THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S SLAUGHAM AND ST MARK'S STAPLEFIELD COMMON

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2025

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Slaugham and St Mark's Staplefield Common

registered charity number 1134786

for the year ended 31st December 2025

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Slaugham & Staplefield Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector to promote the whole mission of the church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) within the ecclesiastical parish, comprising the villages of Handcross, Pease Pottage, Slaugham, Staplefield and Warninglid.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve and include the different people who live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. We tried 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.

• outreach.

• missionary support.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings, St Mary's Slaugham, St Mark's Staplefield and All Saints Handcross.

As a united parish there are times when we jointly worship together and plan together so that maximum benefit can be derived for both the whole parish.

Objectives for 2026

As we continue to develop the work of the wider parish and see encouraging signs of growth we are reflecting a great deal around the themes of Growth. What does it mean for each of our churches and activities run by them, to grow in the following areas:

1. To grow in unity

2. To grow in understanding of and relationship with Jesus

3. To grow in our confidence in the gospel as good news

Attendance at worship

Our average attendance is between 90 and 110 each week across the Parish, which comprises people of all ages. St Mary's has become more stable with a recent re-growth in the number of children attending, and we have continued to see signs of growth across the parish as a whole. The most significant development has been in our relationship with Warninglid, with a couple of services being held in the village towards the end of the year and an Alpha course planned there for 2026.

Developing and supporting believers, both established and new

There has been a specific focus on discipleship in the past year, especially of those who have been recently baptised. A number of small discipleship groups and one-to-ones have been happening across the parish and most notably in Pease Pottage.

Prayer remains a central part of all we do across the parish. We have continued our monthly prayer gatherings and have plans to develop these further and offer more opportunities for people to pray together for the needs of the parish, the schools and wider world issues.

We conducted *10* weddings, *15* baptisms (10 children & 5 adults), and 10 funerals (including ashes interments) in 2025.

The joint choir of St. Mary's and St. Mark's Staplefield and musicians were able to participate at services held for Harvest, Mothering Sunday Remembrance and Christmas, including at our annual carol services. All of our Christmas events, held in all 5 villages, were very well attended and supported, and the engagement with schools was even higher than previous years with more services than ever before.

Evangelism and outreach

The 'West Weald Community Pantry' remains our main and most thriving activity for mission, supporting local families with food supplies, and building community through the Saturday morning café. There has also been an increased focus on reducing food waste which has led to us seeing a different group of people.

The relationship between church and the Dudley House Trust has developed significantly in recent months and there are plans for much more church involvement in 2026.

The All Saints congregation has become more established with regular Sunday morning services now taking place. We have also developed the work in Pease Pottage and now have monthly worship gathering established in the Hub as well has having a weekly discipleship group for the children involved in those services.

The Rector continues to be heavily involved in all our schools and we are continuing to see a number of children coming to faith. Handcross Park was rebranded to Brighton College Prep, and now have weekly involvement through the curate attending the Christian Union.

Provision of the church buildings

We are blessed with having three church buildings in the parish. St Mary's in Slaugham would normally be used regularly for most of our church services as well as other activities and groups. All Saints in Handcross is good and centrally placed, and has become much more utilised in the past year, it is especially encouraging to see regular Sunday services taking place there. St Mark's is used regularly for Tuesday and Sunday worship and has been used for other prayer events for school and church. We want our church buildings to be used by the wider community as well as for church services, and we welcome groups meeting there; we seek to see St Mary's used more for quiet days and retreats, and it has also been used more by local Slaugham residents for events.

The most significant development has been that after 13 years of trying, St Mark's now has a toilet and kitchen servery which is already making a huge difference for those who use the building and to what we can use the building for.

The Creative Expressions art group continues to meet at St Mary's on Fridays.

We are pleased when people enjoy the church building, be they worshippers or visitors, and our visitor book regularly has entries which reflect our care of the church for the enjoyment of all.

Care for others – pastoral care, tangible support, charitable giving – within the parish and beyond

Pastoral care takes place through visiting, whether people are at home, in hospital or in a nursing home. The Rector visits when possible but there are a number of people involved in visiting. We also continue to be able to hold our regular visits to the Belle Vue nursing home in Warninglid.

There has also been a new group established designed to provide support for those who care for others – be that parents, spouses, siblings or children.

There has also been support of the wider community. Our Parish Hardship Fund was used to help a number of people who had been struggling financially.

Helen Arnold has been regularly phoning the older members of our community through her role on the Rosemary Club, and has been informing the Rector of any needs or concerns and Sarah Grose has also been making the Rector aware of others who need visits.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2025

This year was the third year of the new Parish, and we are still learning the complexities of that from a financial management point of view.

There are still separate bank accounts for the churches of St Mark's and St Mary's with All Saints, though the Parish Share is now paid for the entire parish as one whole. Sensitivity has to be applied when people make gifts expressly for the benefit of one or other churches and this has to be respected.

Income

Total income from donations and legacies for 2025 was £160,089. There has been an increase in regular giving due to new doners and the ease in which people can now make one-off donations through a new QR code.

The majority of our income covers the diocesan Parish share and we have committed to pay 85% of the share in 2026. This money pays for clergy salaries, pensions, housing costs, training and also a contribution towards the Church of England at a national level. It also helps churches less able to pay for themselves within the Diocese.

Staff Posts

We currently have three part-time employees: Fae Widdowson as Parish Administrator, Paul Hollinshead as Digital Communications Outreach Worker and Phil Hawksley as Lay Apostolic Worker for All Saints. We remain incredibly grateful for the work of our amazing staff and will be reviewing their pay in 2026 – Fae hours were increased from 6 to 8 hours per week.

A number of members of the PCC also receive payments throughout the year for expenditure incurred in the running of the church, especially the wardens responsible for church supplies such as palm crosses and candles. Barbara Butfoy has continued, as in previous years, to be pivotal in obtaining supplies for the Pantry. We now have a separate Pantry bank account into which donations can be made. Barbara has a debit card to make purchases.

Churchyard Maintenance

Matt Sugrue, continues to maintain the church yard really well as is a real asset to the church and those who visit the churchyard

Church Maintenance

The usual expenditure was required on annual inspections of electrical and safety systems. The new heating regime appears to be satisfactory, whereby the underfloor heating is switched on only for the main Sunday services, funerals, etc. Whilst St Mary's is not as warm as it used to be, the congregation has adapted well. There are fleece blankets available for those who need them, and the heating costs are manageable. The increased usage of All Saints has resulted in an increase in electricity bills in that church. The St Mark's heating failed towards the end of 2025 but plans are in place for its repair in early 2026.

Mission Giving

Ignoring income to restricted funds and wedding and funeral fees collected on behalf of the diocese, our Mission giving was around 7% of our income. This includes donations to the Pantry, as well as giving to those we regularly support and organisations that we support on an annual basis.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain 2 months' worth of expenditure in unrestricted funds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods, and a maximum of twelve members of the churches, who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The full PCC met regularly during the year, as did the St Mark's subcommittee.

The PCC Standing Committees (comprising rector, curate, two churchwardens, treasurer and one assistant warden) are able to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. There are a number of new unelected assistant churchwardens at St Mary's who help greatly.

The Mission Partnership Committee advises the PCC on funding and support issues relating to people and organisations. The church understands the correlation between mission and evangelism, and gives away at least a tenth of its disposable voluntary income.

The Ministry Support Team (comprising Rector, churchwardens, All Saints Missional Community Leaders, Catering Outreach Manager, Digital Outreach Worker, Administrator, Mentoring Co-ordinator) meet on a weekly basis to pray and share ideas and vision, and they also communicate regularly on WhatsApp.

During the year the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council.

Rev. Carl Smith (Chair)
Mr Frank Moss
Ms Elizabeth Cox
Mr Michael Howard
Mr Philip Hawksley
Ms Rosemary Gregory
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds
Mrs Shana Fleming
Mr Colin Tomlinson
Rev. Monique Mendes da Costa
Mrs Jane Moss
Miss Barbara Butfoy
Mrs Jan Elliott
Mr. Rick Grose
Miss Anna Sesemann
Mrs Carol Pickering
Mrs Helen Arnold

This report was approved by the Trustees on

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and signed on their behalf by:

Liz Cox
Churchwarden

Helen Arnold
Churchwarden

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	142,390	-	17,699	-	160,089	153,481
Investments	7,283	-	1,321	-	8,604	7,557
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	**149,673**	**-**	**19,020**	**-**	**168,693**	**161,039**
Payments						
Expenditure on charitable activities	160,671	-	92,170	-	252,840	178,466
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	**160,671**	**-**	**92,170**	**-**	**252,840**	**178,466**
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	**(10,998)**	**-**	**(73,149)**	**-**	**(84,147)**	**(17,427)**
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	7,116	-	7,116	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	(7,116)	-	-	(7,116)	-
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(10,998)	(7,116)	(66,033)	-	(84,147)	(17,427)
Net movement in funds	**(10,998)**	**(7,116)**	**(66,033)**	**(536)**	**(84,683)**	**(14,106)**
Reconciliation of funds						
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	**27,558**	**36,245**	**133,897**	**126,672**	**324,372**	**338,478**
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	**16,561**	**29,129**	**67,863**	**126,136**	**239,689**	**324,372**

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets		
Investments	126,136	126,672
	126,136	**126,672**
Current assets		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	113,553	197,700
	113,553	**197,700**
Liabilities		
	-	**-**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**113,553**	**197,700**
Total assets less current liabilities	**239,689**	**324,372**
Liabilities		
	-	**-**
Total net assets less liabilities	**239,689**	**324,372**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General Funds	16,561	27,558
Designated		
Designated - All Building Projects Fund	700	700
Designated - Hardship Fund	38	38
Designated - May Ball 2019	28,391	28,391
Designated - St Marks Toilet Fundraising	-	7,116
Restricted		
Restricted - All Saints Re-Ordering	83,867	83,867
Restricted - Carpet Fund	1,736	1,736
Restricted - Church And Churchyard Repair	30,149	30,149
Restricted - Heating Costs	1,000	1,000
Restricted - Leaving Gift	285	285

Restricted - New Boiler At Dudley House		(3,875)	-
Restricted - Parish Ministry By Avril Or Phil		5,755	5,440
Restricted - Parish Relief Fund		890	890
Restricted - StM Toilet		(51,993)	10,480
Restricted - Teacher Fund		50	50
Endowment			
Endowment - Gibson-Warren		30,171	29,450
Endowment - Mission Sale		41,802	40,803
Endowment - Sunday School		11,055	11,515
Endowment - Warren Endowment		43,109	44,904
	Fund Totals	**239,689**	**324,372**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

			Balance	Previous balance
Investments				
0010: Warren Endowment				
Warren Endowment	Endowment		43,109	44,904
			43,109	44,904
0011: Sunday School Fund				
Sunday School	Endowment		11,055	11,515
			11,055	11,515
0012: Sale Mission Room				
Mission Sale	Endowment		41,802	40,803
			41,802	40,803
0013: Gibson-Warren				
Gibson-Warren	Endowment		30,171	29,450
			30,171	29,450
		Investments	126,136	126,672
Cash At Bank And In Hand				
2000: HSBC Current account				
General Fund	Unrestricted		5,979	4,248
Hardship Fund	Designated		(412)	(412)
New Boiler At Dudley House	Restricted		(3,875)	-
Parish Relief Fund	Restricted		890	890
St Marks Toilet Fundraising	Designated		(840)	(840)
StM Toilet	Restricted		480	480
Teacher Fund	Restricted		50	50
Parish Ministry By Avril Or Phil	Restricted		5,755	5,440
Carpet Fund	Restricted		1,736	1,736
			9,763	11,592
2001: Pantry Account				
General Fund	Unrestricted		678	1,143
			678	1,143
2002: HSBC Saving account				

General Fund	Unrestricted		(13,837)	9,807
All Saints Re-Ordering	Restricted		21,291	21,291
			7,454	31,098
2003: CCLA CBF Deposit				
All Saints Re-Ordering	Restricted		62,576	62,576
			62,576	62,576
2004: Barclays				
All Building Projects Fund	Designated		700	700
Church And Churchyard Repair	Restricted		416	416
General Fund	Unrestricted		41,146	9,766
Hardship Fund	Designated		450	450
Heating Costs	Restricted		1,000	1,000
Leaving Gift	Restricted		285	285
May Ball 2019	Designated		28,391	28,391
St Marks Toilet Fundraising	Designated		7,956	7,956
StM Toilet	Restricted		(60,910)	10,000
			19,434	58,964
2005: CCLA CBF Deposit (St M)				
Church And Churchyard Repair	Restricted		29,733	29,733
General Fund	Unrestricted		(17,419)	2,581
St Marks Toilet Fundraising	Designated		(7,116)	-
StM Toilet	Restricted		8,437	-
			13,635	32,314
2006: Petty cash				
General Fund	Unrestricted		13	13
			13	13
		Cash At Bank And In Hand	113,553	197,700
		Grand Total	**239,689**	**324,372**

Fund movement summary

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Building							
Designated	700	-	-	-	-	-	700
Sub-totals	**700**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**700**
Churchrepair							
Restricted	30,149	-	-	-	-	-	30,149
Sub-totals	**30,149**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**30,149**
General							
Unrestricted	27,558	149,673	160,671	-	-	-	16,561
Sub-totals	**27,558**	**149,673**	**160,671**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16,561**
Hard							
Designated	38	-	-	-	-	-	38
Sub-totals	**38**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**38**
Heating							
Restricted	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Sub-totals	**1,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,000**
Leaving gift							
Restricted	285	-	-	-	-	-	285
Sub-totals	**285**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**285**
MayBall							
Designated	28,391	-	-	-	-	-	28,391
Sub-totals	**28,391**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**28,391**
NB at Dudley House							
Restricted	-	2,125	6,000	-	-	-	(3,875)
Sub-totals	**-**	**2,125**	**6,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(3,875)**

Relief

Restricted	890	-	-	-	-	-	890
Sub-totals	**890**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**890**

StM Toilet

Designated	7,116	-	-	(7,116)	-	-	-
Sub-totals	**7,116**	**-**	**-**	**(7,116)**	**-**	**-**	**-**

StM Toilet res

Restricted	10,480	1,321	70,910	7,116	-	-	(51,993)
Sub-totals	**10,480**	**1,321**	**70,910**	**7,116**	**-**	**-**	**(51,993)**

Teacher

Restricted	50	-	-	-	-	-	50
Sub-totals	**50**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**50**

ParMin

Restricted	5,440	15,574	15,259	-	-	-	5,755
Sub-totals	**5,440**	**15,574**	**15,259**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**5,755**

AllSaint

Restricted	83,867	-	-	-	-	-	83,867
Sub-totals	**83,867**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**83,867**

Warren

Endowment	44,904	-	-	-	-	(1,795)	43,109
Sub-totals	**44,904**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(1,795)**	**43,109**

Sunday

Endowment	11,515	-	-	-	-	(460)	11,055
Sub-totals	**11,515**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(460)**	**11,055**

Mission

Endowment	40,803	-	-	-	-	999	41,802

Sub-totals	**40,803**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**999**	**41,802**
Gibson							
Endowment	29,450	-	-	-	-	721	30,171
Sub-totals	**29,450**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**721**	**30,171**
Carpet							
Restricted	1,736	-	-	-	-	-	1,736
Sub-totals	**1,736**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,736**
Totals	**324,372**	**168,693**	**252,840**	**-**	**-**	**(536)**	**239,689**

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving	112,348	-	2,285	-	114,633	95,239
Wedding and Funeral Fees	9,782	-	-	-	9,782	12,328
Sundry donations and appeals	16,050	-	15,414	-	31,464	42,116
Love Gift	1,425	-	-	-	1,425	1,575
Gift aid	2,786	-	-	-	2,786	2,223
Donations and legacies Totals	**142,390**	**-**	**17,699**	**-**	**160,089**	**153,481**
Investments						
Dividends and interest	7,283	-	1,321	-	8,604	7,557
Investments Totals	**7,283**	**-**	**1,321**	**-**	**8,604**	**7,557**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**149,673**	**-**	**19,020**	**-**	**168,693**	**161,039**
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Church running costs	17,716	-	2,000	-	19,716	26,010
Utility bills	16,565	-	-	-	16,565	10,957
Rectory Expenses	5,283	-	-	-	5,283	5,488
Other clergy costs	2,850	-	3,000	-	5,850	2,735
Employees	9,822	-	12,159	-	21,982	30,656
Church maintenance	14,704	-	74,910	-	89,614	16,259
Churchyard maintenance	6,394	-	-	-	6,394	6,422
Youth and children	4,364	-	-	-	4,364	430
Mission Giving	9,500	-	100	-	9,600	12,741
Parish Share	71,305	-	-	-	71,305	65,156
Fees from Weddings and funerals	350	-	-	-	350	40
Accountancy costs	1,818	-	-	-	1,818	1,570

Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**160,671**	**-**	**92,170**	**-**	**252,840**	**178,466**
Expenditure Grand totals	**160,671**	**-**	**92,170**	**-**	**252,840**	**178,466**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S SLAUGHAM AND ST MARK'S STAPLEFIELD COMMON (Registered charity no 1134786)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary's Slaugham And St Mark's Staplefield Common, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

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

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Sarah E Bestley BSC ACA Date

CARTER NICHOLLS LIMITED

Chartered Accountants

Victoria House

Stanbridge Park

Staplefield Lane

Staplefield

West Sussex

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