

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

St. Margaret's Bethersden, Bell and Frame Restoration Fund

Charity registration number: 1209097

Charity's principal address: Wissenden Lodge Farm, Wissenden Lane, Bethersden, Ashford TN26 3EJ

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the charity is the advancement of the art of bellringing for the public benefit at St Margaret's Church, Bethersden by:

- providing specific grants to enable the bells and frame of the church to be restored, replaced, or repaired and thereafter maintained to a good working order so that the bells may be rung for all appropriate services and occasions
- providing grants for the replacement of bell ropes and other required bell ringing fittings; and
- providing grants to support the training of bell ringers.

The charity was formally registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 11 July 2024.

Prior to that date, the St. Margaret's Bethersden, Bell and Frame Restoration Fund was administered by the Bethersden Bellringers.

Achievements and Performance

The trustees are delighted to report that the charity exceeded its initial fundraising target of £91,293 (excluding VAT) and that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Denswood was able to contract with John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Limited for the work to commence on the bell frame and bells at St. Margaret's Bethersden.

An initial grant of £32,866 was made to PCC of Denswood in December 2025.

In January 2026 the bells were lowered from the church tower, and were safely delivered to the foundry at Loughborough, awaiting the necessary work after up to 690 years hanging at Bethersden.

Project cash flow was still dependent upon the successful recovery of all VAT on the cost of the bell frame and other associated works. Claims have been submitted by PCC of Denswood under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and as of 31 March 2026, grants of £12,781 towards the VAT have been received by the PCC.

The closure of the Listed Places Of Worship Grant Scheme by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on 18 February 2026 means that VAT cannot be recovered on the final 30% of project costs, so fundraising continues in order to meet this potential shortfall. The DCMS has not yet released details of the replacement Places of Worship Renewal Fund.

The charity publicises the plight of the church bell frame with its own website <https://www.bethersdenbells.uk>, as well as a Crowdfunder web page and a Facebook page.

The trustees would like to thank all those that have donated or pledged funds and all those that have given their valuable time and service to assist in the raising of funds, through publicity and organising events.

The events performed in 2024 and 2025 were:

The Trial at Easter	March 2024
Love's Philosophy	November 2024
Ding Dong Bells	March 2025

Financial Review

At the end of the calendar year 2025, the charity had raised unrestricted funds of £72,797 and made a charitable grant of £32,866, resulting in funds of £39,931 carried forward.

In addition to the cumulative funds obtained of £72,797, the charity had received written pledges from other charities and organisations totalling £21,600 and was due a further receipt of gift aid of £418.

The cumulative gross total of actual and pledged funds as of 31 December 2025 was £94,815.

The net funds carried forward will be distributed to PCC of Denswood by way of charitable grants, as and when project stage payments are required to be made.

Any surplus funds remaining after the completion of the new frame and bell restoration works will be applied in accordance with the further Objectives of the charity, specifically new bell ropes and other fittings.

The Receipts and Payments Summary and Statement of assets and liabilities are detailed on page 4.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated association with wider membership and has a constitution as its governing document.

The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The trustees who managed the charity in the year under review were:

Alastair Boyd	<i>Chair</i>
Colin Clifton	<i>Secretary</i>
Simon Staddon	<i>Treasurer</i>
Howard Riddle	

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures

Alastair Boyd
Chair

Simon Staddon
Treasurer

Names
Position

Date

01 May 2026

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/members of St. Margaret's Bethersden, Bell and Frame Restoration Fund on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on page 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- 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:



Name: Jeff Kirby

Date: 6 May 2026

Address: 32 Shirkoak Park
Woodchurch
Ashford
Kent TN26 3RP

St. Margaret's Bethersden, Bell and Frame Restoration Fund
Registered charity number 1209097

Year ended 31 December

Receipts and payments

(to nearest £)

				2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Charitable grants and donations	35,530	-	-	35,530	9,226
Gift aid	2,109	-	-	2,109	-
Charitable events	1,335	-	-	1,335	3,758
Total receipts	38,974	-	-	38,974	12,984
Payments					
Charitable events consumables and utilities	177	-	-	177	796
Card processing fees	1	-	-	1	4
Charitable Grant to PCC of Denswood	32,866	-	-	32,866	-
Web hosting costs	30	-	-	30	-
Total payments	33,074	-	-	33,074	800
Net receipts/(payments)	5,900	-	-	5,900	12,184
Funds brought forward 1 January	34,031	-	-	34,031	21,847
Unrestricted funds carried forward	39,931	-	-	39,931	34,031

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Cash at Lloyds Bank	40,121	34,121
Liabilities	-190	-90
Net assets	39,931	34,031

The charity was formally registered on 11 July 2024.

Signed (on behalf of all the trustees)



Alastair Boyd
Trustee
01 May 2026



Simon Staddon
Trustee