

**The Parochial Church Council Of The
Ecclesiastical Parish Of Eastchurch with
Leysdown and Harty**

**Known as Parish of Eastchurch with
Leysdown and Harty**

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st December 2025





Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Ecclesiastical Parish is in the Deanery of Sittingbourne, Diocese of Canterbury, and in the Church of England. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Number 1208369

Registered Address
The Rectory
Warden Road
Eastchurch
ME12 4EJ

Churches in Parish	All Saints Church High Street Eastchurch ME12 4BN	St Thomas the Apostle Harty Ferry Road Harty ME12 4BQ
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Churchyard in Parish
St Clement's Churchyard
Leysdown Road
Leysdown-on-Sea
ME12 4AB
(NB: Church was demolished in 1987)

Websites www.allsaintseastchurch.org www.stthomasharty.org

Bankers	NatWest Bank PLC 250 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4AA	Barclays Bank UK PLC 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
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Independent Examiner
Sarah Crispin ACA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

Annual Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025, together with the independently examined accounts for the year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The structure, governance and management of the Parish of Eastchurch with Leysdown and Harty is determined by the rules of the Church of England, in particular the Church Representation Rules (2020). Governance is provided by the Parish Priest, Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council ('PCC').

Membership of the PCC

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended. Members of the PCC are elected or co-opted by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (2020) or are ex-officio.

Parish Priest	<i>Interregnum</i>		
Churchwardens	All Saints Eastchurch	Jayne Yvette Gutheil <i>Vacant</i>	[Safeguarding Officer and Secretary]
	St Thomas Harty	Susan Hopper Amber Hopper	[Vice-Chair; acting Chairperson]
Elected Members	Jillian Gray	<i>(elected until 2027)</i>	
	Peter Kearnes	<i>(elected until 2027)</i>	
	Barbara Worth	<i>(elected until 2027)</i>	
	William Joseph Fowler	<i>(elected until 2027)</i>	[Parish Administrator]

Aim and purposes of the PCC

The primary aim of the PCC is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. It shall be the duty of the minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The purposes of the PCC shall include:

- (a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- (b) the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question
- (c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
- (d) giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council;
- (e) raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is dedicated to advancing the complete mission of the Church within the parish, encompassing pastoral care, evangelism, social outreach, and ecumenical engagement, while also fostering connections with the broader community. In planning the activities, the PCC has applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission. Additionally, the PCC is tasked with sourcing resources to maintain our historic buildings.

Regular worship services are held weekly at Eastchurch and monthly at Harty, with additional services scheduled for Christmas, Easter, and notable occasions like Remembrance Sunday. Both churches serve for Life Events (formally Occasional Offices) and are routinely open to visitors during daylight hours.

There are various fundraising events in the Parish, including the Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival, which are organised to support the Parish's activities and maintenance efforts. These events not only raise funds but also bring the community together in celebration and solidarity. All Saints church hosts a weekly Coffee Morning, providing a space for members of the community to come together and socialise.

With regard to the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the members of the PCC confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Vice-Chair (acting Chair) Report: Susan Hopper

We are now entering our sixth year without a regular vicar in post. However, the vacancies have finally been advertised. Despite this, the churches have continued to hold Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, and funerals, thanks to the support of Yvette, Joseph, and Amber. I am pleased to report that our congregations have increased.

Both churches have undergone their quinquennial inspections this year. I continue to run the coffee morning at All Saints, which is well attended every Monday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. I also open the church on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm for private prayer.

I am pleased to report that Eastchurch School is now attending the church regularly. I open the church for them and usually attend these services, which are led by the Head Teacher. Some classes have also been visiting with their form teachers to become familiar with the church and how to behave within it.

We continue to pray that the ministerial posts on the Island will be filled soon; for now, it remains a waiting game.

Churchwarden Report – All Saints, Eastchurch: Yvette Gutheil

Over the past year, All Saints has continued to hold regular services, along with baptisms, weddings, and funerals, with steady attendance and new members joining.

The care of the church building and churchyard has remained ongoing. We are grateful to the Community Payback scheme for maintaining the grounds. Work completed this year includes replacing the flooring in the Bell Tower to ensure it is safe. The Livsey Monument will be a focus for the coming year, following an architectural review this year.

This year we said goodbye to Fr Colin Johnson, who served All Saints and St Thomas for many years.

At Christmas, we held a successful Christmas Tree Festival raising £641, with fundraising of a raffle and refreshments. The event included music from Fiato – The Little Band and formed part of the village Christmas light switch-on. We also held our Christingle Service, supported by a donation of oranges from Brambledown Farm Shop, along with Midnight Mass and the Nativity.



During the interregnum, services have been supported by visiting clergy, including Rev Richard Brady, Fr Tim Foreman, Rev Nick Carpenter, and Fr Chris Shipley.

Churchwarden Report – St Thomas the Apostle, Harty: Susan Hopper and Amber Hopper

We have managed to keep the church running smoothly. Our quinquennial inspection took place in July. There are several items that require attention, but we will need to secure funding before these can be addressed. Any urgent actions have been remediated.

We have changed the time of our service from 3:00pm to 12:30pm, as the later time had led to reduced attendance, as suggested by Fr Tim Foreman, and it has made a noticeable difference. Fr Tim Foreman now leads most of our services, for which we are very grateful.

Our Christmas Eve service was very well attended, with 127 people present. The Flower Festival was also well attended and supported, raising just over £1,000. We continue to welcome many visitors to the church.

Life Events Report: Joseph Fowler

The Parish has seen an encouraging rise in life events this year. We will have conducted nine weddings, up from five in 2024, and eleven baptisms, an increase on last year. Demand for baptisms remains high, but clergy availability continues to make these challenging. Funeral ministry has remained steady, with sixteen funerals, burials and committals across the Parish. We also hosted a service of blessing at Harty, showing the range of occasions for which families continue to turn to our churches. As we look to 2026, we are pleased to see more wedding and baptism families attending services and hope to continue building these relationships as part of our growing church community.

Ecumenical Relationships

The Parish is a member of Churches Together in Sheppey. It is part of group ministry with West Sheppey Parish; this is an established connection that is growing in strength. Within the Parish also resides Eastchurch CofE Primary School and St Clement CofE Primary School, both part of the Diocese of Canterbury Academic Trust (Aquila).

The church is represented by Sue Hoppy within the Parish, acting as a point of contact for the Scout Groups, the Remembrance Service Group, and the Village Hall. She works collaboratively with them to support shared activities and ensures mutual involvement.

Church Electoral Roll

A new electoral roll was started this year; there were 22 members that joined the Church Electoral Roll. Of those members, 14 reside outside the Parish boundary.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Joseph Fowler – Parish Administrator

The year 2025 has been one of consolidation and continued progress for the Parish. We are pleased to report another year of financial stability, ending with a surplus of £1,315 and total funds carried forward of £40,141.

Our income grew significantly, with total receipts increasing to £30,620 from £21,899 in 2024. This rise reflects growth across charitable activities, higher fees from life events, stronger souvenir and candle sales, and a marked increase in donations. Planned giving, online donations, and one-off gifts all played a valuable part. We also received £7,300 in restricted grant funding for key projects, alongside continued effective use of Gift Aid, which helps us maximise eligible donations.

Expenditure for the year was £29,305, up from £20,609, reflecting both inflation and the essential costs of caring for our historic buildings. Repairs and maintenance were a major focus again this year, with more than £7,400 spent across the parish, alongside rising insurance and utility bills. Church activities, including parish share and honoria costs, remained steady and proportionate, while the costs of fundraising aligned with previous years. These expenses reflect the practical realities of maintaining two church buildings and supporting ministry throughout the parish.


Significant progress has been made across our restricted funds. The Eastchurch Sign Project has received its first grant payment and will receive its second payment of £440 when the sign is installed, and the Clock Project now holds a positive balance of £3,000 to support future restoration work with thanks to the Auston Trust Fund. The Livesey Monument Project advanced with the commissioning and completion of the conservation report. The Harty Fabric Fund was fully utilised for necessary maintenance and is now closed. These projects highlight our parish's commitment to protecting its heritage and ensuring our buildings remain safe and welcoming.

At year-end, unrestricted reserves were £37,941, comfortably above the PCC's minimum reserves policy of £7,000. This provides reassurance as we prepare for future expenditure, especially with both quinquennial inspections due to drive building priorities in the coming year. Looking ahead to 2026, we expect to continue focusing on major fabric needs, securing further grant funding, managing rising running costs, and expanding our giving streams.

We remain deeply grateful for the generosity of those who support our parish, whether through regular giving, donations at services, attendance at fundraising events, or the time they offer as volunteers. Their contributions ensure that our churches can continue their mission and ministry, and we look forward with hope and confidence as we enter another year.

Approval of Annual Report

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed	 <small>Susan Hopper (May 21, 2026 11:16:51 GMT+1)</small>
Name	Susan Hopper
Role	Vice-Chair of PCC; Acting Chairperson
Date	May 21, 2026

Financial Statement for Year Ended 31st December 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
Charitable Activities	12,008	0	0	12,008	9,806
Donations & Legacies	8,786	7,300	0	16,086	8,877
Generating Funds Activities	2,525	0	0	2,525	3,217
Total receipts	23,320	7,300	0	30,620	21,899
Payments					
Church Activities	5,443	0	0	5,443	2,160
Church Running Expenses	18,407	3,441	0	21,848	16,600
Cost of Generating Funds	2,014	0	0	2,014	1,848
Total payments	25,864	3,441	0	29,305	20,609
Net Incoming / Outgoing (before transfers)	(2,544)	3,859	0	1,315	1,290
Fund Transfers In	0	660	0	660	0
Fund Transfers Out	660	0	0	660	0
Net Movement of Funds	(3,204)	4,519	0	1,315	1,290
Total Funds Brought Forward	41,145	(2319)	0	38,826	37,536
Total Funds Carried Forward	37,941	2,200	0	40,141	38,826

Statement of assets and liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Assets					
Eastchurch: General (<i>Unrestricted</i>)	19,690	0	0	19,690	19,453
Harty: General (<i>Unrestricted</i>)	18,251	0	0	18,251	21,692
Eastchurch: Sign Project (<i>Restricted</i>)	0	(440)	0	(440)	(2940)
Eastchurch: Clock Project (<i>Restricted</i>)	0	3,000	0	3,000	0
Eastchurch: Monument Project (<i>Restricted</i>)	0	(360)	0	(360)	0
Harty: Fabric Fund (<i>Restricted</i>)	0	0	0	0	621
Total Bank Accounts	37,941	2,200	0	40,141	38,826

Liabilities and Creditors					
Eastchurch (General): Utility Bills	193	0	0	193	
Eastchurch (General): CDBF Fees	157	0	0	157	
Harty (General): Jams	512	0	0	512	
Total Liabilities and Creditors	862	0	0	862	

Debtors					
Eastchurch (General): Gift Aid Recovered	689	0	0	689	
Eastchurch (General): Outstanding Life Events	484	0	0	484	
Eastchurch (General): Fees in Vacancy	254	0	0	254	
Harty (General): Fees in Vacancy	127	0	0	127	
Harty (General): Gift Aid Recovered	95	0	0	95	
Total Debtors	1,649	0	0	1,649	

Approval of Financial Statements

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed Susan Hopper
Susan Hopper (May 21, 2026 11:16:51 GMT+1)
 Name Susan Hopper
 Role Vice-Chair of PCC; Acting Chairperson
 Date May 21, 2026

Notes on Financial Statement

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTS PREPARATION

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession has determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) been prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

2. CASH FUNDS MOVEMENT

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Represented By					
Eastchurch: General (Unrestricted)	19,453	18,799	17,902	(660)	19,690
Harty: General (Unrestricted)	21,692	4,522	7,962	0	18,251
Eastchurch: Sign Project (Restricted)	(2,940)	2,500	0	0	(440)
Eastchurch: Clock Project (Restricted)	0	3,000	660	660	3,000
Eastchurch: Monument Project (Restricted)	0	1,800	2,160	0	(360)
Harty: Fabric Fund (Restricted)	621	0	621	0	0
	38,826	30,620	29,305	0	40,141

- The *Eastchurch: Sign Project* represents a grant funded project for creation of a new sign at the church.
- The *Eastchurch: Clock Project* represents restricted donations to the work on the clock.
- The *Eastchurch: Monument Project* represents a grant funded project for a report on the Livesey Monument.
- The *Harty: Fabric Fund* represents restricted spending of donations accumulated for fabric maintenance.

3. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities					
Fees retained by PCC: Other Life Events	5,818	0	0	5,818	2,540
Fees retained by PCC: Weddings	4,681	0	0	4,681	4,823
Trading Activities: Candle for Prayer	176	0	0	176	283
Trading Activities: Other (inc. souvenirs, guidebook)	1,333	0	0	1,333	2,160
Total Charitable Activities	12,008	0	0	12,008	9,806

Donations & Legacies

Collection at Services	2,093	0	0	2,093	3,232
Gift Aid Recovered	1,892	0	0	1,892	2,745
Grants (recurring/one-off)	516	7,300	0	7,816	90
Other giving (inc. online donations, alms boxes)	1,672	0	0	1,672	1,667
Planned Giving (Envelopes/Standing Orders)	2,613	0	0	2,613	1,143
Total Donations & Legacies	8,786	7,300	0	16,086	8,877

Generating Funds Activities

Coffee Morning	419	0	0	419	595
Fundraising Activities	2,106	0	0	2,106	2,622
Total Generating Funds Activities	2,525	0	0	2,525	3,217
Total Receipts	23,320	7,300	0	30,620	21,899

4. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Church Activities					
Clergy, Trustee and Volunteer Expenses	14	0	0	14	41
Mission giving and evangelism costs	5	0	0	5	5
Parish Share	2,975	0	0	2,975	0
Salary, wages and honoraria	2,448	0	0	2,448	2,114
Total Church Activities	5,443	0	0	5,443	2,160

Church Running Expenses

Church Insurance	7,592	0	0	7,592	7,403
Church Major Repairs & Maintenance	4,581	2,820	0	7,401	2,940
Church running expenses (inc. governance)	4,025	621	0	4,646	3,891
Church utility bills	2,058	0	0	2,058	2,215
Church website/social media fees	151	0	0	151	151
Total Church Running Expenses	18,407	3,441	0	21,848	16,600

Cost of Generating Funds

Costs of fundraising activities	745	0	0	745	735
Costs of trading (inc. candles, souvenirs, guidebook)	1,269	0	0	1,269	1,114
Total Cost of Generating Funds	2,014	0	0	2,014	1,849
Total Payments	25,864	3,441	0	29,305	20,609

Independent Examiner's Report

TO THE TRUSTEES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EASTCHURCH WITH LEYSDOWN AND HARTY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parish of Eastchurch with Leysdown and Harty ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages seven to ten.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed	<u><i>Sarah Crispin</i></u> <small>Sarah Crispin (May 21, 2026 16:29:38 GMT+1)</small>
Name	Sarah Crispin ACA
Company	Stewardship Services Ltd 1 Lamb's Passage London EC1Y 8AB
Date	<u>May 21, 2026</u>











2025 - Report and Accounts FINAL FOR SIGNING

Final Audit Report

2026-05-21

Created:	2026-05-11
By:	Claire Lee (claire.lee@stewardship.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAVwBzZcAHsPZMMb1EpmzQSzP0Za-v6JKN

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