Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Thomas à Beckets Church, Pagham

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Church Lane, Pagham, PO21 4NU

Registered Charity no. 1134842

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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Website:	www.paghamaldwickchurch.org
Incumbent:	Reverend Julian McAllen
Independent examiner:	Mr David Poole Poole Accounting Services Ltd, 98 London Road, Bognor Regis PO21 1DD
Bankers:	CAF BANK 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4JQ

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham
Trustees Annual Report for 2025

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Reverend Julian McAllen in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, 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'.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of the Christmas Fair, Art Exhibition, Pantomime and offering food and fun at Harvest
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

For the first eight months of the year the Parish was in a vacancy. We made every effort to maintain our normal pattern of worship, and to offer as many of our usual activities and events as has been possible, and were fortunate to be able to call on the services of a number of retired clergy who were willing to assist. In September the Reverend Julian McAllen was licenced as Priest-in Charge, with responsibility for not just this Parish but also for that of our neighbouring parish of Aldwick

Attendance at worship

The Church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. At the Annual Meeting in 2025 there were 120 people on the electoral roll, 32 of whom are not resident in the parish.

The average regular weekly attendance, counted during October was 95 adults and 24 children.

We offer a range of services throughout the week, and over the course of the year, which we hope the community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

'I really love coming to'Tuesday@7' – it's really fun. I like being asked to help with reading the prayers and I enjoy the singing and action songs.. We learn such a lot. Thank you. H.K

A Parish Eucharist is held every Sunday morning using the Common Worship Liturgy. On the first Sunday of the month the Parish Eucharist has a particular family focus - family being defined as including all generations. On the third Sunday of the month Sunday School is available for our young people. There is a regular mid-week Holy Communion Service following the Book of Common Prayer, and on a Tuesday evening we have continued to offer 'Tuesday@7' worship. This is a service open to all, but which has been tailored to the needs of our young families and is more informal than our other services. This service follows the Common Worship Liturgy. The young people take an active role in all aspects of the worship and there is usually an inter-active teaching session calling for their active and enthusiastic involvement. It has been a pleasure to see how keen they are to volunteer to be involved. This service has proved to be very popular and it has been very encouraging to see new families join us. Morning and Evening Prayer are also offered on a regular basis, with some of these services being available to access via Zoom (particularly during the winter months) as well as in church.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

The importance of regular communication with as many church members as possible has been demonstrated in recent years, to maintain regular contact with church members in order to ensure that they were still able to fully participate in church life, albeit for some, at a distance., and also ensure that everyone is kept up-to date with what is happening. Weekly email communication has continued to the vast majority of the church family (all those for whom we hold specific consent to contact via this method) providing information, and to give guidance on where and how to find services and spiritual support. All the information has also been made readily available on our pages on A Church Near You. Printed information is also made available. We also make use of Social media to spread information to a wider audience.

We have continued to encourage and support members of the church family to become more involved with various aspects of worship, such as reading the lessons and writing and leading the intercessions. Our young people attending the 'Tuesday@7' service have enthusiastically and willingly engaged in all aspects of the service, volunteering to welcome, read and serve.

It has long been our practice to encourage the members of the church family to participate in teaching groups to encourage a deeper understanding and acquisition of learning. During Lent we ran a study course using a course offered by the Diocese to study The Nicene Creed.

We also offer two discussion groups - 'Pints of View' and 'The Bear Necessities'. These groups – one for men and one for women, are open to members from our church and from our neighbours in Aldwick. They meet to discuss current affairs and in particular those items which hit the headlines, with the meetings being held away from church buildings and making use of our local pubs.

Through baptism we celebrate God's gift of life and faith; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; and through funeral services friends and family express their grief, and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world, and to commend the loved one to God's keeping. We celebrated 15 baptisms and 2 weddings. 5 of our congregation were confirmed during the year. 10 funerals were held in church and 1 held at the crematorium and there were 6 services for the Burial of Ashes in the churchyard. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many from further afield, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. In addition to funerals held in church for members of our parish, our clergy have officiated at services at the crematorium. The bereaved are visited by the clergy prior to funerals to offer assistance and support, and follow-up contacts are made as necessary to offer further support and assistance.

An Annual memorial Service is held with personal invitations delivered to all in the parish who have been bereaved in the previous year and with whom the church has had contact through funerals. It is an opportunity to come together to remember loved ones and celebrate their lives. The service is always well attended and is much appreciated

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

It is important to us that the church is available to all whenever possible, and our usual practice is to have the church open between 10:00 and 16:00 daily, giving the opportunity for private prayer and meditation, or to allow visitors the opportunity to enjoy the peace and beauty of the building. It is clear that the church being open is welcomed, as can be seen from the many appreciative comments in the Visitors' Book. Many remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and spirituality the church offers. Information leaflets, in a number of languages, are available in the church explaining the history of the church and its place in the community.

"I am so grateful that you keep the church open during the day - it is such a blessing to find such a beautiful place to enjoy the peace and tranquillity,

R R

The Church Centre

The Church Centre is available for hire by all members of the community for activities, events and parties.

Uniformed organisations and other community groups use the hall on a regular basis.

"It's good to have somewhere to meet up with friends ,old and new, for a chat and a cup of tea on a regular basis. The cakes are always very good."

Mrs E....

The hall is used for some of our own Social events. We also used the hall during Lent to offer simple Soup Lunches once a week, with the proceeds in 2025 being donated to Christian Aid.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

There has always been a great deal of informal pastoral care within the parish, with individuals from the church family maintaining contact with individuals both from the church family and from the wider community, trying to ensure that no-one becomes isolated. We also have a more formal Pastoral Care Team. There is a planned programme of visits from a number of individuals visiting house-bound members of our church family, either to socialise or to take communion to them.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Our Lunch Club, which has been operating for more than 50 years, continues to meet on the First and Third Wednesday of the month, offering a two course meal, a hot drink and companionship, at a very reasonable price. Transport is provided for those who would otherwise be unable to attend.

As a church we have actively supported our local Food Bank for many years, with a collection point located within the church and an up-to-date list of items that are most needed. Our weekly email communication to all our church family carries an up-to-date list of the most needed items Members of the church family and the wider community regularly make donations, which are then taken to the Food Bank for distribution to those in need. All items collected at our Harvest Celebration were donated to the Food Bank.

The church has for many years been active in its support of 'Link to Hope', a charity that works with those in need in eastern European countries. Boxes of goods are collected in church, transported to a distribution hub, and then sent out for distribution just before Christmas. Our 'Knit and Natter' group also supports this charity supplying large numbers of knitted blankets, hats, gloves and scarves

Other charitable giving

"We know that we can always depend on you for donations of food and other much needed items, and we are grateful that you have organised a regular drop off of your donations."

Food Bank Manager

Helping those in need is an expression of our faith, and charitable giving remains an important part of the life at St Thomas a Becket's. The PCC has a policy of donating, when circumstances allow it, 5% of its unrestricted income to charitable causes both at home and abroad, with charities nominated annually. With reduced income and the necessity of using some reserves to meet our day-to-day expenses, it was not possible to meet this commitment in 2025, although we were able to donate the Christmas collections to charity, and we also held special collections during the need to respond to crisis situations. The church family has continued to support Christian Aid.

Repairs to the fabric of the church

No major repairs have been required during 2025.

We have continued to follow our annual maintenance programme ensuring all checks and servicing has been carried out.

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

Our expenditure continues to exceed the regular income we receive and we are reliant on donations and money held in reserve, built up from unrestricted legacies to balance our accounts.

We continue to benefit from our supporters making good use of Planned Giving through envelopes and banker's orders and the Parish Giving Scheme and it is good to see that good use is being made of gift aid, wherever possible. The introduction of the Pay Station in church has resulted in increased giving from visitors to the church, and has enabled those who no longer carry cash to give a donation. Donations from visitors through the wall safe have been sustained. The PCC was very grateful for the sustained level of donations throughout the year, which has helped to ease the financial situation.

The PCC was grateful to receive two unrestricted legacies, one of £10,000 and a second of £630.

Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest expenditure of the PCC is the sum of we pay to the Diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. As this parish is sharing a minister with our neighbouring parish the Diocese has issued a credit which equates to half the stipend. It was suggested that we should aim to contribute £57,416. However, in response to the request from the Diocese for each parish to consider generous giving in order to support parishes in need of financial support, the PCC took the decision to increase the pledge to £58.000. This was paid in full.

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

Staff costs

We have no staff costs, relying solely on the services of volunteers.

Trustee payments and expenses

From the beginning of September, the PCC supported our Priest-in-Charge by paying Council Tax, Water and environmental charges for the Vicarage. These costs are split equally between the two parishes that our priest-in-charge has responsibility for and amount to £379 for this parish.

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

Why we hold some money in reserve

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

It is PCC policy to invest temporarily surplus general funds with the CBF Church of England deposit fund, returning proportionately these funds to our current account, as they are needed, to pay day-to-day bills.

It is PCC policy to designate the net income from the church boxes and wall safe, which can be largely attributed to visitors to the church, for general use, unless the PCC identify a specific purpose for this money..

As well as holding the above general reserves, from time to time the PCC receives restricted legacies for expenditure on restricted purposes, defined by the donor. We aim to expend such money as soon as possible after receiving the legacy, depending on the specific objectives of the donor.

Management of risks and their mitigation

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the church in the parish. The usual PAT testing and fire extinguisher and lightning conductor checks have been carried out.

The PCC consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- The need to fund unexpected costs associated with the church's listed buildings and It's stained glass.
- An unexpected fall in income, particularly given the dependence of the church on a limited number of major regular donors and one main regular hall hirer.
- The requirement to find volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation.
- Continuing uncertainties relating to this and our neighbouring parish, both being served by our Priest-in-charge, and how the very busy workload can be managed.

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by regular reviews. The Mission Action Plan is reviewed regularly. The PCC aims to maintain our properties to a high standard and carries out the priority items of a quinquennial review in a timely manner. The last Quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2021 and identified no major areas of concern. The next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2026.

For many years there has been a programme which emphasises God's generosity to us, and the need for the church family to respond to that generosity in their own giving through time, talents and financial support.

Future Uncertainties

- The continued high cost of living throughout 2025, and which it would seem is likely to continue, has caused everyone to really look at their financial situation. We are dependent on financial support from our church family and are aware that we may well see a reduction of income as individuals assess the level of support they are able to give.
- The increases in gas and electricity prices have had a huge impact on our expenditure. The uncertainty of the level of future price increases is a cause for concern.
- A Pre-School group was booked to make daily use of the Church Centre, which would have generated considerable income. However during 2025 they were unable to obtain the necessary Ofsted approval to allow them to operate. A review of this is due in 2026 but there is uncertainty around whether they will be able to continue, which will mean a loss of income.

Structure governance and management of the charity

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

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

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Julain McAllen	Chairman (from September 2025)
Wardens:	Mr Alex Brockhurst	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Sue O'Neill	
Lay Reader	Mrs Rosemary Towse	

Elected Members

Mrs Jan Brockhusrt	
Mrs Christine Buckenham	
Mrs Elizabeth Cooper	
Mr Stephen Cox-Rusbridge	
Mrs Maureen Hatzfeld	PCC Secretary
Mrs Trudi Kearsley	PCC Treasurer
Mr William Mitchell	
Mrs Carole-Anne Pocock	
Mr Richard Rundle	
Mrs Emily Siemieniec	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Mr David Smith	
Mr Sebastian Siemieniec	

Deanery Synod

Mrs Trudi Kearsley
Mr David Smith
Mrs Rosemary Towse

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and members of the church 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.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Reverend Julian McAllen, PCC Chairman

Julian McAllen
23rd August 2026

Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Church lane, Pagham, PO21 4NU

Registered Charity no. 1134842

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham *registered charity number 1134842*

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	Unrestricted				*Total*	*Total*	
	General Fund	Designated Funds	*Restricted Fund/s*	*Endowed Fund/s*	All Funds 2025	*All Funds 2024*	*Notes*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	72,802	2,358	-	-	**75,160**	*65,106*	
Charitable activities	3,577	-	-	-	**3,577**	*3,819*	
Other trading activities	6,274	11688	-	-	**17,962**	*14,369*	
Investments	9	3,614	-	-	**3,623**	*3,826*	
Disbursements	6590	0	-	-	**6,590**	*6,801*	
Other receipts	2872	587			**3,459**	*0*	
Total received	**92,124**	**18,247**	-	-	**110,371**	93,921	*3*
Expenditure on:					-		
	-	-	-	-	-		
Charitable costs	78,475	805		-	**79,280**	*100,251*	
Trading costs	247	12,801		-	**13,048**	*14,694*	
Other payments	5,979	-	-	-	**5,979**	*16,980*	
Total paid	**84,701**	**13,606**		-	**98,307**	*131,925*	*4*
Reconciliation of funds:							
Net income or (net expenditure)	**7,423**	**64,641**	-	-	**12,064**	*(38,004)*	
			-	-			
Net movement in funds	**7,423**	**4,641**		-	**12,064**	*(38,304)*	
Bank accounts at 1 January	1205	75,323		-	**76,528**	*114,534*	
Bank accounts at 31 December	**866**	**87,727**		-	**88,593**	*76,530,*	*A & L*

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham, *registered charity number 1134842*

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total	
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	All Funds 2025	All Funds 2024	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets					-		
Barclays Frozen account	16				16	16	
Caf Bank Current Account	866				866	1,206	
Caf Bank Reserve Account		4,741			4,741	3,886	
Caf Bank Friends Account		15,238			15,238	6,609	
Caf Bank Bellringers Account		3,187			3,187	-	
CCLA 1		47,278			47,278	48,104	
CCLA 2		16,109			16,109	15,412	
CCLA – Church Centre		866			866	829	
Total bank accounts	*882*	*87,419*		-	*88,2301*	76,062	
					-		
Sunday School						120	
Coffee Fund		244			244	317	
Flower Fund		48			48	731	
Other Monetary Assets	-	292		-	292	468	
Total Assets	882	87,711		-	88,593	76,530	
Liabilities		-		-		-	
Total Liabilities		-		-	-	-	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by Reverend Julian McAllen, PCC Chairman:

Rev'd Julian McAllen

Date 15th April 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Thoams a Beckets Church, Pagham, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 2 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members 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:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. 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
3. 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

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below in Section B below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the (brackets) if they do not apply*

Examiner's signature ..... D Poole

Examiner's name *CAPITALS* ..... DAVID POOLE

Date ..... 27 July 2026

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body *if any* .....

Examiner's address .....

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