St Peter and St Paul, Wadhurst

Registered Charity no. 1132389

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Wadhurst, for the year ended 31st December 2025



Incumbent:	Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff
Correspondence Address:	Church Office Carillon Cottage High Street Wadhurst East Sussex TN5 6AA
Website:	https://www.wadhurstchurches.org/
Independent Examiner:	Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Chartered Accountants North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
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St Peter and St Paul Wadhurst
Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Registered Charity no. 1132389

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St Peter and St Paul Wadhurst
Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Registered Charity no. 1132389

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC works with the Vicar to promote the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical – in the ecclesiastical parish of Wadhurst.

Our Vision: *Worshipping God in every part of life*

Our Mission Statement:

Using the gifts God gives us, we:

- *help bring others to Christ*
- *deepen our faith in Him*
- *develop the life of the church family*
- *serve each other and the wider community*

and so express our worship to God in every part of life

In furtherance of this mission, during 2025, the PCC:

- maintained the fabric of the parish church and undertook the necessary preliminary work towards a major reordering of the premises
- was the owner of, and responsible for the activities conducted from Carillon Cottage, the church community resource centre in Wadhurst High Street
- contributes to and has oversight of the distribution of *Focus,* the community magazine
- was the employer of the Parish Administrator
- was the employer of a Pastoral Assistant for Families and Youth and had oversight of the ministry undertaken by the person in that role
- as the owner of St George's Hall in Sparrows Green, oversaw the sale of the premises to Wadhurst Parish Council, to be further developed into a space for community activities

In setting its objectives and planning for activities, the PCC has given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to 'public benefit'.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Offering worship and prayer, and learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Providing pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to those in need in the parish
- Giving donations to charitable and missionary organisations
- Reaching out to the wider community through provision of events in the village and interacting with other groups, including schools
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building
- Progressing our commitment to creation care, biodiversity and climate change
- Developing plans for a project to reorder the church building to meet net-zero ambitions and to offer an enhanced community space

Evidence of how we achieve our charitable objectives is found in the following pages.

The church's development objectives are set out in its the Mission Action Plan (MAP) which is published on the church website. The four pillars of the plan are: prayer and worship; discipleship; pastoral care; and evangelism (including justice and environment). All depend on being underpinned by the foundations of good governance, robust finances, appropriate buildings and good communications.

Progress on this plan is discussed at each PCC meeting and reported to the congregation at regular intervals and at the annual meeting in May each year.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The church offers different styles of service, to enable as many people as possible from the local community to experience accessible worship that is spiritually fulfilling for them, in their local parish church.

During 2025, these services included a traditional Prayer Book Communion at 8am each Sunday, an All-Age service on the first Sunday of the month, two Parish Holy Communion services each month and a monthly service of Morning Worship. There has also been a monthly mid-week communion service and home communions for those who are sick, or unable to attend the other services.

Evensong services were presented on significant occasions such as the Patronal Festival and Harvest Festival. In addition, special services were presented for Christmas Lessons and Carols, Remembrance Sunday and for 'Remembering Loved Ones' which were popular with many who are not regular attenders at Sunday services.

The Wadhurst congregation joined together with those in Tidebrook and Stonegate for '3 as 1' services, usually on the fifth Sunday of the month.

The local C of E primary school held services in the church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and for School Leavers in the summer.

The church joined with the local Roman Catholic Church for *Churches Together in Wadhurst* activities, including the Service of Christian Unity, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and an Advent Carol Service.

In 2025 average attendance at Sunday services was 66 adults and 13 children. This was 3% fewer adults and 1% fewer children than in 2024.

Attendance at Easter was 140 adults and 24 children, a 3% increase in adults and 33% in children. Total attendance at Christmas (Nativity Service, Midnight Communion, Christmas Morning Communion and Festival Service) was 422 adults and 110 children, an increase of 2% in adults but 23% fewer children.

Members of the church family also interact with the church in diverse ways other than 'normal' services such as the monthly care home communion, Afternoon Fellowship and homegroups.

The total church family is increasing – those attending services, programmes and events – but people are attending less regularly.

In 2025 a new Electoral Roll was compiled, as it is every six years. There were 150 members on the new Roll, a fall of 30 compared with 2024 due to deaths, people moving away or choosing not to re-enrol.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

In 2025 there were four weddings and one wedding blessing; five church funerals and eight memorial services; 11 burials of ashes and five baptisms.

There is an active network of nine homegroups which meet regularly to study scripture, pray together and offer mutual support to one another. Additonal study groups are offered at Lent and Advent.

Activities and teaching for children and young people in the church family are provided in Carillon Cottage every Sunday during the main service (except on the first Sunday in the month which is an All-Age service).

Prayer meetings are held on Saturday mornings which are open to all. Prayer ministry is available after all 10.30am Sunday services.

The sermons given at Sunday services are also shared more widely by email for study at home.

Evangelism and outreach

The church provides a range of activities for children and young people, (and their families) from across the community, including:



- 'Jellybeans' for pre-school children and their carers (weekly in term time)
- 'Dads on Saturdays' for male carers and their children (monthly)
- J-Club after school club for primary age children, providing tea, crafts and games with on a bible-based theme (weekly in term time)
- An Easter fun day and autumn Light Party
- A Nativity play and service at Christmas at which all can join in
- Opportunities to join in the events run by Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ (e.g. Unite) and by Chichester Diocese (e.g. MayCamp)
- Occasional social activities including bowling, barbeques and visits to local attractions

The Vicar and his wife also take weekly assemblies at the local primary school, and the church made donations of bibles to all year 6 school leavers.

Carillon Cottage has established a relationship with Uplands Academy, the local secondary school, and supported its annual open day with the provision of refreshments.

For older members of the community, the church supports the CAMEO club which meets weekly. Under new leadership in 2025, the CAMEO volunteers provide a hot meal and opportunities for crafts, excercises, entertainment and trips out for around 25 elderly people.

A monthly 'Afternoon Fellowship' offers an informal time of worship for older people, with refreshments and an opportunity to meet each other.

Volunteer drivers and helpers support both these initiatives.

The church is fully embedded in the life of Wadhurst and its many organisations. During 2025 the church building was used for public concerts by the Brass Band and local choirs, and for other fundraising activities such as sales of goods in aid of charity. The church took part in the Wadhurst Warriors Scarecrow Festival.

The church hosted a Christmas Tree festival in December 2025 involving over 30 local groups and businesses. We estimate that over 500 visitors came to enjoy the atmosphere and the refreshments on sale, to contribute to the Prayer Tree and take part in an interactive Nativity scene.



Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

The church continues to be appreciated by our parishoners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. The churchyard too is a place of peace which is appreciated by those who come to walk their dogs or sit and enjoy the views during the day.

It is important that the church is available for private prayer, not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end the church building is always open and the many entries in the visitors' book testify to how greatly this is appreciated. Many remark how refreshing it is to find an open church and also the sense of peacefulness the church supplies, and the connection it gives with ancestors who worshipped there.

Spatial reordering of the church building

During 2025 the PCC addressed the issue of a failing heating system in the church and the desire to replace it with one which would meet ambitious net-zero (NZC) goals.

Given the extent of the work that would be needed to install a new system, the opportunity was also taken to evalauate ways to reorder the church building to increase its accessibility, to improve flexibility of the space on offer to community and church groups, and also to perform conservation and restoration of important historical features, including the unique iron grave slabs.

St Peter and St Paul church was granted 'demonstrator church' status by the Church of England, which provided a grant to help meet some of the costs of evaluating the feasibility and engaging the requisite professional consultants to design the scheme.

Extensive work was done during 2025 to consult with the local community and stautory consultees, obtain the requisite planning permission and Diocesan Faculty approvals, and communicate the progress of the project. Various heating options were evaluated, and archaeological and engineering investigations undertaken, to develop a scheme that would enable the 12th Century church to be repaired, restored and reordered while honouring and protecting its heritage and ensuring it is fit to serve furture generations.

Alongside this, the PCC ran an intensive programme of fundraising, including grant applications, community events, and requests for donations from church members and the wider community. These were tailored to meet the various interests of reducing the carbon footprint, conserving the nationally important collection of iron grave slabs, providing flexible space for worship and community activities, or enabling independent disabled access for the first time in 300 years.

By the end of 2025 all planning and faculty permissions were in place and sufficient funds had been committed to cover the essential elements of the work. Following an extensive tendering exercise, a contractor was appointed and work started at the end of December 2025 after the Christmas services. Throughout the whole process there has been daily prayer to undergird the project.

During 2025 a total of £330,777 was donated or awarded in grants towards the NCZ reordering project, of which £61,643 was spent in the financial year.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by the Vicar, is responsible for hospital visits and home communions. The team also visits the local care home where monthly communion services are held for those too frail to attend the church. Around 15 people attend these services.

Carillon Cottage, the premises owned by the church in Wadhurst High Street is the location of the church office, as well as a volunteer-led service which provides care and support to all those in the benefice (of all faiths or none) in several ways.

These include a driving service for healthcare appointments, a hearing aid clinic, wheelchair hire, supply of office services such as photocopying, box office services for local community groups, distribution of around 1,000 copies of *Focus* (the parish magazine), recycling collections, meeting rooms for hire and regular 'clinics' for local government representatives and charities such as AgeUK.

"..a big 'thank you' to you all …people like myself really do appreciate your kind driving service to help me to attend appointments, especially medical appointments" N.O., service user

All these services are funded through donations and fundraising events.

"It starts the week off with a smile." Pat

"It's nice to be here with other people, when you live on your own." Jill

One service that has been particularly appreciated is the weekly 'Warm Welcome', offering a time to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation (and the occasional quiz) for those who would otherwise be socially isolated.

Provision of tangible support to those in need

The church family makes collections of food and other necessities at Harvest-time which are distributed around the community.

During 2025 the food shelves in the church were kept stocked with basic essentials and were used for emergency supplies by several local families. In addition, supplies were made available to individal families who were identified as being in need.

Carillon Cottage acts as a collection point for the 'Nourish' foodbank and receives generous donations from members of all local churches, as well as individuals from the wider community, community clubs and local businesses. These are sent to a central distribution point and distributed across the local area, including Wadhurst.

The church interacts with local charities including the Rose Trust (of which the Vicar is a Trustee) and Mullins Memorial Fund, both of which aim to support those in need in Wadhurst.

The Vicar's discretionary fund is available to assist with emergency needs.

In December, a collection of new toys and gifts was made for distribution to needy families via the Family Support Work charity.

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

Total income from general unrestricted funds received were £249,067 and are detailed in the Financial Report.

Thanks to the generous giving by the church community our total unrestricted voluntary income including tax recovered, but excluding legacies came to £82,913. Of this the planned giving and the Parish Giving Scheme contributed just over £65,000. This excludes any donations made towards the NZC re-ordering project due to commence in January 2026.

During the year the church sold St George's Hall for £123,182, realising a gain on disposal of £103,182, of which £100,000 has been set aside for the NZC re-ordering Project.

The total unrestricted overheads were £174,816, of which these were the three highest costs.

1. Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest single expenditure of the PCC in 2025 was the sum of £65,482 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. This year the contribution from St Peter and St Paul increased by 3% on the previous year.

The total relates directly to the housing, support, stipend and pension costs of the clergy of this parish, training of new ordinands in the diocese, a contribution to national church funds and shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole diocese, including assistance towards the upkeep of churches less able to manage than ourselves.

2.Staff costs

The PCC employs a Church Administrator and a Children, Youth and Families Worker, both on a part-time basis. The total staff costs for 2025 came to £35,635. The work of both employees is greatly valued within the benefice as they make a large contributation to the life of the church. More details about the work of the Youth and Families Worker may be found elsewhere in this report.

3. Charitable giving

As part of its commitment to tithing, the PCC made the donations totalling £14,500 to a selection of local, national and international charities, out of its unrestricted income.

Also, during the year, the church held special collections during services for a number of charities, including The Royal British Legion, Crisis, and CAN International.

Repairs to the fabric of the church building and churchyard

In addition to these three main overheads, the PCC maintains the fabric of our historic church in line with quinquennial recommendations and with due regard for health and safety requirements. In total in 2025 just over £10,000 was spent on maintenance work. An additional £4,413 was spent maintaining the churchyard in good order for the benefit of the community, and in line with environmental objectives.

The church has a contract for services with an Organist and a Choral Director.

Further details are provided in the notes to the accounts.

Trustee payments and expenses

No payments and expenses were made to the trustees in respect of their position as trustees.

There were no payments to persons related to or connected to, the trustees.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately 3 months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

Management of risks and their mitigation

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the church, to ensure that they are mitigated by appropriate policies and procedures. The policies are publically available on the church website.

A *health and safety policy* is in place and those responsible continually monitor the church premises and act on any issues that arise. A risk register is a dynamic appendix to this policy, which is reviewed annually. The register covers risks associated with the use of church premises including the use and storage of cleaning materials and ladders, hazards from wires or floor coverings, the use of electric appliances, as well as a cycle for maintenance of external footpaths, boundary walls and fences. There is a separate fire risk policy with associated procedures which is also reviewed annually. The usual PAT testing and fire extinguisher checks have been carried out. Carillon Cottage has a lone worker policy.

Risk assessments are also performed on all aspects of the church's work in the community.

During 2025 the PCC authorised an upgrade to the IT provision for the employees and officers of the PCC. The purchase of new hardware and migration to a Microsoft 356 environment has been undertaken with the aim of improving efficiency of our administrative processes and increasing data security. A new digital telephone system has also been installed.

There are policies in place to cover the *handling of data* under the GDPR. In terms of *technology,* a social media policy is in place and an over-arching IT policy is under development.

Governance policies in place include a finance policy, procurement and tendering policy and a conflict of interest policy.

Employment policies include grievance, disciplinary, and equal opportunities policies.

Safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and the PCC is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of all church members and those in the wider community who come into contact with the church and the services it provides.

All policies are reviewed annually and new ones introduced according to need.

The PCC considers that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- the need to fund any unexpected costs associated with the church's listed buildings and cover ongoing necessary repairs and maintenance of the church and Carillon Cottage.
- the need to generate regular sustained income. Despite the great generosity shown by church members and those in the local community during 2025, allowing the NZC reordering project to proceed, there is concern at the fall in the income which is necessary to cover the routine on-going overheads of running the church. The Finance Committee has performed a data-led analysis of the situation and has a plan in place to address the main factors. The aim will be to increase regular giving to ensure we are in a strong position to meet our regular commitments in a sustainable way.
- the requirement to find volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation is always a concern, although the church benefits from a large volunteer base from across the community to assist with its practical and pastoral work.

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by regularly reviewing its Mission Action Plan objectives and the processes it has in place to achieve them.

Emphasis on God's generosity to the congregation is the subject of teaching from the pulpit from time to time to encourage the congregation to respond to that generosity in their giving through time, talents and money, as they are able. We aim to diversify income by effectively hiring out the church building to external parties once the re-ordering takes place.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Incumbent, Associate Vicar and any Readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens, up to four members of the Deanery Synod and up to 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

All electoral roll members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

During the year January to December 2025 the following served as members of the Wadhurst PCC:

Name	**Position from May 2025**
Incumbent	
Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff	Vicar (Chair)

Churchwardens	
Ruth Dunnett	Churchwarden
Michael Hardcastle	Churchwarden (from 19 May 2025)
Deanery Synod Reps	
Heather Ratcliff	Deanery Synod Rep
Penny Dobson	Deanery Synod Rep Lead Recruiter
Elected Members	
Chris Bithell	Member (Deanery Synod rep to 19 May 2025)
Anne Brignell	Member Chair of Carillon Cottage
Mary Burstow	Member (Deanery Synod rep from July 2025)
Paul Burstow	Member
Anthony Dunnett	Member Fabric Chair and H&S Officer
Theo Farringdon	Member
John Fuller	Member
Paul Stephens	Member Honorary Treasurer (to 19 May 2025)
Peter Thompson	Member Honorary Treasurer (from 19 May 2025)
Lynda Wight	Member PCC Secretary
Vanessa Sharman	Member (to 19 May 2025)

Revd Andrew Goy, Associate Vicar, is also entitled to attend Wadhurst PCC meetings.

Patrons of the benefice may attend PCC meetings as observers.

The PCC is supported in its work by the Executive (or Standing Committee), a Finance Committee, and various volunteer groups and individuals from the church membership. The PCC aims to involve as many church members as possible in the day to day running of the church and the services it presents, including two Deputy Wardens, over 15 sidespersons of all ages, and around 16 individuals or families involved as 'welcomers'.

During the Year Dominic Bolas served as Safeguarding Officer. Jean Sermon served as Electoral Roll Officer.

The PCC is aware of the provisions of the Charity Commission Governance Code and has reviewed its activities against them, with the aim of continually improving its practices to meet the recommendations it contains.

New PCC members are informed of their responsibilities as trustee and must read and sign a 'Fit and Proper persons' declaration before being accepted. All PCC members are DBS cleared and must undergo safeguarding training. Prior to their first meeting as trustees, PCC members are provided with copies of previous minutes to enable them to be up to date with the business of the charity. At the first meeting after elections, the PCC reviews all policies in place so that all trustees are aware of the policies of the charity.

St Peter and St Paul Wadhurst
Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Registered Charity no. 1132389

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales required the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and applicable of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In conclusion I should like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to make our church the vibrant community it is.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by:

The Revd. Dr Paul Ratcliff, PCC Chairman

Date: 28 April 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Peter and St Paul, Wadhurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wadhurst ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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 Charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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; and
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James Mathieson FCA
Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Chartered Accountants
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge,
Kent
TN9 1BE

Date 30 April 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	*Unrestricted funds 2025* £	*Restricted funds 2025* £	*Total funds 2025* £	*Total funds 2024* £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	82,913	387,462	470,375	221,738
Charitable activities	**4**	56,414	-	56,414	64,571
Investments		6,558	-	6,558	4,104
Other income					
Gain on disposal of St George's Hall	**8**	103,182	-	103,182	-
Total Income		249,067	387,462	636,529	290,413
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**5**	174,816	124,570	299,386	298,720
Total expenditure		174,816	124,570	299,386	298,720
Net (loss)/gain on investments		(3,347)	-	(3,347)	2,046
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		70,904	262,892	333,796	(6,261)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		446,313	51,724	498,037	504,298
Total funds carried forward		517,217	314,616	831,833	498,037

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	*2025* £	*2025* £	*2024* £	*2024* £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		285,586		309,061
Investments	**9**		70,633		73,981
			356,219		383,042
Current assets					
Debtors	**10**	117,522		28,263	
Cash at bank and in hand		366,974		108,133	
		484,496		136,396	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**11**	(8,882)		(21,401)	
			475,614		114,995
Net current assets					
Total net assets			831,833		498,037
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			517,217		446,313
Restricted funds			314,616		51,724
Total charity funds	**12**		831,833		498,037

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Parochial Church Council on 28 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff
Chair

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	*2025* £	*2024* £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**A**	129,898	(12,911)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest received		6,558	4,104
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets		(798)	(4,366)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		123,183	-
Net cash provided by investing activities		128,943	(262)
Change in cash and cash equivalents		**258,841**	**(13,173)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		108,133	121,306
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**366,974**	**108,133**

A. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow used in operating activities

	2025 £	*2024* £
Net income / (deficit) for the year *As per the Statement of Financial Activities*	333,796	(6,261)
Adjustments for:		
Net losses / (gains) on investments	3,347	(2,046)
Depreciation	4,273	4,906
Interest received	(6,558)	(4,104)
Gain on disposal of property	(103,182)	-
Increase in debtors	(89,259)	(22,693)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(12,519)	17,287
	(203,898)	(6,650)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	129,898	(12,911)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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1 Status

Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Wadhurst is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. Its registered address is Church Office, Carillon Cottage, High Street, Wadhurst.

2 Accounting policies

The principle accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and The Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Wadhurst meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. For donations, including related Gift Aid recoverable, this is usually on receipt. Investment income is recognised when it is receivable.

Grants are recognised when communicated to the charity in writing, and are only deferred where there are terms and conditions outside the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the income, or the funder has specified that the grant is to be used in a future accounting period.

2.2 Income continued

Income from legacies is recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. It is normally considered probable when there has been a grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached are within the control of the charity or have already been met.

Income from church activities and other trading activities is recognised when the related service has been performed or the event has taken place.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be measured or estimated reliably. It is inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Donations payable are recognised when communicated to the recipient without further conditions, or where conditions are outside the control of the charity.

2.4 Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts in accordance with s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on other tangible fixed assets, at annual rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold buildings - 1% on cost
Equipment, sound systems and furnishings - 25% on the reducing balance

2.5 Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Gains and losses on revaluation are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.6 Other financial instruments

Other than investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as short term basic financial instruments. These financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.7 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds include general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Designated funds include monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds include all money and assets given for a particular purpose e.g. a special appeal or a specific legacy.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Planned giving and parish giving	66,254	91,229
Collections	10,900	7,559
Donations	204,312	63,985
Gift Aid recovered	41,892	9,808
Grants	147,017	49,157
	470,375	221,738

In the prior year restricted income from donations and legacies was £108,444.

4 Income from church activities

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Fees for weddings, funerals etc.	15,504	17,171
Carillon Cottage income	22,066	29,236
Cameo income	8,797	5,172
Other	10,047	12,992
	56,414	64,571

Restricted income from church activities relates to Carillon Cottage and Cameo and amounted to £30,863 (2024: £34,408).

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Direct costs:		
Staff costs	24,485	25,997
Donations (see note 6)	26,788	23,396
Diocesan parish contribution	65,482	63,370
Other clergy costs	10,003	10,927
Church running expenses	17,786	27,849
Church maintenance & repairs	10,371	9,003
NZC Re-ordering Project	61,643	16,844
Repairs to roof and north transept	5,793	39,422
Upkeep of churchyard	4,413	5,834
Upkeep of services	16,952	21,345
Training and education	88	1,038
Outreach	4,864	4,506
Carillon Cottage	22,317	21,969
Cameo	7,229	5,330
Stonegate vicarage garden	1,129	2,424
Depreciation	4,273	4,906
Support costs:		
Staff costs	11,150	10,546
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	4,620	4,014
	299,386	298,720

In the prior year expenditure of £95,360 was applied to restricted funds.

6 Charitable giving

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
The following donations to missions and charities were made in the year:		
Local Charities		
Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ	1,000	850
Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors	1,000	850
Nourish Community Foodbank	730	625
UK Charities		
Diocesan Family Support Work	1,400	1,200
The Children's Society	1,000	850
Church Army	2,100	1,800
Church Pastoral Aid Society	1,400	1,200
Bible Society	820	700
Ride & Stride	-	1,045
Overseas Charities		
Church Mission Society	1,400	1,200
Crosslinks	1,750	1,500
Tearfund	950	800
Release International	950	800
	14,500	13,420
Burundi	10,470	8,565
School Leavers' Bibles	1,138	711
Christmas vouchers	560	700
Christian Vision	120	-
	26,788	23,396

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7 Staff costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Staff costs comprise:		
Gross wages and salaries	34,130	35,180
Employer's pension contributions	1,505	1,363
	35,635	36,543

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2024: 2).

No employees earned more than £60,000 (2024: None).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	*Fixtures, fittings, equipment* £	*Total* £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	357,493	14,602	372,095
Additions	-	798	798
Disposals	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
At 31 December 2025	337,493	15,400	352,893
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	56,025	7,009	63,034
Charge for the year	2,375	1,898	4,273
At 31 December 2025	58,400	8,907	67,307
Net book value			
At 31 December 2025	279,093	6,493	285,586
At 31 December 2024	301,468	7,593	309,061

The fixed assets of the PCC include one freehold property - Carillon Cottage. St George's Hall was disposed of in the year.

Carillon Cottage was purchased in 1999 and is held for continuing use in the work of the PCC. It was opened as a Church community centre during 2001. The cost of this property includes the historic purchase cost plus the cost of the subsequent building works for its refurbishment.

9 Investments

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Market value at 1 January 2025	73,981	71,935
Change in market value	(3,348)	2,046
Market value at 31 December 2025	70,633	73,981

All investments are held in CBF Church of England Funds which are managed by CCLA Investment Management Limited. Trust funds are invested through the Diocesan Board of Finance and include the Watson-Smyth Trust and Parish General Fund. They also include the Laurens / Watson-Smyth Churchyard Fund. The capital represented by these holdings is freely available to the PCC and is therefore unrestricted. The PCC's investment policy is to retain these investments within the control of CCLA who invest ethically.

Other funds (not included in accounts)
Chancel Trusts: The Diocese maintains, as a permanent trust for the Parish under the Tithe Act, a holding of 78.44 CBF Investment Fund - Income Shares with a value at 31 December 2025 of £4,549 (2024: £4,549) accumulated income from which may be used to defray the cost of repairs to the fabric of the chancel and the Church. The Diocese has confirmed that the accumulated income is held by CBF as custodian trustee and is freely available to the PCC.

10 Debtors

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Gift Aid Recoverable	-	6,871
Accrued Income	117,000	19,926
Other Debtors	522	1,466
	117,522	28,263

11 Creditors

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Taxation	-	667
Accruals	8,277	19,631
Other Creditors	605	1,103
	8,882	21,401

12 Statement of movement in funds

Current year:	*Brought forward* £	*Income and gains on investments* £	*Expend-iture* £	*Transfers* £	*Carried forward* £
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds					
Capital fund	309,061	-	(4,273)	(19,202)	285,586
Fabric fund	19,366	-	(3,659)	-	15,707
NZC Re-ordering Project	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
General funds	117,886	245,720	(166,884)	(80,798)	115,924
	446,313	245,720	(174,816)	-	517,217
Restricted funds:					
Carillon cottage	26,773	22,066	(22,317)	-	26,522
Burundi fund	5,883	6,858	(10,470)	-	2,271
Communications fund	255	-	(255)	-	-
Cameo	3,085	8,797	(7,229)	-	4,653
Fabric Fund	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Choir Fund	1,516	-	-	-	1,516
North Transept	3,692	5,753	(9,445)	-	-
NZC Re-ordering Project	-	330,777	(61,643)	10,000	279,134
Young people's ministry	-	10,211	(10,211)	-	-
Upkeep of church yard	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Churchyard Project	520	-	-	-	520
	51,724	387,462	(124,570)	-	314,616
Total funds	498,037	633,182	(299,386)	-	831,833

Designated funds

The fabric fund is for the quinquennial cyclical maintenance of the church premises. This year the electrical survey has been expensed against this fund.

The capital fund represents the net book value of the tangible fixed assets. The transfers relate to additions and disposals in the year.

£100,000 of the proceeds from the sale of St George's Hall has been transferred towards the costs of NZC Re-ordering Project from the General Fund.

12 Statement of movement in funds (continued)

Restricted funds

Carillon Cottage
The Carillon Cottage fund represents the income and expenditure account for the activities run from Carillon Cottage. This property was purchased by the church in 1999 and in addition to the church administration office and meeting rooms, provides the base for a range of support services for the local community. Income is derived from fund-raising activities and donations made by users of the services.

Burundi fund
The Burundi fund includes donations received for the specific purpose of furthering the aims of the Wadhurst-Burundi link.

Communications fund
The communications fund includes donations towards improvements to church communications and marketing. This has been fully expensed in the year on publication costs.

Cameo
The Cameo fund provides the finances for weekly lunches and other social activities for senior citizens at the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Wadhurst.

Fabric Fund
These relate to specific donations and legacies towards the repair and maintenance of the church. The balance of this fund has been transferred to the NZC Re-ordering Project, as this also relates to the fabric of the Church.

Choir Fund
During previous years payments to choir members who sang for weddings and funerals were collected and donated to the PCC to be used for much needed storage for the choir music archive.

North Transept
The North Transept Fund is to fund two roof repairs and window costs. This includes retiling the North Transept and replacing the flat roof over the North Aisle. Grants have been received from several donors. This work has been fully completed and expensed.

NZC Re-ordering Project
The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Wadhurst is part of the Church Demonstrators Project. Funds have been received to support the improvements needed to achieve Net Zero. This includes Air Source Heat Pumps for underfloor heating, solar roof panels, secondary glazing and draft proofing doors and windows. This project is was in the initial planning stages in 2025 and the works are due to commence in 2026.

12 Statement of movement in funds continued

Young people's ministry
Grants and donations were received towards young people's ministry which has been utilised by the salary cost of the Children, Youth and Families worker.

Upkeep of church yard
A grant was received from Wadhurst Parish Council in the year towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This was fully expensed.

Churchyard Project
In the previous year £520 was received to improve some aspects of the Churchyard. This will be used once the NZC Re-ordering Project is complete.

Prior year:	*Brought forward* £	*Income and gains on investments* £	*Expend-iture* £	*Transfers* £	*Carried forward* £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Capital Fund	309,601	-	(4,906)	4,366	309,061
Fabric Fund	23,366	-	(4,000)	-	19,366
General funds	131,665	184,015	(194,184)	(3,610)	117,886
	464,632	184,015	(203,090)	756	446,313
Restricted funds:					
Carillon cottage	22,706	29,236	(21,969)	(3,200)	26,773
Burundi fund	1,946	12,502	(8,565)	-	5,883
Communications fund	255	-	-	-	255
Cameo	3,243	5,172	(5,330)	-	3,085
Fabric Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Choir Fund	1,516	-	-	-	1,516
Upkeep of church yard	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
North Transept	-	43,114	(39,422)	-	3,692
NZC Re-ordering Project	-	14,400	(16,844)	2,444	-
Churchyard Project	-	520	-	-	520
	39,666	108,444	(95,630)	(756)	51,724
Total funds	504,298	292,459	(298,720)	-	498,037

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds* £	*Total funds* £
Current year:			
Tangible assets	285,586	-	285,586
Investments	70,633	-	70,633
Current assets	169,880	314,616	484,496
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(8,882)	-	(8,882)
	517,217	314,616	831,833

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds* £	*Total funds* £
Prior year:			
Tangible assets	309,061	-	309,061
Investments	73,981	-	73,981
Current assets	84,672	51,724	136,396
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(21,401)	-	(21,401)
	446,313	51,724	498,037

14 Funds held as agent

These include special collections received on behalf of other charities totalling £3,400 (2024: £4,870). At the year end the full amount had not been paid over with £344 included in other creditors (2024: £407 included in other creditors).

It also includes receipts received by Carillion Cottage who have acted as a booking office on behalf of other organisations. Receipts totalled £8,090 (2024: £6,209) of which £7,829 were paid over at the year end (2024: £6,012). The final balance of £261 is included in other creditors (2024: £197 other creditors).

15 Related party transactions

Key management personnel are considered to be the PCC members. No PCC members received remuneration or were reimbursed expenses in their capacity as PCC members during the year.

During the year donations amounting to £73,927 were received from 16 trustees (2024: £22,131 from 12 trustees).

There are no other related party transactions to disclose (2024: None).

16 Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Wadhurst participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. It has a section known as Pension Builder 2014 which is described below.

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund includes the Pension Builder 2014, which is classed as a defined benefit scheme. There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and therefore the contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 scheme, the valuation revealed a surplus of £2m on the ongoing assumptions used.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Wadhurst could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

17 Post balance sheet events

In January 2026 work relating to the NZC Re-ordering project was commenced based on a tender with a value of £725,000 plus VAT. During the year the church received donations, grants and fundraising for this project and continues to do so in 2026. The PCC is confident that its obligations will be met.