospice	200			
Charity Giving: Admiral Swimming Pool	200			
Charity Giving: Fishermans Mission	200			
YES at the Edge			125	
Bishop of Exeter			373	
Shelterbox appeal			669	
Total Payments		1,141		1,167
Excess of receipts over payments		1,339		1,793
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025		5,740		3,947
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025		<u>7,079</u>		<u>5,740</u>

LUPTON TRUST (Restricted)

	2025		2024	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations	1,358		0	
Total Receipts		1,358		0
Payments				
Total Payments	<u>1,358</u>	1,358	<u>0</u>	0
Excess of receipts over payments		0		0
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025		0		0
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BRIXHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RESTORATION FUND (Designated)

	2025	2024
Receipts	£	£
Restoration deposit interest	3,401	3,656
Total Receipts	3,401	3,656
Payments		
Restoration costs, architects etc	0	3,401
Total Payments	0	3,401
Excess of receipts over payments	3,401	255
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025	94,288	94,033
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025	<u>97,689</u>	<u>94,288</u>

RESTORATION FUND (Restricted)

	2025	2024
Receipts	£	£
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>		
Donations	5,694	5,399
Tax refunds on donations	204	309
Grants	37,152	1,333
	43,049	7,040
<u>Income from Investments</u>		
Interest from CB3025457	850	914
	850	914
Total Receipts	43,899	7,954
Payments		
Expenses	1,150	0
Total Payments	1,150	0
Excess of receipts over payments	42,749	7,954
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025	37,801	29,846
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025	<u>80,550</u>	<u>37,801</u>

SUNDRY FUND (Restricted)

	2025	2024
Receipts	£	£
<u>Income from Investments</u>		
Grant Feofees (50%)	1,000	950
50% of CB3025458 divi's & Interest)	1,709	1,666
Pike Flower Fund CB3007324	32	43
Smith Clock Fund CB3025460	89	71
Total Receipts	2,831	2,730
Payments		
<u>Church Expenses</u>		
Pike Flower Fund deposit	50	0
Clock maintenance	528	100
Smith Clock Fund re-invested	0	0
Organ maintenance & repair	468	343
Total Payments	1,046	443
Excess of receipts over payments	1,785	2,287
Opening Balance: 1st January 2025	20,059	17,772
Closing Balance: 31st December 2025	<u>21,844</u>	<u>20,059</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BRIXHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND
LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER**

	2025 Total		2024 Total
Churchyard	55,112	Designated	45,489
Defibrillator account	665	Restricted	665
General Fund	1,190	Unrestricted	14,761
Church Hall	2,849	Unrestricted	5,582
Mission and Charity	7,079	Restricted	5,740
Restoration Fund	97,689	Designated	94,288
Restoration Fund	80,550	Restricted	37,801
Sundry Fund	21,844	Restricted	20,058
	<u>266,979</u>		<u>224,384</u>
Cash Funds			
Churchyard Deposit (CB3025455)	103,881		95,143
Restoration Deposit (CB3025457)	153,373		120,046
Santander Current Account	9,726		9,195
	<u>266,979</u>		<u>224,384</u>
	0	-	0

	Value per share	2025 Designated Funds	Value per share	2024 Designated Funds
Investment Assets (Designated)				
Churchyard Inv' Fund CB3025456 (8466.79 shares)	22.20	187,948	23.12	195,775
Restoration Inv' Fund CB3025458 (2882.43 shares)	22.20	63,985	23.12	66,650
		<u>251,933</u>		<u>262,425</u>

Other Parish Investments: (Restricted)

		Funds value at 31/12/25	Funds Value at 31/12/24
Restoration Investment No2	Income paid to All Saints	55,585	57,899
Churchyard Trusts (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to Churchyard Fund	23,520	24,499
Henrietta Lane Charity (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to General Fund	111,736	116,389
Joan Pike - Flower Fund (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to Sundries Fund	1,509	1,572
M.Smith Clock Fund CB3025460 (Held by SM PCC)	Income paid to Sundries Fund	2,737	2,699
Bob Bell Ecclesiastical (Held By the Diocese)	Income paid to General Fund	23,796	24,787
		<u>218,883</u>	<u>227,845</u>

Restoration donations include £495 raised at the pasties & pie event

07/04/26

[Signature]

Approved by the PCC on the

and signed on its behalf by:

[Signature: Philippa Ballas]

Revd Dr. PHILIPPA BALLAS
(CHAIR)