ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SHEERING

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 FOR ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SHEERING

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1149115

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SHEERING

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Sheering. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Broomfields, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7EH.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity number 1149115).

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date this Report was approved are:

Incumbent:	The Revd Sophie Weller
Chair:	The Revd Sophie Weller
Vice Chair:	Mrs Jane Potter
Wardens:	Mrs Jane Potter
Secretary:	Mrs Elsie Baker
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Mrs Jane Potter Mrs Fiona Klimcke (Ex officio)
Elected members:	Mrs Barbara Aylmer Mrs Elsie Baker Dr Nandiran Ratnavel
Co-opted members:	Mrs Niki Fletcher (since 1 December 2025)
Ex officio member:	Mrs Fiona Klimcke

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Acting Treasurer:	Mrs Jean Franks
Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc Leicester, LE87 2BB
	National Westminster Bank Plc 12 The Rows Harlow Essex. CM20 1BZ
Independent examiner:	Rev Malcolm Green BA (Hons) 5 The Gowers Harlow Essex CM20 2JP.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Church is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation rules that came into force in 2020 and subsequent amendments.

Structure:

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

Objectives and activities:

St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Room and grounds.

Committees:

The PCC operates through committees and receives reports and advice from various groups which may meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee: This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee:
Oversees the general finance dimension of the work of St Mary's by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and co-ordinating the annual review of the Christian Stewardship of money through planned giving.

Fabric Committee: Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of plant, such as the church buildings and fabric, the churchyard (including overseeing the implementation of the Diocesan churchyard regulations).

Church attendance:

The Parish Count in October averaged 20 adults and 0 children per Sunday.

Review of the year

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 87%.

Committees met between meetings, and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed.

The Church was used throughout the year for 6 baptisms and 2 funerals.

Harvest was celebrated over the weekend of 13/14 September 2025 with teas and stalls in the Church Room and a service in Church with harvest gifts donated to Harlow Foodbank and Streets2Homes. At that service bibles were presented to children from the Reception Class at Sheering School.

St Mary's Brass provided the music for A Christmas Singalong with Mulled Wine in the Village Hall on 6th December (£300 sent to Crisis at Christmas); and also played Christmas music at an event in The Cock Inn.
A Christmas card in Church raised £91 for Crisis at Christmas. The offering from the Christingle Service (£38) was sent to The Children's Society. Friends of St. Mary's hosted one fund-raising event, a quiz in the Village Hall.and raised £839 for Church funds.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SHEERING

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Financial review (detailed in the Financial Statements)

Income
Total Income for the year was £34,857 (unrestricted) and £4,822 (restricted).

Expenditure
Total expenditure for the year was £30,431 expended from general funds and £4,660 expended from restricted funds.

The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £4,426 in our unrestricted funds. However, £5,000 from our General fund was used to repay our car park re-surfacing loan and this together with some small adjustments meant that the balance of our unrestricted funds decreased from £11,338 at the end of the last financial year to £10,713 at the end of this financial year.

The charitable giving for the year amounted to £768.

The ongoing Parish Share contribution (for Diocesan provision) represents a significant challenge, and the PCC continues in its endeavours to meet this in order that the work of spreading the good news of Jesus can continue to be effective and relevant in our Parish. Our Parish Share contribution during the year was £17,400 and we expect to maintain our current contribution for 2026.

Public benefit statement
In shaping the Church's objectives and planning the activities, the PCC members have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

A thank you to all.

Finally, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to express thanks once again to the congregation for their continuing financial support during 2025 which has been another very challenging year in both our Church and in the wider world due to continuing unease around the world and the financial pressures in the wider economy. I would also like to express thanks to everybody who helps with the smooth running of St. Mary's finances, particularly Philip Taylor who has supported the Acting Treasurer in her role, and whose invaluable help was greatly relied upon; Philip Taylor, together with Jean Franks and myself who make up our finance committee; Philip Taylor helping with monitoring the accounts; Vernon Baker and Philip Taylor who help to look after collections; and Elsie Baker who oversees the finances for Friends of St. Mary's.
A special thanks is also extended to our Independent Examiner, the Reverend Malcolm Green who audits our accounts annually without charge. His generosity and support are very much appreciated.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on …… and signed on its behalf by:

……
Mrs Jane Potter
Vice Chair of the PCC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SHEERING

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Mary the Virgin, Sheering
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary the Virgin, Sheering (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed…….. Date…….

Rev M Green
Independent Examiner

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2025	2024 total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	33,447		4,822		38,269	35,401
Income from charitable activities	815				815	669
Investments	595				595	581
Total income	34,857		4,822		39,679	36,651
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	130		9		139	20
Expenditure on charitable activities	30,302		4,151		34,452	39,238
Other expenditure			500		500	498
Total expenditure	30,431		4,660		35,091	39,757
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	4,426		162		4,588	(3,106)
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	53	5,000	5,104		10,156	1,002
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5,104)	(5,000)	(53)		(10,156)	(1,002)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets						479
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use				(856)	(856)	
Net movement in funds	(625)		5,213	(856)	3,732	(2,627)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	11,338		(1,565)	21,412	31,184	33,811
Total funds carried forward	10,713		3,647	20,556	34,916	31,184

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Assets			20,556	20,556	21,412
			20,556	20,556	21,412
Current assets					
Debtors	1,688	255		1,944	664
Cash At Bank And In Hand	9,815	5,742		15,557	17,074
	11,503	5,997		17,500	17,738
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	790	2,350		3,140	7,965
	790	2,350		3,140	7,965
Net current assets less current liabilities	10,713	3,647		14,361	9,773
Total assets less current liabilities	10,713	3,647	20,556	34,916	31,184
Liabilities					
Total net assets less liabilities	10,713	3,647	20,556	34,916	31,184
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
Unrestricted - General Fund	10,713			10,713	11,338
Designated					
Restricted					
Restricted - Bureau Costs Reserve		501		501	1,002
Restricted - Flower Fund		100		100	159
Restricted - Friends Of St Mary's		5,396		5,396	(2,726)
Restricted - Revaluation reserves		(2,350)		(2,350)	
Endowment					
Endowment - Scoones Bequest			8,591	8,591	8,948
Endowment - Williams Bequest			11,965	11,965	12,463
Fund Totals	10,713	3,647	20,556	34,916	31,184

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1. Statutory Information

St Mary the Virgin is an unincorporated charity, registered in the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sheering. The principal office is detailed on page 1 of the financial statements. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. The financial statements comply with section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP(FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practises applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accurate basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the yearend date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Investments

Investments comprise a managed investment fund. Investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Restricted	Total 2025	2024
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies				
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	3,746	930	4,676	5,091
0201 - Other planned giving	8,123	120	8,243	10,948
0301 - Loose plate collections	1,840		1,840	1,479
0410 - Giving through church boxes				154
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	6,038		6,038	214
0550 - Donations appeals etc	482	2,182	2,664	7,869
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	6,986	255	7,241	2,024
0701 – Legacies	5,083		5,083	6,180
0901 - Other funds generated	1,150	1,335	2,485	1,442
Donations and legacies Totals	**33,447**	**4,822**	**38,269**	**35,401**
Income from charitable activities				
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	815		815	669
Income from charitable activities Totals	**815**		**815**	**669**
Investments				
1001 – Dividends	595		595	581
Investments Totals	**595**		**595**	**581**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**34,857**	**4,822**	**39,679**	**36,651**

The charity also receives fees for weddings, funerals and other related services, in its capacity as agent, on behalf of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance and other service providers. Neither these receipts nor their subsequent payments are recognised in income and expenditure.

(Expenditure appears on the next page)

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Restricted	Total 2025	2024
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	130	9	139	20
Raising funds Totals	**130**	**9**	**139**	**20**
Expenditure on charitable activities				
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies				139
1850 - Home mission	328		328	
1870 - Secular charities	540		540	(67)
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	17,400		17,400	17,336
2001 - Assistant staff costs				6
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	2,307		2,307	2,359
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent				157
2150 - Vicar's telephone				52
2301 - Church running - insurance	3,163		3,163	3,060
2330 - Church maintenance	487	1,130	1,617	1,679
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,556	59	1,615	1,795
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard		2,962	2,962	33
2360 - Administration	1,439		1,439	682
2401 - Church running - electric	1,608		1,608	1,539
2420 - Church running - water	112		112	245
2530 - Hall running - electricity	1,362		1,362	464
2560 - Hall running - maintenance				9,760
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**30,302**	**4,151**	**34,452**	**39,238**
Other expenditure				
2051 - Payroll Bureau costs		500	500	498
Other expenditure Totals		**500**	**500**	**498**
Expenditure Grand totals	**30,431**	**4,660**	**35,091**	**39,757**
Grand Total (Income less Expenditure)	**4,426**	**162**	**4,588**	**(3,106)**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2025

Class and nominal code	General (Unrestricted)	Restricted	Endow-ment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets					
6430: Williams Bequest			11,965	11,965	12,463
6431: Scoones Bequest			8,591	8,591	8,948
Total			**20,556**	**20,556**	**21,412**
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand					
6501: Bank current account	9,815	532		10,347	11,710
6505: Bank Friends account		5,110		5,110	5,204
6590: Cash in hand		100		100	159
Total	**9,815**	**5,742**		**15,557**	**17,074**
Current Asset – Debtors					
Z05: Accounts Receivable	1,688	255		1,944	664
Total	**1,688**	**255**		**1,944**	**664**
Liability - Agency Accounts					
6699: Agency collections					75
Total					**75**
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year					
6601: Loans received					7,650
Z04: Accounts Payable	790	2,350		3,140	241
Total	**790**	**2,350**		**3,140**	**7,891**
Net total assets	**10,713**	**3,647**	**20,556**	**34,916**	**31,184**

The PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Sheering
Fund movement summary
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund balances Carried forward
BureauFnd -Restricted	1,002		500			501
Flower Fund - Restricted	159		59			100
Friends' Fund - Restricted	(2,726)	4,822	1,751	5,051		5,396
Scoones - Endowment	8,948				(358)	8,591
Williams - Endowment	12,463				(498)	11,965
General Fund - Unrestricted	11,338	34,857	30,431	(5,051)		10,713
Accrual - Restricted			2,350			(2,350)
Totals	**31,184**	**39,679**	**35,091**		**(856)**	**34,916**