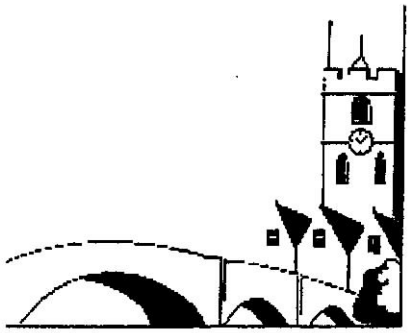
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH AYLESFORD



ANNUAL REPORT FOR PCC YEAR 2025/26

For Meeting on
Sunday 24th May 2026 at 11:30am
in church

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SS PETER & PAUL, AYLESFORD.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Administrative Information

St Peter and St Paul's Church is situated in Vicarage Close. Aylesford. It is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Brassey Centre, Station Road, Aylesford, ME20 7QR.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission under Registration No. 1138956.

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved.

Name	Office	Dates served if not full year	Elected term ends
The Revd Ruth Peet	Incumbent	Until 30/04/2025	
Aline Ongley	Churchwarden	Until 29/04/2025	
Emma Parren	Co- opted PCC Member	From 04/06/2025	2026
Anita Keays	Elected PCC Member	Until 19/02/2025	
Ann Butterworth	Elected PCC Member	Until 29/04/2025	
Sue Gallico	Elected PCC member	Until 29/04/2025	
Janet Holdstock	Elected PCC Member Pastoral Assistant		2026
Tania Dosoruth	Elected PCC Member Deanery Synod Representative	Since 12-05 24 Since 12-05-24	2027
Christine Hatfield	Elected PCC Member	Until 25-02-2025	
Desmond Nolan	Elected PCC Member Deanery Synod Representative	Since 12-05-24 Sne 12-07-24	2027
Sheena Nolan	Elected PCC Member	Since 20-06-24	2027
Aline Ongley	Elected PCC member		2028
Sharon Stigle	Elected PCC member		2028

Peter Smith (Lay Reader) and Peter Walton (Treasurer until April 2025) are not members of the PCC but have a standing invitation to all PCC meetings. Christina Hellyar became PCC Secretary on 22nd August 2024, but is not a member of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those attending Church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Property Letting Agent:	Simon Miller and Company
Bank:	CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)
Independent Examiner:	Martyn Burt B.Sc. (Hons), ACMA, CGMA

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Peter and St Paul 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; this includes the provision of regular church services, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, and the provision of activities and events to involve and support the wider parish community. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Peter and St Paul.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to providing, to the whole parish community, the means of worshipping, growing in faith, and serving and supporting each other, so that together, we may realise a vision of everyone in the parish coming to flourish, as individuals and as community, through lived experience of the love and grace of God.

To achieve this objective, the activities of the PCC include the provision of church services, baptisms, weddings and funerals, the provision of means of spiritual development and practical and pastoral support to the parish community, and the responsible and efficient care of all resources, volunteers, employees and church buildings.

We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We believe that our work contributes public benefit through the development of the spiritual well-being of individuals, the practical outworking of faith in wider society, and the support for those in need. We deliver on our responsibility to maintain and provide the parish church and its services for worship, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, for all in the parish.

Church Electoral Roll

As of 31st December 2025 there were 60on the electoral roll of which 48% are not resident in the Parish.

Attendance 2024

Figures for 2024 are shown in brackets after the 2025 figures, e.g. 25 (24).

During 2025 the average Sunday attendance on a 'usual' Sunday (i.e. not on major festivals or during peak holiday periods) was 28(43) adults and 4(5) under 16s.

The average attendance at the 8 (23) services held at 8am, was 6 (10) adults.

The average number of Zoom attendees at services held at 10am was 2 (5).

Special services included Easter Day 55 (77) adults and 3 (6) under 16s); Harvest Festival 48 (64) adults and 20 (17) under 16s); Remembrance Sunday 120(67) adults and 35 (6) under 16s); Christmas Nativity Service/Christingle service 52 (51) adults and 18 (22) under 16s); Christmas Eve Midnight in Bethlehem Communion 31 (52) adults and 0 (0) under 16s). These figures do not include Zoom attendees.

Apart from Midnight in Bethlehem Communion, the figures in the paragraph above give the attendance for the main 10am Sunday service only. The total number of people attending worship at services on Easter Day was 58 (83), and the total number attending on Christmas Eve was 52 (149). There was no service on Christmas Day

Outside Sundays and occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals) the total number of people attending special services held for the congregation and local community, in church, was 100(618). The total number of people attending special services held specifically for civic organizations or schools, in church, was 896 (570).

This year, 2025, we reported a worshipping community of 130 (150). This included 14 age 0-17 (24), 82 age 18-69 (61) and 32 age 70+ (65). (The worshipping community is people who attend a church service (not necessarily *in* church) at least once a month.)

8 (36) people (6 adults and 2 under 16s) joined, and 9 (18) (9 adults and 0 under 16s) left the worshipping community during 2025; including, sadly, several long standing members of our community.

This year 6 (10) babies, children and young people, and 0 (0) adults were baptised, 6(7) couples were married in church, 5 (9) funerals were held in church, 6 (4) in a crematorium and 6 (6) burials of ashes were conducted.

PCC's Annual Report on its Proceedings and Activities of the Parish Generally

PCC Review

Up until the retirement of our previous vicar Ruth in April 2025, the PCC continued to adopt a monthly meeting plan with standard 'business' meetings alternating with 'exploratory' meetings to look at selected issues in more depth. The exploratory meetings were used to cover subjects including the financial strategy for the year and volunteering.

There were a number of changes to the makeup of the PCC during the course of 2025. A number of PCC members stood down in April 2025 following the Annual Meeting and Ruth's retirement including Ann Butterworth, Christine Hatfield, Sue Gallico and Anita Keays. We thank them for all their hard work and their contribution.

Aline Ongley retired as church warden but continued as an elected member of the PCC

Very sadly, Anne Beale, a PCC member and our former PCC Secretary passed away in December 2025. We thank her for her tireless commitment and service to our church and she remains greatly missed.

In April 2025, Emma Parren was co-opted to join the PCC by the remaining existing PCC members. It was agreed that Tania Dosoruth and Desmond Nolan would act as Deputy Chairs of the PCC during the interregnum.

Following, Ruth's retirement the PCC decided to reduce the number of PCC meetings to one standard business meeting once every two months during the interregnum. This decision was taken as it was felt by the PCC that the focus during the interregnum should be on maintaining the business-as-usual activity of the church which could be covered during the bi-monthly business meetings without the need for additional exploratory meetings.

PCC members were also keen to ensure that in the absence of an Incumbent, any Churchwardens and a Treasurer that PCC members did not become overwhelmed with too many meetings or commitments that were not strictly necessary.

Since April 2025, the PCC has focused on ensuring that the church continues to meet the worshipping needs of the congregation and maintains the important work that the church undertakes within the community.

Some topics that the PCC has discussed for example have included the continued use of intinction as a means of taking Holy Communion and securing a dispensation to allow for both Lay Readers and Worship Leaders to take services of the word and/or family services without the need for a separate Holy Communion Service.

The PCC has also continued to have a number of discussions around the finances of the church and the need to carry out essential repair work to the church building. The PCC has also worked to ensure that the Vicarage is kept in state of good repair/upkeep during the interregnum and has discussed the continuation of community-based activities such as the Dementia Café.

The PCC also worked in 2025 with Associate Archdeacon Wil North and our Area Dean Danielle Perason Smith and Patron Chris Dench to carry out the various procedural steps that are required to start the process of recruiting a new vicar.

Thanks are due for the volume of work undertaken by the PCC members and also to the many volunteers in the wider congregation and community who have helped the PCC in various ways.

Safeguarding

By Sheena Nolan (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aylesford as part of the Rochester Diocese.

The PCC is committed to offering good safeguarding practice within our parish.

We have formally adopted the House of Bishop's safeguarding Policy and this does comply with the duty of care for due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding.

As we are in Interregnum, having no Vicar in post, our Safeguarding Committee consists of Sheena Nolan (PSO), Sharon Stigle (Children's Representative) and Aline Ongley (Disclosure Officer) keeping DBS records up to date.

We receive regular updates of policies, information and I attend digital Zoom support training throughout the year from the Diocese Safeguarding Team.

The Safeguarding Committee meet regularly throughout the year and undertake all required training in safeguarding. The committee implements National Diocesan policies and guidance and continue to report to the PCC at every meeting.

We continue to safely recruit both paid and unpaid voluntary workers, all having completed Diocese training requirements.

We continue to hold regular meetings with our volunteers for all groups working within our church and community work; giving updates of policies, any changes to work practices and monitoring concerns shared by teams or managers, and encourage good communication between all workers.

On behalf of the PCC, the Safeguarding team continue to ensure that any concerns or complaints are promptly addressed, following procedures, reporting to the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor without delay.

This includes keeping training records updated, sending reminders to volunteers for training due and also keeping the Safeguarding Hub updated with the relevant information.

The Annual Safeguarding service was held on 23rd November 2025, with a short talk given by Sheena and a video clip encouraging an awareness of the importance of Safeguarding and everyone's role in this, supporting the Safeguarding Team.

A strict "no photography" policy is upheld during all activities attended by children.

All policies and safeguarding information is displayed as required on our highly visual display board in church and the community hub. These are updated when due by the Diocese.

Our staff are made aware of the policies concerning data protection and use of social media (i.e. church notices and our church website.

Worship

This year has seen various changes due to going into interregnum at the end of April. From January to April we carried on with standard Common Worship Order One Holy Communion at 8am and 10am on the first and third Sundays of the month, and Services of the Word held on the second (with Communion) and fourth (Family Service) Sundays. Since April we have had visiting vicars as much as possible so that we could continue to offer communion weekly as the diocese stipulated, offering the Holy communion service on the first and third Sundays. Our Lay reader Peter Smith has led a Service of the Word once a month and our Licensed Lay Minister Emma Parren has led the family service once a month. As lay ministers are unable to offer communion we have tried to find ministers to offer a short communion before or after these services. The congregation has enjoyed and greatly benefitted from a variety of visiting clergy who have been very supportive and helped us to continue to grow spiritually throughout the interregnum. Unfortunately there have been a few occasions where we have had to cancel services due to not been able to find clergy to cover but this has been rare and after a lot of hard work trying to find people, in the end the congregation were signposted to other local churches for those weeks.

We asked the Bishop for permission to change our pattern of worship for the second and fourth Sundays so that we did not have to find clergy to offer communion on these Sundays and in November this was approved. This helped to ease the strain of trying to find visiting clergy which is becoming increasingly difficult. The ministry team have continued to meet monthly to discuss services and have tried to keep the style of worship similar to how it has been and this continues to be appreciated by the congregation.

Des Nolan has also completed a Leading Worship course run by the diocese and has led some services this year. So now we have three lay members of the church who can lead the services which has been very helpful in covering services.

We have continued to Zoom most of the services but the average online congregation has reduced to 2 adults.

Janet Holdstock and Jane Roberts continue to offer services at some of the local care/nursing homes and sheltered housing.

Occasional Offices have continued as required where possible with the Area Dean undertaking many of these.

Pastoral Ministry

Janet takes services and communion to local sheltered homes and people in their own homes with help from Jane Roberts when she is available.

Monthly Janet leads a praise service or Communion at Quenn Elizabeth court, Dennis Cadman House and Appleton Lodge all in the Royal British Legion Village

Janet leads a Bible study group twice monthly

Mission

We have continued to be a place of welcome at the hub every Wednesday and numbers have increased with attendees being from church and the local area. Coffee, pastries and lunch are enjoyed as much as the conversation shared.

Dementia cafe

The steady number of attendees and their carers have enjoyed a very varied programme of activities including crafting, guest speakers and musicians, supported by a team of church and non-church volunteers

Foodbank

We have continued to offer two sessions per week and are lucky to have a loyal group of volunteers from the local community and church.

Donations are gratefully received from individuals, schools, businesses and uniformed groups have been most welcome especially during Harvest and Christmas time.

Grants and financial donations have meant we can keep our shelves stocked and provide much needed food parcels for local families.

Litter Picking

Every other month a group meet and litter-pick around the village, making a noticeable difference to our community.

Reflective Walking group

Led by Emma Parren this has been greatly enjoyed for the spiritual and physical elements, supported by a small group of church members

Families, Children and Young People

At the monthly Family Service (mentioned above) we continue to provide a staffed activity table for the young, in keeping with the theme of the service. It remains very popular. In addition, the children's area in church is used regularly by Sunday and Occasional Office families.

Although the average overall number of under 16s attending church has dropped this year, the family services continue to be well attended, with the youth choir and their families attending.

End of term services were held in church for St Peter's Church of England School. Christingle services were held in church for St Mark's Church of England School.

Under the management of a new group of parents and church representatives, the Aylesford Community Youth Choir continued to move from being the responsibility of the PCC to setting up as a charity in its own right.

Relationships with the uniformed groups were maintained, with a highlight being the uniformed organisations taking part in the remembrance service and parade.

Spiritual Growth

In addition to Sunday services, in 2025 we ran 'Six Steps to Loving your Church' during Lent, which was much appreciated and helped to prepare us for how we need to all work together to keep the church going.
The two Connect (Small) Groups started in 2023 continued to meet and flourish although at the end of the year one of the groups stopped meeting after losing some members and no longer having a venue to meet in.
Also, Janet Holdstock (Pastoral Assistant until Pentecost 2025) continued to lead a weekly Bible Study group.
Spiritual growth continues to be encouraged through a number of opportunities for sharing and discussion, during and after Sunday services.

Health & Safety Activities

Health and Safety considerations are incorporated into the responsibilities of the Fabric Committee.

The Brassey Centre

The annual rental charge paid by the PCC to the Brassey Trust was again waived for 2025. On behalf of the PCC, the church administrator continued to be responsible for Brassey Centre lettings, and for oversight of the maintenance of the main building.

Finance

By Gordon Hunt (Former Treasurer and at the request of the PCC)

2025 was difficult and eventful year in many ways. for most of the year we lacked a treasurer and from March we were in an interregnum after the Revd. Ruth Peet, our Vicar, retired.

Purpose of this Report

A Finance Report is a required element of the Report of the Trustees (the PCC} to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The Financial Statements provided for 2024 comply with all legal formatting requirements. Due to their complexity, this report will focus on summarizing key details and evaluating their implications both presently and in the future.

Headlines

- Total funds increased. The General Fund had nothing in it at the start of the year but by the end of the year had reached £24k.
- A donation of £50k was very welcome, With the kind agreement of the anonymous donor this was allocated £40k to the General Fund and £10k for property repair
- It is important not to allow this donation to conceal a structural deficit, where ongoing expenses surpass regular income. Our Independent Examiner cautioned last year during his review of the 2024 accounts review that **this situation is unsustainable.**

Income

- Our principal income source is "Voluntary Income" (i.e. Giving). This was DRAMATICALLY DOWN on the previous year by £5.7k {12%}.
- There was a welcome improvement on Brassey Centre income and in Interest Received. Rental income for 140 The Avenue was unchanged £13.2k
- Fees for Weddings and Funerals were up on the previous year at £7,5k
- Overall, excluding the big donation, income was significantly reduced.

Expenditure

- Diocesan Offer (aka Parish Share) is a voluntary donation paid by parishes to the Diocese. It is needed to cover the employment costs of parish clergy {including National Insurance, pension, housing, training} with the costs of diocesan staffing and administration. A fair amount for each parish is assessed at diocese level; but it is up to each PCC to decide what they should offer. In 2025 we paid £39,449. Before you ask, the understanding is that parishes in interregnum continue to pay their pledge. We should remember that every parish not paying its fair share is, in effect relying on other parishes to bail them out.
- The costs of operating the Brassey Centre increased this year, but so did the income. As a result, the net cost of the Brassey Centre to the PCC reduced (see note 12),
- Parish Administration costs reduced by 8% which is
  noteworthy at a time when pay and prices continued to rise.
  we incurred costs of £84.90 a reasonable increase on last year of only 1.4%

Our Funds

Unrestricted General Fund: available to the PCC for any purpose. These stood at only £24.1k at the end of last year.

Designated Funds: monies set aside by the PCC for specific purposes or projects but may be released to the General Fund by the PCC at any time. These stood at £424.5k at the end of the year. However, this is £400K as the assessed value of the Avenue which yielded an important rent of £13.2k unchanged this year, The other designated funds amount to £24.5k (Legacy Fund £11,2k, Church Repair Fund £9.7k and £4.6k 140 The Avenue Repair Fund},

Restricted Funds: must be used solely for the purpose for which they were raised or given

At the end of 2025 we £95.2k in restricted Fund. The largest is the Fabric Fund holding £63,7k. For the complete list with details please see the page headed "Statement of Funds" in the Annual Accounts. Note the group of funds relating to a variety of our community projects, largely from grants received for these purposes. Also note the Sequestration Account: This is a special account set up when there is a vacancy to handle monies received or spent on behalf of the Benefice of the Vicar of Aylesford, for example. fees due to the Vicar for weddings and funerals. The account will be settled when the vacancy is filled

140 The Avenue

The PCC investigated the correct ownership of 140 The Avenue with a view to establishing if there is an equity that could be released to our funds. It was decide, however, especially as we were entering an interregnum, not to proceed any further with this but it is good to note that the ownership of the property has been established as being with the PCC of Aylesford Church

Prospects for 2026

Excluding the generous donation, our routine expenditure surpassed routine income by £14.3 during the year. If current conditions were to persist in 2026, we would have a monthly deficit of £1.3k which is not tolerable.

Costs seem to have been well controlled during 2025. There are always cost savings to be found in any organisation but the prospects for 2026 look more difficult with inflation rising**. Increasing income must be the priority.**

Giving, especially planned giving, is the bedrock of most parish church's finances. A positive straw in the wind for us is that planned giving had risen in December 2025 to a level equivalent to £33.7k a year or £3.4k better than 2025. That could be nurtured and built up by a simple monthly reporting of the financial position to the congregation, with thanksgiving. Those could be done quickly to raise awareness of the need and encourage giving without a time demanding stewardship campaign.

The housing market is very uncertain at the moment The rent on 140 The Avenue (unchanged during 2025}, will need to be kept under close review. there may be an opportunity to increase it but there are complications and risks to evaluate.

Reserves Policy 2023

By Gordon Hunt (Former Treasurer and at the request of the PCC)

In addition to money designated for specific purposes including investments, it is the policy of the PCC to maintain (if possible) a balance of Liquid Unrestricted Funds which equates to four months Unrestricted Expenses, to be available to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For 2025, four months Unrestricted Expenses amounted to circa £28,300. Our Actual balance of Liquid Unrestricted Funds amounts to £24,085. This is a little under that required by our policy and highlights the concerns with the depletion of our reserves. This deficiency could be rectified if the PCC were to reduce one or more designated funds by circa £4,300.

Annual Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

By Desmond Nolan

Since April 2025 the Church has been in Interregnum and so decisions with regard to any repairs and refurbishment, have been decided in conjunction with the PCC, Fabric Committee and Rochester DACS

With regard to outstanding issues highlighted in the Quinquennial Report (20230) several areas with regard to church maintenance and repair continued to remained on hold

However. in Autumn 2025 a builder Mr Lees Pendergast of All Church Maidstone based in Bromley. gave us a quote to address most of the recommendations within the report, and this also included a complete repaint of the inside of the church using Lime Wash paint as directed by Rochester Diocese DACS Committee.

The proposed works were unanimously approved by the members of Aylesford PCC.

It was suggested that refurbishment of the Church commence in early spring 2026 during a quieter period for the Liturgical Church Year i.e. following Easter 26. Permission would also need to be obtained in form the Bishop of Rochester to close the church during the duration of the works and permission also to move church services to the Church Brassey Centre. It might be worth noting that permission was given for both of these alterations once dates were known early this year (26).

<u>The main areas highlighted by the Quinquennial report and which are scheduled for repair include:</u>

Repair of Plasterwork in the Sanctuary

Repointing of the outside wall of the Sanctuary using Lime based materials

Repair of hole in ceiling fabric above the main Altar in the Sanctuary

To rod accessible gullies

Repair areas of damaged plasterwork, particularly above an arch in the Nave opposite the door to the Vestry

A complete repaint of the inside fabric of the church would also be carried out using Lime wash paint. It was also recommended and approved that the Church radiators would also be included in the refurbishment

The Church Organ would also need to be covered during the duration of Church closure and refurbishment

Repairs : 2025

Repair to storm damaged guttering - West side of Vestry (January 2025)

Replacement of Church Tower Iron down pipe (November 2025)

<u>Inspections</u>

All Statuary checks were carried out as due i.e., GAS Safety check and an Annual Inspection of Fire Equipment County Fire Protection (September 2025)

Fire notices were also renewed in the Church and Tower and Brassey Ca=entre

<u>Church car park</u>

The demand for parking in the small church car park continued in 2025 from school teachers and others visiting the church. However, the car park was beginning to show signs of wear and as a result a few potholes have developed which will need attention in the New Year

The issue of parking generally it was felt was ripe for discussion with regard the numbers wishing to use the car park. and also, with regard to the number of people (mainly teaching staff of the nearby school) parking in the vicarage drive, thereby restricting access to the vicarage. It was decided to seek to clarify the situation with the Diocese at the earliest opportunity with a view to a way forward

Memorial

In memory of Andy Brown a long-time parishioner of the church, and at the request of his relatives, a Rowan Tree and small plaque was added to the churchyard near to the war memorial, when permission was granted by Rochester Diocese DAC Committee

Church AV System

With regards to the acquisition of a new AV System for the church, the PCC decided to put this on hold until a new Incumbent was appointed

Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee welcomed three new members who to its numbers: Kevin Kings, James Lloyd and Des Nolan. who will prove to be an asset to the team

Deanery Synod 2025

The Deanery Synod provides for parishes to channel their views to the Diocesan Synod and implements decisions made by the General Synod. During 2025 our representatives were Revd Ruth Peet (until April 2025), Tania Dosoruth and Desmond Nolan. Danielle Pearson-Smith remains in post as our Area Dean.

Deanery Synod meetings took place on 4 February 2025, 13 May 2025 and 6 October 2025 at Mereworth, Snodland and Larkfield respectively.

The meetings this year were focused on the new Vision and Strategy of the Diocese of Rochester, with presentations by Matthew Girt, the Diocesan Secretary and Bishop Jonathan on 13 May 2025 on this topic. The key objectives of the Diocese's vision are to grow missional churches, with missional leaders and missional disciples, that are creating a safe and healthy culture for all; growing younger and more diverse; growing spiritually and numerically; impacting their communities; releasing financial resources for mission and planting and growing new missional churches.

Other topics that were covered included environmental issues and Eco Church works and Safeguarding. There has also been a number of discussions regarding vacancies and re-organisation and the financial pressures facing a number of churches in the Deanery.

The meetings for 2026 are due to take place 9 February 2026 (TBC), 16 June 2026 (Leybourne) and 7 October 2026 (Barming).

PCC ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31 December 2025

SS Peter & Paul, Aylesford

Accruals Accounts using SORP 2015

Year Ending 31st December 2025

SS Peter & Paul, Aylesford

Accruals Accounts using SORP 2015

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SS PETER & PAUL, AYLESFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary income	2a	83,555		29,096	**112,651**	89,382
Activities for generating funds	2b	5,107			**5,107**	6,702
Income from investments	2c	15,420	1,308		**16,728**	16,607
Church activities	2d	4,921		2,561	**7,482**	5,046
Other incoming resources	2e			2,030	**2,030**	
Total income		109,003	1,308	33,687	**143,998**	117,737
Expenditure						
Church activities	3a	83,226		25,108	**108,334**	105,339
Raising Funds	3b	75			**75**	1,003
Investment Management Costs	3c	1,616	1,365		**2,981**	1,510
Total expenditure		84,918	1,365	25,108	**111,390**	107,852
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		24,086	(57)	8,579	**32,607**	9,885
Net gains on investments						
Net income/(expenditure)		24,086	(57)	8,579	**32,607**	9,884
Transfers between funds						
Net movement in funds		24,086	(57)	8,579	32,607	9,884
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2025			425,548	86,666	**512,214**	502,329
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2025		24,086	425,490	95,245	**544,821**	512,214

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SS PETER & PAUL, AYLESFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 for Comparative purposes

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £
Income and Endowments					
Voluntary income	2a	49,238	0	40,144	**89,382**
Activities for generating funds	2b	6,702	0	0	**6,702**
Income from investments	2c	15,666	941	0	**16,606**
Church activities	2d	5,046	0	0	**5,046**
Other incoming resources	2e	0	0	0	**0**
Total income		76,653	941	40,144	**117,737**
Expenditure					
Church activities	3a	91,197	0	14,142	**105,339**
Raising Funds	3b	1,003	0	0	**1,003**
Investment Management Costs	3c	1,510	0	0	**1,510**
Total expenditure		93,710	0	14,142	**107,852**
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		(17,057)	941	26,001	**9,885**
Net gains on investments		0	0	0	**0**
Net income/(expenditure)		(17,057)	941	26,001	**9,885**
Transfers between funds		17,057	(17,777)	720	**0**
Net movement in funds		0	(16,836)	26,721	**9,885**
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2024		0	442,384	59,945	**502,328**
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2024		0	425,548	86,666	**512,214**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SS PETER & PAUL, AYLESFORD

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes		2025	2024
			£	£
Fixed assets				
Investment Assets	5		400,000	400,000
Investments	6			
Total fixed assets			400,000	400,000
Current assets				
Debtors	8	1,720		1,557
Short term deposits		144,166		109,675
Cash at bank and in hand		40		2,776
		145,927		114,008
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	-1,106		-1,794
Net current assets			144,821	112,214
Total assets less current liabilities			544,821	512,214
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9			
NET ASSETS			544,821	512,214

Funds	7		
Unrestricted General Funds	10	24,086	-
Unrestricted Designated Funds	10	425,490	425,548
Restricted funds	10	95,245	86,666
		544,821	512,214

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed on its behalf

Chairman

The accompanying notes form a part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SS PETER & PAUL, AYLESFORD

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

1. Accounting policies

a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2015.

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

b Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

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

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

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

c Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross as far as practicable.

Voluntary Income

Collections are recognised when received.
Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due and receipt is probable.

Income from Investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gains and losses on Investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold
Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation on 31 December.

d *Resources used*
Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.

Grants
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church Activities
The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e **Fixed Assets**

Tangible fixed assets
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2006 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since 2006 have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their useful economic life.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	50% straight line

Investments
Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

f **Current Assets**
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Diocese of Rochester or at the bank

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 Incoming resources

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £
a *Voluntary Income*								
Planned Giving	30,292			30,292	36,740			36,740
Income tax recoverable	5,804			5,804	6,865			6,865
Collections at all services	1,682			1,682	2,142			2,142
Sundry donations and appeals	45,777		15,396	61,173	3,491		31,644	35,135
Grants			13,700	13,700			8,500	8,500
Legacies								
	83,555		29,096	112,651	49,238		40,144	89,382
b *Activities for generating funds*								
General Fundraising	227			227	2,994			2,994
Brassey Centre Lettings (Note 12)	4,880			4,880	3,709			3,709
	5,107			5,107	6,702			6,702
c *Investment income*								
Dividends and interest	2,220	1,308		3,528	2,516	941		3,457
Rent from Property	13,200			13,200	13,150			13,150
	15,420	1,308		16,728	15,666	941		16,607
d *Income from Church Activities*								
Fees from weddings, funerals,etc.	4,921		2,561	7,482	5,046			5,046
	4,921		2,561	7,482	5,046			5,046
e *Other other incoming resources*								
Other Income - Insurance Claim			2,030	2,030				
Grants								
			2,030	2,030				
Total Incoming resources	109,003	1,308	33,687	143,998	76,653	941	40,144	117,737

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 Expenditure

		Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2025 £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £
a	*Church Activities*								
	Missionary and charitable giving:								
	Royal British Legion	45			45	35			35
		45			45	35			35
	Ministry costs:								
	Diocesan Offer	39,449			39,449	38,300			38,300
	Expenses	357			357	600			600
	Vicarage costs	1,586		479	2,065	4,369			4,369
	Other Ministry Costs	161		773	934	578			578
	Church running expenses								
	Utilities	5,286			5,286	6,169			6,169
	Insurance	5,593			5,593	5,909			5,909
	Organ/Piano and other	278			278	652			652
	Church maintenance			11,255	11,255	2,361		6,200	8,561
	Upkeep of Churchyard	440			440	480			480
	Upkeep of services	4,830			4,830	4,674			4,674
	Flowers	258			258	650			650
	Training, Mission and Outreach	108			108	385			385
	Brassey Centre running costs (Note 12)								
	Utilities	3,767		1,436	5,203	4,107		1,829	5,936
	Insurance	435			435	162			162
	Cleaning & Refuse	5,550			5,550	5,376			5,376
	Rent								
	Food Bank			6,678	6,678			2,857	2,857
	Community Hub			3,779	3,779			2,593	2,593
	Dementia Café			707	707			664	664
	Parish Office & Administration	15,084			15,084	16,390			16,390
		83,226		25,108	108,334	91,197		14,142	105,339
b	*Raising Funds*								
	Stewardship costs	75			75	75			75
	General fundraising					928			928
		75			75	1,003			1,003
c	*Investment Management Costs*								
	Rental Property Repairs	136	1,365		1,501	44			44
	Insurance	371			371	357			357
	Agents Fees	1,109			1,109	1,109			1,109
		1,616	1,365		2,981	1,510			1,510
	Total expenditure	84,918	1,365	25,108	111,390	93,710		14,142	107,852

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4 Staff costs

		2025	2024
		£	£
a	*Wages and salaries*	15,894	16,555

During the year the PCC employed an Organist and a Parish Clerk and made PAYE deductions and payments on their behalf.

b *Payments to PCC members and related parties*
Mrs A Keays, a member of the PCC, received remuneration for her role as Parish Adminstrator of £3,194 during 2025 (2024 £8,679). Her husband, Michael, received £2,608 (2024 £2,412) as remuneration for his role as Organist.

No other payments, apart from re-imbursed expenses and small thank you gifts, were made to PCC members.

The total amount of donations to the PCC made by PCC members and related parties in 2025 was £5,720 (incl.Gift Aid), (£6,758 in 2024)

5 Investment Assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL
Market valuation	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	400,000		400,000
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31 December 2024	400,000		400,000

The freehold land and buildings comprises of the rental property at 140 The Avenue, Aylesford and is currently let to a tenant. Wards provided a market value assessment as at 31.12.2024 of £400,000.

6 Investments

The PCC does not currently hold any Investment assets other than 140 The Avenue.

7 Analysis of Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Fixed assets for church use								
Investment fixed assets		400,000		**400,000**		400,000		400,000
Current assets	25,071	25,490	95,366	**145,927**	1,091	25,548	87,369	114,008
Current liabilities	-985		-121	**-1,106**	-1,091		-703	-1,794
Long term liabilities								
	24,086	**425,490**	**95,245**	**544,821**		**425,548**	**86,666**	512,214

8 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Income tax recoverable - General Fund	**1,305**	1,557
Prepayments and accrued income	**415**	
	1,720	1,557

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
IE Fee	**435**	415
Rent in received in advance	**650**	550
Other Expenses	**121**	313
PAYE Liability/Repayment		126
DBF Fees		258
Hand Bell Ringers Funds		132
	1,106	1,794

Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

2025 £	2024 £
nil	nil

10 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gains	Transfers between funds	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2024	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gains	Transfers between funds	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Fund												
General fund	0	109,003	-84,918	0	0	24,086	0	76,653	-93,710	0	17,057	0
	0	109,003	-84,918		0	24,086	0	76,653	-93,710		17,057	0
Unrestricted Designated Funds												
140 The Avenue Repair Fund	5,990	0	-1,365		0	4,625	5,990	0	0		0	5,990
140 The Avenue Property Fund	400,000	0	0	0	0	400,000	400,000	0	0	0	0	400,000
Church Repair Fund	8,404	1,303	0		0	9,711	7,463	941	0		0	8,404
Legacy Fund	11,154	0	0		0	11,154	28,931	0	0		-17,777	11,154
	425,548	1,303	-1,365	0	0	425,490	442,384	941	0	0	-17,777	425,548
Restricted Fund												
Organ Fund	2,272	0	0		0	2,272	2,272	0	0		0	2,272
Youth Choir Fund	1,067	0	0		0	1,067	0	1,067	0		0	1,067
Fabric Fund	62,954	12,030	-11,255		0	63,729	44,154	25,000	-6,200		0	62,954
Community Hub/Warm Space Fund	4,752	3,927	-4,537		0	4,142	1,025	7,234	-3,507		0	4,752
Sequestration Account	0	2,561	-1,252		0	1,309	0	0	0		0	0
Community Engagement	6,195	8,800	0		0	14,995	5,445	750	0		0	6,195
Audio Visual Fund	720	0	0		0	720	0	0	0		720	720
Dementia Café	634	937	-707		0	864	281	1,017	-664		0	634
Food Bank	8,073	5,432	-7,357		0	6,147	6,769	5,075	-3,772		0	8,073
	86,666	33,687	-25,108	0	0	95,245	59,945	40,144	-14,142	0	720	86,666
Total funds	512,214	143,998	-111,390	0	0	544,821	502,328	117,737	-107,852	0	0	512,214

The 140 Avenue Repair Fund is for monies ring-fenced by the PCC for repairs to this property.

The 140 The Avenue Property Fund represents the market value of the property.

The Church Repair Fund is for monies ring-fenced by the PCC for Church repairs.

The Legacy Fund was set up in 2017 to ring-fence the monies received from the Mr B Eddy legacy.
It is intended to spend this mainly on church repairs and some on music resources.

The Youth Choir Fund - these monies will be returned to the Junior Choir once they have set-up their independent bank account

The Restricted Organ Fund is for monies raised or donated towards future maintenance costs of the Church organ.

The Restricted Fabric Fund is for monies raised or donated towards future maintenance costs of the Church

The Restricted Community Engagement Fund is for monies raised or donated towards the Church's Community Engagement Projects listed below. The monies can be split between those projects at the discretion of the PCC.

The Restricted Food Bank Fund is for monies raised or donated towards the setting up and running of the Church's Food Bank.

The Restricted Community Hub/Warm Space Fund is for monies raised or donated towards the setting up and running of the Church's Community Hub/Warm Space..

The Audio Visual Fund is for monies raised or donated towards improving the Churchs AV system.

The Restricted Dementia Cafe Fund is for monies raised or donated towards the setting up and running of the Church's Dementia Cafe.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11 Conduit Funds (Agency Collections)

These are funds received by the PCC on behalf of others i.e. as a result of a special collection for a charity. They are not PCC funds and are not included in income or expenditure but are given in this note for information. Please note that these figures do not include cheques received but made out in favour of the charity; these were passed on to the organization involved.

	£
ServKent	120
Involve Kent	131
Family Trust	121
	371

12 Brassey Centre

These activities attract income and expenditure and the respective net positions are set out below for informaton.

Brassey Centre

	2025	2024
Income	4,880	3,709
Expenditure	9,751	9,646
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(4,871)	(5,937)

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Supporting Charitable Organisations

24 April 2026

Independent Examiner's report to the Member/Trustees of St Peter and St Paul Aylesford

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on the pages following.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Burt

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Yours sincerely



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