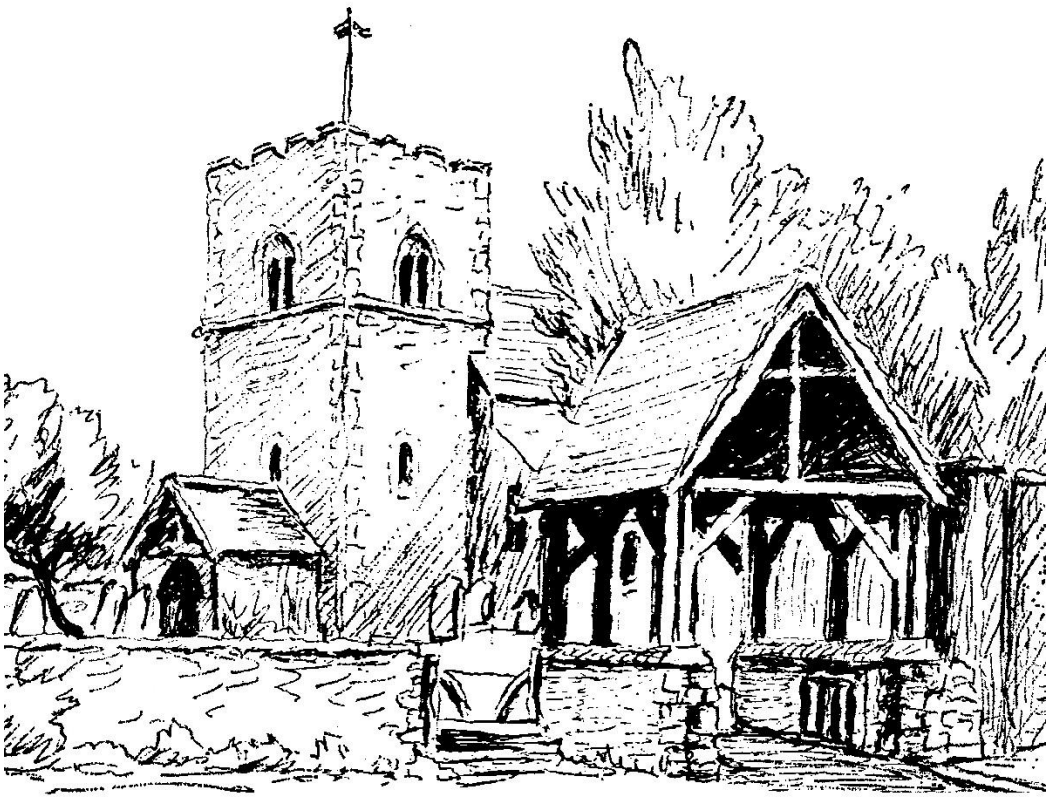
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL RUSTINGTON



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 17th May 2026

Registered Charity No 1133812

Opening Worship

Opening Hymn:

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
all are welcome, all are welcome
all are welcome in this place

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true;
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here, the cross shall stand as witness
and the symbol of God's grace.
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
all are welcome, all are welcome
all are welcome in this place

3. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone;
to heal and strengthen, serve, and teach
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bears the image of God's face.
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;
all are welcome, all are welcome
all are welcome in this place

4. Let us build a house where all are named
their songs and visions heard;
and loved and treasured taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
all are welcome, all are welcome
all are welcome in this place

Bible reading

Acts 2:42–47:
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A paraphrase of Acts 2: 42-47:
The early believers devoted themselves to learning from the apostles, sharing fellowship together, breaking bread, and praying.

They were filled with a sense of awe, as God was at work among them in many ways. They shared their lives openly, supporting one another so that no one was in need, and resources were shared generously according to each person's situation.

They met regularly, worshipping together and sharing meals with glad and grateful hearts. Their lives were marked by joy, simplicity, and praise to God, and they were well regarded by the wider community.

Each day, God was at work among them, drawing more people into the life of faith.

Prayer
Loving God,
we thank you for the life of this church
and for all that has been shared among us this year.
We give thanks for worship that has lifted our hearts,
for music and prayer that have drawn us closer to you,
and for the faithful service of so many people
whose gifts, time, and love sustain the life of this church.
We thank you for those who teach and care for our children and young people,
for those who welcome newcomers and visitors,
for those who visit the lonely, feed the hungry,
and offer comfort and companionship to those in need.
We thank you for every act of kindness, seen and unseen,
that builds up this community in love.
And we pray that you would continue to shape us into a church with open arms,
open hearts, and open hands.
Help us not to look inward only,
but outward — to see those who are searching,
those who are weary, and those who are waiting to be invited in.
May we be a people who reflect your welcome,
your generosity, and your love to all.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Structure, Governance and Management

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.

During the year, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Natalie Bawcutt	Ex-officio *(Chair)*
Children and Families worker:	Gill Renny	Ex-officio
Wardens:	Jean Bulley	
	Henry Bott	*Vice Chair*
Representative of the Diocesan Synod:	Liz Henderson	Ex-officio
Representatives of the Deanery Synod:	Carrie McLeod	(2023-2026)
	Dot Mitcham	(2023-2026)
	Jackie Gordon	(2023-2026)
Elected Members:	Sophie Gumbrill	(2023-2026)
	Lisa Rogers-Davis	(2023-2026)
	Glyn Mathias	(2023-2026)
	Graeme Taylor	(2024-2026)
	Harry Walker	(2024-2027)
	Ray Pye	(2024-2027)
	Jan Peacock	(2025-2028)
	Claire Birkhead	(2025-2028)
	Joanna Brown	(2025-2028)
	Pam Lewis	(2025-2028)
Treasurer:	Sarah Greig	
Hon Secretary to the PCC:	Sarah Collins	

Aims and Purposes

The primary objective of St Peter and St Paul's PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Natalie Bawcutt, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

Our Vision/Mission statement: Working together in God's Love for his Kingdom.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. We hope to enable local people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- and developing their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Peter and St Paul, Rustington.

Achievements and Performance

Attendance continues to grow with a number of new families joining us over the year. We have continued to live-stream the services and these are still followed by a good number of people. In October 2025 (when the average yearly attendance is calculated) the average weekly attendance on Sundays was 181 which includes children. There are 200 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll following a revision in 2025, this is down from 215 the previous year.

There were three weddings and eight funerals in church, seven in other locations officiated at by our clergy and 15 Interments of Ashes. There were 13 baptisms in 2025.

Review of the year

The full PCC met five times in 2025. The average attendance at meetings was 18 people.

We have regular reports from the sub groups as well as health and safety and safeguarding updates. The finance group have continued to produce monthly graphs for the congregation to see income versus expenditure and an update on our finances features at each meeting. More details can be found in the individual reports, but a snapshot of other things covered at the PCC meetings is as follows:

- Charitable giving
- Policies
- Sub group reports
- Solar panels
- 23 Henry Avenue
- Lanyards
- Utilities

- Safer recruiting
- ChurchSuite
- Church pages

Public Benefit

The church family welcome visitors from within and outside the church boundary. It is our pleasure to warmly welcome anyone from all walks of life who feel they would like to join in the life of St Peter and St Paul Rustington.

The Pantry, which opened its doors in October 2022, has flourished and helps a growing number of people each week – see the report for full details.

Sunday Rocks meets each week, apart from the first Sunday of the month which is our All Age service.

Noah's Ark, Monday Rocks and Bolders meet each week during school term. Noah's Ark have occasional visits into the church for a mini-service which is always much enjoyed.

We were able to host the Remembrance Sunday Service in our Church for the Community; Natalie, led the service at the War Memorial at 11.00 am.

Christmas is always a busy time with lots of services. We had the Scouts and Guides in for Carol Services this year and there was singing in some of the nursing homes as well. And as usual, we held our Christingle Service which welcomed families into the church. Due to the amount of people who attended last year, we held two Crib Services on Christmas Eve and both were very well attended.

A faithful team of people 'church sit' to enable the church to be opened to passing visitors or anyone in the local community wanting a quiet space.

During the holidays, our holiday gatherings have continued and remain as popular as ever, with all ages, and a good mixture of regular, occasional and non-church goers.

'WAFFLE' - Women About Fellowship, Fun, Laughter and Entertainment is a group that aims to demonstrate the love of God to women in Rustington and surrounding areas in a fun, inclusive and life-enhancing way.

Men's Fellowship group; although this is a Christian Society the emphasis is on social discussion and friendship. All faiths, concerns, cares or humanity are very welcome.

The residents of four local care homes are offered Holy Communion Services monthly and people within the parish who are infirm or unable to attend church services are taken Holy Communion often weekly. Home Communion was able to be offered again once restrictions were eased.

Our Charitable giving is split three ways. Our two main chosen missions – supporting Nicci Maxwell in South Sudan (CMS) and Family Support Work have been supported during the year. The third split is a flexible pot – charities are nominated by members of the congregation and agreed by the PCC.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council by:

N. Bawcutt

Rev Natalie Bawcutt

Vicar's Report

This year has been one of quiet confidence, steady growth, and deepening connection across all aspects of church life. There is a strong sense that the foundations laid in recent years are now bearing fruit, not only in numbers but in the richness and diversity of our shared life in Christ.
One of the most encouraging features of the year has been the continued growth and flourishing of children's and families' ministry. Across Sunday Rocks, Monday Rocks, Bolders, Noah's Ark, and the wider children's and youth work, there is a clear sense of energy, belonging, and faith being nurtured. It has been especially joyful to see children not only attending but actively engaging in worship, prayer, and service—whether through participation in services, involvement in the sacraments, or simply the confidence with which they now express their faith. The Holiday Gatherings have also continued to provide a warm and accessible entry point into church life, offering hospitality, creativity, and gentle invitation to many from the wider community. Welcome afternoons have also been well received.

Alongside this, the Pantry continues to stand as one of the most significant expressions of our mission in action. As it approaches five years of ministry, it now supports a large and consistent number of households each month, providing not only food but also welcome, dignity, and connection. Its partnerships with external agencies, alongside the commitment of a large volunteer team, mean that it has become a place where practical need and pastoral care meet in a very tangible way. It is a reminder that church is not only what happens on Sundays, but what is lived out in the everyday life of our community.

Our worship remains at the heart of all we do and continues to be enriched by the gifts of many. Music plays a vital role in shaping our worshipping life, from traditional hymns and organ accompaniment to contemporary worship, Taizé-style services, and the contribution of the music group and choir. The breadth of musical expression reflects the diversity of our congregation, and it is a real gift to have an increasing number willing to serve in this area. Our Audio Visual ministry also continues to play a vital role in supporting worship and accessibility, both in the building and through livestreaming, alongside the use of assistive technology such as iPads, large print materials, and the hearing loop system, enabling many more people to engage fully in worship.

Flower arranging and sacristy ministry also quietly but beautifully support our worship, particularly at festivals and special seasons, enriching our worship space and helping to create a sense of prayerful encounter.

Pastoral care remains a quiet but essential strength of our church life. The Home Communion and Nursing Home teams continue to offer a deeply valued ministry, bringing the sacrament and companionship to those unable to attend church. This ministry, along with home visits, care home services, and informal pastoral support from our Pastoral Visitors and home groups, reflects the commitment of all of us to walk alongside each other in all seasons of life. We work closely with the Hospital Chaplaincy and appreciate their ministry too.

Community life within the church remains rich and varied. Groups such as WAFFLE, Men's Fellowship, Coffee Break, Friendship Lunch, Miss You, Hope Club, Footsteps and our social and fundraising activities all provide important spaces for friendship, welcome, and enjoyment. These are not peripheral but central to the way we live out our calling to be a Christian community rooted in relationship. The sense of belonging they foster is a real gift to the wider life of the church.

The wider mission of the church continues to be expressed in varied ways. Church sitting offers a simple but powerful ministry of hospitality and presence, and those who care for the church and undertake unseen tasks do so with remarkable faithfulness and dedication. The church allotment continues to flourish, providing flowers for worship, opportunities for learning, and intergenerational engagement with children and families. Mission links, such as Family Support Work and our connection with our CMS partner Nicci Maxwell in South Sudan, remind us that we are part of a global Church, sharing in both the joys and challenges of Christian mission worldwide.

Behind the scenes, there has been significant work in governance, administration, and planning for the future. The PCC continues to oversee a wide range of responsibilities with care and diligence. This year has included the completion of the sale of 23 Henry Avenue and the investment of those funds, alongside ongoing attention to finance, safeguarding, and operational life. It has also seen important steps forward in planning for the future, including the introduction of ChurchSuite and a new website system, which will significantly reshape how we manage communication, administration, and engagement in the years ahead.

We also continue to be represented at Deanery level through the Deanery Synod, engaging with the wider life and mission of the Diocese, and benefiting from shared learning and vision. We are an active member of Churches Together in Rustington and East Preston.

The care of our buildings continues to require constant attention, and the Buildings Group continues to work faithfully across a wide range of areas, from lighting and heating systems to repairs, maintenance, and longer-term planning. Alongside this, there are encouraging developments in environmental awareness, including work towards solar energy and ongoing care for the churchyard and rewilding areas. The Eco Group continues to guide us in thinking more deeply about our responsibility for creation, with increasing collaboration across different church groups.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety remain fundamental to our life together. The ongoing commitment to training, DBS processes, policy review, and practical implementation ensures that we continue to provide a safe environment for all who come into contact with church life. This is an area that requires constant attention, and I am grateful for the diligence of those who carry this responsibility.

Seasight magazine remains an important part of our church life, helping to share stories, teaching, and updates across the congregation, alongside weekly emails and notices which continue to be well received and widely appreciated.

Looking ahead, there are significant developments on the horizon. The introduction of ChurchSuite, alongside a new website, represents a major step forward in how we organise and support church life. While this will require time, learning, and adaptation, it holds real potential to ease administrative burdens and enhance connection across the church family and beyond.

As always, none of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity, commitment, and faithfulness of so many people. From clergy (with particular thanks to our retired clergy and those who regularly come to cover services), and staff (I am hugely indebted to Natalie Stone, Gill Renny and Hazel Castle for bringing their gifts, patience and positivity to their work and their constant support to me), to PCC members, churchwardens, and over a hundred volunteers who give their time across every area of church life, this is truly a shared endeavour. I am deeply grateful to each one. Some of you take on huge responsibilities, and it is not unnoticed.

This has been a year in which we have seen, in many different ways, the steady and faithful work of God among us—drawing people into community, nurturing faith, and opening new possibilities for service and mission. My prayer is that we will continue to grow, to have open arms, open hearts and open hands to give generously as we seek to welcome everyone, listen faithfully and share all we have.

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." — Galatians 6:9

Thanks be to God that we are seeing a wonderful harvest.

Natalie Bawcutt

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

As Treasurer I have produced our Financial Statements in the format required by the Diocese and the Charity Commission.

The parochial Church Council (PCC) is a fully registered Charity under Registration Number 1133812. The members of the PCC are the Trustees of the Charity.

The PCC accounts comprise:

- An independent examiner's report – prepared by Catherine Dixon.
- The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).
- The Analysis of Income and Expenditure by code and fund.
- The Statement of Fixed Assets by code showing the changes during the year.
- Balance Sheet Detailed including a breakdown of assets and fund totals.
- Balance Sheet (Church of England).
- Related Parties and transactions.
- Note on Chancel Trust held by the Diocese.
- Explanation of Funds and Bank Accounts.
- An explanation of the calculation of Charitable Giving.

The reports which form the PCC accounts for 2025 were produced from Data Developments (myfundaccounting), which is the software programme on which we record all our accounts information.

Income

Compared to 2024, the total income increased by £193k. However, this was mainly due to funds received from the sale of Henry Avenue this year. These funds have now been invested (February 2026). The sale of Henry Avenue has meant there was no rental income for the year.

There was an increase in voluntary income of £4876. The PGS remains our preferred method of regular giving, being centrally administered on our behalf and relieving some of the administrative burden of Gift Aid claims.

Please note that Incoming resources, 2(a) has income lines showing as zero this year. This is because these have now been included in the unrestricted income total of £40095

We have received £9k in legacies.

Expenditure

Compared to 2024, the total expenditure overall has decreased slightly.

The £13,000 increase in Church running costs this year includes the purchase of the following:
New Printer
AV Laptop
Christmas Tree
Lanyards & pockets
Seasight expenditure increased this year as £3,000 was paid towards the cost of the new printer.

Summary

The Churchwardens and I would like to thank everyone who has given to the church throughout 2025 and those who were able to increase their voluntary planned giving, and those who made donations.

I am very grateful for the support and welcome I have had from the finance team, and would like to thank Carrie McLeod, Lisa Rogers-Davis, Sue Clark, Jackie Gordon, Graham Taylor and Michelle Dyne. Thank you to Jean and Henry (our churchwardens) for their input too. My thanks go to them all.

A special thank you this year to John Don-Wauchope for stepping in and finalising the accounts.

Sarah Greig

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES						
For the year ended 31 December 2025						
			2025			2024
					TOTAL	TOTAL
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	**FUNDS**	FUNDS
	Notes	Funds	Funds	Funds		
		£	£	£	**£**	£
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	2a	140908	871		**141779**	116202
Legacies	2a	9000	48		**9048**	59514
Activities for generating funds	2b	9851			**9851**	9979
Income from investments	2c	11451	6406	778	**18635**	19597
Church activities	2d	3764	21124		**24888**	20278
Other incoming resources	2e	262626	500		**263126**	48553
Total incoming resources		437600	28949	778	**467327**	274122
Resources expended						
Costs of generating voluntary income	3a	6548			**6548**	3738
Other Resources used	3c	3634	2776		**6409**	43129
Church activities	3c	166545	28772		**195317**	169367
Charitable giving	3c	5873	4676		**10549**	10414
Governance Costs	3d					
Total resources expended		182601	36223		**218824**	226648
Net incoming/outgoing resources before		254999	-7274	778	**248503**	47475
transfers						
Gross transfers in	5	115864	49919	310	**166093**	
Gross transfers out	5	-137408	-25475	-3210	**-166093**	
Net incoming/outgoing resources before		233455	17170	-2122	**248503**	47475
other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	6b	-5971	-5502	-912	**-12385**	
and investments						
Gains/(losses) on disposal investment assets	6b					
Net movement in funds		227484	11668	-3034	**236118**	47475
Total funds brought forward at 01 January 2025		452316	229293	28351	**709960**	650257
Total funds carried forward on 31 December 2025		679800	240961	25317	**946078**	697732

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON			
BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2025			
	Notes	**2025**	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	6a		69250
Investment fixed assets	6b	397410	409795
Total fixed assets		397410	479045
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	7b	435320	85879
Short term deposits	7b	90088	122204
Debtors	8	28659	24769
		554067	232852
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	5399	1937
Net current assets		548668	230915
Total assets less current liabilities		946078	709959
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year			
NET ASSETS	7a	946078	709959
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	10	679801	452316
Restricted funds	10	240960	229292
Endowment funds	10	25317	28351
		946078	709959

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 April 2026 and signed on its behalf.

Henry Bott — Vice Chairman

Graeme Taylor — **Finance Officer**

N. Bawcutt

The accompanying notes form a part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL , RUSTINGTON								
CASHFLOW STATEMENT			**For the year ended 31 December 2025**					
					2025		**2024**
					£		£
	Net cash outflow from operating activites below				**266710**		73111
	Returns on investment and servicing of finance				**-18635**		-31147
	Dividends & deposit interest						
	Capital expenditure and financial investment						
	Payments to acquire :						
	tangible fixed assets						
	investments						
	Receipt from sale of :				**-53969**		
	tangible fixed assets						
	investments						
	Net cash inflow/outflow from capital expenditure				**194106**		41964
	and financial investment						
	Net cash inflow /outflow before financing						
	Financing						
	Loans received						
	Loan repayments						
	Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing						
	Increase/Decrease in cash and cash equivalents						
	Cash inflow/outflow from financing						
	Change in net funds arising from cash flows						
	Non cash adjustments						
	Net funds brought forward						
	Net Cash Flow				**194106**		41964
	Analysis of changes in net funds (debt)						

	2025	2024	Cash				
Cash equivalents							
Short term deposits	**90088**	122204	-32116				
Cash	**435320**	85879	349441				
	525408	208083	317325		**317325**		1963
Net cashflow from operating activities							
Total incoming resources					**467327**		274122
Total resources expended					**218824**		226648
					248503		47475
Investment income					**18635**		31147
Decrease/(increase) in debtors					**-3890**		-2509
Increase/(decrease) in creditors					**3462**		-3002
Net cash in/out from operating activities					**266710**		73111

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

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

1. Accounting policies

a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current 2015 Statement Of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

	Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.
	Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment
c	**Incoming resources**
	All incoming resources are accounted for gross.
	Voluntary Income
	Collections are recognised when received.
	Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.
	Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
	Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.
	Where services are provided free and are quantifiable they are recognised at fair value.
	Income from investments
	Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.
	All other income
	All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
	Gains and losses on investments
	Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold
	Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation on 31 December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON	
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)	
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025	
d	***Resources used***
	Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.
	Grants
	Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

	Church Activities	
	The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.	
e	**Fixed Assets**	
	Tangible fixed assets	
	Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.	
	Moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as an inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements.	
	All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1000 are written off in the year they were incurred.	
	Depreciation	
	Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:	
	Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
	Audio visual equipment	30% straight line
	Office equipment	20% straight line
	No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.	
	Investments	
	Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.	
f	**Current Assets**	
	Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.	
	Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON						
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)						
For the year ended 31 December 2025						
2	**Incoming resources**				**2025**	2024
					TOTAL	TOTAL
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	**FUNDS**	FUNDS
		Funds	Funds	Funds		
		£	£	£	**£**	£
a	*Voluntary income*					
	Planned Giving - Envelope Giving	1401			**1401**	3472
	Planned Giving - Standing Orders					
	Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	76352			**76352**	69405
	Collections at all services					6510
	Votive Candles					372
	Sponsored Newsheet					230
	Wall Safe Donations					
	Sundry donations					13842
	Online Donations					4589
	Flowers for Church					-215
	Income tax recoverable	23060	871		**23931**	17996
	Unrestricted Income	40095			**40095**	
	Grants					
		140908	871		**141779**	116202
	Legacies	9000	48		**9048**	59514
	Total	149908	919		**150827**	175715
b	*Activities for generating funds*					
	Fund Raising Events	3623			**3623**	3200
	Easy fundraising					334
	Fundraising for Mission					
	Fees from weddings, funerals etc	3787			**3787**	3940
	Seasight Income	2441			**2441**	2506
		9851			**9851**	9979
c	*Investment income*					
	Dividends	7158	5099	770	**13027**	18119
	Bank Interest	4293	1307	8	**5609**	1478
		11451	6406	778	**18635**	19597

d	*Income from Church Activities*					
	Coffee Break					3439
	Coffee Income - Sunday					1600
	Mens Fellowship	555			**555**	150
	Friendship Lunches	2680			**2680**	1938
	Copier/Printer					58
	Allotment Income	61			**61**	173
	Rewilding project					385
	Bolders Income		210		**210**	170
	Noah's Ark Income	263			**263**	284
	Monday Rocks		120		**120**	40
	Children Family Worker Budget					216
	Waffle	80			**80**	313
	Pantry Donations		20794		**20794**	11513
	Holiday Club	124			**124**	
		3764	21124		**24888**	20278
e	*Other incoming resources*					
	Church Hall Income	3822			**3822**	3549
	VAT recovered	312			**312**	5111
	Humphrey Bequest					25000
	House Sale	258492			**258492**	
	Rental 23 Henry Avenue					11550
	Churchyard Planting		500		**500**	
	Income from Closure V&CW Account					3343
		262626	500		**263126**	48553
	Total incoming resources	437600	28949	778	**467327**	274122

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

					2025	2024
3	**Resources expended**	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	**TOTAL**	TOTAL
		Funds	Funds	Funds	**FUNDS**	FUNDS
		£	£	£	**£**	£
a	*Costs of generating voluntary income*					
	Seasight Expenditure	5399			**5399**	2293
	Cost of Fundraising	993			**993**	1350
	Sumup Transaction Fees	156			**156**	95
		6548			**6548**	3738
b	*Fund-raising trading costs*					

c	*Church Activities*					
	Missionary and charitable giving:					
	Charitable giving	5873	4676		**10549**	10414
	Grants to Missions and Charities					
	Rustington Churches Together					
		5873	4676		**10549**	10414
	Ministry costs:					
	Diocesan Parish Ministry Costs	81445			**81445**	81445
	Assistant Clergy					1317
	Vicarage expenses (inc Tel) & V Tel	3669	5410		**9079**	3707
	Clergy expenses					
	Mission & Evangelism					
	Children Family Worker	31927			**31927**	23525
	Young People Expenses/CFW	663			**663**	1289
	Mens Fellowship	580			**580**	400
	Messy Church					
	Monday Rocks		118		**118**	
	Noah's Ark	47			**47**	270
	Rocks					
	Waffle					275
	Bolders		216		**216**	299
	Salaries: Organists	4044			**4044**	3097
	Parish Administrator	7344			**7344**	6689
	Church running expenses	22694			**22694**	9635
	Electricity	1643			**1643**	3898
	Gas	5973			**5973**	4057
	Water Rates	474			**474**	353
	Office expenses	1855			**1855**	1828
	Audiovisual	857			**857**	2248
	Support					1275
	Software and other IT costs					505
	Solar Project	390			**390**	
	Church maintenance/Other Maintenance					4106
	Organ (incl. insurance)					460
	Upkeep of services					
	Wine,wafers & candles					1172
	Music Expenses/Materials					1273
	Flowers for Church Expenses					289
	Upkeep of churchyard	455			**455**	268
	Rewilding Expenses					166
	Upkeep of rented property: 23 Henry Avenue	3634			**3634**	718
	Church Refurbishment and Improvements		2776		**2776**	42411
	VAT reclaimed					
	Allotment	155			**155**	78
	Coffee Break & Sunday Coffee expenses					1286
	Friendship Lunches	2211			**2211**	1917
	Pantry Expenditure		19206		**19206**	8573
	Bank charges	120			**120**	120
	Church Hall		3822		**3822**	3549
		170179	31547		**201726**	212496
d	*Governance costs*					
	Total resources expended	182601	36223		**218824**	226648

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
4	**Staff Costs**	**£**	£
a	*Wages and salaries*	43315	33310

During the year the PCC employed a Parish Administrator and various organists , all part-time, and a Full time Children and Family Worker.

5	**Analysis of transfers between funds**	Transfers In	Transfers Out
		£	£
	Unrestricted Fund	27510	69718
	Designated Fund	88354	67690
	Restricted	49919	25475
	Endowment	310	3210
	Total	166093	166093

6	**Fixed Assets**			**TOTAL**
a	**Tangible fixed assets**	Freehold land and buildings		
	Cost	£		**£**
	At 1 January 2025	69250		**69250**
	Additions			
	Disposals	-69250		**-69250**
	Revaluation			
	At 31 December 2025			
	Depreciation			
	At 1 January 2025			
	Provided in the year			
	Disposals			
	Net book amount at 31 December 2025			

The Freehold land and Buildings comprised 23 Henry Avenue, Rustington. This property was let on a tenancy arrangement until the 23rd August 2024 at £12,600 per annum. The property was disposed of in 2025.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON						
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)						
For the year ended 31 December 2025						
6	**Fixed Assets** (continued)					
b	**Investment fixed assets**	Bal. b/fwd	New Investment	Part Sale	Gains/losses	**Bal. c/fwd**
		£	£	£	£	**£**
	Unrestricted:					
	Reserve Fund	62618			835	**63453**
	CBF Equity Fund (P Senst)	59481		-53969	-5512	**-0**
	CBF Global Eq. Fund (P Senst)	90058	53969		-1294	**142733**
	Restricted					
	Burial Ground Trust Fund	172561			-5513	**167048**
	Endowment (Stipend) Fund	455			11	**466**
	Endowed:					
	Brown (Fabric) Fund	22171			-814	**21357**
	Everett/Scott Fund	2451			-98	**2353**
	Total	409795	53969	-53969	-12385	**397410**
7a	**Analysis of Net Assets by Fund**					
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
		£	£	£	£	
	Fixed assets for church use					
	Investment fixed assets	206186	167514	23710	397410	
	Current assets	476463	75997	1607	554067	
	Current Liabilities	2848	2551		5399	
	Long term liabilities					
	Total	679801	240960	25317	946078	
b	**Analysis of Current Assets**					
	Debtors	5176	63		5239	
	Debtors: Chancel Trust (Fabric) A/c		23420		23420	
	Current A/c	336193	13505	516	350214	
	Multiple funds	28830	14757		43587	
	Reserve A/c	16164			16164	
	Burial Ground Trust A/c		24009		24009	
	Fabric A/c			1091	1091	
	Service Fees	12	243		255	
	CBF Deposit Fund (P Senst)	90088			90088	
	Total	476463	75997	1607	554067	

8	**Debtors**	**2025**	2024
		£	£
	HMRC - Income tax recoverable		931
	Chancel fund held by diocese	**23420**	22377
	Council Tax refund		381
	Income Receivable	**5239**	1080
		28659	24769

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

9	**Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**		
		2025	2024
	Creditors and Accruals	£	£
	HMRC (PAYE)		
	Electricity		
	Henry Avenue - rent and maintenance	8	1091
	Gas		
	Agency collection	551	
	Deferred income - Seasight	355	270
	Sundry	4485	576
	Total	5399	1937

10	**Statement of funds**					
		Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	**Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2025**
		£	£	£	£	**£**
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General fund	132578	417453	140226	-42207	367598
	Designated Fund	-4302	9868	9785	23581	19362
	Reserve Fund	68234	2271		-4781	65724
	Bequest - P Senst	255807	8008	32590	-4107	227118
		452316	437600	182601	-27514	679801
	Restricted Funds					
	Restricted Fund	229292	28949	36223	18942	240960
		229292	28949	36223	18942	240960

	Endowment Funds					
	Burial Ground Fund	2900			-2900	-0
	Fabric Fund	22629	632		-814	22447
	Chancel Trust Fund					
	Everett/Scott Fund	2821	146		-98	2869
	Unnamed					
		28351	778		-3812	25317
	Total funds	709959	467327	218824	-12384	946078

The above table shows the total value of all the funds held by the PCC and the balance c/fwd total for each fund includes both capital and income.

11 Related parties and transactions

No related party transactions during the year.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

12 Contingent Liabilities

There are no known contingencies

13 Contractual Liabilities

There are no known contractual liabilities

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Funds

The figures shown in **Note 7b Analysis of Current Assets** show the amounts available to the PCC under the headings of **Unrestricted, Restricted** and **Endowed.**

The following explains the nature of the various funds, the purposes for which they may be expended and the bank accounts in which they are held.

Funds/Bank Accounts

The **General Fund**, held in a **Current Account**, is **Unrestricted**. The General Fund is used to receive and pay everyday income and expenditure.

The **Reserve Fund** is held in the **Reserve Account** and is **Unrestricted**. This fund was set up in 1988 with an initial investment of £25,000 in the Central Board of Finance Church of England Investment Fund and Fixed Interest Securities (CBF). The fund receives quarterly dividend income from the capital sum invested. The PCC wishes, as far as possible, to retain the capital investment of the fund and to spend only its income.

Multiple Funds Account:
This account contains designated and restricted funds for various church activities/groups and projects. Further detail:

Designated Funds

Waffle, Allotment, Men's Fellowship, Seasight, Friendship Lunches, P Senst Bequest

Restricted Funds

*Healey Fund (Choir), Bolders, The Pantry, HB Repair Grant, Charitable Giving No 3

Being amounts donated/raised for a specific purpose these funds are Restricted and cannot be re-designated to another use.

*(**Healey** – holds donations made in 1983 in memory of Mr T A Healey who had been organist for more than 50 years. The fund may be used at the discretion of the PCC for any purpose connected with the choir.)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Funds (continued)

The following funds are **Endowment Funds**. The capital sums are held by the Diocese as Custodian Trustee and may only be used in exceptional circumstances and with their permission. The income from these investments can be used but is restricted according to the terms of each respective fund.

The **Burial Ground Trust Fund** receives income from a capital investment in the Central Board of Finance of £38,138 being one half of the proceeds of the sale of the "New" Burial Ground in Worthing Road, in 1984. The income may be used for expenditure on the buildings of the church, the church hall and the vicarage but not for general expenditure.

The **Fabric Fund** receives dividend income from a capital investment with the Central Board of Finance. The income may only be used for the maintenance and repair of the church fabric.

The following are further investments over which the PCC has limited control. The funds are held by the Diocese on behalf of the PCC and may be used only on application to the Diocese.

The **Chancel Trust Fund** is an investment of 756.00 CBF Investment Fund (Income) Shares. The accumulated income is restricted to expenditure on the fabric (but not the fittings) of the chancel.

The **Everett/Scott Fund** is an investment of 106.00 CBF Investment Fund (Income) Shares whose value is recorded as an endowment fund.

The **Endowment (Stipend) Fund** is an investment of 305.00 CBF Fixed Interest Security (Income) Shares whose value is recorded as an endowment fund.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST PETER & ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31st December 2025

Charitable Giving
(An explanation of the calculation of the Charitable Giving)
This is calculated with reference to the total income received from the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and the regular giving received in the yellow envelopes. A budget figure is agreed at the beginning of the year of 10% of the expected income from these sources. At the end of the year, an actual figure is calculated and any excess distributed.
The giving is split in three ways. The recipients are named charities * (which are agreed by the PCC) and a charitable fund which can be allocated to various charities at the PCC's discretion. Any other money raised by the church/missions during the year will also be allocated this way.
Calculation for Charitable Giving

In 2025 the total income from PGS and yellow envelopes was	£76545
Charitable Giving (if calculated at 10%)	£7654
Fundraising in 2025	£2446
50% to Parish	£1223
50% between 3 charities	£1223
Full amount of Charitable Giving	£8877
Paid each of the three charities:	
FSW	£2958
CMS	£2958
Third Pot (Air Ambulance, Church Army, Parkinsons, Christian Aid, Turning Tides)	£2500

The PCC made the decision to send the remaining £461 for the third pot to be sent to Nicci Maxwell to use for medical supplies.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees (Charity name): The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Rustington

On accounts for the year ended: 31st December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)**: 1133812

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 [illegible].

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: C Dixon **Date:** 25th April 2026

Name: Catherine Dixon

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCCA - ACCA

Address: 7 Solent Close, Littlehampton, BN17 6SQ

Churchwarden's Report
A full year of events, services and social activities.

How wonderful to see many families attend church on the first Sunday of the month. Several adults have decided to explore and come forward for Confirmation. They will be truly welcomed into our church family.

It took almost a year but the sale of our property in Henry Ave was finalised days before Christmas. The money will be invested for the time being as the PCC did not feel we needed to buy another property at the moment.

The arrival of the Lanyards, for all recognised volunteers, means that anyone visiting can easy find someone to ask questions.

After the APCM the PCC appointed a new treasurer, Sarah Grieg. Some people will know Sarah from Nat West Bank (when we still had a bank in Rustington!) She used to deal with our church account queries is fully able to understand our finances. The finance team have managed well and having Sarah to assist them will be a bonus. Sarah is also a volunteer with the Pantry.

Many thanks must go to Charlie Sims for all his hard work and input regarding the feasibility of having Solar Panels fitted to the flat roof above the vestries. He regularly updates the PCC on his meetings with companies – obtaining quotes and also managed to get our local MP interested in the project. The final decision will be made by the PCC early in 2026 to the go ahead and which company to use.

A recruitment drive was had to swell the numbers of Lay Ministers of Communion – 11 people have been duly trained by Natalie. Please do speak to one of us if you think there is a role for you within the church – don't wait to be asked!

Near the end of the year, the PCC had a presentation about a truly very exciting project that will be occurring in 2026. Keep your ears open for more on this as the year goes on!

There are so many groups/people/events we would like to thank but not enough room to list everyone! Please be assured that we, as churchwardens, really do value and appreciate your support in making our church such a vibrant place.

We couldn't end without thanking Natalie for all she does in leading, guiding, teaching, giving pastoral care and supporting us all.

Jean Bulley and Henry Bott

Church Hall

During 2025 the Hall has been fully open and used by Church Groups and External Hirers.

The Church Hall is a great asset to both the Church and its associated groups as well as the greater community and an ongoing maintenance programme is essential to keep it in good order. Further projects that were to be considered during 2025 are now being moved to 2026 and include: -

The replacement, repair and redecoration of the timber windows on the west and north elevations of the building. Planning application has been submitted to replace the windows. This has been rejected and an appeal has now been lodged.
The repair to the damaged lintel on the south elevation of the building.
Planning a maintenance programme for the roof, where work is required.
Access to the loft space above the kitchen.

Redecoration of the three toilets with the entrance and corridor to the rear of the hall was arranged and work started over the Christmas period.

Higher charges for the use of the Hall were last introduced during 2020. Fortunately to date we have been able to maintain these prices despite generally rising costs. This being due to the excellent use of the Hall which currently does not have a great deal of spare capacity.

All the Health and Safety Testing and specialist testing is currently up to date.

Also, a special thank you to Hazel Castle who continues her excellent work in looking after the cleaning of the Hall.

A massive thank you to Carol Garside, Geoff Nelmes, Alison German and Jan Watson, who have been doing a sterling job of keeping the car park tidy and clear of leaves and rubbish. Their help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

A big thank you to Ann Mathias who has helped with looking after the Kitchen and ensure its smooth running.

Thank you also to Dot Mitcham who kindly agreed to audit the 2025 accounts.

A thank you to Angie Harris who has very kindly taken over taking the meeting minutes.

Bob Bulley has been acting as my shadow and covers for me when I am unavailable, such as when I am on holiday. This is in addition to continuing with looking after the Hall Accounts/Finances and helping with maintenance. His support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Looking to the future we are seeking another member of the congregation to become my shadow as Hall Manager and gradually learn what the role entails.

Christopher Simmance (Hall Manager), Rev Natalie Bawcutt, Bob Bulley, Henry Bott and Jean Bulley

Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Rustington

Church Hall Account

For the year ended 31st December 2025

			2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Monies Received	Lettings		22,046.29	20,876.90
	Donations		50	50.00
	Interest on Reserve Account		85.75	330.31
	Interest on 35 Day Account		666.65	58.79
Cottage Rent (2025, 11 not 12 payments, December paid 5th Jan 2026)			12,310.00	13,128.00
	Miscellaneous			25.11
	Total Monies Received		**35,158.69**	34,469.11
Expenditure				
Maintenance/Repairs				
	General Buildings	**2,861.00**		3,230.58
	Fire Extinguishers & Alarms	**387.00**		495.75
	Boiler Service/Heating Repairs	**486.00**		312.00
	Sundry Expenses	**802.91**		379.52
	Special Expense			15.11
			4,536.91	4,432.96
Administration				
	Heating & Lighting	**5,262.09**		5,800.87
	Water Charges	**1,978.31**		1,729.90
	Insurance	**1,549.19**		1,520.56
	Music Licence	**451.92**		416.28
	Cleaning & Waste Disposal	**8,552.34**		6,884.41
			17,793.85	16,352.02
Cottage Expenditure - Insurance, management fees etc:			**4,322.50**	4,886.95
Total Expenditure For Year			**26,653.26**	25,671.93
Net Surplus or Loss For Year			**8,505.43**	8,797.18
Balances Brought Forward at 01/01/2025			**35,886.95**	27,089.77
Balances Carried Forward at 31/12/2025			**44,392.38**	35,886.95
Represented by:	NatWest Bank 35 Day Notice A/c		**30,725.44**	25,058.79
	NatWest Bank Reserve Account		**9,753.72**	3,680.47
	NatWest Bank Current Account		**3,913.22**	7,147.69
	Cash		**0.00**	0.00
			44,392.38	35,886.95

Prepared by: Bob Bulley Verified by: D Mitchem . D M Mitchem

Capacity: Hall Treasurer Capacity: PCC Member

Date: 29th January 2026

Children and Families Worker Report

It has been a real privilege over the past year to continue building relationships with children, young people, families, and the wider community connected to our church. This work happens in church but also in the community, and it has been encouraging to see so many opportunities to share faith, support families, and help children feel that they truly belong within the life of the church.

One important area of outreach has been working alongside our local school pantries to serve families who are facing financial challenges. Through these partnerships we are able to offer practical support and care, demonstrating the church's commitment to walking alongside our community in times of need. I am also very grateful to be welcomed regularly into our three local primary schools, where I lead assemblies each half term. These visits are a wonderful opportunity to connect with the children, share stories and values rooted in faith, and strengthen the relationship between the church and our schools.

At Christmas time, I had the joy of visiting each of the First Rustington Beaver and Cub groups. Together we created a collaborative piece of artwork which then became the centrepiece of their carol service. This service is always hugely popular and well attended in our church, and it is wonderful to see the pride the children feel when they spot their own contributions displayed for the whole church community.

Throughout the year I have also taken part in the prayer life of the church, participating in—and at times leading—Morning Prayer and Parish Prayer Time. It has been particularly encouraging to see how engaged our children are with prayer. Many of them regularly add their own prayers to the prayer tree, showing that they feel confident sharing their thoughts and concerns with God and know that their prayers are valued and held within the life of the church.

Across the year, I have attended regular Children and Youth Worker link-up meetings organised by the diocese. These gatherings provide valuable opportunities for learning, sharing ideas, and networking with others engaged in similar ministries.

Here at church, the ongoing work of running our children and young people's groups continues to be central to our ministry. Separate reports outline the details of these groups, but I would like to express my deep gratitude for the wonderful team who serve so faithfully in this area. Their enthusiasm, care, and commitment make such a difference to the children and young people who attend.

Together with this team we were delighted to run a successful holiday club during half term called "Starship Discovery." Through games, activities, and storytelling, the children explored the life of St Peter. It was a joyful and energetic week, and it was made possible by the dedication and creativity of a fantastic group of volunteers.

Beyond children and families ministry, I have continued to serve on the PCC and am part of the Eco Group, which operates as a sub-group of the PCC. This work reflects our desire to care for God's creation and consider how our church life can be more environmentally responsible.
I have also been grateful for opportunities to preach and help lead services from time to time. These moments are always a privilege and a chance to contribute to the spiritual life of the congregation in different ways.

Communication with the wider church family has also remained an important part of the role. I have contributed regularly to Seasight, the parish magazine, sharing updates about children's and families' ministry so that the congregation can stay connected with what is happening. I have also submitted a monthly eco prayer and contributed two lead articles for the publication during the year.

Looking back over the year, I feel very thankful for the many opportunities to connect with children and families, both within the church and in the wider community. It is deeply encouraging to see children engaging with prayer, exploring faith, and feeling that they are an important part of our church family. None of this work happens alone, and I am very grateful for the support and encouragement of our vicar and so many volunteers.

I look forward to continuing this work in the coming year and to seeing how God continues to grow and guide our ministry together.

Gill Renny

Monday Rocks

Since its launch in 2024, Monday Rocks, our group for primary-aged children, has gone from strength to strength and is now well established. The group meets in the church on Monday afternoons during term time, with weekly attendance usually between ten and twelve children.

A fantastic team of volunteers supports this ministry, bringing a wide range of skills, enthusiasm and dedication. Each week the children enjoy a varied programme including games, singing, prayer, Bible stories, and a snack, followed by an activity linked to the theme of the session. Singing is a particular highlight, and the children especially enjoy action songs which are always performed with great enthusiasm.

Over the past year the group has explored the major Christian festivals and learned about key figures from the Old Testament, as well as stories about people whom Jesus met during his ministry. Three of the children who attend Monday Rocks also come to Sunday Rocks, while others have joined after hearing about the group through friends or at school. The group spans a wide age range, from four to eleven years old, yet the children support and learn from one another in a very positive way. It is especially encouraging to see the younger members growing in confidence and sharing their thoughts alongside the older children.

Snack time provides a relaxed opportunity for conversation, and it is lovely to see genuine friendships continuing to grow within the group. The children feel comfortable chatting with the team members, and this sense of trust continues to grow. Over this year the relationships between the team and the parents has been remarkably good with many supportive and encouraging conversations taking place. A key feature of Monday Rocks is the welcoming atmosphere. New children are warmly received by both the leaders and the group, and they quickly feel included and at ease.

There have been many highlights during the year. One particularly enjoyable occasion was an end-of-term trip to go bowling at Out of Bounds. It was a wonderful afternoon with joy and smiles all round for the team and the children.

The group's love of singing was also evident during our Christmas celebration. The children decorated biscuits as Christmas baubles and then gathered around the piano to sing carols together. These moments of singing together are always very special and provide a joyful time of worship. Each of the children received a Nativity story book to take home and share with their families.

The dedicated team of volunteers who lead Monday Rocks have created a warm and welcoming environment where children can play, learn and grow in faith. Their commitment each week helps to nurture a space where God's love is shared and experienced by all who attend.

Gill Renny

Noah's Ark

Our friendly and welcoming parent/carer and toddler group, Noah's Ark, continues to flourish. The group is supported by a wonderful team of volunteers who generously give their time and work together on a rota basis to ensure each session runs smoothly.

2025 has been another busy and positive year. As always, we have welcomed several new families while also saying goodbye to children who have grown and moved on to start school. This year we have noticed a slightly higher number of toddlers attending rather than babies, and it has been lovely to see more grandparents bringing children along to enjoy the group.

During term time the group meets weekly in the church hall. Each session provides a wide range of activities designed to encourage play, learning, and exploration for the children, while also creating opportunities for parents and carers to connect and build supportive friendships. The hall is set up with a variety of play areas including a baby corner with age-appropriate toys and bouncy chairs, a quiet book area, a role-play space, and a gross motor skills area featuring a slide, see-saw and the ever-popular ride-on toys.

From time to time we also enjoy themed sessions. One particular highlight this year was our "Teddy Bears' Picnic", which was great fun for both children and adults alike. Each session finishes with a time when everyone gathers together to sing some favourite songs before wishing one another well for the week ahead.

Refreshments are served during the sessions and our ongoing relationship with the Pantry means that we are often able to share delicious bakery treats with the group. These are always very much appreciated by both parents and children.

Our relationship with Arun Family Hub has continued to grow, with visits from the outreach team at least once each term. Parents and carers have developed positive relationships with the practitioners, who provide helpful advice about local support services as well as guidance on health and dental care. Their giant set of demonstration teeth and oversized toothbrush is always a particular favourite with the children!

Around twenty families attended Noah's Ark over the course of the year, with typically ten to fifteen families present at each session. We have also continued to hold termly Toddler Worship services in church. It is always a joy to see our youngest worshippers engaging so enthusiastically in services

designed especially for them. The children feel very much at home in the church and this year have celebrated Epiphany, Easter, Harvest and the end of the school year together.

Christmas was marked with a joyful party, complete with delicious food and a much-anticipated visit from Father Christmas.

The Noah's Ark volunteers work incredibly hard and have created a warm and supportive community for the families who attend. Their commitment to preparing the hall, setting up activities and building relationships with the young families who come along is a real testament to the dedication and care of the whole team.

Gill Renny

Bolders

Our youth group continues to provide a welcoming and supportive space for young people aged eleven to fifteen. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons during term time in the church hall and offers a place where young people can relax, have fun together and explore questions of faith in an open and encouraging environment.

Each session includes a mixture of games, creative activities, discussion, and prayer. A committed team of volunteers leads the group on a rota basis, working hard to provide sessions that are both engaging and meaningful. Their enthusiasm and care help create an atmosphere where the young people feel comfortable being themselves and sharing what is happening in their lives.

The programme throughout the year has been varied and lively, including activities such as cooking, eco-themed projects, drama, arts and crafts, and a range of games. Table tennis remains a firm favourite and this year indoor cricket has also become very popular. It has been particularly encouraging to see some of the young people introducing new games and activities to the group and confidently leading others in taking part.

Alongside the activities, time is always set aside for conversation and reflection. These moments give the young people space to talk, ask questions and explore the Christian faith together. The leaders provide a listening ear and offer gentle guidance, and strong relationships continue to grow within the group. Over the past year we have seen increasing maturity among the young people and a growing willingness to engage in discussions about faith and life.

During one term the group spent time focusing on wellbeing and mental health, exploring how the Bible speaks into these important areas of life. The young people also learned about different ways to pray – including some creative and memorable approaches that sparked plenty of laughter and conversation. Each member of the leadership team took a turn leading these sessions, sharing insights while also responding thoughtfully to the many questions raised by the group. The young people bring great curiosity and enthusiasm to these discussions, and the conversations that lead into prayer are always a particularly meaningful part of our time together.

Prayer remains a central part of every session. Leaders and young people gather together to reflect, give thanks and pray for one another. These moments are an important and valued rhythm within the group.

At the end of the summer term the young people enjoyed a trip to adventure golf, and the autumn term concluded with a McDonald's takeaway as a Christmas treat – both much appreciated by the young people.

The youth group is supported by a dedicated and creative team of volunteers, alongside other church members who occasionally assist. Their commitment and generosity of time have helped to build a community where fun, friendship and faith can grow together.

Gill Renny

Sunday Rocks

Sunday Rocks meets during the 10.00 am service each Sunday, with the exception of All Age services. Over the past year the group has seen encouraging growth, with attendance reaching a maximum of sixteen children. The group is led by a dedicated team of three adults, with additional helpers supporting when needed. Two leaders run each session, sharing Bible stories through creative storytelling, games and crafts. The group is also very well supported by parents, many of whom willingly assist during sessions.

The children in Sunday Rocks play a full and valued part in the worshipping life of the church. Many take part enthusiastically as crucifers and acolytes, and help carry the Gospel during services. They are also invited to assist clergy and servers in preparing the altar for Holy Communion. Through these opportunities, the children learn about the sacrament of the Eucharist in a practical and meaningful way, and they participate with particular enthusiasm in our All Age services.

One highlight of the year was the children's involvement in preparing an Easter Garden in collaboration with the flower team. The beautiful garden became a focal point of the Easter displays in church. During this time the children also served hot cross buns and drinks to the flower team as they worked, which was a thoughtful gesture that was greatly appreciated. It was a special opportunity for the children both to contribute to the preparations for Easter and to show their appreciation for the work of the flower team.

This year also saw an important step in faith for several members of the group. Two groups of children completed First Communion preparation classes, and five children were baptised. They approached the sessions with great enthusiasm and curiosity as they learned about faith in Jesus, the prayers we share in church, the meaning of baptism and the significance of the Eucharist. It is always a great encouragement for the team to see children taking these next steps in their faith journey.

In the Autumn, the children and their families once again enjoyed the now traditional "Sausage Sizzle" evening organised by the Social Group. This relaxed and enjoyable gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time together, strengthening friendships between both children and parents.

Sunday Rocks has continued to support the church's Eco Church journey. During the year, several of the children attended four workshops led by the allotment team, both at the allotment and in the church hall, learning more about caring for creation.

The Sunday Rocks team work incredibly hard to create sessions that are engaging, creative and appropriate for the children's ages, while also building strong and supportive relationships. Their dedication, enthusiasm and care for the younger members of our congregation are deeply valued.

Gill Renny

Buildings Group

The Buildings Group meet a minimum of four times per year. Below are some of the activities for the last year:

1. Churchyard Maintenance & Rewilding
   Regular tidy-up sessions continue, including gully clearing, ivy removal, and general maintenance. Lavender plants have been replaced using donated funds. The rewilding area has not developed as hoped due to shade and seed loss. Plans include reseeding with more suitable seeds and expanding the area with PCC approval. A section of the northwest area has self-rewilded.

2. Flood Lighting
   The lighting operates automatically from dusk via a timer. Bulb replacement has been completed, and the lights are now working.

3. Internal Lighting – Floor "Up Lights"
   Uplighters by the internal glass doors have now been re lamped and both sets of lights are functioning correctly.

4. Alarm Systems
   Roof alarm: Smart Water has been applied to the roof and warning signage installed. Internal alarm: The system has been upgraded to digital, and relevant individuals are registered with the call-out company.

5. Audio-Visual (AV)
   A monitor has been replaced. An iPad will be trialled to improve visibility. The AV desk location is not functioning well, and feasibility of a raised AV platform is being explored. A damaged floor box hinge requires repair, CAT6 sockets need specialist work, security updates are required for the AV system, and improved care is requested when moving equipment. Storeroom tidiness still needs improvement.

6. Quinquennial Work
   Gutters have been cleared and do not currently require replacement. Rust on a gutter bracket is under review; the west gutter on the North Porch has been replaced. Loose flaking paint in the tower has been removed, with periodic reviewing to ensure flaking paint is controlled. A team member will coordinate the next Quinquennial Inspection.

7. Logbook
   The logbook of completed works continues to be maintained.

8. Floor Repairs
A quote has been received for repairs in the North Transept/Nave area. Concerns remain about table-related damage. Minor hole-filling may be completed internally due to poor contractor response.

9. Benches
Churchyard benches have been sanded; and some sealing is still required.

10. Group Membership
Membership is stable and open to anyone interested.

11. Eco Matters
No net-zero plan is currently in place. Whole-space heating is required, and carbon offsetting is not yet undertaken. A response will be sent to the Eco Group to questions relating to A Rocher accreditation.

12. Ongoing Items for Future Attention
Review protruding North Porch guttering; consider reducing the churchyard midden; PCC continues sourcing noticeboards; solar panel options for the south roof are underway.

Jackie Gordon

Eco Group

The Eco Group are:	Sophie Gumbrill	Karen Ingignoli	Liz Henderson
	Geoff Gibb	Faye Faithfull	Diana Hardy
	Gill Renny		

Following the award of our Bronze Eco Church Award in 2024, one of our main priorities has been to begin work towards the Silver Eco Church Award. Soon after, the A Rocha Eco Church survey was significantly updated to reflect a wider range of church settings and to respond more fully to the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises. While the five main categories remain the same, the revised survey now includes ninety-three questions, presenting a greater level of challenge and reflection.

This update was reported to the PCC, and it was agreed that many of the new questions would be best addressed collaboratively across PCC subgroups. Questions have therefore been distributed to relevant groups for consideration, and the Eco Group is very grateful for the ongoing support and engagement of all PCC subgroups as we continue our journey towards the Silver Award. Further questions will be circulated during 2026, and we anticipate that this will be a longer-term project.

A separate PCC subgroup has been exploring the installation of solar panels on the flat roof on the south side of the church. A member of the Eco Group has been working alongside this team, as the project has significant potential to improve the church's energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

We were delighted to support the Social and Fundraising Group at the Harvest Fayre by running an Eco Tombola. Members of the congregation generously donated a wide range of sustainable and Fair

Trade prizes. The tombola proved to be a popular feature of the event, helping to raise both funds and awareness of environmentally conscious lifestyle choices.

Our children's groups have all engaged in teaching on creation care, including participation in a 'Big Blue Week' in June. This focused on celebrating the richness of life in our oceans and exploring ways we can help to protect these precious ecosystems.

Each month the Eco Group has contributed a prayer to Seasight magazine, enabling the whole church community to be involved in our shared commitment to caring for God's creation.
Work has continued in the churchyard to support biodiversity. The rewilded area did not flourish as hoped, so it has been monitored and reviewed. A more shade-tolerant seed mix has been identified, and the rewilding area will be extended into a sunnier section to improve growing conditions. The new seeds will be sown in the spring, and the area has been regularly maintained by removing invasive species.

We were pleased to note several hedgehog sightings in the churchyard during the year. Advice was sought from a local hedgehog expert, and a hedgehog house has now been built and installed in a suitable location to support local wildlife.

Footsteps
Footsteps continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month. We walk about four to six miles. In Winter we tend to walk locally and go a bit further afield in the Summer.
We usually have around 10 people per walk from a regular group of about 25 people. The New Year and the bluebell walks attract bigger numbers!
Each month a different member will organise the walk and the meeting place which adds more diversity to the places we go.
The aim of the walks is not reaching the end as quickly as possible but about meeting old and new friends, spending time together and enjoying the world God has made.
Pam Lewis

Hope Club
Hope Club began meeting in September 2025 as a monthly crafting and support group. The group encourages environmentally friendly creative projects using donated and repurposed materials, while also supporting charitable and social action initiatives. Two main projects have been completed so far: crocheted flags representing countries experiencing conflict, which will form part of a future display to raise awareness and support prayer; and a collaborative project with the W.I. and My Sister's House (a local charity supporting women affected by domestic abuse) to create knitted and crocheted white hearts for display at a vigil in Chichester as part of the United Nations campaign to end violence against women and girls.

The Hope Club also welcomed Annie Hall from Hamlin Fistula UK, who spoke about their work providing blankets for Ethiopian women recovering from severe childbirth injuries. The group is now exploring further charities that could be supported through the donation of handcrafted items made in environmentally sustainable ways.

Social and Fundraising Group

This group is made up of Carrie McLeod, Jan Peacock, Joanna Brown, Lisa Rogers-Davis and Sarah Collins. We have the privilege and pleasure of planning the social events for the year. We meet regularly before and after each event, planning and reviewing.

2025 kicked off with the popular pancake party with pizza, pancakes, games and dancing, before we ended the jollity of Shrove Tuesday and looked to the solemnity of Lent.

In May we had our musical soiree; it was a wonderful evening, enjoying a mixture of musical talents from a variety of people.

July was barbecue month – this is always a popular event and allows time for socialising whilst enjoying good food. Particular thanks to Michael Collins, Phillip Rogers-Davis and Rob Peacock for being in charge of the barbecue-ing!

We enjoyed a quiz night with fish and chips, in August, when each member of the social group, and the relevant spouses, chose a category on which Sarah to set questions.

In October we held an Autumn Fayre, at which we had a mixture of stalls from the church family and the wider community.

We held our sausage & sparkler sizzle for our families in November; this is a special event that allows the young people and their parents to have social time together.

The social year finished with the Christmas Cheer event in December; we made cards and cookies, sang some Christmas songs and enjoyed seasonal snacks.

As well as the planned events, we also catered for the Son/sunrise service on Easter Day, our Patronal Festival Songs of Praise and the Carol Service.

Thank you to everyone who helps at the events – with the setting up and clearing away, washing up, selling raffle tickets, printing tickets, decorating the hall etc! There are too many people to name, but you know who you are!

We always focus on the social side of the group, with any funds raised an added bonus. And from the feedback we get, we feel we're meeting needs, so the final thank you goes to all of you who attend the events we plan. We couldn't do it without you!

The Social & Fundraising Group

Web Site & ChurchSuite Project

What arose as an effort over the summer to launch a new website that was "on brand", then took a few twists, and has led us to a major activity for 2026 and beyond.

We began reviewing the new site that had already been started (which looked well aligned with our brand, given the limitations of the tools) but it quickly became clear that it would be just as difficult to maintain as the current site and would lack the capability to support the more advanced features

we expect moving forward. This led to an assessment of Web Sites capabilities that were available elsewhere, and what needed to change behind the scenes to make these new features realisable. Within this activity we also looked at the stresses on current processes (e.g. children's consent forms, rota admin, event and facilities booking etc.)

At Nov 2025 PCC, full support was obtained for the proposal to use a dedicated company to host a templated web site (Church Pages) and to invest in a new admin system (ChurchSuite).

We believe that ChurchSuite aligns with our vision of *Working together in God's love for His Kingdom,* as in an ever-changing world, its capabilities encourage and enhance a "working together" experience:

- As a growing church, there is an increasing pressure on the administration (especially in relation to children), and what worked in the past, is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and be compliant with ever increasing regulations. ChurchSuite is developed and constantly updated to be in full compliance with regulations and emerging expectations.
- We want to help people engage more effectively with us, reducing the increasing burden on our extensive band of volunteers so we can spend more time with people, and less time on paperwork!
- We want to introduce new capabilities onto our web site (e.g. sign up to an event and pay for it in seconds). ChurchSuite will enable us to do that.
- ChurchSuite will be introduced over several phases and support will be offered to everyone to ensure that nobody is left behind.
- New members will be able to use the *my*ChurchSuite app and website to easily connect with the church family and church life.

A project team has been mobilised (from Jan 26) to ensure the smooth introduction of these changes, and to ensure everyone remains connected to the church family, regardless of their personal technology capabilities. This project is a significant undertaking for 2026, not just in effort, but the project team are committed to ensure everyone will see some form of positive change as these new solutions are landed over the next 18 months or so.

Philip Rogers-Davis & the Implementation Team

Miss You Group

In July 2025 we started the Miss You Group for those who are missing loved ones and would value a chance to meet together and share stories and offer mutual support. The group meets in the church fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon and provides a warm and welcoming space. It is greatly appreciated by those who attend. If you are interested in coming along, please chat to one of us. Ray Pye and Jenny Silver.

Music

Music, as always, is an integral and vital part of our worship and enjoyed by most. We have a variety in our church from traditional hymns and anthems, contemporary worship songs, often on screen, Taize style worship and more modern popular songs often involving the music group. Several new hymns have been introduced as well as some with new words but set to traditional tunes.

We are blessed to have a wonderful organ and gifted people who play for us, George and James mainly but Dave and Michael have also played to help us out.

The choir has remained faithful and regular in attendance for practices and services over the year. We are pleased and happy to welcome a growing number of others who, although cannot commit to joining the regular choir, come and join us for special services such as at Easter and the carol service and also for some anthems sung during Communion.

A small group of young people have also sung at the All Age service on occasions and they also sang on their own at the carol service; what a joy that is.

The music group plays and sings at the All Age services and we've been lucky to welcome guest players to cover when James is away. Rob does a wonderful job of sorting the copies of music out and keeping us organized. The music group has also played at evening Taize services.

I would like to personally thank everyone mentioned above; the organists, choir, children's choir and the music group.

Lastly, I would like to thank Natalie, for all her support and trust in me to help choose the music.

Carrie McLeod

Holiday Gatherings at St Peter and St Paul Church

Over the past year, our Gatherings have continued to be a source of joy, connection, and spiritual growth for our community. What began as a simple idea to bring in people who would otherwise not come into our Church. has blossomed into something far greater than we imagined. Invitations extended by our congregation brought friends, neighbours, and families into the heart of our Church. Our vicar, Rev. Natalie, announces that there is no need for hesitation; every invitation is an opportunity to share warmth, welcome, and God's love.

Each Gathering tells a story of hospitality. People step inside our Church and immediately sense that this is a safe and caring space. Our Church has become a place where kindness and generosity flow freely. This is thanks to our incredible team of 'Welcomers', whose smiles, introductions, and genuine conversations set the tone for every event. They create an atmosphere where strangers become friends and friendships deepen.

The Gatherings themselves are vibrant and full of life – held every Thursday during the school holidays. From delicious homemade cakes and refreshing drinks to crafts, music, and games, there is something for everyone. Around 20 dedicated volunteers give their time and creativity to prepare activities that inspire, educate, and delight. Their commitment shines through, not only in what they do but in the love and respect with which they serve every person.

Some moments have carried a gentle spiritual thread, offering glimpses of the gospel in ways that feel natural and inviting. Lighting candles, sharing prayers, and engaging in heartfelt conversations have opened doors to deeper faith journeys. These experiences remind us that God is at work in quiet, powerful ways.

What makes our Gatherings truly special is the strong sense of belonging they create. People return not only for the fun and fellowship, but because the Gatherings help them become familiar with the life of our Church and its connection with the wider community. In this way, the Gatherings act as a bridge, leading people from welcome and friendship towards a deeper understanding of church life and the hope and love found in Christ.

As we look ahead to 2026, our preparations remain rooted in prayer. We trust that God will continue to guide us as we seek to make His love known to all who walk through our doors.

Grace Sims

Mission Matters

We are so grateful to our CMS mission partner Nicci Maxwell in South Sudan for keeping us up to date with prayer requests for her challenging work as a medical consultant in Al Sabbath hospital and Goram refugee camp. Please sign up to receive her weekly emails (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) for your personal prayer time.

We, as was Nicci, were so encouraged to meet face to face in church in September after an initial video introduction. We heard about the many challenges of lack of basic medical equipment (see the Friday newsletter if you would like to help) as well as the precarious political and military situation.

Nicci very much appreciated the Christmas greeting from the church family and comments on her blog, as well as encouraging emails from individual members.

If you would like further information about Nicci's work, please speak to Harry Walker or Susan Fisher.

Pantry

As we look ahead to April 2026, we are thankful that our Church Pantry will have been serving our community for five years. When we first opened, 8 people came through our doors; since then, 243 different local households have visited us for support. This steady increase shows the very real need within our parish and reminds us how important it is that our Church is present for those facing difficult times.

In recent months, we have averaged around 70 collections at each Church session and 25 at Georgian Gardens School. Many visitors come only when they need extra help, so across a typical month we support around 155 different households. We often see families for a short period while they work through particular challenges, and it is encouraging that, thanks to the generosity and care of our Church family and our local community, we are able to offer practical help when it matters most.

Our work often goes beyond providing food. We recognise that many people who visit us also need community, conversation, and guidance. To support this, every Pantry session includes refreshments - tea and biscuits, coffee and croissants, or a hot meal. This simple hospitality creates a warm and welcoming space where visitors can relax, meet others, and share what they are facing.

We have been fortunate to build strong relationships with a range of external organisations who now join us regularly. Citizens Advice use our Church as their Rustington base every fortnight, and we also welcome Southern Water, Age UK, the Fire Service, Breakeven Gambling Support, Alcoholics Anonymous, Energy-Saving Advice, Money Coaching courses and our local PCSO. Their involvement has made a significant difference in enabling people to access wider support.

Within our own volunteer team, many individuals have used their skills and compassion to help people navigate housing issues, probate, benefits, debt, court cases and other difficult situations. We are grateful for the dedication and patience they offer so freely.

Our Church continues to support pantries in three local schools. Georgian Gardens School receives its food supplies entirely from Church donations, while Summerlea and Rustington Primary Schools have secured grants for their provision. Our volunteers at Georgian Gardens see around 25 families each week during term time. Summerlea and Rustington currently have fewer users, and we plan to explore how we might extend our support in this area over the coming year.

We remain deeply appreciative of the generosity shown by parishioners and the wider village. Food collection points across Rustington and within the Church, along with financial contributions from the community and local businesses, continue to sustain this work. In 2025, the Church Pantry received around £21,000 in donations and grants and spent approximately £19,000. Across the Church Pantry and the Georgian Gardens School Pantry, 4,555 collections took place during the year—equating to a cost of just £4.17 per household per week.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for all that has been achieved and with renewed commitment to ensuring the Church Pantry remains a place of welcome, dignity and support for all who need it.

Charlie Sims and The Pantry Team

Nursing Homes

The Nursing Home Team visit four care homes in Rustington. These visits take place monthly and include:

-Rustington Hall
-Kensington Lodge
-Fairlight Nursing Home
-`Darlington Court

During these visits we offer fellowship and short services with music. Residents value the opportunity for spiritual support and continued connection with the church community.

Nursing Home Team

Quiet Mornings

We had three quiet mornings through the year; the beginning of Lent, one in August and the last at the start of Advent. We often feel guilty if we aren't doing something – we're not very good at taking

much needed time for ourselves, or to be with God; that is what our quiet mornings offer. As well as giving people much needed space and time to just 'be', we offer a few activities related to the theme of the morning, such as water, light and angels. Each quiet morning has been well attended, with around 25 people on average, all of whom tell us are so grateful for the space, peace, time. We are grateful for the help in preparing the church – rearranging furniture as needed, and to those who serve tea and coffee at the break. If you'd like to be involved with any part of the quiet mornings, please do speak with either of us.

Brenda Meakins and Sarah Collins

Church sitting

Over the period from 13th May 2025 – 21st February 2026, we have invited 421 people into the church as well as three dogs and a seagull! It is a very important part of church outreach and a privilege to welcome visitors to look, pray or chat to church siters in our church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Natalie in the office for the boards displayed when church sitters are in church as well as all our wonderful church siters This of course is reliant on volunteers. If you would like to learn more about church sitting please contact Carol Garside.

Carol Garside

Flowers in church

The flowers for many of the summer months were provided for the arrangers from the church allotment, or by the team members themselves.

There were special occasions, weddings, funerals, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas, where different flowers were provided and arranged by the team.

The use of oasis flower foam has been dramatically reduced and no new orders placed for the foam, and the team have been working with alternative ways to continue to produce the stunning displays.

Many thanks to the allotment team for the flowers and the church flower arrangers, Jean, Jan, Jess, Janet, Jackie, Jenni, Joanna and now Graham, with support much appreciated for festivals from Lesley and Carrie.

Janis Saunders

Coffee Break

2025 was another busy and productive year for Coffee Break. We continue being able to adapt to changes with the willing help of volunteers. Our existing and long standing patrons are learning to adapt and accept the new. Our amazing coffee (and tea) makers always cheerfully give whatever is asked of them and more. Outreach grows and also much needed funds for our church.

Jean Jenkins & Carol Garside

Friendship Lunch
32 guests and four of the hosting team enjoy a meal together on the 1st Sunday of each month. This is for the 'senior' members of the church family – mostly those living on their own. 77% of our guests are in their 80's or 90's.

Clare cooks an imaginative meal with fresh vegetables and Julie makes great puddings for us to share together. But it is more than the food and drink. Living and eating on your own day by day isn't always easy. By meeting each month, news is exchanged and friendships are formed. The lunches date back to the 1990's. Long may they continue!

We have a dedicated team in the kitchen – Clare and Lorna and Julie, and the support teams of Angie and Carol, Sue and Barbara. Graham gets the tables out for us and then the hosting team, consisting of Carrie, Christopher, Laurence, Natalie and Pam, takes over.

We are grateful to each one.

Pam Brooks.

Pastoral Volunteers and Welcome Team
We have 20 pastoral volunteers covering 24 different Areas of the parish – as well as East Preston, Angmering and Littlehampton where members of the church family live.

We try to be aware of church members living in 'our Area' and most of us are on a slow learning curve. Do let us know how we can help you – with information on what is going on in the church or a visit or an invitation to coffee.

"Getting to know you" starts with new folk filling in the Welcome Card. That gets you onto the Friday church mailing with the notice sheet. We have a Welcome Event twice a year, when all those who are new to the church are invited to meet the vicar, church wardens, the Family and Children's Worker, their PV and the Welcome team. It's an informal event – with the inevitable food and drink and then the opportunity to learn more about 'What goes on'. In 2025 we welcomed 10 people in February and 15 in September.

The Welcome Team is Jean Allison, Pam Brooks, Jenny Forse, Mo Gibb and Rosemary McLachlan. One of us welcomes folk as they arrive for the 10.00am service and another member welcomes within the body of the church specifically looking out to greet people who are new and also those who have returned from an absence due to sickness. After the service we always hope that those who are new will join the rest of the church family in the church hall for coffee/tea.

Pam Brooks

Audio Visual Team
The AV Team are sited in front of the glass doors at the back of the church. We have repurposed the existing storage cupboard and re-sited the computers and camera monitor. We are due to a review of the equipment and its functions soon and we are always happy to receive any helpful

suggestions. We are talking to the Architect about redesigning the desk area. It's important to keep all the woodwork in keeping with the quality and design of its surroundings.

Windows 10 has been downgraded, and we have had to change the EasyWorship PC computer to accommodate the new security TPM chip with Windows 11. We encountered several problems with the new laptop where there were new inconsistencies in the operating system with the old software and its operation. Hopefully now fixed.

We have incorporated personal iPad's into showing EasyWorship screens for those challenged in seeing the monitors and main screens. This seems to be very successful. The liturgies and hymns are also available on paper in two font sizes by the AV Desk. If people are having issues with seeing the screens and monitors, please contact me or Rev Natalie. The Loop hearing system seems to be working well, connecting with most modern hearing aids. It uses the old method of wireless broadcast, some people have a Bluetooth method, this we don't have. However please let us know if you are having any issues.

We will be releasing a questionnaire soon, please feel free to pass to us any advice, suggestions or accessibility issues you are having.

For about 7 years now we have been livestreaming the main Sunday service to Community Homes and people who cannot make the service every week. This is reaching as much as 150 extra person viewings a week. These can be viewed and enjoyed by anyone at any time during and after the service via YouTube. The Shareable Link to connect to it is normally at the bottom of the Parish Email. There is a website https://Hereltls.co.uk which has links to the current AV Liturgy, YouTube Links and rotas.

If you use the AV system for your group and want any training or help, then please let me know, I would be very happy to train you up. It is fairly easy to pick up.

Thank you so much to all the dedicated team. Diana, Faye, Geoff, Glyn, Harry, Julian, Paul and Robert. Extra thanks to Jean for those comfy foam covers.

Bill Dodd

Home Communion team

The team consists of 12 people (including Rev Natalie) some of whom are Lay Ministers of Communion and some are not. We always visit in pairs and at least one is a Lay Minister of Communion; it is a joy and honour to share the holy Sacrament with members of our church family who are unable for various reasons to attend church or who live in residential care homes.

We use a short, written service of Holy Communion and we use the reserved sacraments from the church. We add a reading, collect and other prayers. The celebration is often followed by tea and chat which is appreciated by all.

We would also be happy to visit those who are not sure if they wish to receive Communion to meet and chat in the first instance. We are currently visiting about eight people. We co-ordinate visits via an app that we set up but still have face to face meetings every few months.

Do let us know if you meet anyone in the parish who would like this ministry. It is a very fulfilling service.

The Home Communion Team

Sacristans

Sacristans continued to support the set up for services of holy communion and related duties including the moving of furniture, changing altar frontals, in line with the liturgical colour for the season.

In November the PCC approved 11 new candidates for training, as Lay Ministers of Communion. Training will take place in January 2026.

We continue to be supported by a team with the laundering of items used at communion and the cleaning of silverware.

Claire Birkhead	*Henry Bott*
Jean Bulley	*Susan Fisher*
Carol Garside	*Carrie McLeod*

Seasight

The compilation of the Church magazine, Seasight, has gone well through 2025 and the number of copies produced each month has been holding steady. Advertising return and the subscriber numbers have remained much the same as last year.

The use of recycled paper has been a disappointment as it is dustier than normal paper and caused problems with the new printer the Church acquired in July. We have stopped using it for the time being but will keep this under review and hopefully the quality of recycled paper will improve over time.

We must thank those who contributed towards purchasing the new Church Office printer. These gifts and monies from the sale of the magazine covered the cost.

Overall, the 2025 church magazine has strengthened our church bonds, provided valuable spiritual guidance, and celebrated the richness of our shared faith journey. We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and further enriching our publication in the years to come.

Thanks go to Julie Churcher our chair, Fran & Laurence Tuppen - distribution, Sarah McCurrach – advertising, Glyn Mathias our treasurer and Lisa Rogers-Davis for handling the banking. They all freely give their time and effort as do all those involved with the monthly distribution of the magazine and sending in articles for each edition.

Jean and Bob Bulley. Joint Editors

Safeguarding

St Peter and St Paul is a church which is seen as both friendly and welcoming. To maintain that status, it is essential that we strive to provide a safe, secure environment for children and adults to worship and take part in activities. They must also feel able to raise questions and concerns without fear or hesitation.

By being rigorous over our Safeguarding provision we will be more likely to deter those who might wish to exploit vulnerable groups.

Some members of the church family have particular responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of this safe environment but it is the duty of all of us to be vigilant in identifying and reporting instances of unsafe practice. Through this approach, incidents that have inevitably arisen as a part of church life have been prevented from becoming safeguarding issues.

The PCC follows the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults and complies with the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. A copy of this guidance can be seen in the Parish Office, along with our Safeguarding Policies. The latter were reviewed and approved by the PCC towards the end of 2025 and are also available through our Church website.

The Parish Dashboard: This is a tool developed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for the storage and retrieval of safeguarding data relating to parishes such as ourselves which have enrolled in the scheme. It enables the Diocesan Team and selected church family members to interrogate our safeguarding provision. Access is on two levels, one which enables data to be entered into the system and one which allows the data to be read but not amended. We are currently looking at who will be granted access at each level.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): All who work with children and adults have the appropriate DBS certification in place including, where necessary, checks of the lists of those barred from associating with vulnerable groups.

Currently, 36 members of our church family hold Enhanced Disclosure Certificates for work with Children and/or Adults. These include persons responsible for work in those areas and PCC Members, as trustees of a charity.

Certificates are valid for three years and this will place a significant burden on us in 2026 as many of the certificates become eligible for renewal.

Training: The Church of England offers online modules of Safeguarding Training. This is mandatory for those holding DBS certificates, being part of the induction process before any Staff post and ideally any Voluntary post can be taken up.

The requirement for the Leadership training level has been revised to include only Clergy, Readers, Authorised Lay Ministers and Safeguarding Officers for the moment. This training is organised centrally by the Diocesan Team, while we are responsible for organising training at Basic and Foundation levels.

We have continued to provide training for those not required to make a DBS Application but who work in sensitive areas. Among the 69 church family members who have undertaken the Basic and Foundation levels of training are those who provide invaluable support in the Pantry.

As the number of church family members involved in training grows, it is anticipated that this will help to raise the profile of Safeguarding within our Church.

I would like to thank all who have helped towards this goal over the year.

Keith Henderson

Health & Safety Report
This report outlines the Health and Safety position at both the Church and Hall as at 31st December 2025.

During the year the H & S Policy was reviewed. A copy is on the Website for reference purposes for members of the congregation. Additionally, the Fire Risk Assessments for both the Church and the Hall were reviewed. Also, the Risk Assessments for each Church Group have been reviewed and updated as required.

The effects of Covid 19 Virus do continue to affect us all a little. To help restrict its spread people have been asked not to visit the Church and Hall if they have Covid. The Covid safety requirements introduced are kept under review.

Weekly in-house testing of the Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting was carried out at the Hall. This was supported by the professional bi-annual testing of both those systems. Monthly testing of the Carbon Monoxide Sensors and emergency alarm in the Disabled WC was also completed. In addition, the yearly servicing of the Gas Equipment, Fire Extinguishers, plus PAT testing of the portable electrical appliances was also completed.
In the Church, monthly testing of the Emergency Lighting, Smoke Alarm, Carbon Monoxide sensors and emergency alarm in the Disabled WC were also completed. This is supported by the twice-yearly specialist testing of the Emergency Lighting. Also, the yearly servicing of the Fire Extinguishers, PAT testing of the electrical appliances, servicing of the Boiler, Roof alarm and Security Alarm has been kept up to date. Some of the Emergency Lights in the rear Vestries had failed and were replaced this year. Repairs to the underfloor heating controls were completed during the Year.

To summarise all testing is up to date.

I would like to thank Geoff Gibb who is acting as my shadow and covering when I am unavailable, such as holidays etc.

Christopher Simmance.

Deanery of Arundel and Bognor
During 2025 to 2026, there have been three opportunities to meet.

At our Deanery Synod in July 2025 at Holy Cross Church, North Bersted, we enjoyed a lively and informative presentation from Rev. Andy Kerr who helped us to understand his role as Head of Chaplaincy work at Ford Prison. We also had a chance to thank and to say goodbye to Rev. Jo King, Assistant Rural Dean, who has now left our Deanery and moved to Chichester Deanery.

There was a joint meeting in November 2025 at St. Andrew' s Church, Ferring for Worthing Deanery with Arun and Bognor Deanery. We were introduced to the new Archdeacon of Chichester, Fr. Tom Carpenter. The Diocesan Secretary, John Preston, then delivered a helpful and detailed presentation covering:

- An overview of Diocesan Growth Strategy
- Parish Share and Parish Ministry Costs

- Changes to the Budget and PMC
- Draft Budget 2026
- Average Parish Ministry Costs for 2026

Our Deanery Synod in February 2026 was held at St Mary's Church Yapton, where there was a presentation from our new Diocesan Racial Justice Officer Vitalis Ngwambi. His role is funded by the national church and has been created to help Chichester Diocese deepen its commitment to racial justice, inclusion, and the celebration of diversity across its churches.
During the Diocesan Year of Faith, there was also a Pilgrimage from our Deanery to the Cathedral.

Deanery Synod presentations are open to every church member. If you would like to find out more about becoming an elected Deanery Representative for our church, please talk with Rev. Natalie or Liz Henderson (Lay Chair).

Liz Henderson

WAFFLE - Women About Fun, Fellowship, Laughter and Entertainment
The mission of Waffle is to "demonstrate the love of God to women of all ages in Rustington and surrounding areas in a fun, inclusive and life enhancing way.

Waffle met in the hall for nine meetings in 2025. All of our speakers in 2025 were local businesses and members of our Church family. We enjoyed talks about Farming, Rustington Museum, Plant Nurseries, saving food waste, how to make bug houses, music by a wonderful Harpist, Rev. Natalie's travels and Gill's work as our Children and Family Worker. In May we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea at the Highdown Hotel. We ended our year in December with seasonal refreshments and a demonstration by our own Janis Saunders who created beautiful seasonal floral works of art that were then raffled. It was an exciting and diverse year and much enjoyed by everyone.

Waffle meets on the second Wednesday of the month with some seasonal variations. Entrance is £4 to include refreshments. All women are welcome. With thanks during 2025 to our co-ordinating group, Julie Churcher, Sue Baldock, Liz Biddle, Carole Garside and Hilary Hussell. Very special thanks go to our two special gentlemen, Bill Dodd our AV operator and Graham Churcher who sets the hall up for us, and to our members who provide the refreshments. Thank you all for making Waffle possible.

Julie Churcher

Men's Fellowship
The fellowship meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Its Christian members are a diverse set of people, different backgrounds, different experiences, different talents. Meetings aim to network to other religions, interests, and persuasions to broaden our own thoughts and ideals.

We meet and discuss current cares with friends provided with refreshments and cakes.

Our 'speakers' come from within the club, St Peter and St Paul's congregation, local organisations, charities and generally people with a passion about their subject matter. We try to ensure that the 'speakers' primarily come from our own members their life experiences. Encouraging wellbeing and promoting Christian viewpoints. It provides confidence, bonding and inclusion.

Normally beginning at 7:00 pm we begin by having a time to chat to each other, with well-stocked refreshments. Often supplemented by cakes provided by family members. The meeting starts about 30 minutes later with a welcome and a 'Thought-for-the-day and a short Prayer' from members, clergy and pastoral workers.

As again this year we decided to donate half of our excess funds to local charities, missionaries and internal church needs. This year at our AGM we decided to offer 50% of our 'profits' to local charities, missions and church infrastructures. This came to £450 and it was distributed as follows:-

£50.71 Wireless body pack microphones for the Hall
£121.00 to be sent to Nicci Maxwells Child charity in South Sudan
£278.64 Funtastic Futures - A young people's group that meet in the URC Church Hall
2 x Plasma LED Ball Lamp- Visual Sensory Stimulation £42.12 each
1 x Playlearn Textures Massage Sensory Liquid Tiles Set of 4- 30cm £86.40
1 x Playlearn Soft Textured Tiles Set of 4 £108.00
Some 'speakers' like to donate their fees to buy vouchers to donate to our SPSP local pantry or the speakers adopted charities.

Attending the meetings costs £3 with a voluntary door raffle of £2 to win a bottle of wine or a supermarket voucher.

The talks and events we had in the year to December 2025 were:-

February – Rupert Head - "My (small) part in the Falklands"
March – Dave Ward - "Alcoholics Anonymous: How It Works"
April – Jo Parker-Smith - Blind Veterans - New Rustington Home
May – Tom Mitcham - "From the Sublime to the Cor Blimey" - A light-hearted look at English poetry.
June – Graeme Taylor – "Wartime and VE Day in Rustington"
July – Rupert Head – "My 3 years on Royal Yacht Britannia"
August – Summers evening at the Lamb + AGM
September – Andrew Gaunt - DEFRA "The Role of the Plant Quarantine Service: Dealing with Alien Pests and Diseases".
October – Samantha Yanez - Age UK & West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service - Fire Safety Tips
November – James Spanner – "The Bible: one original text? So why so many translations?"
December – Christmas Extravaganza with Entertainers, Quizzes, Fun and the Muddle Band

The talks were without exception, entertaining and showed the passion of people and local interests. We have received a new Hall amplifier and sound setup. The Loop has been repaired and we have bought a new wireless microphone that is used by all groups.

Do come and join us, the cakes are great.

We are very grateful for all the help given to us by the refreshment team and the cakes kindly provided by the members and their partners. Come when you can, all welcome.

We are looking to put more meetings videoed online for those who cannot physically attend. Many thanks to Bob Bulley (accounts), Glyn Matthias, Julian Masters and Paul Cornfoot and our many 'Thought for the day / Prayers' people. Thanks also to the Church Hall management.

Our web site is https://spsp-mens-fellowship.club and our email is spsp.mens.fellowship@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship Account 2025

01/01/2025 Carried Forward	£623.29	Speaker Fees	£210.00
Subscriptions	£473.00	Refund Bill Dodd (Lapel Mics)	£50.71
Raffle	£263.00	Donation to Funtastic Futures	£278.64
		Donation to Nicci Maxwell	£121.00
		Refreshments	£76.15
Total	£1,359.29	Total	£736.50
		31/12/2025 Carried Over	£622.79

Bill Dodd

Family Support Work

During the last year, FSW have found it increasingly difficult to raise funds needed to maintain the level of service they want, for every family that asks the charity for help. As a result, several cuts have been made and Becca Carter our local practitioner will be leaving FSW in March. Jacqui Herrington will be taking on the outreach activities in our area. Becca would like to acknowledge and thank the church for the fantastic support that she has received.

Throughout the year Becca has seen a growing number of children presenting with Special Educational Needs (e.g. social skills and communication, speech, toilet training), parents have been supported in all these areas.

Becca has run a number of community events throughout the year.

- SEND Forest School at Dappers Lane Angmering
- Beach afternoon in Littlehampton
- Activity day at Warnham Park
- Monthly After School Clubs in Rustington and Angmering
- Fortnightly drop in sessions at Establo for parents of SEND children.

Thank you to Becca for her many years of hard work and dedication and a warm welcome to Jacqui.

Thanks must go to all volunteers: Barbara Faux, Susan Fisher, Jenny Forse, Mo Gibb, Pauline McLelland, Jan Powell, Wendy Sandilands and Jan Watson.

Philippa Dabin

The church allotment

The allotment has "grown" over the last 12 years and is now a valued supplier of sustainable local flowers for our lovely Church, and as an educational and fun plot for Rocks and Bolders. The plot is worked in various ways for all 12 months.

Rocks came down to the plot on the 18th of February to grow peas, broad beans, and rhubarb and they learned how to sprout potatoes. Hot chocolate and biscuits were enjoyed following a tour of the site.

In March we potted up our new Dahlia Tubers and planted more new Rhubarb and Globe Artichokes. In April we planted Rocks potatoes and new Lavender and Gladioli. We pulled our first Rhubarb for sale on 12th April. More new plants were added at the end of the month. In May we cut our first blooms to order including our glorious Peonies, and planted out runner beans and sweet peas. The Rustington Rainbows and their leaders visited the plot in mid-May and enjoyed a tour and potted up sunflowers to take home. In July Bolders made lovely posies, and in August we were joined on the plot by Becca and the children of FSW, and we all enjoyed our open day that was a great success, with Rocks enthusiastically serving refreshments.

Throughout the summer we cut buckets and buckets of blooms for individuals and for special services and events in Church, together with our much sought after rhubarb. In June we planted a new rose in memory of Helen and this has bloomed profusely. We grow far too much to mention all our crops individually but we were able to supply our Church family at coffee throughout the summer with beans, marrows and Courgettes.

The most exciting day was when Rocks came to dig up their potatoes. The children had never done this before and it was such a joyous afternoon for the children as well as the adults. We deliver between two and three buckets of flowers to Church each Saturday morning in season, with our gorgeous Dahlias being the highlight of the year. The year was a wonderful success and saw us winning two silver cups for our blooms at the Angmering Horticultural Show. The Church Hall Planter is now under the Allotment umbrella and has looked lovely throughout the year.

With many thanks to our team, Tracey, Graham, Carole, Ian, Mike, Margaret, Julie and Rob, our wonderful mower man. The Church Allotment is self-financing and we are so grateful to you all for your generous donations. Thank you.

"Where would we be without the gloriously flamboyant Dahlia - they are what showing off is all about."

Julie Churcher

Closing Worship

Lord, make us instruments of your peace:
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Hymn
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.