Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of West Chiltington

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St Mary's Church, West Chiltington

Generous in Prayer and Giving

St Mary's Church, Church Street, West Chiltington, RH20 2JW

Registered Charity no. 1138034

For the year ended 31 December 2025

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees annual report	
Statement of financial receipts and payments	10
Statement of assets and liabilities	11
Notes of the accounts	12
Report of the independent examiner	17
Attachments of outreach and ministry	20

Website:	**www.stmaryswestchilt.co.uk**
Incumbent:	**Father Stephen Merriman SSC, The Rectory, East Street, West Chiltington, RH20 2JY**
Independent examiner:	**Mr Adrian C Radford, 7 Curbey Close, West Chiltington, RH20 2HU**
Bankers:	**The NatWest Bank, 5 East Street, Chichester, PO19 1HH**

St Mary's, West Chiltington

Generous in Prayer and Giving

Trustees Annual Report for 2025

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating, with the Rector 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, to those who are part of the worshipping community and those who are curious;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability and disability, and to the level of giving;
- Providing support for those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.
- To promote a generosity in giving: of time spent in Prayer and Financial.
- Supporting, encouraging and attending regularly services, making Jesus known and present through word and sacraments of the Church.

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 the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. For 2025 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims, this was laid out within our Mission Action Plan, MAP.

Enabling all in our church

- Work with and supporting the Rector to extend the Christian influence in the village;
- Opening our Church every day, making the Church a place for corporate prayer and private prayer, for giving time to encounter God through Morning and Evening Prayer, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Offering the Sacraments of the Church: The Eucharist, The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing, Baptism, Confirmation and Weddings. The Sacraments of the Church helps promote spiritual reflection and well-being;
- Teaching and nurturing new and existing believers within the parish;
- Offering an increased number of services gives the community greater opportunity to gather and meet. As well as encountering God.
- Make available those occasional offices, wedding, baptism, confirmation and funerals;

- Continue to reach out to our community school and youth organisations;
- Invite and encourage those who live within the Village to attend services;
- Putting faith into practice Sacramentally and other outreach services.
- Taking communion to those at Home, Nursing Home, celebrating the Eucharist within the community;
- 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 and those in need of specific support.
- Helping the vulnerable of the ecclesiastical parish;
- Encourage charitable giving through our services and other activities within the parish;
- Outreach to all who live in the Village whether they are active members of the Church community or not to access the Church and Hall facilities, which includes monthly the Friendship lunch and Refresh! Café, which is part of our outreach that is not worship or faith based.
- 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

Overview of the Year

There have been multiple opportunities to encounter God through worship and through study. Worship of God within the Church building and out in the community; Study via Lent course, Bible Study Day, Pilgrimage and Spiritual reflection. All acts of worship and study have been advertised via church website, church noticeboards, church magazine, pew sheets and within the Sunday notices. After last year's disappointment, I am pleased that in the past six months of 2025, there has been a greater support of the mid-week Eucharist, this has had a positive and profound effect that the spiritual growth of the Church has been evidential. Having Three Confirmation candidates 25 years and younger, bucking the trend of the Church of England average age of confirmation candidates. Also, a positive note that in the past 5 years post covid we have had more Confirmation candidates than in the previous twenty years. Demonstrating that the Spiritual growth and the tradition of the Church has now encouraged new members.

- Sunday services 8am 1662 Book of Common Prayer and 10am Common Worship Eucharist. It has been encouraging to see year on year growth in attendance of the 8am Sunday morning worship, the reflects the supportive nature of this community and from this worshipping community to have two confirmation candidates.
- Holy Days of obligation, Feasts and Solemnities according to the Church of England, have been religiously observed.
- Weekly Eucharists; Wednesday worship continues; with the support of the Standing Committee, Monday, Thursday and Friday 8am Eucharist have been introduced and has been well supported giving an increase to average attendance to the mid-week worshipping community.
- Weekly time of silent prayer and spiritual reflection continues; this is held alongside Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament;

- Two monthly eucharists within the community have continued and has prompted, growth in our outreach within the community; One in the village Housing Association the other with in a Residential Care Home within the neighbouring town.
- Monthly Friendship Lunch has continued to meet along with the yearly Christmas Friendship Lunch, seeing year on year growth;
- Refresh! Café, continues to be an important part of our outreach into the community;
- Outside the Church building we had a visual representation of the Easter Garden scene throughout Eastertide and a Crib throughout Christmastide;
- The Diocesan Year of Faith began the year with a deanery event in the local secondary School, this was well supported by the Church community.
- Christian Unity week, we joined other Christian communities in praying for Christian unity.
- Lent:
  Study: A Lent Course on the Nicene Creed at the Rectory;
  Prayer: A Lent Walk - walking around village praying for all who live and work in our Village,
  Outreach: fortnightly Lent Lunches in the Church Hall,
- Palm Sunday procession from the community School to the Church.
- Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services continue to be offered and encouraged as this is the most holy week of the Christian year.
- Good Friday morning for the second year and Easter Egg hunt was offered to the Children of the Village and this was well supported by the village.
- Easter Day and Easter services;
- A day Pilgrimage, part of the Chichester Year of Faith took place at Chichester Cathedral, this was not only organised by the Parish but open to the deanery. Four members of the Church community attended this event.
- On 8th May 2025, 80th anniversary of VE Day at 6:30pm The Church bells were rung for "Ringing Out for Peace" Thank you to Mrs Beth Merriman for assisting with ringing of the Church bells alongside the Rector;
- Part of the Diocesan Year of Faith members of the Church community gathered at Chichester Cathedral for Choral Evensong and listened to a Homily delivered by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. This was a truly humble and privilege experience to be part of.
- Chichester Diocese held a Clergy Conference;
- In September, we welcomed Mr Brendan Walls as our new Church Organist, it would be right to acknowledge our particular thanks and appreciation to Mr Robert Ellis for leading the Church for the year up to September on the electric piano.
- Patronal Festival;
- Pet Service with blessing of pets continues to bring new and different people along with their pets to this service.
- Harvest Festival and lunch.
- The local community school held for the first time a Harvest Festival service in Church.
- Armistice Day Service held we welcomed children from the community school to take part in the service of remembrance and on Remembrance Sunday Service a service of remembrance was held at the Church War Memorial;
- Pilgrimage to Walsingham was another highlight of the year;

- Our third year for supporting Link to Hope Shoebox appeal, this was a great success and one that will be undertaken next year;
- Advent saw the introduction of St Mary's Church 100 Club.
- Three members of the Church community were Confirmed by The Diocesan Bishop, Martin, at Chichester Cathedral on Wednesday 26th November,
- Our Assistant Priest Fr Russell Dewhurst was appointed Archdeacon of Hastings, two services were held one in Mayfield as he was made Archdeacon and the other as he was installed at Chichester Cathedral.
- On Advent Sunday the Church received a new ciborium kindly donated my Robert Neal-Smith and Family, in Memory of The Late Jenny Neal-Smith.
- The local community School held for the first time in many years Christmas Services in the Church. Two services were held in Church one for key stage one and the other key stage two. Parents, grandparents also were warmly welcomed.
- Carols in the Village, at Kensington Close, The Roundabout Hotel, The Queens Head Pub has continued to grow and each year we welcome more people to encounter the Nativity of Christ through the singing of Christmas Carols. The Nine Lessons and Carols in Church, this year we welcomed the West Sussex Silver Band. This has become an important part of the Village life.
- Crib Service with Christingle, this year children of the village made the Christingles and this added to the pleasure of the Crib Service, year on year we have seen growth in numbers, especially with regards to the focus on the Crib and Nativity of Jesus Christ has been warmly welcomed and appreciated with the focus back on the Birth of Jesus, Children walk around the Church holding the crib figures. This for many will be the families only encounter with the Church within the year.
- Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services, were also well attended.
- Across the four services Crib, Midnight, 8am and 10am on Christmas day we welcomed over 300 people, around 90 children under 16 and 210 adults.
- The increased attendance and confirmation candidates, has shown that the traditional catholic identity has encouraged growth and has not been decremental to the growth spiritually or numerically on the Church community.
- Fundraising: Six Members of the Church Community took part in the Snowdrop Appeal walking around the Arundel Estate, The Shoebox appeal, Christian Aid and Family Support Work to name a few.

Attendance at worship

The Church family welcomes visitors from in and outside the ecclesiastical parish. All attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome those from all walks of life. The attendance is voluntary to worship God, we strongly hold the view this has a major public and personal benefit. The pattern of worship in church is as follows Sunday: 8am 1662 Book of Common Prayer Eucharist and 10am Common Worship Eucharist. Our midweek services occur on Monday 8:30am, Wednesday: 9:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament a time of quiet prayer and reflection followed by The Book of Common prayer Eucharist at 10am, Thursday 8:30am and Friday 8:30am. Due to the lack of support last year, midweek services came to an end. With the support and encouragement of the new appointed Churchwardens and assistant Churchwardens and the support of the Standing committee, midweek services were reintroduced at different times and with additional services throughout the week. This has had an encouraging effect on the spiritual growth and attendance, giving greater opportunities throughout the week to encounter God and pray for the village in which we serve. There has been an increase in number of people attending the midweek service from the Sunday worshipping community and visitors.
These are wonderful times to be still in the busy life we lead and many who come have expressed their delight to just be still and calm before God and in the quiet of the Church building, for find God's healing. Also, it fulfils our Christian commitment to pray for the needs of our Village and the people who live and work in our Village.

The Church remains open daily for private prayer and those visiting are freely able to light a candle as an act of prayer. The average count during October was 49.25, and the number of members on the electoral roll stands at 75, despite the decrease in numbers on the electoral roll, the percentage of people on the roll the attendance has increased, reflecting that people joined the church electoral roll but did not attend public worship in the past, but now there is a clear identity that being on the Church electoral roll people also are part of the worshipping community.

Holy Week 2025 had similar attendance to 2024.

The Church services, were well attended especially the Armistice Day and Christmastide services, with more visitors than regular worshippers, this demonstrates the place and the need for God in none practicing Christians lives.

The introduction of Prayer and Pint two years ago, has continued. This has helped foster a stronger link between the local Queens Head pub and the Church, two major places for the people of the village to gather. This strong link will continue to grow and develop over the years ahead.

The number of people in the village receiving Holy Communion at home has risen to 9 monthly home communicants. This has helped those who once regularly attended public worship continue to feel part of the worshipping community.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

As part of our nurturing new believers and teaching we have a well-established monthly service at Kensington Close a housing association, where the Eucharist, prayer and biblical teaching occur monthly. This has grown in number over the year meeting the spiritual needs of those who attend, especially for those within the village who are unable to attend St Mary's Church, this has been a great source of outreach by the Church into the community. To also encourage spiritual growth the Rector organised a day pilgrimage to Chichester Cathedral this was open to the whole Deanery, this was also held alongside the Lent Course based on the Chichester Diocese Lent Course on the Year of Faith. The Rector organised and led a Deanery Pilgrimage to Walsingham, this gave those who attended the opportunity to encounter God and other Christians from across the country, in a prayerful and meaningful way. This was a joyful time; it was decided to hold another Deanery Pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2026. The Prayer and Pint on Thursdays is a highlight of the week, as this gives an opportunity to worship God at the end of the working day with evening prayer and then time to relax and chat about the Christian faith, spiritual and biblical in a comfortable setting in the Pub.

We celebrated 2 baptism, 3 Confirmations, 1 Weddings, 9 Church funerals, 8 interments of Ashes.

We are pleased the church is open daily, in the winter months the Church remains open as part of the Warm Space, Warm Welcome, for all to enjoy God's house and encounter God in the stillness and quietness and for those interested in History to marvel at the 12th and 13th century wall paintings.

Provision of Church facilities

There is no significant change to church hall use,
The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides continue to meet regularly, as well as various community groups, some being weekly while others monthly including but not exclusively Mothers Union, Friendship Lunch and Refresh Café.

Please see attached appendix Reports written by Pam Wells on the Refresh Café and Friendship lunch.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral care in the Parish is given by many behind the scenes, it is offered to all who request, respecting those in need and want. Throughout the year we had regularly nine home communicants, additionally we have a number of people receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and anointing. Home communion is made available upon request, for all those unable to attend public worship, or to those dying.

The Family Support Work has once again been well supported throughout the year. Please see attached appendix Reports written by Sally Boyland

Communications

We publish a monthly Church village magazine; this has been available for many years and it is widely read by villagers of the Church and wider community. It is much appreciated by the village enabling them to share their news and events as well as the Church family sharing and advertising forthcoming events and services in the Church and Village.
Our Church website is a vital way to communicate all activities of the Church. This is updated regularly with church services, events and information to access the life of the Church here in West Chiltington. It has proven to be a valuable asset to the life of the Church.

Other charitable giving from the Church

- Christian Aid week
- Family Support Work
- The Children's Society
- Link to Hope – Shoebox appeal
- Embrace the Middle East
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village

The major project for 2025 was to replace the wooden shingle on the Church tower and spire. This was a major project for the Church upkeep. Acknowledgment and appreciation must be extended to Norman Boyland.

Annual Maintenance to the boilers in the Church and Church Hall has been carried out along with the Annual PAT testing. Additionally the EICR test certificates have been renewed for all the electrical wiring in both the Church and Church Hall. This time there were fewer areas requiring remedial action and the certificates have been issued with a three year validity. Lightening conductor testing was carried at the conclusion of the spire and tower works detailed below and a new test certificate issued,.

Following some storm damage and loss of shingles on the tower, work previously approved by the PCC was commenced early in the year. On gaining access to the shingles it rapidly became evident that degradation of the shingles had progressed further than could be discerned from ground level. After contemplating the replacement of all the shingles on the south facing elevations of the spire and tower, the PCC made an informed decision that, while ladders and ropes were in position and steeplejacks were on site, the best economic solution was to undertake a complete re-shingling of both the steeple and tower. The works were carried out under an Archdeacons notice of approval and approval of the conservation officer at Horsham DC.

During the works it was found that birds were finding their way into the tower internal space accounting for the occasional presence of a bird inside the Church itself. Work was paused for a short period to allow nestling swifts to properly fledge after which additional work to preserve the birds nest site, allowing a return next year but to block access to the inside of the tower was carried out, this added to the cost of the shingling and treatment of internal timbers for woodworm and deathwatch beetle bringing the total the cost of the works to £63,528. Of this some £10,588 was VAT which was recovered through the government listed places of worship grant scheme. Work was completed at the end of July.

It is a point of interest that a number of the shingles removed from the spire had been signed by Church members and had dates going back to 1957. This is much further in the past than had been expected and it is hoped that the new shingles will last a similar period of time. Members of the congregation were invited to sign a new shingle in return for a small donation to help with the cost of the works. The new names are in position up on the spire, among the names are The Right Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester and Bishop Ruth, Bishop of Horsham

During the latter part of the year the 2025 Quinquennial inspection was carried out by our Church architect. The work on the tower addressed one of the major items from the previous inspection but as in 2020 an internal inspection of the tower was deferred into 2026 as it was felt that on this occasion a surveyor should be involved and safe access needed to be arranged. The Church is generally in a good state of repair but items that need to be addressed in the near future are an overhaul of the cast iron rainwater gutters and further consideration of the works required to the churchyard wall along the hollow at Church Street. Recent work to repoint the wall is helping to preserve much of it but a section not tackled due to the fragility of the stone remains of concern and the safety of the wall remains in question. A survey has been recommended by the architect.

The Fabric report prepared by Norman Boyland

Annual Financial Report

of the Parochial Church Council of the

St Mary's Church, West Chiltington

Statement of Financial Receipts and Payments

Statement of Financial Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted							
	General Fund	Designated Building Fund	Designated Hall Fund	Restricted funds	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	£		£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	64434			9270		73704	76805	
Charitable activities	7469					7469	8708	
Other trading activities	14762		5167			19929	18377	
Investments	1073		4	1955		3032	3638	
Other receipts	360					360	29795	
Total received	**88098**	**0**	**5171**	**11225**	**0**	**104494**	**137323**	
Expenditure on:								
Cost of raising funds	0					0	0	
Charitable costs	87345		3547	52940		143832	92275	
Trading costs	4391		2212			6603	7146	
Other payments	1095		10	2294		3399	5139	
Total paid	**92831**	**0**	**5769**	**55234**	**0**	**153834**	**104560**	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Net income or (net expenditure)	-4733	0	-598	-44010	0	-49340	32763	
	-4733	**0**	**-598**	**-44010**	**0**	**-49340**	**32763**	
Transfer between funds								
Net movement in funds	**-4733**	**0**	**-598**	**-44010**	**0**	**-49340**	**32763**	
Bank accounts at 1 January 2025	39592	0	2389	96825		138805	106042	
Bank accounts at 31 December 2025	34859	0	1791	52815	0	89465	138805	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted						
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	£		£	£	£	£	
Assets							
Bank current account	34859	1694	18232		54785	*105631*	
CBF Deposit Fund		97	34584		34681	*33174*	
PCC-owned bank balance	34859	1791	52816	0	89466	*138805*	
Chancel Fund Deposit Account					0	*0*	
Total bank and deposit accounts	34859	1791	52816	0	89466	*138805*	
Insurance claim repayment due					0	*0*	
CCLA bank interest					0	*0*	
Gift Aid recoverable					0	*0*	
Debtors	0	0	0	0	0	*0*	
407 CBF shares Francis Charity (at cost)				324	324	*324*	
970 CBF Investment Fund shares (at cost)			4400		4400	*4400*	
Diocesan Fixed Interest Fund	800				800	*800*	
Investment assets at cost	800		4400	324	5524	*5524*	
Kensington Memorial Hall at cost		4612			4612	*4612*	
Total assets	35659	6403	57216	324	99602	148941	
Liabilities:							
Gas & Electricity used since last bill (est.)	1124		94		1218	*1710*	
Advertising received in adv	8790				8790	*7880*	
Total Liabilities	9914	0	94	0	10008	*9590*	

Notes to the Financial Report

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted							
	General Fund	Designated Building Fund	Designated Hall Fund	Restricted funds	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	£		£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	32773					32773	39842	
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	4358					4358	4408	
Loose cash collections	8212					8212	8214	
Donations (excl tax refunds)	750			2270		3020	6000	
Donations (no tax refunds)	5187					5187	1115	
Church Concerts						0	0	
Gift Aid recovered	10154					10154	13726	
Legacies				7000		7000	0	
Grants	3000					3000	1500	
Donations and legacies	64434	0	0	9270	0	73704	76805	
Fees for weddings and funerals	7469					7469	8708	
Charitable activities	7469	0	0	0	0	7469	8708	
Special Events	1120					1120	224	
Church & hall hiring fees			5167			5167	5276	
Traidcraft Stall Sales						0	0	
Other trading receipts	511					511	579	
Funds raised for others	796					796	951	
Magazine advertisement fees	9575					9575	8565	
Magazine sales	2761					2761	2782	
Other trading activities	14763	0	5167	0	0	19929	18377	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	646		4	1070		1720	2774	
CBF investment fund dividend	427			885		1312	864	
Investments	1073	0	4	1955	0	3032	3638	
Other receipts	360			0		360	29795	
Total received on all funds	88098	0	5171	11225	0	104494	137323	

4. A legacy of £7,000 was received from the estate of Mrs Susan Paterson, which is to be used to purchase a crucifix or candle for the Lady Chapel, as well as 6 candles for the Nave Altar to be used on Sundays and Solemnities.

5. Analysis of total paid:

	Unrestricted							
	General Fund	Designated Building Fund	Designated Hall Fund	Restricted funds	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2025	Total All Funds 2024	Notes
	£		£	£	£	£	£	
Other appeals expenses						0	0	
Cost of raising funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Charitable grants and donations	796					796	951	
Parish contribution to Diocese	53000					53000	52500	
Salaries and honoraria inc. NI	5884					5884	4565	
Clergy and other people's expenses	5867					5867	4509	
Rectory redecoration								
Mission & evangelism costs								
Service running costs	3775					3775	3394	
Insurance	1875		700			2575	2793	
Church Water, Gas & Electricity	6904		1512			8416	5748	
Office running costs	2538					2538	2050	
Churchyard maintenance	5185					5185	6483	
Accounting and Examiner's fees								
Legal & professional fees								
Church maintenance and redecoration	1522			52940		54462	8258	
Bank charges			10			10		
Richard's Fund (Organ & Sound)				1516		1516		
Charitable costs	87345	0	2222	54456	0	144024	91251	
Special event costs, etc.								
Hall salary and honoraria			2760			2760	2640	
Hall maintenance and redecoration			787			787	641	
Magazine printing	4231					4231	4890	
Traidcraft supplies								
Other trading costs	160					160	0	
Trading costs	4391	0	3547	0	0	7938	8171	
Other payments	1095			778		1873	5139	
Total paid on all funds	92831	0	5769	55234	0	153834	104561	

6. Charitable grants and donations were made to Family Support Work, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and The Children's Society.

7. The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment to Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of parish ministry £83,346.

8. The church hall is on a freehold property also used as a church car park which is owned by the PCC adjoining the church and cost £4,612 to build.

9. The Restricted fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for the maintenance of the church building.

10. Gift Aid is recovered on donations received up to year end, the last claim was submitted mid-December 2025, covering donations to that date.

11. Payment to PCC employees:

	2025	2024
	£	
Wages, salaries and honoraria	8578	7205
Employer National Insurance		
	8578	7205

12. Payments to PCC members:

Mrs Brenda Bull received £517 and Mrs Jane Hodgson received £3,795 for secretarial support for the administration of the Church.

13. Transactions with persons related to PCC members:

There were none.

14. Transactions with related charities:

There are no related charities.

15. Statement of funds:

Endowment funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives.

The Francis Charity is an endowment invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, with the income to be spent on churchyard maintenance.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The longstanding Restoration Fund is invested in CBF Investment Fund shares with the income to be spent on the fabric of the Church.

The other restricted funds comprise the Church Restoration Fund.

The Richard Legacy fund is to be spent on the organ and Audio-visual improvements in the church. Repairs costing £2257 were made to the organ during the year. £740 was raised during the year towards the cost and the balance of the cost was allocated against the Richard Fund Legacy, leaving a balance of £600.

The Church IT Fund is to be used towards the installation of audio / visual equipment in the church.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The General Fund received the normal church income to cover the day-to-day activities of the church.

The Hall Fund is used to cover the running of the hall as a designated fund to clearly identify the finances of this important outreach activity.

The Building Fund is money set aside to cover anticipated expenditure in respect of the church hall, which may need to be met from the General Fund. There are no works currently planned for 2026 so this balance remains at £0.

16 Summary of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/f 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure, Transfers, Other Gains and Losses	Balances c/f 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£
Francis Charity at cost	324			324
Total of all endowed funds	**324**	**0**	**0**	**324**
Restoration Fund Investment at cost	4400			4400
Church Restoration fund	93708	4225	-53718	44215
Richards Legacy	2116		-1516	600
Church IT Fund	1000			1000
Paterson Legacy		7000		7000
Total of all restricted funds	**101224**	**11225**	**-55234**	**57215**
Fixed interest investment at cost	800			800
General fund	39592	88098	-92831	34859
Designated Building Fund				0
Designated Church Hall fund	2389	5171	-5769	1791
Total of all unrestricted funds	**42781**	**93269**	**-98600**	**37450**
Total Funds	**144329**	**104494**	**-153834**	**94989**

17 Market value of investments @ 31st December 2025

The market value of shares shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at cost is as follows:

	Number held	Original cost £	Value 2025 £	Value 2024 £
CBF Francis Charity	407	324	9035	9411
CBF Restoration	970	4400	21532	22429
Diocesan Fixed Interest Fund	713	800	1089	1063
		5524	31656	32903

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Church, West Chiltington for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary West Chiltington on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 11 to 18.

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 seeks 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

a. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
b. 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.

Examiner's signature .....

Examiner's name *CAPITALS* ..... ADRIAN MEDHURST .....

Address 7 Curbey Close, West Chiltington RH20 2HU

Relevant professional qualification or body ..... CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT Dated ..... 8th MARCH 2026 .....

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems *for example:*

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts;
- any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity;
- any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and
- any material inconsistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

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. Stephen Merriman	Chairman
Wardens:	Mrs Vanessa Llambias	
	Mrs Debra Parker	
Lay Reader:	Mr Jim Latter	Vice Chairman
Elected Members	Mrs Claire Freeth	Safeguarding Officer
	Mrs Brenda Bull	PCC Treasurer
	Mrs Pam Wells	
	Mrs Diane Bennett	
	Mr Clive Cole	
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Ann Chapman	
	Mr Phil Race	
	Mrs Vanessa Llambias	
	Mrs Debra Parker	
PCC Secretary:	Mrs Maria Radford	
Co-opted:	Mrs Jane Hodgson	Church Administrator

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 currently 6 but can be up to 8 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.

During the year the PCC reviewed both their Safeguarding policy and their policy under the General Data Protection Regulations, both of which are available in the church porch.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by
The Revd. Stephen Merriman, Chairman

signed The Revd Stephen R Merriman

Dated 9th MARCH 2026