Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of

St Matthew's Worthing

Registered Charity no. 1134774

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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St Matthew's Church, 103 Tarring Road, Worthing, BN11 4HB

Website: www.stmatthewsworthing.org
Incumbent: Canon Paul Taylor, 53 Bath Road, Worthing, BN11 3PQ
Independent Examiner: Castle View Accounting, 53 High Street, Arundel, BN18 9AJ
Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, South Street, Worthing

St Matthew's Worthing

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of St Matthew'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 in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Achievements and Performance

Pursuing our Vision

In 2025 we have continued to develop St Matthew's Church in accordance with our agreed vision as follows

Our Why? (Purpose)

Believing in Worthing

We believe in our town and local community and we want to invest in it in every way we can, playing our part in making it a great place to be. Believing in God inspires our believing in Worthing.

Our What? (Vision)

We want to increasingly be...

An inspiring church - the church is the people and we are called to serve God 24 hours, a day, 7 days a week. To be effective we must have white hot faith, on fire in our experience of God. We gather in groups and on a Sunday for inspiring worship and effective equipping to renew our vision to serve and proclaim Jesus.

A catalyst in the community - we want to be a community hub, 'a village in a town' where local people find community, support and encouragement in the ups and downs of life. We want to be a vibrant, seven days a week, centre for work with young and old.

A hub for the young - Mission to youth, and those in their 20s and 30s, is a particular target for us. We have a full-time Youth and Children's Work Leader, and we partner with local schools. Our Young Women's Worker and our Worship Pastor have taken responsibility for mentoring young adults.

Our How? (Values)

Depend on our Father - Everything we do needs to be guided by prayer that we may learn to live wisely, seek justice and treat our planet with respect.

Share Jesus' love - We read God's inspired word that Jesus may be the centre of our life together. Jesus is the hope for our town, nation and world.

Know the Spirit's presence - As we worship together, we are transformed by the Holy Spirit and propelled out to humbly serve our needy world.

Words that are important to us...

Family - we are a mixed bunch: singles and married, young and old, babies, children and youth too. Some of us are local people whilst others have come from across the world. We are a real church family where everyone and anyone can belong.

Forgiveness - one of the things that we have in common is that we all get things wrong. Whether or not you think your life is sorted out, we know that we all need God's help and each other's acceptance and love.

Fruitfulness - we are all 'work in progress', but we are committed to grow and serve, discover our gifts and offer our lives as we grasp ever more deeply what it means to be chosen by God.

Progress this year...

Inspiring Church

We have grown again in numbers on Sundays. At 9.30 our usual attendance is around 95-120 adults. Our new 11.15 congregation has both grown and consolidated with around 90 adults and 30 children. There has been an encouraging increase in both the numbers and frequency of attendance of those under 18. We live-stream the 9.30 service every Sunday services with around 10-15 households worshipping from home. We no longer live-stream the 11.15 service for safeguarding reasons, but it is available by private link to church members who are sick or housebound. Friendships are made and nurtured, the big questions of life are examined, faith is expressed in worship, preaching and prayer. A team of lay and clergy preachers assist the Vicar. Our music band and technical team practise every Thursday evening and commit a further 5 hours on a Sunday ensuring that we can stream our services and that sound and vision in the building is of a high quality.

During the year our Worship Pastor/Assistant Church leader Joseph Shurmer moved to a new church leadership role in the Isle of Wight. We advertised nationally and appointed a husband and wife team of Shelley Thompson as Worship Pastor and Luke Thompson as Assistant Church Leader (both working half time) in November 2025.

Congregational members lead and run many different groups during the week. Several new Life Groups were launched to accommodate those discovering Christian faith, and those new to the church bring the total number of groups to 15 with over 120 members meeting mostly twice a month, in homes to study the bible, pray and support each other. This is an important part of our educational and discipleship programme. The Alpha course has been run for those new to faith, and welcome teas for those new to St Matthew's community. The baptism pool was used in June and November with six adults being baptised or renewing baptism by full immersion as a witness to their new found faith. One said *"I can honestly say with the things I have been through and had to deal with (in life) has been very hard. I don't know where or who I would be today if I hadn't had Jesus by my side. I will be forever grateful. I am in a life group and really enjoy doing the sessions we do. I have met so many amazing people and am happy to say I have made friends for life. The church has made me feel like I have a second family."*

In September an appeal to the congregation called 'Growing Church - Growing Life' raised over £78,000 in gifts, exceeding the target of £53,000. This will provide funding to carry out a number of repair and renewal projects to our buildings. Architect's fees and start-up costs were included to enable us to apply for grants in 2026/27 to improve the hall by adding acoustic sliding doors between the hall and youth lounge, and further doors across the hall are being planned. We also envisage double glazing the large hall windows and remodelling the toilet provision. This will fulfil our continuing aspiration to reduce our carbon footprint. We have now achieved a silver award in the A Rocha UK eco church community.

Our project to improve toilet provision and other new rooms in the main church building still awaits a home being found for our disused pipe organ. Architect's fees were raised in the Growing Church – Growing Life appeal to enable plans to be drawn up, with the aim of pursuing this project in 2027/28.
A history of the Church was researched and written by Colin Reid, and the full colour book which was funded by a donation was published and sold during the year.

Catalyst in the Community

We continue to invest effort and volunteers in our community fun days and events, with many from the community packing our facilities for these free high-quality events. Many from the community have joined in with services at Christmas and Easter and we have regularly delivered invitations to events and services to most of the 1700 homes in the parish. We see new people from the community attending our services most Sundays.

Holiday Lunches were cooked and served to local families during school holidays. This year 1022 hot meals were served free of charge. Matt's Meals continued to provide three days' worth of free food for local families or individuals who requested it. This year 1713 main meals were provided. This food was provided by gifts from congregational members and from grant funding.

Our Thursday parent toddler group, Sparklers, has been busy in term time all year providing a large well equipped free play space, song time, fruit snack for the children, and coffee and cake for the Mums, Dads and Carers. This is staffed by a volunteer team.

'Coffee on the Corner', a coffee and cake café, ran every Tuesday and Wednesday morning in church throughout the year. Aimed at local people connecting with each other, this attracted both local retired people and young mums and dads with preschool children. This is a non-profit venture aiming only to cover costs and some of the heating costs incurred. An average of 20-35 people have attended each time. It is run with a volunteer team (rota) of about 30 people with 4 volunteers involved in each session. During the winter we registered this café as a warm space on various public websites.

CAMEO, our monthly group for over 50s, has gone from strength to strength, with coffee &chat, local speakers and several outings. This has had good attendance with about 40-50 members.

We continued to partner with Heene Church of England Primary School, now part of the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. The Vicar and Nathan Ghinn, our full time Youth and Children's Work Leader, have led collective worship each week and 12 school services in church during the year.

During 2025 three congregation members served as school coaches under the Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) Early Intervention Scheme. Each coach sees one child every week for the whole school year, providing significant encouragement and support.

We support local groups providing a service to the community by making our hall available at a reduced community rate. We support two groups working with those facing addiction at a still further concessionary rate.

Hub for the Young

Nathan Ghinn, our full time Children's and Youth Work Leader, has expanded the team of Children's and Youth Work Leaders, enabling us to improve the provision and the groups offered in 2026.

Youth and Children's discussion and activity groups have been provided weekly throughout the year during our 11.15 Sunday morning services.

Our after-school youth drop sessions on Tuesdays enable young people to discuss their worries and concerns, life choices and opportunities.

Further afield

We support in prayer and finance many Christian outreach activities in Worthing and further afield. We have personal contact with individuals and couples serving in a variety of nations and people groups. We also support local, national and international Charities, mostly with a Christian foundation, such as Acorn Pregnancy Counselling, Worthing4Refugees and Open Doors.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The full PCC met six times during the year with the PCC standing committee meeting in most of the months between. Other committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Safeguarding - Church

A PCC subcommittee for Safeguarding consisting of the Vicar, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Safeguarding Church Warden, Lead Recruiter, Youth Leader, and Safeguarding Trainer, met a number of times, reviewing our practice and ensuring our policies are up to date. The PSO or Vicar reports to every PCC meeting. The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Risk Assessment

The PCC members actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will ensure sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The PCC members have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Public Benefit

The charity acknowledges the requirement to demonstrate clearly that it fulfils charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the booklet of reports to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of its many ministries. The PCC members confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial Review

Results

In 2025 our General (unrestricted) fund result was a breakeven, before we transferred to it the £6K remaining balance in the Designated fund for our Family Worker. Restricted funds (donations and grants received for specific purposes) increased by £55K. This was due mainly to the "Growing Church, Growing Life" Appeal which raised £78K. We have spent £11K of this Appeal fund, as well as the remaining £13K of the Energy Efficiency fund (a grant received in 2024).

Reserves

These results leave us with a General Fund balance of £49K, which is held mainly in cash and £7K in a Church of England investment fund. This is slightly above our reserves policy target which is between £26K and £40K. Our Reserves Policy takes a risk-based approach to the amount that we need to hold in order to cover potential reductions in income or increases in expenditure.

Responses

Regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and bank standing orders, supported by Gift Aid, increased by 5% to £227K in 2025. We were also blessed by grants of £21K, for the relief of poverty, energy efficiency in the hall ceiling & insulation, and the regular government grant towards the NI cost of employing our staff.

We are thankful for:

- each and every donation we receive, whether small or large and the people behind the giving,
- God's continued provision, through one-off giving and grants, of the means to become a more sustainable church which will, in the longer term, enable us to support the local community whilst embracing cleaner energy sources,
- God's continued generosity in enabling us to give to others through our regular tithe for our mission partners and the tithe of our Appeal which is helping to equip the vocational school facility in Nakuru, Kenya.

Future

Whilst the church's finances are healthy and the reserves are where we need them to be, we recognise that most costs continue to rise. Throughout 2025 we continued to benefit from the two-year fixed price energy contracts which we agreed in January 2025.

We need to increase our giving in 2026 by 8% in order to fund increases in salaries (primarily to restore full working hours) and our Diocesan contribution, along with our other overheads and to continue to maintain our outreach to, and contacts with, the local community.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011.

During the year, and up to the date of this report, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members	
Incumbent	The Revd Canon Paul Taylor (Chair)
Churchwardens	Mr George Rackham
	Mr Phillip Rugg (to May 2025)
	Mrs Fenella Scott (from May 2025)
Elected Members	Mrs Caroline Boxall (co-opted February 2026)
	Mr Matthew Bramley (to May 2025)
	Mrs Pam Denman (from May 2025)
	Mr Ray Harris
	Mr Peter Jiwan
	Mrs Julie Mason (Secretary)
	Mrs Pam Normansell
	Mrs Maureen Rackham (PSO)
	Ms Delma Rudge
	Mr Phillip Rugg (from May 2025)
	Mrs Ginny Santer (Treasurer)
	Mrs Judith Slaney
	Mrs Angela Standen (to May 2025)
Deanery Synod	Mr Alastair Pitcher (to May 2025)
	Mr Iain Pullinger
	Mr George Rackham (from May 2025)
	Mr Phillip Rugg (to May 2025)
	Mrs Fenella Scott (from May 2025)
	Mr Philip Taylor (Assistant Treasurer)

The Governing document of the charity is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by the Revd Canon Paul Taylor (Chairman)

Date 9 April 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCUL OF ST MATTHEW'S WORTHING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of the Parochial Church Council of St Matthew's Worthing on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 8 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 the Association of Accounting Technicians.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ

Date: 16th April 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW'S WORTHING

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	**4a**	230,789	0	100,479	331,268	243,604
Charitable Activities	**4b**	11,809	555	823	13,187	7,162
Other trading income	**4c**	30,889	0	0	30,889	20,564
Investments	**4d**	1,335	0	0	1,335	1,598
Other	**4e**	78	0	0	78	5,245
Total		**274,901**	**555**	**101,302**	**376,758**	**278,173**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities	**5**	256,721	26,010	41,308	324,039	277,692
Total		**256,721**	**26,010**	**41,308**	**324,039**	**277,692**
Net gain/(loss) on investments	**10**	(288)			(288)	161
Net income/(expenditure)		**17,892**	**(25,455)**	**59,994**	**52,431**	**642**
Transfers between funds	**15**	(11,257)	16,177	(4,920)	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,635	(9,278)	55,074	52,431	642
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		42,381	1,316,240	19,672	1,378,293	1,377,651
Total funds carried forward		**49,016**	**1,306,962**	**74,746**	**1,430,724**	**1,378,293**

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

Prior year comparatives are stated in note 3

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW'S WORTHING

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	31-Dec-25 Total	31-Dec-24 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	8	0	1,302,358	0	1,302,358	1,302,358
Current Assets						
Cash at bank and in hand	9	39,827	4,604	63,677	108,108	65,337
Investment	10	6,926	0	0	6,926	7,214
Debtors	11	10,410	0	11,069	21,479	11,259
Total Current Assets		**57,162**	**4,604**	**74,746**	**136,512**	**83,810**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	8,146	0	0	8,146	7,875
NET CURRENT ASSETS		49,016	4,604	74,746	128,366	75,935
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		**49,016**	**1,306,962**	**74,746**	**1,430,724**	**1,378,293**
NET ASSETS		**49,016**	**1,306,962**	**74,746**	**1,430,724**	**1,378,293**
Funds of the Charity						
General Fund		49,016	0	0	49,016	42,381
Designated Funds	13	0	1,306,962	0	1,306,962	1,316,240
Restricted Funds	14	0	0	74,746	74,746	19,672
Total Funds		**49,016**	**1,306,962**	**74,746**	**1,430,724**	**1,378,293**

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 9 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Canon Paul Taylor, Chair

Virginia Santer, Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW'S WORTHING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1134774) is an unincorporated body. The address is St Matthew's Church, 103 Tarring Road, Worthing, BN11 4HB.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2022 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (second edition) 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds are 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 represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or the bequest, and (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 each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowments were established.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate are received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for Mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

The selected pension scheme is a defined contribution scheme and is therefore represented in the accounts as the value of the contributions.

Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transactional value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio, are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Functional / Presentation currency

The functional currency of the parish is considered to be in pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a present legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(A) of the Charities Act 2011

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Land and buildings are valued at cost, amended by the church hall being revalued in 2011 when the extension was completed. In 2014 the PCC purchased 28 Cobden Road, Worthing at a cost of £225,000. Including the costs of purchasing the property, it has been valued in the accounts at £227,358.

Depreciation: where the residual value of a property is greater than the carrying value of the property, no depreciation of the building is required. Land is not depreciated, so the value of properties has not been split between land and buildings.

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment is depreciated at 25% per annum on the straight line method.

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Grants payable without performance conditions

These are recognised when it is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the grant will flow to the charity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the ability of the parish to continue as a going concern.

3. PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	**4a**	215,980	0	27,624	243,604
Charitable Activities	**4b**	7,657	1,879	0	9,536
Other trading income	**4c**	20,564	0	0	20,564
Investments	**4d**	1,598	0	0	1,598
Other	**4e**	2,870	0	0	2,870
Total		**248,670**	**1,879**	**27,624**	**278,173**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	**5**	236,379	20,815	20,497	277,692
Total		**236,379**	**20,815**	**20,497**	**277,692**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**10**	161			161
Net income/(expenditure)		**12,451**	**(18,936)**	**7,127**	**642**
Transfers between funds	**15**	(1,925)	11,924	(9,999)	-
Net movement in funds		10,527	(7,012)	(2,873)	642
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		31,854	1,323,252	22,545	1,377,651
Total funds carried forward		**42,381**	**1,316,240**	**19,672**	**1,378,293**

4. INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
a) Donations and legacies					
Planned giving	182,404		61,493	243,896	177,510
Collections at all services	3,920		130	4,050	5,593
Sundry donations and appeals	1,168		15,165	16,333	5,608
Income tax recoverable	33,889		11,749	45,638	34,228
Grants	9,408		11,942	21,350	20,665
Legacies	0			0	0
	230,789	**0**	**100,479**	**331,268**	**243,604**
b) Charitable Activities					
Church hall lettings to church groups	1,723			1,723	1,513
Events (Coffee, Cameo, Meals, Games)	9,392	555	823	10,770	8,023
Sparklers	422			422	0
Memorial Garden fees	272				
	11,809	**555**	**823**	**12,915**	**9,536**
c) Other trading income					
Lettings to outside parties	14,318			14,318	16,781
Fees from weddings etc	971			971	260
Rental income from property	15,600			15,600	3,523
	30,889	**0**	**0**	**30,889**	**20,564**
d) Investments					
Dividends and interest	1,335			1,335	1,598
	1,335	**0**	**0**	**1,335**	**1,598**
e) Other					
Other Income	78			78	32
Insurance Claims	0			0	2,838
	78	**0**	**0**	**78**	**2,870**

5. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Charitable Activities					
Church Activities					
Mission giving and donations	625	24,990	1,412	27,027	34,087
Diocesan parish share contribution	84,703	0	0	84,703	81,445
Salaries - Church	114,033	0	0	114,033	87,572
Clergy and staff expenses	2,447	0	0	2,447	3,847
Clergy and staff housing	3,796	0	970	4,766	10,621
Training	567	0	138	705	1,000
Church expenses					
Mission and evangelism costs	2,855	790	3,921	7,566	8,455
Church services, hall & grounds, insurance	10,955	0	2,520	13,475	9,742
Office, communications, finance, legal	22,460	230	5,318	28,008	27,226
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday School & Youth Group	1,832	0	1,014	2,846	751
Wildfires and Youth Events	0	0	1,847	1,847	0
Church and hall utility bills	12,447	0	0	12,447	9,805
Major capital expenditure					
Major repairs to the church building	0	0	0	0	3,141
Repairs to hall lobby floor, office desks	0	0	5,505	5,505	0
New building work to hall ceiling	0	0	18,664	18,664	0
	256,721	**26,010**	**41,308**	**324,039**	**277,692**

6. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	96,587	76,609
Employer's National Insurance Costs	9,783	4,879
Pension Contributions	7,664	6,084
	114,033	**87,572**

Average number of employees who were engaged in each of the following activities:

	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	3	3
Management and administration	2	2

There was one part time administrator, one part time family and women's worker and one part time caretaker employed throughout the year. In addition, a full time worship pastor was employed until they resigned in July 2025. Two new part-time staff were recruited and employed from November 2025, one as worship pastor and the other as assistant church leader.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: None). Staff are paid through the PAYE system.

7. COMMITMENTS

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st December 2025: None

31st December 2024: None

8. FIXED ASSETS

Tangible Fixed Assets		Church Hall	Freehold Land & Buildings	Equipment	Total
		£	£	£	£
Cost/valuation	01-Jan-25	1,075,000	227,358	24,269	1,326,627
Addition		0	0	0	0
Disposal		0	0	0	0
Cost at	31-Dec-25	1,075,000	227,358	24,269	1,326,627
Depreciation	01-Jan-25	0	0	24,269	24,269
Charge		0	0	0	0
Depreciation at	31-Dec-25	0	0	24,269	24,269
Net Book Value	31-Dec-25	**1,075,000**	**227,358**	**0**	**1,302,358**
Net Book Value	31-Dec-24	1,075,000	227,358	0	1,302,358

9. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 31-Dec-25**	**Total 31-Dec-24**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Current and Deposit accounts	39,419	4,604	63,677	107,701	55,702
Petty cash	407			407	42
	39,827	**4,604**	**63,677**	**108,108**	**55,744**

10. INVESTMENTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value 1 January 2025	7,214	7,053
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	(288)	161
Market value at 31 December 2025	**6,926**	**7,214**

Investments comprise 312 units in the Central Board of Finance Investment Fund (Income). The value of this investment decreased in 2025 by £288 from £7,214 to £6,926 (2024: gain of £161). Interest received on the deposit account is received into the general (unrestricted) fund.

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 31-Dec-25**	**Total 31-Dec-24**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Gift Aid Recoverable	7,569	0	10,585	18,154	3,939
Prepayments	0	0	484	484	0
Accrued Income	2,841	0	0	2,841	7,320
	10,410	**0**	**11,069**	**21,479**	**11,259**

12. CREDITORS ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	**Total 31-Dec-25**	**Total 31-Dec-24**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Accruals and deferred Income	5,557	0	0	5,557	7,875
Taxation and Social Security	2,347	0	0	2,347	0
Other Creditors	243	0	0	243	0
	8,146	**0**	**0**	**8,146**	**7,875**

13. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance 01-Jan-25	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-25
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Hall Buildings	1,075,000				1,075,000
28 Cobden Road	227,358				227,358
Tithe Fund	5,844	0	24,990	22,045	2,899
Matt's Comedy Club	2,170	555	1,020		1,705
Family Worker	5,868			(5,868)	0
	1,316,240	555	26,010	16,177	1,306,962

Comparative amounts for 2024:	Balance 01-Jan-24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-24
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Hall Buildings	1,075,000				1,075,000
28 Cobden Road	227,358				227,358
Tithe Fund	3,603	0	18,815	21,056	5,844
Matt's Comedy Club	2,291	1,879	2,000		2,170
Family Worker	15,000			(9,132)	5,868
	1,323,252	1,879	20,815	11,924	1,316,240

13. DESIGNATED FUNDS (continued)

The Hall Buildings and 28 Cobden Road Funds hold the value of these respective properties. The 28 Cobden Road Fund balance represents all the costs of purchasing the property, including solicitors fees, agents' fees, etc.

The Tithe Fund receives ten percent of the donations to the General Fund. This tithe is distributed amongst mission causes outside the Parish, as determined by the PCC.

Matt's Comedy Club is a club run by the church in local entertainment venues seeking to reach out to the community through family-friendly comedy.

The Family Worker Fund arose when the PCC voted in 2023 to transfer the equivalent of two legacies and one gift, each of £5,000, received at the end of 2023 to fund a women's and family worker. The costs of this employment have been transferred to the General Fund to cover that expense in 2024 and part of 2025.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 01-Jan-25	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-25
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Support	-	6,488	-	(6,488)	-
Missionary Fund	577	1,282	1,282	(577)	-
Matts Meals	4,802	3,178	2,865	(634)	4,482
Vicar's Discretionary	212	-	768	760	203
Spiritual Trail and other building needs	1,335	-	-	-	1,335
Energy Efficiency Projects	12,747	4,942	18,664	975	-
Grants	-	5,000	4,013	-	987
Wildfires	-	1,043	1,847	804	-
2025 Appeal	-	78,029	11,289	-	66,739
Mural Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Big Build	-	340	580	240	-
	19,672	101,302	41,308	(4,920)	74,746

Comparative amounts for 2024:	Balance 01-Jan-24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Support	-	5,631	-	(5,631)	-
Missionary Fund	14,505	2,922	16,450	(400)	577
Matts Meals	1,806	5,884	2,887	-	4,802
Vicar's Discretionary	697	175	660	-	212
Spiritual Trail and other building needs	1,277	266	208	-	1,335
Energy Efficient Projects	-	12,747	-	-	12,747
Re-equipping	387	-	-	(387)	-
Warm Space	2,082	-	-	(2,082)	-
Youth Work	1,500	-	-	(1,500)	-
Youth Charity	292	-	292	-	-
	22,545	27,624	20,497	(9,999)	19,672

The Staff Support Fund receives restricted donations for the support of any of our church staff, and is used to fund their costs of employment. All staff salary costs are budgeted and accounted for solely in the General Fund, so the Staff Support Fund transfers its balance to the General Fund at year end.

The Missionary fund receives donations for specific missions supported by the Parish and is separate from the Tithe Fund, which receives a proportion of total giving to the General Fund with the recipients being determined by the PCC. The Mission Committee have worked to distribute these funds to the appropriate missions and the remaining small balance of £577 was allocated by the PCC in early 2025 to the church's program of providing holiday lunches for families which have difficulty in funding lunches for schoolchildren during school holidays. The original gifts were given for a Christmas lunch for homeless people and a soup kitchen that used to run from St Matthews, so the precise original purpose could no longer be fulfilled, and the holiday lunches is the closest equivalent.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Matt's Meals receives donations for the costs of providing bags of food to families in need of assistance with the cost of living.

The Vicar's Discretionary Fund receives occasional donations and is utilised as seen fit by the vicar when he identifies a particular pastoral and financial need of individuals..

The Spiritual Trail Fund receives donations to spend on installing benches and art in the garden on the south side of the church. The PCC is investigating appropriate ways to utilise the remaining balance.

The Energy Efficient Projects Fund was provided by restricted grants to the church in 2024 and 2025. This was primarily for a heat pump in the church hall.

The Grants Fund receives grants from external bodies for restricted purposes. West Sussex County Council's Grants fund gave the church £5,000 in 2025 for the relief of poverty, particularly by the provision of food for local people in need, in the year to 31 March 2026.

The Wildfires Fund administers donations and fees received to cover food and attendance of members of the congregation at the annual Wildfires Festival on the nearby Wiston Estate.

The 2025 Appeal Fund "Growing Church, Growing Life" was created to support the growth that God is bringing in our church by investment in our buildings. Donations in September and October 2025 will fund a range of building and equipment needs, as approved by the PCC, including architects' fees in preparation for more substantial building development in the near future.

The Mural Fund receives donations twoards the cost of replacing the mural on the east wall of the car park.

The Big Build Fund received donations to help renovation costs in the home and garden of a church family in need. The shortfall in funding was covered by a grant from the Vicar's Discretionary Fund.

The Re-equipping Fund previously received specific donations to enable the church to undertake major work to lighting, seating, sound, the electrics and the stonework of the church as well as other associated works. There was minor expenditure on these areas in 2024 and so the PCC deemed it appropriate to transfer the remaining small balance to the general fund.

In 2024, the funds previously received for the Warm Space provision were utilised to cover the utility costs of running Coffee on the Corner two mornings a week, Holiday Lunches twice a week in school holidays and Youth Drop-In sessions twice a week.

The Church Youth Work Fund receives any grants or donations specifically for the youth work undertaken by the church. The general youth work, however, is funded from the general fund. One grant was underspent. The grant makers agreed that it could be used for general youth work so the balance was transferred to the general fund to cover expenses already incurred.

The Youth Charity Fund was added to the gifts previously given for the Morning Star Academy in Kenya. The Youth Charity funds were originally given for major youth outreach projects overseas and so the PCC, in communication with both the outgoing and new youth workers, deemed it appropriate to give it to a cause that directly benefitted youth in Kenya.

15. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted
	£	£	£
Operational transfers between funds:			
From General Fund to Tithe Fund - 10% of general giving	(22,045)	22,045	
From General Fund to Family Worker to fund salary costs	5,868	(5,868)	
From Staff Support to General Fund to part-fund salaries	6,488		(6,488)
From Missionary to General to cover holiday lunches expense	577		(577)
From Matt's Meals to General, allocating Grant funding to holiday lunches	634		(634)
From General to Vicar's Discretionary, reallocating prior year donations	(1,000)		1,000
From General to Energy Efficiency to cover funding shortfall	(975)		975
From General to Wildfires to cover funding shortfall	(804)		804
From Vicar's Discretionary to Big Build to cover funding shortfall			(240)
Received by Big Build from Vicar's Discretionary to cover funding shortfall			240
	(11,257)	16,177	(4,920)

15. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

Comparative amounts for 2024:	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
From General Fund to Tithe Fund - 10% of general giving	(21,056)	21,056	
From Staff Support to General Fund to part-fund salaries	5,631		(5,631)
From Family Worker to General Fund to fund salary costs	9,132	(9,132)	
From Warm Space to General Fund towards energy costs	2,082		(2,082)
Youth work gift utilised towards General Fund youth expenses	1,500		(1,500)
From Re-equipping to General Fund for small subsequent expenses	387		(387)
From Missionary to General Fund for holiday lunches	400		(400)
	(1,925)	11,924	(9,999)

16. CONTINGENT ASSET

The Parish is named as a residuary beneficiary in two estates of former parishioners. It is probable that substantial amounts, estimated at a combined amount of £30,000, will be received and credited to the General Fund. There are uncertainties affecting both the amount and timing of the prospective receipts. One legacy is subject to the resolution of DWP enquiries about benefits received, though it is expected that these will be resolved during 2026. The other legacy is subject to achievement of a lease extension on the legator's property, and it is unknown how the freeholder will respond and the amount of lease extension premium which will be payable. The amount of the legacy also depends on the eventual sale value of the property, which is inherently uncertain. It is possible, but by no means certain, that this lease extension and subsequent property sale will be completed in 2026.

17. PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS AND CONNECTED PARTIES

		2025	**2024**
Number of elected members who were paid a wage		1	1
Total amount paid	**£**	**791**	**414**

In 2024 and until 14 May 2025 Matt Bramley was a PCC member and paid for occasional cleaning and caretaking cover as above.

The PCC has continued to support the work of Phil Rugg with AWM-Pioneers financially during 2025. This is part of a longstanding commitment of the PCC to support the work of AWM-Pioneers, predating Phil joining the PCC in October 2020. Phil took no part in the PCC decision to maintain this commitment in 2025.

Apart from the normal reimbursement of ministry expenses to staff members and PCC members, no other amounts were paid to PCC members, or related parties, in 2025 (nil in 2024).