Priest-in-Charge Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Parish of All Saints, Birchington

May 2026

This report reflects on the life, ministry and mission of the Parish of All Saints, Birchington during the past year, considers the challenges we face, and outlines priorities for the future as we seek to serve Christ faithfully within our changing community.

Our Parish Context

The parish serves a population of approximately 10,400 people across Birchington. Census data highlights the demographic realities that shape our ministry, including a significant proportion of older residents. These demographic trends influence every aspect of parish life, from patterns of worship attendance and volunteering to pastoral care and financial sustainability.

Like many churches across England, we are ministering within a society undergoing profound cultural and religious change. Sociologist David Voas has observed that each successive generation is becoming less religious in terms of belief, attendance and affiliation. This reality increasingly shapes the environment in which we seek to proclaim the Gospel and nurture discipleship. While this trend presents challenges, it also calls us to renewed creativity, confidence and faithfulness in our mission.

The words of Jesus that “the workers are few” remain particularly relevant to our parish situation. We are blessed by the dedication of many volunteers who give generously of their time, talents and energy. However, many of those carrying significant responsibilities are themselves growing older. At the same time, the demands placed upon churches continue to increase through safeguarding requirements, governance expectations, administrative responsibilities, building maintenance and community engagement.

Financial pressures remain a major concern. Parish Share arrears currently stand at £119,300. This presents a significant challenge and requires careful consideration of how we secure the long-term sustainability of ministry within the parish. Questions concerning future viability and the possibility of pastoral reorganisation cannot be ignored. Alongside these financial concerns are the ongoing demands associated with maintaining and developing our church buildings and estate.

These realities are not unique to Birchington, but they require us to think carefully about how we prioritise resources and shape our mission in the years ahead.

Our Mission Framework

Our life together continues to be guided by the simple mission framework of "Up, In and Out". This framework helps us maintain a healthy balance between worship, fellowship and outreach.

"Up" focuses on our relationship with God through worship, prayer, discipleship and spiritual growth. Every initiative undertaken by the parish must ultimately serve this purpose, helping people deepen their faith and encounter Christ more fully.

"In" reflects our commitment to building a strong Christian community. We seek to encourage mutual support, fellowship, learning and pastoral care so that members of the congregation grow together as the Body of Christ.

"Out" expresses our calling to engage with the wider community, share the Gospel and demonstrate God's love through practical service and mission.

This framework has continued to shape decision-making and planning throughout the year.

Responding to the Diocesan Vision

The Diocese of Canterbury has identified three bold outcomes for the future: Revitalisation, Young Disciples and New Christian Communities. These priorities provide a helpful framework for evaluating our progress and discerning where God may be leading us next.

Revitalisation

A number of encouraging developments have taken place under the theme of revitalisation.

The establishment of a Mission Hub as a PCC sub-committee has been completed and is providing greater focus for missional activity. Similarly, a parish-wide Spirituality Group has been established and continues to support growth in prayer, reflection and discipleship. Both initiatives represent significant investments in the spiritual life of the parish.

Our partnership with Birchington Church of England Primary School remains one of the strongest and most fruitful aspects of parish life. Strong relationships between church and school continue to provide opportunities for witness, ministry and community engagement.

During the year we successfully introduced an all-age café-style Sunday service. This initiative has broadened the range of worship opportunities available and created a more accessible environment for families and those unfamiliar with traditional church worship. Work remains ongoing to strengthen and develop this ministry further. Plans to establish an all-age Eucharist remain under consideration and will be carried forward into future planning.

Significant attention has also been given to buildings and estate management. Work continues to implement outcomes arising from consultations regarding church buildings and facilities. Progress relating to St Mildred's has been made, while future plans concerning St Thomas Church continue to be developed. Further work is also ongoing regarding hall usage, capital projects and maintenance priorities.

Grant applications relating to the All Saints spire, roofing infrastructure and potential reordering projects continue to be pursued. These projects will be essential in

ensuring that our buildings remain fit for purpose and capable of supporting mission and ministry into the future.

Financial stewardship also remains a priority. Fundraising activities continue, alongside efforts to encourage greater generosity across the parish. Work is underway to develop an investment strategy that will support long-term sustainability while enabling resources to be deployed effectively in support of mission.

Young Disciples

Developing ministry among children and young people remains central to our mission.

Our strong relationship with Birchington Church of England Primary School continues to provide a wide range of opportunities for engagement. The "Together" worship service remains established and valued. Supper Club continues to provide an important point of contact with families, whilst lunchtime prayer groups offer opportunities for spiritual exploration within the school environment. Collective worship, both leading and evaluating, remains an important area of involvement.

Church visits supporting the school curriculum continue to be highly valued. These include opportunities for pupils to learn about baptism, marriage, the Eucharist, church architecture and the churchyard. Such visits enable children to engage directly with Christian faith and practice in meaningful and memorable ways.

The church also continues to support the school through Foundation Governors whose commitment contributes significantly to maintaining and strengthening the Christian ethos of the school.

Not every initiative has achieved the hoped-for outcomes. The Messy Church Club has been discontinued, while plans for a youth choir and a transition club for children moving from primary to secondary education require further work and development. Attempts to establish an intergenerational club have so far generated limited interest. These experiences remind us that mission often involves experimentation and learning as well as success.

Within parish life, Junior Church continues to play an important role in nurturing faith among younger members of the congregation. Future efforts may need to focus upon increased publicity and visibility to ensure that families are aware of the opportunities available.

New Christian Communities

Alongside traditional congregational life, the parish has sought to nurture new forms of Christian community.

Initiatives such as Supper Club, Together services and Pastoral Friends continue to create opportunities for people to connect, belong and explore faith in informal settings. These ministries often engage people who may not participate regularly in traditional forms of church life.

Particularly encouraging has been the establishment of the Iona Community Network. This initiative reflects growing interest in spirituality, prayer and Christian community beyond conventional parish structures.

The Spirituality Group and Mission Hub continue to provide spaces where faith can be explored and developed. Although plans for a dedicated contemplative prayer group have not yet been realised, interest in deeper forms of prayer and reflection remains evident. Care home ministry also offers opportunities for future growth and development.

Looking Forward: Understanding Generational Change

One of the most important considerations for the future is the changing generational profile of society.

Each generation has been shaped by different social, cultural and technological experiences. Understanding these differences is essential if the Church is to communicate effectively and remain relevant while remaining faithful to the Gospel.

Particular attention needs to be given to Generation Z, broadly defined as those born between 1997 and 2012. This generation has grown up in a deeply digital culture. They are highly connected through technology and tend to place a high value on authenticity, transparency and purpose. Many are concerned about issues such as justice, inclusion and mental wellbeing. They often display lower levels of trust in formal institutions while remaining open to questions of faith and spirituality.

For the Church, this presents both challenges and opportunities. Traditional Sunday worship alone is unlikely to engage significant numbers of younger people. Instead, relational approaches, opportunities for participation and flexible forms of community are increasingly important.

Generation Z seeks belonging and meaningful engagement. They are often attracted to communities where they can contribute, serve and make a difference. This suggests opportunities for the church through volunteering, music, wellbeing initiatives, social action projects and creative forms of gathering. The challenge before us is to discover how timeless Christian truth can be communicated within a rapidly changing culture.

This does not require abandoning tradition. Rather, it calls us to present the Gospel in ways that speak clearly and meaningfully to contemporary generations while remaining rooted in the faith we have received.

Thanksgiving

No report on parish life would be complete without expressing gratitude to the many people whose faithful service enables the life and ministry of our churches to flourish.

Thanks are due to our churchwardens, Mia our Parish and Booking Administrator, members of the PCC and Standing Committee, the Ministry Team, the Fundraising Group, Sara as Treasurer and Junior Church leader, Sue for her support of Junior Church, Geoff as Verger and Electoral Roll Officer, Tim as Director of Music and PCC Secretary, Chris as organist at St Thomas Church, the choir, bell ringers, sides

people, flower arrangers, Christmas Tree Festival organisers, intercessors, Bible readers, hospitality volunteers, the All Saints cleaning team, volunteers involved in Pastoral Friends lunches and coffee mornings, members of various church committees and our Deanery Synod representatives. Most importantly, thanks are due to every member of the congregation who contributes to our common life together in ways both seen and unseen.

Conclusion

The past year has combined challenge with encouragement. We continue to face demographic change, financial pressures, volunteer shortages and the complex demands of maintaining church buildings and sustaining ministry. Yet there are also genuine reasons for hope.

New initiatives have been established, partnerships have been strengthened, opportunities for discipleship have expanded and the parish continues to serve its community with commitment and faithfulness. Most importantly, God continues to be at work among us.

The key question before us is how we will respond to a changing world while remaining faithful to the mission Christ has entrusted to the Church. The answer will require prayer, courage, adaptability and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. It will require us to invest in younger generations, build vibrant Christian community and remain attentive to where God is leading us.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope. Trusting in God's faithfulness, we continue our calling to worship, grow and serve together for the glory of God and the good of our community.

The Reverend Mark Ham
Priest-in-Charge
The Parish of All Saints, Birchington

Churchwardens' Report (Fabric)

Once again the year proved to be a busy one for your churchwardens as the Parish sold St Mildred's to be used as a community hub with us having access to the building for Morning Prayer and special services such as Carol services, Harvest Festivals and Patronal Festivals. The first service was held on Christmas Eve with over 100 people squashed into the building. There was also Community Carols followed by a soup supper held in the Village hall at the beginning of December.
For the majority of the year, we had four buildings to care for and the Churchyard. We have devised a inspection sheet for each of these areas so that we know that someone has checked the building and so do those hiring the buildings. One of us inspects at the start of the week, and the other at the latter end of the week.
All Saints Church: January 2025 – heating not adequate, turned up and all radiators turned up, crack in pew repaired, new light outside vestry door put in place, repainting of choir vestry after roof leak, lights out side boiler room replaced, Vestry tap descaled. February – Lightning Conductor inspected, carpet glued down, Vestry leak repaired. March - Candle sticks and Chalice and Paten purchased for use in the Quex Chapel. April – PAT Testing completed, Consultant appointed to prepare lottery bids for reordering, Kettles/urns de scaled. October – Boiler/heating annual inspection, Flower stand with plaque in memory of Stanley and Eileen Thompson agreed with PCC- family to arrange purchase, Tile, near altar re cemented in place, October – Boiler/heating annual inspection. December – Project Architect appointed for reordering of All Saints project, boiler broke down week before Christmas(not repaired until 30 mins before Christingle!)
Church House: January 2025 - Dip in the carpark filled in, urinals replaced, Electrical inspection and asbestos removed – all clear and successful inspection, heating repaired by CS Heating. February – kitchen light bulbs replaced. Essential roof repairs April - PAT Testing completed, CCTV system donated to CH, Kettles/urns de scaled. Remembrance Garden posts repainted. May - pointing repaired in carpark. June – Carpark lines painted. July – 1st Aid boxes inspected/refilled, August - repairs carried out on Lychgate, treated with preservative, notice board in CH updated with new backing. September – new kitchen notice board in place, new lights in CH fitted, Oven professionally cleaned, Cleaner resigns – LB, MH, PS clean until cleaning company are appointed. October – Boiler/heating annual inspection, small amount of trees cut back by TDC, North Kent Cleaning Company start twice a week. November – leaks in CH, flashings needed to be re bedded into wall. Throughout the year the grass outside CH and on the Remembrance Garden is mown.

St Thomas Church: April - PAT Testing completed, kettles/urns de- scaled. July – 1st Aid boxes inspected/refilled, throughout the year lawns maintained, hedges trimmed garden tidied. Cleaning done until Autumn, September - Cleaner resigns – Congregation to organise own cleaning. October – Boiler/heating annual inspection
Kearns Hall: January 2025 – signage moved on wall ready for Inpost box, Hanging diffuser removed from light fitting, mock Food Hygiene inspection. February - Inpost box put in place, Weeding started outside shed, Boiler repaired. April - PAT Testing completed, Mock Food Hygiene inspection plus kitchen tidy, Boiler repairs needed, SU weed kill and pull up weeds outside shed, Kettles/urns de scaled, September – oven professionally cleaned. Cleaner resigns – LB, MH, PS clean until cleaning company are appointed. October – Boiler/heating annual inspection, North Kent Cleaning Company start work once a week

All Saints Church Yard: January 2025 – Rother grave marked off as it is leaning. February – Agreed cleaning of War Memorial. March – Dogs on leads signs put up on gates. April – Churchyard Volunteers Coffee morning, John Bailey inspects condition of the Lychgate remedial repairs treatment advised, teenage boy collapses in Churchyard – LB/MH call ambulance
Allotments: March – 1st inspection of year, April – Allotment meeting, Inspections in May, July, September and October.

There have been many meetings over the year and tasks that were routine maintenance. Services are set up, and cleared up and there is a Churchwarden on duty at most services. We are pleased that we now have a decent cleaning regime in place using North Kent Cleaning services although even after many reminders many of our hirers do not clean up after themselves/ take their rubbish home etc.
The work of the gardener and cleaners are monitored by the Churchwardens.

We are still working to resolve the parking situation in CH Carpark.
Our thanks go to Mark who has been very supportive and hands on which I know is not his role and I hope that next year he does not need to be that extra pair of hands.

Loraine Bant and Paul Seymour, Churchwardens

Estates Committee

In 2025 the Estates Committee met on four occasions and during the meetings tracked any issues brought up by the Churchwardens' Reports across our four buildings and works highlighted by the last Quinquennial Report.

It was decided that as the Reordering project for All Saints Church was starting to pick up speed in its planning, that the Estates Committee would be the group to monitor the works at least initially until the feasibility report had been produced and project management processes agreed.

The Standing Committee no longer reviews the actions of the Churchwardens in relation to the work that they do and the condition of the Church estate. This will be reported and discussed at the Estates Committee and at the PCC meetings. Obviously large works will be discussed at the Standing Committee for funding issues and necessity.

Loraine Bant (Chair of the Estates Committee)

Annual Safeguarding Report

During 2025 there were 6 issues that were reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding team which included two follow up reports for information for our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

All the reports were logged as information and at this stage were not actioned by the DSO.

This year more groups are required to undertake safeguarding training, and I will be contacting these individuals once the APCM is completed.

Loraine Bant (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Birchington CEP School Report

In January 2025, it was excellent news that Louise Wilson, our new Headteacher, joined the school after an operation. Before very long Ofsted had announced that they would be carrying out an inspection on the school, in which we successfully gained a “Good” grading. This was then followed by an announcement that we would have our SIAMs Inspection which saw us gain the higher grade with some excellent feedback and comments. Rev Mark and I were certainly interviewed at depth as Foundation Governors!

The School is now set up in the two more recently built blocks and in a “Village” of mobiles as the main building and the Victorian year 6 block have been evacuated and been knocked down. A new two storey building is to be built, which will be hopefully open by September 2027.

Rev Mark and I have been into the school on Governor visits to see the School at work on many occasions as well as attending Strategic and Full Governing Body meetings. We meet with the Headteacher regularly and with the subject lead for Religious Education and Spirituality. Pupil Voice opportunities are always a highlight of our work in the School.

We enjoy taking the Pupil Prayer group on a Thursday lunchtime and Collective Worships twice a term (about 12 times per year). Our ‘Together’ celebration after school for pupils, siblings, parents/carers/other adult family members and staff has been really rewarding and has led onto the development of ‘Family Together’ in Church House monthly.

The School has increased the number of services they attend and usually lead in Church which is really encouraging. Rev Mark and I are always in attendance as Governors too and often play a part in their services , unless they ask us to lead instead. Equally rewarding, are the ‘curriculum’ sessions – each year group looking at a different aspect of the Church or Occasional Offices and the Eucharist.

I know that everyone likes it when the School produce artwork, poems and prayers for display in All Saints because of the encouraging feedback received.

Supper Club is popular with parent/carers and pupils alike. This gives the adults time to have conversation and the children to play together before the parents/carers serve the food that we have prepared. Thank you to Jean, Yvonne and Jim for all their support with this activity.

We have enjoyed working with ACTS (Active Christianity in Thanet Schools) and Year 5 in Church House for Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked.

Thank you to our congregation members who have donated, for example, Easter eggs, books, money, Christmas gifts as well food and juice for Supper Club. You have been so generous.

The Foundation Governors, Birchington CEP School

Spirituality Group

The Spirituality Group's origins lie in one of those strange coincidences (Albert Einstein once said that 'Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous') when last summer Mark was thinking about a group that could meet to discuss religious and spiritual issues, and Paul and Angela were thinking about a bible study group, and John was thinking about a spirituality group that would look at the different spiritual beliefs of the world's major religions; lots of group possibilities that all coalesced into one Spirituality Group.

It met for the first time on Thursday 6th November last year. It was decided that it would meet fortnightly (this has proved difficult at times due to other church events happening on Thursdays but the group members have proved very adaptable with occasional weekly meetings); it would meet from the autumn through to spring, leaving the summer period free for the usual holiday comings and goings; it would meet away from the formality of church and church house at John and Stuart's, allowing for a 'cosier' atmosphere enabling discussion and member participation, and because of this the membership number would have to be restricted, it is currently at a somewhat 'squeezed' maximum of 16.

Chaired by Paul, the meetings open and close with prayer, and a speaker (usually but not always a member of the group) leads on a particular subject – these have included the idea of pilgrimage, personal journeys as pilgrimage, art, the spirituality of sport, Māori beliefs, reconciliation, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile', and Japanese religion. Attendance remains a constant high with only the odd apology for doctors, dentists, physio and hospital appointments!

The membership has gradually grown to its full capacity and there have been some interesting developments across these first months of its existence. The group was asked to organise a Lent Group for the parish, an alternative to run alongside the one run by BCT, it was decided to revisit the 'I am' statements of Jesus from St John's Gospel over a five-week course. This proved successful with a healthy average attendance of 16 people, with different ministers leading and a lot of group discussion. Building on this the group then devised the Good Friday afternoon meditation; the final hour of Our Lord hanging on the Cross was chosen, with thoughts and prayers on the Seven Last Words being spoken by the group. This meditation in All Saints Church drew 30 people to gather on Good Friday afternoon.

The Spirituality Group is obviously fulfilling a need for those members of the church family who recognise the opportunity it offers to nourish their own spiritual lives, and hopefully their spiritual journeys too.

Plans are in process now to organise the sessions that will start in the autumn with lots of ideas for topics to be discussed. We hope the Spirituality Group will continue to flourish and continue to resource our church life with a deepening spiritual context.

Paul, Angela and John.

Iona Community Network

This group was set up in the Autumn of 2025, and we met twice in the year. It is made up of members from our Parish and across the Diocese.

At the first meeting we held a short service in Church House and shared a simple lunch and discussed what we would like to achieve as a group which included a visit to Iona, a talk from Revd Dr. Jonathan Arnold (Executive Director of the Social Justice Network) and a Christmas celebration.

We held a Christmas celebration on the Incarnation in the Quex Chapel during the week leading up to Christmas 2025, with some beautiful readings and music played for us by one of our members on her harp. This was followed by a bring-and-share lunch in Church House.

We look forward to our activities in 2026.

Rev Mark

The Mission Hub

The members of the Mission Hub are Bernard Taylor (Chairman), Rev. Mark Ham (Mission Co-ordinator), Loraine Bant, Rev Jim Barber, Sara Gower, Mia Ottley (Secretary), and Paul Seymour.

The All Saints Mission Hub held its first meeting on Thursday 11th September 2025 in Church House. The aims and objectives of the Mission Hub were established as follows:

- To discuss, prepare for and produce a new Mission Plan for 26-29.
- To discuss a programme of mission work that can be developed from this meeting and incorporated into our new Mission Plan.

The construction of the new Mission Plan and its aims were discussed, with the aim of formulating a Mission Plan within the context (population, location) of the Parish, in order to best serve our community. Strengths, weaknesses, and things to be kept in mind in the new Mission Plan included:

- Quiet days
- Iona services
- Birchington Churches Together
- Links with care homes and the school
- Supper Club
- Intergenerational Club
- New services
- Changes in music and hymns

- Improving fundraising

One of the recurring items on the Mission Hub agenda is the missionary work supporting children, young people and families throughout the Parish. We have good links already with children and families through Supper Club, Junior Church, and Birchington Church of England Primary School, but wish to strengthen these relationships. In the first meeting, the upcoming 'Family Together' service and its contents and aims were discussed.

Each member was asked to share what they would like to see as Mission Pointers in the Plan, with answers including:

- Inclusivity
- Openness
- Mission inclusive of families
- A living Church with opening and welcoming services
- The feeling of a welcoming Church family the moment you walk through the Church doors

The next meeting was held on Thursday 4th December, 2025. The first two 'Family Together services had been held, with 33 attendees at the first service on Sunday 19th October. There was clear enjoyment from the attendees, who liked the free and relaxed nature. Services were planned for throughout 2026.

St Mildred's and Acol are an important area of focus in the Mission Hub, as despite the sale of the building, the people of Acol are still in our Parish and are our focus. Ten services a year can be given in St Mildred's, allowing us to still connect with Acol parishioners.

Three Mission Markers were established as part of our Mission Plan, which guide focus on what the Parish is able to deliver:

1. Developing the 'Family Together' service
2. Reordering of All Saints Church as a community hub
3. Developing links with more residential care homes

These aims are in addition to the missionary work already carried out in the Parish. The Parish Mission Action Plan had to be submitted by 31st December 2025.

The next meeting was held on Wednesday 11th March 2026. Our Parish Mission Plan has been registered with the Diocese. Bernard arranged to present the work of the Mission Hub so far at the next PCC meeting on Thursday 26th March. Bernard had also written an article about the Mission Hub, which was published in the February edition of 'The Parish and You' magazine.

The first formal service in St Mildred's (after the Christmas services) was held on Sunday 8th March, which was well attended and received. It was noted that the community are very supportive of our continued involvement in Acol, once again highlighting the importance of missionary work in Acol despite the sale of St Mildred's.

Bernard had created a Mission Plan spreadsheet, allowing the Mission Hub to track progress and success of our missionary work, ensuring that the community's needs are being met.

Updates were given on our missionary work with children, young people and families, with the continued success of the 'Family Together' service. Our strong relationship with the Parish primary school was noted through the school Prayer Group, Together in School, and the school's frequent visits to All Saints Church and Church House for services and activities. The Headteacher of the school, Louise Wilson, highlighted these 'excellent links' in her Headteacher's Report.

The recent successes from Open Church were also discussed. The presence of a clergy member each week has greatly helped, with someone coming in to talk every week, with 21 people visiting one week.

The progress of the Reordering of All Saints Church was also discussed, with a Project Architect now appointed and the results of our questionnaire currently being collated, allowing the needs of the community to influence the reordering process.

The next meeting was held on Wednesday 13th May 2026. Our mission work will be recorded in our Mission Plan and reports made to the PCC at their next meeting in July. An additional report can then be communicated to the parish.

Rev Mark Ham (Mission Co-ordinator)

Bernard Taylor (Mission Hub Chairman)

‘Open Church’ at All Saints Church

Volunteers kept All Saints open on every Saturday mornings in 2025 from 1000 to 1200 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for doing so. Although visitor numbers are generally small, having the church open provides a welcome opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer as well as making it accessible to those interested in our architectural heritage or who have past connections with the church.

Because of personal circumstances, the number of volunteers willing to be in All Saints on Saturday mornings declined making it difficult sometimes to have the church open and putting pressure on the remaining volunteers. This situation has continued into 2026 although the pressure has been alleviated by the decision to have a minister present every week.

Dave Alker, Co-ordinator, Open Church, All Saints Church.

Consultative Forum (CoCoa) 2024 Report

This Consultative Forum meets four times a year prior to each PCC meeting. There is no agenda, but the previous notes lead to discussion and then the members have the opportunity to bring up areas of concern and often of celebration.

There is no promise that action will be taken on what is discussed but some items raised are taken forward to the PCC meeting for further debate.

Membership on this committee is by invitation from the Priest-in-Charge. Members of this group are not on any other committee.

Discussions have been constructive and have helped to bring some improvements in the Parish.

Rev Mark Ham, Priest-in-Charge.

Junior Church

Junior Church has continued to meet on a weekly basis apart from the school summer holidays. Our numbers ranged from 2 to 9 per week. Our regular number at the end of 2025 was 5 although there are a few that drop in and out of the group at various times. We are mainly supported by three families.

We continued using the ‘Roots’ books for our work and activities to follow the same lectionary as the church.

Mark joined us on several occasions during the year and was very good in joining in with the craft activities.

Thank you to Sue for her continued help and support every week. Also, thank you to Deirdre for stepping in when needed.

Sara Gower

Pastoral Friends

During 2025, the Pastoral Friends Committee did not physically meet formally, but linked through emails, phone calls and events to cover the events that we were arranging.

We have organised a monthly Pastoral Friends lunch in Kearns Hall and bi-monthly coffee morning in Church House throughout the year.

Visits to Grenham Bay Residential Care Home and Highfields Care Home took place regularly by a number of the team and a monthly Home Communion service took place with hymns readings and prayers.

Members of Pastoral Friends also visited individuals in care homes and their own homes to take Home Communion and/or pastoral support.

Lifts were also offered to church and events such as Singing for WellBeing (an event which is financially supported by the church and by the presence of our Anna Chaplain).

Rev Mark Ham.

Communications

A weekly newsletter has continued to be produced with service type, church and times, Bible readings and the Collects for the next seven days. A prayer list was also included as well as information about forthcoming baptisms, marriages and funerals. Forthcoming events for the diary, and other information about the Parish are also regular features. The newsletter is available in paper form every Sunday at church services and is posted on Facebook, the Parish Website, A Church Near You and is displayed in our church noticeboards.

Our Facebook page is still operative and now has **1,200 members** and is used to post information and messages of encouragement. A Social Media Policy was adopted by the PCC in March 2024 which continues to be in place.

The noticeboards are regularly reviewed and refreshed on a weekly basis.

Articles are placed in the Parish magazine to communicate work that is ongoing in the Parish by the Priest-in-Charge or other individuals. Mia Ottley, our Parish & Booking Administrator, is the Editor and has taken up the role with interest, enthusiasm and we thank you for her commitment.

The Parish Website is ongoing and maintained by Mia.

I acknowledge fully that I do not always get communications right and so please let me know how communications can be improved if you have any views or ideas.

Rev Mark Ham, Priest-in-Charge.

Choir & Organ Report

Despite low numbers since returning after the pandemic, we are still maintaining the tradition of singing either hymns or simple anthems during the Communion almost every week. We help to lead the music at the various combined "Churches Together in Birchington" services. Yet again, the Lessons & Carols service proved very popular and well received and we aim to continue this tradition.

The teething issues with the work on the organ seem to have settled and I remain happy with the outcome. One of the organists who was using the instrument to practice has offered to play a recital later in the year and I hope that we can accommodate this. I remain very grateful to Chris Hedges for his work at St Thomas and hope that we may work more closely in the future, bearing in mind the changes being discussed at present.

On a slight side note, following the comments about hymn choices last year and my subsequent suggestion, I was presented with a list of 200 favourite hymns. Since then, over 125 have been used (an average of roughly 2.5 per service) including all the "TopTen", with just a few sung on more than one occasion. However, I find it interesting to note that, other than on a mere handful of specific occasions (Christmas morning being one such), my means of selecting the hymns from the RSCM "Sunday by Sunday" magazine has not changed; I simply check off the resulting choices against the provided list. Anyway, I hope that everyone has been able to sing at least one of their choices. More will come, although some suggestions do not appear in our hymn book which will obviously hamper things.

Bellringing Report

As in past years, we continued to ring a quarter-peal each Sunday morning whenever possible. Again, many of the methods or variations we have rung were newly-composed for specific reasons (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Deaths, Saints' Days, national events etc.) and named by us – almost 200 now out of a total of over 600 different methods rung altogether.

The Vice-Captain and Secretary have all undertaken the Safeguarding Leadership training with the Captain scheduled to complete it.

Tim Attride

CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

We are a small group of ladies who meet on the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month. The meetings are informal and held in the homes of our members.

In the last year we have had a number of speakers on various subjects such as 'Blood Running,' the Waterloo Tower at Quex, the Theatre Royal and St Mildred's Church.

We continue to support our local charity, the 'Birchington Food Bank' run by the Baptist Church and will be handing over £194.45 to them at a future meeting. We will now be supporting the Blood Runners. An organization which relies completely on volunteers and donations.
We always welcome new women to our talks. Look out for future meetings in the Parish magazine.
Deirdre Elliott

Treasurer's Report

See Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 for the Treasuer's Report.

Parish Fundraising

The fundraising in 2025 ranged from: -

Parish Breakfasts, enjoyed by all, thanks to Rev. Mark and Loraine. In 2025 we held four Parish Breakfasts. Each breakfast started with a full English, and this was followed by a speaker.

Our first speaker was the new Headteacher of our Village Church Primary School, Louise Wilson, who spoke about her role as a Headteacher and the school moving into the future. Tony Walker Banfield was our second speaker who talked about the ambulance service, community and beyond. Our third speaker was from the Fire Service who gave a talk on Fire Safety and finally Max Houghton from the Royal British Legion spoke about the poppy appeal in our Autumn meeting.

Our thanks go to the speakers who freely gave of their time to attend and to all attended, asked questions and donated to the causes that our speaker represented.

Board Game afternoon, March, thanks to Helen and her team.

Tea Dance, May, thanks to Val and Maureen.

Quizzes and Strawberry Tea, June, July & November, thanks to Mike

Table Top Sale in August.

Railway Swing Band Concert, September, thanks to Kath and her team.

Churchyard Tour, October, thanks to Rev. David & Tim.

Christmas Sing-a-long, December, thanks to Rev Peter and Dave.

Book Stall run by Maureen.

Recycling supported by many who drop off their 'treasure' for us to send off.

The 100 Club also continued.

The Fund raising Committee have all played their part in raising funds, a huge thank you for their hard work – you know who you are.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered, helped, attended and taken part of any of our fundraising to raise funds for OUR church.

Sara Gower

PCC Report

The PCC, comprising of 15 members from September 2025 (including Chair, PCC Secretary, Churchwardens and Curate), met xx times in 2025, including one extraordinary meeting, as follows:

26th June 2025, Ordinary meeting, 9 present, 5 apologies.

25th September 2025, Ordinary meeting, 12 present, 3 apologies.

20th November 2025, Ordinary meeting, 12 present, 3 apologies.

22nd January 2026, Ordinary meeting, 13 present, 2 apologies.

24th February 2026, Extraordinary meeting, 10 present, 5 apologies.

26th March 2026, Ordinary meeting, 12 present, 3 apologies.

Matters discussed included:

- Mission Planning;
- Spirituality Group;
- Christmas and Easter Church services;
- Open Church;
- Legacy Policy;
- Martyn's Law;
- Car parking;
- Finances, including Total Return on Investments;
- Safeguarding;
- General maintenance and repair to all buildings, PAT testing;
- Hall bookings and utilisation;
- Deanery and Diocesan Synod reports;
- Planned fundraising events;
- Churchyard care and maintenance;
- Reordering of All Saints Birchington and appointment of Project Architect;
- Appointment of Lottery Application Fund Consultant;
- Book keeping services.

Thanks to members ending their stint and welcome to new members.

Tim Attride, PCC Secretary.

Deanery Synod Report

During 2025 three meetings of the Deanery Synod were held. After opening worship, these meetings have benefited from guest speakers including talks on Generous Giving, Street Pastors and Chaplaincy (Kent Workplace Mission).

The Deanery Roadshow was held in September 2025, and workshops were held on Growing Giving & Generosity, Leading Your Church into Growth and Children, Young People and Education.

Deanery Synod Representatives

Diocesan Synod Report

There were four meetings of Diocesan Synod during 2025. Finances, strategy, Net Zero, Education, Safeguarding and Living in Love and Faith were considered.

Rev Mark Ham and Loraine Bant, Diocesan Synod Representatives

Electoral Roll Officer Report

The number of parishioners recorded on last year's new Electoral Roll was **96**.

Since then, **3** names have been removed due to death. However, **4** new names have been added. This gives a total of **97** parishioners on the Electoral Roll as of today's APCM.

Geoff Pegg,

Electoral Roll Officer

The Parochial Church Council
of
The Ecclesiastical Parish
of
All Saints Birchington
with
St Mildred Acol and St Thomas Minnis Bay

(Charity Commission Registration Number : 1163660)

Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 December 2025

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Year ended 31 December 2025

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Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Birchington with St Mildred Acol and St Thomas Minnis Bay
Other name	Birchington PCC
Registered Charity Number	1163660
Principal address	The Parish Office, Church House, Kent Gardens BIRCHINGTON, Kent CT7 9RS

Trustees who manage the charity

The Reverend Mark Ham	Vicar and Chairman	
The Reverend James Barber	Curate	from June 2025
Loraine Bant	Churchwarden	
Paul Seymour	Churchwarden	
Timothy Attride	Secretary	
Sara Gower	Treasurer	
David Alker		
Douglas Holmes		
Maureen Hudson	to May 2025	
Neville Hudson		
Michael Little		
Timothy Maakestad		
Geoffrey Pegg		
Kathleen Porteous		
Janette Porter	to April 2025	
Bernard Taylor	to May 2025	
Paul Webster		
Gillian Whitehead		

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Names and addresses of advisors

Bankers	HSBC Westwood Cross Shopping Centre 26 Margate Road, Broadstairs CT10 2BF
Investment Managers	CCLA Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
Independent examiner	Andrew Webster FCA DChA 48 St Martin's Hill, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1PP

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document	Issued by the Church of England and adopted 2 January 1957
How the charity is constituted	A formerly excepted charity as a Church of England Parish
Trustee selection methods	Trustees elected for a three year period by the members of the Church who are entered on the Electoral Roll.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity

The PCC's charitable objects ('Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church') are primarily focussed on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. All regular public worship is provided free of charge and open to all. In addition the PCC's further activities as listed below also have public benefit

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

- Provision of public worship in the parish church of All Saints Birchington and at the church of St Thomas Minnis Bay and St Mildred's
- The provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation
- The provision of pastoral work, including the visiting of the sick and bereaved.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- The promotion of the whole mission of the Church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special needs groups.
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Policy on Reserves

The PCC aims to follow the advice of the Charity Commission in this respect but at the moment is having concerns in connection with paying the annual Parish Share to the Diocese.

Funds materially in deficit

No fund of the charity is in deficit.

Accounting responsibilities of the trustees

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these accounts the trustees

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently:
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent:
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf

The Reverend Mark P Ham
Vicar and Chairman

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Treasurer's Report - year ended 31 December 2025

This year has been another challenging year but we have had big changes financially. We have sold St Mildred's Church in Acol. This brought in just under £124,000 and it was agreed by the PCC that part of these monies would be used towards our Parish Share. This in turn meant that we were able to pay the full amount requested of £89,089. The breakdown was £45,816 from the St Mildred's sale proceeds, Church Lands natural yield provided £20,000 and £23,273 from the general fund.

As reported in 2024 the parish is committed to the Total Return accounting process. Please see note 4 for more details. The original Church Lands endowment gift component stood at £500,000. It was agreed by the PCC that inflation proofing would be set at 3% in line with the CPI. The amount now put aside stands at £515,000.

No payment was made to our Charity Commission loan this year. However, the balance grew and with interest the balance stands at £44,709. The balance needs to get to £52,000 to be cleared by 2030.

Our planned giving has continued to decrease, due to losing some of our congregation. This in turn has reduced the amount of Gift Aid that we are able to claim.

Monies from the Sybella Petley fund has again been given to the StoreHouse food bank, Birchington Church of England Primary School and King Ethelbert's School for the poor of the parish.

We have much to look forward to in 2026 but we will still struggle financially.

I will be stepping down as treasurer in 2026 after 16 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish for their support and all the help I have received. The list is endless but special thanks to Bob H and Peter W.

Sara Gower

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Birchington

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 7 to 15

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in a Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than PCC as a body, for my work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

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

A G Webster FCA, DChA, FRSA
48 St Martin's Hill
CANTERBURY CT1 1PP

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming Resources	2					
Voluntary income:						
Incoming resources from donors		42,288	4,373		46,661	55,275
Other voluntary incoming resources						
Activities for generating funds:		42,553	2,425		44,978	41,720
Receipts from Church Activities		2,568	-		2,568	3,382
Other ordinary income resources:		2,010	131,445		133,455	13,366
Income from investments:		2,738	25,646		28,384	28,122
Total Incoming Resources		92,157	163,889	-	256,046	141,865
Resources Expended	3					
Costs of generating funds:						
Fund-raising and publicity		1,129	-		1,129	1,122
Charitable activities:						
Grants made		1,628	750		2,378	2,716
Direct ministry expenditure		23,448	65,816		89,264	50,224
Church running expenses		27,095	1,702		28,797	32,272
Salaries and support costs		13,282	-		13,282	6,856
Church hall running costs		17,862	311		18,173	19,024
Administration		5,680	3,828		9,508	9,424
Major works		525	9,496		10,021	29,931
Total Resources Used		90,649	81,903	-	172,552	151,569
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources Before Transfers		1,508	81,986	-	83,494	(9,704)
Transfers between funds			(15,000)	15,000		
Repayment of endowment					-	1,000
Increase in value of investments			(30,117)	(3,355)	(33,472)	18,730
Net Movement in Funds		1,508	36,869	11,645	50,022	10,026
Balances at 1 January 2025		2,300	368,565	583,695	954,560	944,534
Balances at 31 December 2025		3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

		Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
			£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Investment assets							
CBF	Total return fund	4		254,750	515,000	769,750	753,361
	Other funds			2,870	79,142	82,012	82,437
COIF					1,198	1,198	1,258
			-	257,620	595,340	852,960	837,056
Current Assets							
Cash at bank and in hand							
Cash in hand				-		-	
Current Account			1,767			1,767	1,551
Savings Account				142,814		142,814	69,208
CBF deposits			2,041			2,041	46,745
Prepayment 2026 Parish Share				5,000		5,000	
Net Current Assets			3,808	147,814	-	151,622	117,504
Net Assets		£	3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560
Funds							
Unrestricted							
General Fund			1,767			1,767	1,551
Capital Reserve			2,041		42,914	44,955	45,450
			3,808	-	42,914	46,722	47,001
Restricted							
Church Lands		4		254,750	515,000	769,750	796,914
Emma Simmons		5		609	1,198	1,807	1,841
Acol Churchyard Fund(SP)		5		25	25,928	25,953	27,016
Education Trust		5		2,236	10,300	12,536	12,580
Other restricted funds		5		147,814		147,814	69,208
			-	405,434	552,426	957,860	907,559
Total Funds		£	3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Mark P Ham
Vicar and Chairman

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

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

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as and when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and can identify the amount due.
Funds raised by events are accounted for gross
Sales of magazines from the church are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Resources expended

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. During the year ended 31 December 2025 the amount requested of £89,089 was paid in full.
Over the last seven years a total of £119,332 has been underpaid to the Diocese against the amounts requested. No provision has been made for this amount in these accounts in accordance with advice received from Diocesan House.

Investments

Stock exchange investments are included at the mid market value on the date of the Balance Sheet. The three areas of land have not been included on the Balance Sheet as they are regarded to be of little or no commercial value.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving	21,600			21,600	26,641
Collections	7,734			7,734	8,008
Collections for charities	1,628			1,628	1,365
Income Tax Recovered	6,858			6,858	7,867
Donations & Legacies	4,468	4,373		8,841	11,394
	42,288	4,373		46,661	55,275
Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising activities	6,991	2,425		9,416	8,470
Magazine	1,026			1,026	828
Church Hall Lettings	34,536			34,536	32,422
	42,553	2,425		44,978	41,720
Receipts from Church Activities					
Fees	2,568			2,568	3,382
Other ordinary income resources					
Insurance claims	1,063			1,063	11,434
Sale of church		123,974		123,974	-
Grants	400	1,000		1,400	-
Sundry income	547	6,471		7,018	1,932
	2,010	131,445	-	133,455	13,366
Income from investments					
Interest - Bank savings account		1,516		1,516	1,336
CBF Funds	1,292	24,130		25,422	25,111
Rent from land	1,446			1,446	1,675
	2,738	25,646	-	28,384	28,122
Total Receipts	92,157	163,889	-	256,046	141,865

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

3 Resources Used

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund raising and publicity						
Fund raising expenses		337			337	330
Magazines		792			792	792
		1,129	-		1,129	1,122
Grants made						
Charitable giving		1,628	750		2,378	2,716
Direct ministry expenditure						
Parish Share		23,273	65,816		89,089	50,000
Clergy working expenses		175			175	224
		23,448	65,816		89,264	50,224
Church running expenses						
Upkeep of services		2,522	1,042		3,564	4,408
Gas, Electric & Water		11,314			11,314	12,833
Insurance		9,609			9,609	9,856
Repairs & Maintenance		3,650	660		4,310	5,175
		27,095	1,702		28,797	32,272
Salaries and support costs		13,282			13,282	6,856
Church hall running costs		17,862	311		18,173	19,024
Administration						
Printing & Stationery		3,810			3,810	3,721
Miscellaneous		1,006	3,828		4,834	4,015
Bank Charges		214			214	238
Independent Examiner		650			650	450
Loan repayment		-			-	1,000
		5,680	3,828		9,508	9,424
Major works						
Dishwasher plumbing	CH Hse				-	-
Vestry repairs	Ins Claim	525			525	-
Roof repairs	Ins Claim				-	11,434
Garden Work	St T		2,130		2,130	1,575
Asbestos survey	CH Hse				-	719
Car Park Repairs	CH Hse		938		938	720
Roof Repairs	CH Hse				-	12,963
Caxton's Report	St M				-	2,520
Urinals replaced	CH Hse		1,428		1,428	
Restoration planning	AS		5,000		5,000	
		525	9,496		10,021	29,931
Total Payments		90,649	81,903		172,552	151,569

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

4 **Church Lands fund**

Total return movements

		Trust for Investment £	Unapplied Total Return £	Total Endowment £
Balance at 1 January 2025				
Gift component of the permanent endowment		500,000		500,000
Unapplied total return	Investment Fund		253,361	253,361
	Deposit Accounts		43,553	43,553
		500,000	296,914	796,914
Movement in the period to 31 December 2025				
Addition to fund		15,000	(15,000)	-
Investment return: dividends and interest			21,031	21,031
			1,922	1,922
Investment return: unrealised (losses) gains			(30,117)	(30,117)
		15,000	(22,164)	(7,164)
Unapplied total return allocated to income			(20,000)	(20,000)
Net movements in the period		15,000	(42,164)	(27,164)
Balances at 31 December 2025				
Gift component of the permanent endowment		515,000		515,000
Unapplied total return	Investment Fund		208,244	208,244
	Deposit Accounts		46,506	46,506
		515,000	254,750	769,750

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

5 Movements on restricted funds

		Balance 1.1.2025 £	Monies In £	Monies Out £	Transfers £	Balance 31.12.2025 £
Church Lands	Invest A/C	253,361			(45,117)	208,244
	Deposit A/Cs	765	21,031	(20,000)		1,796
		42,788	1,922			44,710
		296,914	22,953	(20,000)	(45,117)	254,750
Emma Simmons		583	26			609
Acol Churchyard (SP)		9	766	(750)		25
Education Trust		1,851	385			2,236
		299,357	24,130	(20,750)	(45,117)	257,620
Movements on other restricted funds						
Junior Church		387	330	(171)		546
All Saints		4,159	1,401	(716)		4,844
AS Restoration fund		5,626	2,484			8,110
Church House		2,366		(2,366)		-
Quex Chapel		1,287	200	(116)		1,371
St Thomas		27,174	600	(3,488)		24,286
Sale of St Mildred's Fund		1,190	124,574	(46,241)		79,523
Supper Club		4,228	2,840	(1,536)		5,532
Messy Church		175				175
Church Wardens Fund		281				281
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		697	200	(9)		888
Toddlers Group		256	100			356
Music Fund		746	70	(300)		516
Pastoral Friends		1,746	583	(58)		2,271
Churches Together		39	1,941	(1,082)		898
Sale of vicarage land		18,851	300	(5,000)		14,151
Education Fund			200	(70)		130
Bell Ringers funds			3,936			3,936
		69,208	139,759	(61,153)	-	147,814
Total movements		368,565	163,889	(81,903)	(45,117)	405,434

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Details of Restricted Accounts

Church Lands

At a meeting of the PCC on 25 January 2024 it was resolved that as from that date the Investments relating to the Church Lands fund should be held on a total returns investment strategy so that the PCC can enhance their ability to fulfil the objects of the fund over the long term.

The original amount received for the sale of land at Minnis Road in 1966 amounted to £26,537. This represents the major proportion of the Church Lands fund. Using the Bank of England inflation calculator this amount had risen to some £419,000 by January 2024. As there is another smaller equity based investment and a deposit account it was decided on 27 March 2025 that the starting gift component of the permanent endowment should be set at £500.000. This has now been increased to £515,000.

The unapplied total return is to be used for the maintenance of the Parish Church and any residue can be used for repairing and beautifying the churches of Acol and Minnis Bay. Any remaining balance may be used in the furthering of the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish.

Emma Simmons

It's purpose is to benefit the poor/elderly of Acol and grants can be made to individuals.

Acol Churchyard (Sybella Petley)

The capital is invested in an investment fund which is not available to the Parish. Interest is paid into our account and can be distributed to the deserving poor in the parish at Christmas.

Education Trust

The Capital is invested in an investment fund which is not available to the Parish. Interest is paid into this account for educational purposes in the parish

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

All Saints Fund

These monies are from various legacies and fund raising over the years. A substantial amount was received from 'The Friends of All Saints' in 2009. These funds are to be used for All Saints.

Sale of St Mildred's Fund

These monies will be used for strategic development and the sustainability of the Parish

St Thomas Funds

These funds have been raised from legacies, gift days and fundraising and are to be used for the upkeep of St Thomas Church and Kearns Hall.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Details of Restricted Accounts

Details of land owned by the PCC

The PCC own four pieces of land
The land on which the Acol village hall stands. Ground rent is charged at £200 p.a. as per the lease dated 18 March 2013 organised by the Diocese.

The Allotments at St James Terrace, Birchington. Land registry title number K985821
Piece of land off Canterbury Road, Birchington. Land registry title number K983757
Piece of land off Canterbury Road, Birchington. Land registry title number K983777

These pieces of land have been looked at by the Diocese and are regarded to have liittle commercial value at the present time.

The Parochial Church Council
of
The Ecclesiastical Parish
of
All Saints Birchington
with
St Mildred Acol and St Thomas Minnis Bay

(Charity Commission Registration Number : 1163660)

Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 December 2025

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Year ended 31 December 2025

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Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Birchington with St Mildred Acol and St Thomas Minnis Bay
Other name	Birchington PCC
Registered Charity Number	1163660
Principal address	The Parish Office, Church House, Kent Gardens BIRCHINGTON, Kent CT7 9RS

Trustees who manage the charity

The Reverend Mark Ham	Vicar and Chairman	
The Reverend James Barber	Curate	from June 2025
Loraine Bant	Churchwarden	
Paul Seymour	Churchwarden	
Timothy Attride	Secretary	
Sara Gower	Treasurer	
David Alker		
Douglas Holmes		
Maureen Hudson	to May 2025	
Neville Hudson		
Michael Little		
Timothy Maakestad		
Geoffrey Pegg		
Kathleen Porteous		
Janette Porter	to April 2025	
Bernard Taylor	to May 2025	
Paul Webster		
Gillian Whitehead		

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Names and addresses of advisors

Bankers	HSBC Westwood Cross Shopping Centre 26 Margate Road, Broadstairs CT10 2BF
Investment Managers	CCLA Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
Independent examiner	Andrew Webster FCA DChA 48 St Martin's Hill, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1PP

Structure, Governance and Management

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How the charity is constituted	A formerly excepted charity as a Church of England Parish
Trustee selection methods	Trustees elected for a three year period by the members of the Church who are entered on the Electoral Roll.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity

The PCC's charitable objects ('Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church') are primarily focussed on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. All regular public worship is provided free of charge and open to all. In addition the PCC's further activities as listed below also have public benefit

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

- Provision of public worship in the parish church of All Saints Birchington and at the church of St Thomas Minnis Bay and St Mildred's
- The provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation
- The provision of pastoral work, including the visiting of the sick and bereaved.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- The promotion of the whole mission of the Church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special needs groups.
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Policy on Reserves

The PCC aims to follow the advice of the Charity Commission in this respect but at the moment is having concerns in connection with paying the annual Parish Share to the Diocese.

Funds materially in deficit

No fund of the charity is in deficit.

Accounting responsibilities of the trustees

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these accounts the trustees

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently:
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent:
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Trustees' Annual Report year ended 31 December 2025

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf

The Reverend Mark P Ham
Vicar and Chairman

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Treasurer's Report - year ended 31 December 2025

This year has been another challenging year but we have had big changes financially. We have sold St Mildred's Church in Acol. This brought in just under £124,000 and it was agreed by the PCC that part of these monies would be used towards our Parish Share. This in turn meant that we were able to pay the full amount requested of £89,089. The breakdown was £45,816 from the St Mildred's sale proceeds, Church Lands natural yield provided £20,000 and £23,273 from the general fund.

As reported in 2024 the parish is committed to the Total Return accounting process. Please see note 4 for more details. The original Church Lands endowment gift component stood at £500,000. It was agreed by the PCC that inflation proofing would be set at 3% in line with the CPI. The amount now put aside stands at £515,000.

No payment was made to our Charity Commission loan this year. However, the balance grew and with interest the balance stands at £44,709. The balance needs to get to £52,000 to be cleared by 2030.

Our planned giving has continued to decrease, due to losing some of our congregation. This in turn has reduced the amount of Gift Aid that we are able to claim.

Monies from the Sybella Petley fund has again been given to the StoreHouse food bank, Birchington Church of England Primary School and King Ethelbert's School for the poor of the parish.

We have much to look forward to in 2026 but we will still struggle financially.

I will be stepping down as treasurer in 2026 after 16 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish for their support and all the help I have received. The list is endless but special thanks to Bob H and Peter W.

Sara Gower

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Birchington

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 7 to 15

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in a Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than PCC as a body, for my work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

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

A G Webster FCA, DChA, FRSA
48 St Martin's Hill
CANTERBURY CT1 1PP

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming Resources	2					
Voluntary income:						
Incoming resources from donors		42,288	4,373		46,661	55,275
Other voluntary incoming resources						
Activities for generating funds:		42,553	2,425		44,978	41,720
Receipts from Church Activities		2,568	-		2,568	3,382
Other ordinary income resources:		2,010	131,445		133,455	13,366
Income from investments:		2,738	25,646		28,384	28,122
Total Incoming Resources		92,157	163,889	-	256,046	141,865
Resources Expended	3					
Costs of generating funds:						
Fund-raising and publicity		1,129	-		1,129	1,122
Charitable activities:						
Grants made		1,628	750		2,378	2,716
Direct ministry expenditure		23,448	65,816		89,264	50,224
Church running expenses		27,095	1,702		28,797	32,272
Salaries and support costs		13,282	-		13,282	6,856
Church hall running costs		17,862	311		18,173	19,024
Administration		5,680	3,828		9,508	9,424
Major works		525	9,496		10,021	29,931
Total Resources Used		90,649	81,903	-	172,552	151,569
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources Before Transfers		1,508	81,986	-	83,494	(9,704)
Transfers between funds			(15,000)	15,000		
Repayment of endowment					-	1,000
Increase in value of investments			(30,117)	(3,355)	(33,472)	18,730
Net Movement in Funds		1,508	36,869	11,645	50,022	10,026
Balances at 1 January 2025		2,300	368,565	583,695	954,560	944,534
Balances at 31 December 2025		3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

		Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
			£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Investment assets							
CBF	Total return fund	4		254,750	515,000	769,750	753,361
	Other funds			2,870	79,142	82,012	82,437
COIF					1,198	1,198	1,258
			-	257,620	595,340	852,960	837,056
Current Assets							
Cash at bank and in hand							
Cash in hand				-		-	
Current Account			1,767			1,767	1,551
Savings Account				142,814		142,814	69,208
CBF deposits			2,041			2,041	46,745
Prepayment 2026 Parish Share				5,000		5,000	
Net Current Assets			3,808	147,814	-	151,622	117,504
Net Assets		£	3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560
Funds							
Unrestricted							
General Fund			1,767			1,767	1,551
Capital Reserve			2,041		42,914	44,955	45,450
			3,808	-	42,914	46,722	47,001
Restricted							
Church Lands		4		254,750	515,000	769,750	796,914
Emma Simmons		5		609	1,198	1,807	1,841
Acol Churchyard Fund(SP)		5		25	25,928	25,953	27,016
Education Trust		5		2,236	10,300	12,536	12,580
Other restricted funds		5		147,814		147,814	69,208
			-	405,434	552,426	957,860	907,559
Total Funds		£	3,808	405,434	595,340	1,004,582	954,560

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Mark P Ham
Vicar and Chairman

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

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

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as and when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and can identify the amount due.
Funds raised by events are accounted for gross
Sales of magazines from the church are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Resources expended

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. During the year ended 31 December 2025 the amount requested of £89,089 was paid in full.
Over the last seven years a total of £119,332 has been underpaid to the Diocese against the amounts requested. No provision has been made for this amount in these accounts in accordance with advice received from Diocesan House.

Investments

Stock exchange investments are included at the mid market value on the date of the Balance Sheet. The three areas of land have not been included on the Balance Sheet as they are regarded to be of little or no commercial value.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving	21,600			21,600	26,641
Collections	7,734			7,734	8,008
Collections for charities	1,628			1,628	1,365
Income Tax Recovered	6,858			6,858	7,867
Donations & Legacies	4,468	4,373		8,841	11,394
	42,288	4,373		46,661	55,275
Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising activities	6,991	2,425		9,416	8,470
Magazine	1,026			1,026	828
Church Hall Lettings	34,536			34,536	32,422
	42,553	2,425		44,978	41,720
Receipts from Church Activities					
Fees	2,568			2,568	3,382
Other ordinary income resources					
Insurance claims	1,063			1,063	11,434
Sale of church		123,974		123,974	-
Grants	400	1,000		1,400	-
Sundry income	547	6,471		7,018	1,932
	2,010	131,445	-	133,455	13,366
Income from investments					
Interest - Bank savings account		1,516		1,516	1,336
CBF Funds	1,292	24,130		25,422	25,111
Rent from land	1,446			1,446	1,675
	2,738	25,646	-	28,384	28,122
Total Receipts	92,157	163,889	-	256,046	141,865

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

3 Resources Used

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund raising and publicity						
Fund raising expenses		337			337	330
Magazines		792			792	792
		1,129	-		1,129	1,122
Grants made						
Charitable giving		1,628	750		2,378	2,716
Direct ministry expenditure						
Parish Share		23,273	65,816		89,089	50,000
Clergy working expenses		175			175	224
		23,448	65,816		89,264	50,224
Church running expenses						
Upkeep of services		2,522	1,042		3,564	4,408
Gas, Electric & Water		11,314			11,314	12,833
Insurance		9,609			9,609	9,856
Repairs & Maintenance		3,650	660		4,310	5,175
		27,095	1,702		28,797	32,272
Salaries and support costs		13,282			13,282	6,856
Church hall running costs		17,862	311		18,173	19,024
Administration						
Printing & Stationery		3,810			3,810	3,721
Miscellaneous		1,006	3,828		4,834	4,015
Bank Charges		214			214	238
Independent Examiner		650			650	450
Loan repayment		-			-	1,000
		5,680	3,828		9,508	9,424
Major works						
Dishwasher plumbing	CH Hse				-	-
Vestry repairs	Ins Claim	525			525	-
Roof repairs	Ins Claim				-	11,434
Garden Work	St T		2,130		2,130	1,575
Asbestos survey	CH Hse				-	719
Car Park Repairs	CH Hse		938		938	720
Roof Repairs	CH Hse				-	12,963
Caxton's Report	St M				-	2,520
Urinals replaced	CH Hse		1,428		1,428	
Restoration planning	AS		5,000		5,000	
		525	9,496		10,021	29,931
Total Payments		90,649	81,903		172,552	151,569

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

4 **Church Lands fund**

Total return movements

		Trust for Investment £	Unapplied Total Return £	Total Endowment £
Balance at 1 January 2025				
Gift component of the permanent endowment		500,000		500,000
Unapplied total return	Investment Fund		253,361	253,361
	Deposit Accounts		43,553	43,553
		500,000	296,914	796,914
Movement in the period to 31 December 2025				
Addition to fund		15,000	(15,000)	-
Investment return: dividends and interest			21,031	21,031
			1,922	1,922
Investment return: unrealised (losses) gains			(30,117)	(30,117)
		15,000	(22,164)	(7,164)
Unapplied total return allocated to income			(20,000)	(20,000)
Net movements in the period		15,000	(42,164)	(27,164)
Balances at 31 December 2025				
Gift component of the permanent endowment		515,000		515,000
Unapplied total return	Investment Fund		208,244	208,244
	Deposit Accounts		46,506	46,506
		515,000	254,750	769,750

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

5 Movements on restricted funds

		Balance 1.1.2025 £	Monies In £	Monies Out £	Transfers £	Balance 31.12.2025 £
Church Lands	Invest A/C	253,361			(45,117)	208,244
	Deposit A/Cs	765	21,031	(20,000)		1,796
		42,788	1,922			44,710
		296,914	22,953	(20,000)	(45,117)	254,750
Emma Simmons		583	26			609
Acol Churchyard (SP)		9	766	(750)		25
Education Trust		1,851	385			2,236
		299,357	24,130	(20,750)	(45,117)	257,620
Movements on other restricted funds						
Junior Church		387	330	(171)		546
All Saints		4,159	1,401	(716)		4,844
AS Restoration fund		5,626	2,484			8,110
Church House		2,366		(2,366)		-
Quex Chapel		1,287	200	(116)		1,371
St Thomas		27,174	600	(3,488)		24,286
Sale of St Mildred's Fund		1,190	124,574	(46,241)		79,523
Supper Club		4,228	2,840	(1,536)		5,532
Messy Church		175				175
Church Wardens Fund		281				281
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		697	200	(9)		888
Toddlers Group		256	100			356
Music Fund		746	70	(300)		516
Pastoral Friends		1,746	583	(58)		2,271
Churches Together		39	1,941	(1,082)		898
Sale of vicarage land		18,851	300	(5,000)		14,151
Education Fund			200	(70)		130
Bell Ringers funds			3,936			3,936
		69,208	139,759	(61,153)	-	147,814
Total movements		368,565	163,889	(81,903)	(45,117)	405,434

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Details of Restricted Accounts

Church Lands

At a meeting of the PCC on 25 January 2024 it was resolved that as from that date the Investments relating to the Church Lands fund should be held on a total returns investment strategy so that the PCC can enhance their ability to fulfil the objects of the fund over the long term.

The original amount received for the sale of land at Minnis Road in 1966 amounted to £26,537. This represents the major proportion of the Church Lands fund. Using the Bank of England inflation calculator this amount had risen to some £419,000 by January 2024. As there is another smaller equity based investment and a deposit account it was decided on 27 March 2025 that the starting gift component of the permanent endowment should be set at £500.000. This has now been increased to £515,000.

The unapplied total return is to be used for the maintenance of the Parish Church and any residue can be used for repairing and beautifying the churches of Acol and Minnis Bay. Any remaining balance may be used in the furthering of the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish.

Emma Simmons

It's purpose is to benefit the poor/elderly of Acol and grants can be made to individuals.

Acol Churchyard (Sybella Petley)

The capital is invested in an investment fund which is not available to the Parish. Interest is paid into our account and can be distributed to the deserving poor in the parish at Christmas.

Education Trust

The Capital is invested in an investment fund which is not available to the Parish. Interest is paid into this account for educational purposes in the parish

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

All Saints Fund

These monies are from various legacies and fund raising over the years. A substantial amount was received from 'The Friends of All Saints' in 2009. These funds are to be used for All Saints.

Sale of St Mildred's Fund

These monies will be used for strategic development and the sustainability of the Parish

St Thomas Funds

These funds have been raised from legacies, gift days and fundraising and are to be used for the upkeep of St Thomas Church and Kearns Hall.

Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Birchington

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Details of Restricted Accounts

Details of land owned by the PCC

The PCC own four pieces of land
The land on which the Acol village hall stands. Ground rent is charged at £200 p.a. as per the lease dated 18 March 2013 organised by the Diocese.

The Allotments at St James Terrace, Birchington. Land registry title number K985821
Piece of land off Canterbury Road, Birchington. Land registry title number K983757
Piece of land off Canterbury Road, Birchington. Land registry title number K983777

These pieces of land have been looked at by the Diocese and are regarded to have liittle commercial value at the present time.