ST PETER & ST PAUL
HELLINGLY
AND
HOLY TRINITY, UPPER DICKER

# ANNUAL REPORTS

## For the Year 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Church is a community witness by lifestyle, words and actions that we live in Christ's world. We seek to show that the love of our Creator and Saviour is for everyone.

## HELLINGLY and UPPER DICKER PARISH

## ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

## 24 May 2026

## AGENDA

1. Scripture Reading and Prayers.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in 2025.
3. Election of Church Wardens for the year to 31 May 2027
4. Vote of thanks to the Church Wardens.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
## 24 May 2026

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of APCM held in 2025.
2. Report on the new Electoral Roll since the last APCM and appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.
3. Annual Reports of the proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish - attached.
4. Annual Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 - attached.
5. Election of new PCC Members
6. Vote of thanks to the Treasurer, Officers of PCC and other volunteers. (New officers - Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Secretary are elected at the first PCC meeting along with the Safeguarding Officer.)
7. Appointment of Independent Examining (Auditor)
8. Items of Parochial interest given by Reverend J Sykes.
9. Items of Parochial interest to be raised for discussion by PCC at a later date.
10. Prayers and The Grace.

## The Parish of Hellingly and Upper Dicker

St Peter & St Paul is located in Church Lane, Hellingly, East Sussex. BN27 4HA
Holy Trinity is located in Coldharbour Road, Upper Dicker, East Sussex. BN27 3QB

**Electoral Roll Numbers:** 95

The Parish is a charity registered with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) (Trustees)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Incumbent:** | Rev. Jeremy Sykes |
| **Wardens:** | Miss Carol Haywood<br>Mr Robert Moore |
| **Representatives on Deanery Synod:** | Mrs Olive Lewis<br>Miss Carol Haywood<br>Mrs Valerie Pope |
| **Elected Members:** | Mrs Alison Sylvester<br>Mrs Susan Lees<br>Mr Andrew Piper<br>Mrs Jacky Clark<br>Mr Arthur Kay<br>Mrs Jane Jones<br>Mrs Vicki Metzger |
| **Standing Committee:** | The Incumbent, the 2 Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, PCC Representative |

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS OF HELLINGLY AND UPPER DICKER**
**Held in Hellingly Church on Sunday 11 May 2025.**

**Present:** The Revd. Jeremy Sykes (Vicar), Miss Carol Haywood (Churchwarden), Mr Robert Moore (Churchwarden), members of the Parochial Church Council.
Miss Carol Haywood took the Minutes.

1. **Scripture and Prayer** - The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the proceedings with a reading from Luke and then followed with prayers. He also reminded that all those living in the Parish were able to attend and vote.

2. **The Minutes** of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in Hellingly Church on Sunday, 12 May 2024 were proposed by Sylvia Skinner, seconded by Brian Powell as being a true record of the meeting. All agreed and the minutes duly signed as a correct record.

3. **Election of the Churchwardens for the following year** - the Secretary had received two nominations for the coming year and these were for Rob Moore and Carol Haywood. There were no other applications , Rob and Carol where duly elected for the coming year.

4. **Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens** - the Vicar then proposed a vote of thanks to Rob and Carol for all the work they do over the year.

The meeting was then closed.

Jeremy Sykes

24/5/2026.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF HELLINGLY AND UPPER DICKER**
**Held in Hellingly Church on Sunday 11 May 2025.**

The Vicar reminded those present that anyone was able to attend but only those on the Electoral Roll were able to vote.

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 12 May 2024.** The Vicar asked those present if the Minutes of the APCM held in Hellingly Church the previous year were correct. Jane Sykes proposed they be accepted and they were seconded by Sylvia Skinner, those present all voted in agreement and accepted them.

**2. Electoral Roll**. Fin Westcott reported that there were 95 on the current roll. Fin also confirmed that she was happy to continue for a further year. This was proposed by Elly McKay-Smith and seconded by Alison Sylvester and agreed by all those present.

**3. Annual Reports. T**hese had previously been circulated and spares were available. There were no questions on the reports, however, it was noted that a decimal stop in the Friends report meant it indicated 'millions' instead of 'thousands'.

**4. Summary of Finance.** The Treasurer had sent his apologies so the Vicar gave a brief summary in that there appeared a surplus of over £20,000, but this had been for a specific donation to the Fabric Fund of £50,000 for a new window. We had reasonable reserves for our Fabric Fund, but that our 'day-to-day' funds were running very low. The Vicar went on to explain that we were only paying around a quarter of our Parish Giving (£21,000) rather than the £80,000 that is needed. This amount covers the Vicar's stipend, pension, training, upkeep of the Vicarage. As a Parish we need to look at how we generate the difference in these figures.

There being no questions, Sylvia Skinner proposed and Olive Lewis seconded that we adopt the accounts for 2024. This was approved by all those present.

It was also recorded that we appreciated all the work that our Treasurer, Pip Piper, does in keeping out accounts.

**5. Election of new PCC Members.** Proposal forms had been received for the election of:

Vicky Metzger - proposed by Alison Sylvester, seconded by Valerie Pope
Jane Jones - proposed by Carol Haywood, seconded by Rob Moore
Alison Sylvester - proposed by Margie Thorpe, seconded by Peter Thorpe.

There being no other nominations the 3 nominees were duly elected.

**6. Vote of Thanks.** The Vicar proposed a vote of thanks for the Officers, PCC members, Treasurer and all those behind the scenes who kept everything moving like a well oiled machine. This was seconded by Jane Sykes and a round of applause was given.

**7. Appointment of Independent Examiner.** The Treasurer had proposed that Watson Associates (John Males) be appointed as our Independent Examiner, with no other names put forward Olive Lewis proposed and seconded by Alison Sylvester the meeting agreed.

**8. Items of parochial Interest.** The Vicar went on to say that the numbers in Wealden indicate that within our church parish we have the youngest population, we also have the least long lived here population, given all the new build going on in the Parish this isn't surprising, however, on the question of 'religion' only 50% gave an answer as having one. It had been reported that in Paris over the Easter period they had baptised over 40,000 people, most of them young. Was this a change that, the younger generation were seeking! Could we be 'a God shaped space for people to walk into'. We are here every Sunday and during the week. We should rejoice in the things we are able to provide, love, prayer and these will hopefully be the things that will draw people in. We have Messy Church and more projects in mind.

The Vicar went on to say on behalf of himself and his wife, Jane, a thank you for the love, support and encouragement they received while ministering here.

The Vicar also commented that he was pleased that he had come to Hellingly and felt very welcomed.

**9. Items of Parochial Interest to be raised to the PCC at a later date.**

Sylvia Skinner raised a question on some of the loose bricks on the paths and could we look at asking Wealden Council to level some of them to make them safer.

Brian Powell asked if we could look at using the FOT to help bring those around into the church as well as letting them know we are here.

**10. Prayers and Grace** The Vicar invited everyone present to join in the Grace and then closed the meeting.

Verity Sykes.

24/5/26.

## THE VICAR'S REPORT

The year began with the regular round of Sunday and weekday worship providing a more or less unbroken pattern of provision which is being gradually accessed by more and more people. In particular the 8am Sunday Eucharist has grown in numbers as it appeals to those with young families. But growth has not been restricted there. The 10.45am service regularly has up to 70 communicants drawn from a wider pool of people. We have seen many new faces joining us. Lent saw our regular Lent course with good attendance form about a dozen people. Holy Week services were well attended and we had many visitors on Easter Day. It was a delight to prepare and present a good number of baptism and confirmation candidates at our deanery service. All our candidates were adults.

Messy Church maintained a good routine with a session every two months except during the summer holidays. Numbers hold steadily but drawn from an ever widening constituency. Regular coffee mornings for church funds and a nominated charities took place. These have progressed well and raise several hundreds of pounds a piece. The Apostles' Award scheme has continued with seven signed up to develop their discipleship. The summer culminated with another well supported service in the Festival of Transport arena. In September all the clergy of the diocese gathered for a three conference in Canterbury. It was wonderful to be all together, see how many we are, share stories, encouragement and struggles. The diocese is in good heart with scores of wonderful priests doing a good work. Harvest followed and then All Saints' and Remembrance as autumn continued. Advent was again upon us and another year nearly done. Just carol services and Christmas celebrations before it would bring itself to an end.

But it has been a year of growth. Numbers at our services are steadily rising as new people arrive. We average about 65 communicants at our 10.45am service compared to 55 three years previously. This means that on a typical Sunday we have some 90 communicants overall drawn from a total attendance of some 130. I would observe, somewhat unscientifically, that half our regular congregation have arrived subsequent to six years ago. This suggests healthy, organic, well rooted growth. Our musical life is growing with a healthy choir directed by our Angela, our Director of Music. Our Evensong for All Souls' was a highlight of our musical year. Our schools ministry in our three primary schools continues strongly with our clergy routinely given assemblies and the Open the Book team alternating with the clergy. None of this would be possible without the unstinting support of a large number of volunteers filling coffee rotas, reading and interceding, visiting, greeting, singing and bell ringing, playing and serving. Furthermore I am very grateful to all those who give time and energy to planning, governing and administering on committees and the PCC. And thank you to my Churchwardens for all they do to remind me of things I might otherwise forget as well as managing the buildings and all they contain.

Thank you too to our parish administrator, Fin, who manages a complex pattern of services including our baptisms, weddings and funerals which require meticulous planning. She has greatly improved our publicity and we now have an active and striking presence online with 382 followers on Facebook and growing each week. Finally just to note that Elly and I will cease our ministry in the Benefice of Brightling, Mountfield and Netherfield at the end of May. This will enable us to devote more time and energy to our 'day job' here.

Some numbers:
During the year 3 weddings were celebrated in St Peter & St Paul and there was 1 Thanksgiving for a Marriage.

There were: • in Hellingly at St Peter & St Paul:
• 3 funerals
• 2 burials of ashes in the churchyard

• in Upper Dicker at Holy Trinity:
• 2 funerals

• in either church:
• 11 children under the age of eight were baptised.
• 4 adults were confirmed.

The Rev'd Jeremy Sykes Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (Parochial Church Council - PCC)**

We held 6 PCC meetings over the year and each meeting contained the usual business, finance and a variety of subjects.

Attendance and Pastoral Care Our attendance at our services each week has slowly grown. Upper Dicker seeing some of our Hellingly Congregation going to 9.15am where they are able to take communion before setting off on other activities.

Perhaps what is not so well known is our Thursday, 9.30am Eucharist. Although sometimes small in numbers this is very much a main stay for those attending. A quiet said service with a sense of prayer and tranquillity.

Our Hellingly 8.00am service is a quiet said Eucharist and can start the day or finish the week. At 9.15am in Upper Dicker there was a chance to sing with a smaller congregation.

At Hellingly's 10.45am, where our numbers fluctuate each week it is encouraging to see our long term members mixing with our new ones. There is also that opportunity to stay for coffee and a chat.

Our variety of services gives us a good foundation to build on with the wider community and the ability to welcome all ages across thee different styles of services.

We are also known for being an 'open church'. In this day and age not all churches are able to be open during the day, we however, see in our book of prayers a constant update asking for prayers for loved ones, either in pain, sorrow or asking for God's guidance. Maybe a question could be have you ever sat in our Prayer Corner and just listened!

Once again our time on this earth moves on and we have lost some of our congregation and friends. For those families who have wanted to come and sit in our church and reflect it has been a privilege to have our church open.

Teaching and Nurturing new and existing believers. Our Apostles Award continues to be supported and will be continuing this year.

Our early Easter Day service was followed by a continental breakfast where there was an opportunity to sit and talk and is one of the ways we can sit and welcome our new members.

Our use of the Community Hub for some of our fundraising events and Messy Church is one of the ways we are seen out in the community with the continuing growth of houses all around us. We are still able to offer a peaceful and tranquil space in our Church and churchyard which we hope gives everyone, a respite from our ever busy lifestyles. In this way we continue to show we are here 24 hours of the day.

We also have our 2 house groups who offer different ways to learn about Christianity. There are Bible readings and questions for discussion and hopefully an environment when questions can be asked and a way of learning without judgement. God is constantly challenging us and this is a way of learning.

Evangelism and Outreach We continue to support many charities throughout the year, not least on a weekly basis with our collection of food goods presented during our main service.

We took a year out with our cakes at the Festival Transport, where we still had a presence, but not cakes. However, the over-riding suggestions in our box was that they missed them. We are currently looking if we are able to go back to supplying our homemade cakes for this year's festival. That does mean more cakes to sell please. Our presence in the arena on the Sunday morning is also enjoyed by some of the stall holders even when they are not able to attend the service themselves.

Messy Church at the Community Hub continues to attract various families and the numbers attending are increasing.

Our Open the Book team continue to go into the local schools and present their dramas and where they are able to meet with young people to relate the stories of Jesus. Some of our Family Services are also able to experience their message.

Our bell ringers continue to welcome our congregation each Sunday and it's encouraging to see new ringers. They also welcome ringers from other towers and are often providing bells for weddings. Of course, they would always like to see you if you are interested in learning more.

We often think of outreach as being local, but here is a message from our Visitor Book *'this beautiful church has drawn me from Cornwall. I was christened here in 1961 and only recently discovered that many of my family have been here since over a hundred years ago. I love how this church has been important to many generations of my family, and being here has definitely made me feel closed to them all. I will return, God willing'.*

Our outreach can also come in surprising ways, a rambling group, often use our facilities and a rest for coffee or lunch. Our Mothers' Union offered to provide coffee and cake in the church for one of their rambles and this has now extended to one in 2026. We also had some of the ramblers visit on one of our fundraising coffee mornings.

Once again our many volunteers carry us through with the activities and events we have. A very small way of saying thank you was to have a meal where they met and enjoyed the chance to meet each other. It is with great appreciation that we have many who will give what they can, it is only when they go missing do you realise that it's a wonderful job they do.

A look at our Visitors book indicates what some of those visits mean to people:

*"our first time here. Thank you for the beautiful service and God Bless all who see this'*

*'love this church, my oldest friend married here over 70 years ago and my niece marred over 20 years ago'*

From the new visitor to those from the past we can make a connection and from a small seed of prayer and welcome we can draw them to God's love.

As previously mentioned we continue to struggle with our day to day finances and we will be looking to 2026 to maintain and increase our financial giving. As Christians we will continue to show how in today's world by praying, caring, supporting each other we can continue to follow the Lord's teachings.

Provision of our church buildings.

Our next quinquennial report will be due in 2026 and we wonder about any major projects that may be identified. We have help from our Friends of Hellingly Church, but we have to remember that this is an aging church and we need to be prepared.

There are currently some plans being drawn up to look at the window in the Prayer Corner, this is going to be a very exciting project.

The painting and decoration was a huge success for the nave and the chancel. Although the project over ran by 2 weeks this was due to wood rot being found in some of the beans. This was successfully treated.

As part of our last quinquennial report, the gutters were cleaned and with the help of our Gardening Group the churchyard is being wonderfully maintained and looked after.

As with many churches we have seen a decrease in the number of weddings we hold, but we continue to be appreciated by our parishioners and visitors.

Is it time to look at changing the inside of our church to allow more space to hold not only our own events for visiting events as well!

Charitable Giving We often think this is only financial, but we also offer practical help through our weekly Foodbank donations. More of our charitable giving can be found in our accounts and on our weekly notice sheet.

We look forward to 2027 with its usual challenges but with support by prayer, actions in volunteering we can build on our foundations to encourage, challenge and develop our Christian life through work and ministry.

## DEANERY SYNOD MEETINGS 2025

Our Synod meetings are held in various churches in our Deanery and visitors are always welcome to listen to our main speaker. Yes the meetings contain the usual order of business and finance, but we also get to hear what's happening from other churches, how they are progressing, what they have found challenging and what has been a success.

Our first subject was "The Word, One to One" for our March meeting. This organisation is to encourage us all to speak, particularly to new Christians on a one-to-one basis to help them explore their faith. There is no commitment beyond what the individuals want to do and it can be included in group discussions. Further details can be found on line.

In June The Revd. Buff Stone, who is the Diocesan Environmental Officer, gave a presentation on Carbon Confidence. (see Carbon Confidence PDF).

Domestic Abuse was the subject for November. Whilst the subject of Safeguarding has been at the top of the agenda, domestic abuse is prevalent and, because it happens behind closed doors, is hidden and victims are often reluctant to come forward. We should not forget that victims can be either female or male. Although we appear to live in a calm environment in the Hellingly and Upper Dicker parish do we really know what those around us are being subjected to? Keep your eyes and ears alert for signs.

One of our members, Olive Lewis, is stepping down from being a member of the Deanery Synod, so if you feel you are being called to join our number, please speak to either Carol Haywood or Valerie Pope to learn more.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2025

### *Incoming and outgoing resources*

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds received were £77,139 and are detailed in the Financial Report.

Our planned giving though the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and envelopes fell by 5%. Our total voluntary income including tax recovered, but excluding legacies fell by 16.0%. We received a legacy of £3,000 in 2025.

### *Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester*

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £26,000 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. The Full Parish Ministry Cost for a parish with one stipendiary minister is £81,445. The church is meeting only 32% of the costs allocated to this parish compared with 26% paid last year.

The total relates directly to the housing, support, stipend and pension costs of the clergy of this parish, training of new ordinands, a contribution to national church funds and, shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole diocese. Because we do not pay our full

Parish Ministry Cost, our parish is supported by others in the diocese that pay more than their share.

**Because our contributions to the diocese are so far short of our parish ministry cost, there is a real risk that we will be combined with another parish to share the minister and the associated costs.**

Our Curate was appointed in July 2023. As this is a self-supporting post there is no cost to the parish in stipend etc however we do cover expenses and mileage detailed under trustee payments and expenses below.

### *Energy Costs*

The global situation on energy costs continued to have an effect on the parish. Our energy is bought on a commercial contract through the Parish Buying Scheme. There is no price cap on commercial energy as there is on domestic tariffs. Through carefully managing our usage and an improved tariff the energy reduced from £4,522 in 2024 to £4,016 in 2025.

### *Staff costs*

The PCC pays for an administrator, organist and a cleaner. Further details are provided in the notes to the accounts.

### *Trustee payments and expenses*

The PCC also supported the clergy by paying Council Tax of £4,288, water and environmental charges amounting to £852 for the Vicarage plus other annual costs towards travel, hospitality, telephone, postage and broadband amounting to £904. Our Curate was reimbursed £979 for mileage and expenses.

Payments were made to the following PCC members, who are also trustees, for duties carried out at weddings and funerals. (Verger, Sound, Choir and Sexton). R Moore £50.00; C Haywood £140.00.

The only other payments made to PCC members were for the reimbursement of expenses. No PCC members / Trustees received payments for being a PCC member or Trustee.

### *Repairs to the fabric of the church building*

In August and September 2025, the Nave and Chancel were redecorated at a cost of £44.594, this included the scaffolding, associated electrical works and some timber remedial treatment found to be necessary during the works. The works were funded by £17,500 from the Church Trust (a fund restricted to fabric), £11,262 from the Chancel Fund (a fund held by the diocese on our behalf, restricted to the chancel), and a contribution of £10,000 from The Friends of Hellingly Church. The vat was recovered through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

### *The Friends of Hellingly Church*

The Friends of Hellingly Church are a secular group of enthusiastic locals dedicated to preserving the fabric of Hellingly Church. The Friends held a Barn Dance at Carters Corner Farm, a talk by David Burrough and the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Friends fundraising is purely for the fabric of the grade one listed church. Over the year through membership, donations, events and the Christmas tree festival, The Friends raised over £10,000. In addition, The Friends are particularly grateful for a single donation of £20,000.
The Friends contributed £10,000 to the redecoration of the Nave and Chancel.

## Why we hold some money in reserve

The PCC holds some funds in reserve restricted to the fabric of the church which can be used for fabric repairs, including those identified in the Quinquennial Inspection. These funds originate from the amalgamation of a number of historic trusts. These funds are largely held in CBF Church of England Funds.

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

## APPENDIX OF ADDITIONAL REPORTS

## HELLINGLY & UPPER DICKER MOTHERS UNION 2025

2026 will be our third year of running the branch by committee. It's not always easy, but we can celebrate another successful year and look forward to what the New Year holds in store. We need a few more members on our committee as we know there will be changes this coming year.

We began 2025 with our meeting held at Abbotswood Care Home. After a short service we shared memories and chat over coffee. Abbotswood as usual generously provided the refreshments, including homemade cakes. We are so grateful to them for allowing us to meet there during the winter months.
Also in January we served refreshments to the local Ramblers group who thoroughly enjoyed their mid walk break. They will return in 2026.

Our Wave of Prayer was held in February as usual and followed the monthly Corporate Communion. 11 members were present. We sat round tables at the back of the church and this format worked well. February also saw our AGM which was led by Pat Bacon. 18 members were present. Marj Shinkfield volunteered to take over the flower rota. The container has been restored by Alan Stone for which we thank him.

Jeremy once again led our March Lent Communion Service. Also in March 8 members attended the Spring Gathering at S John's Church, Preston Park and were very pleased to meet the World Wide President Kathleen Snow from Canada.

In April Kathryn Anderson came to speak to us about the Rise Up project. This is to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse across Britain and Ireland. The letters stand for Respond Inform Support Empower Unite and Pray. There are bronze, silver and gold awards for our Church to work towards. The domestic abuse poster in our cloakroom is part of this . Appropriately Dorothy May came to us in May. She spoke about her years working at the BBC entertaining us greatly with anecdotes from her time there. She will hopefully return to give us another glimpse of celebrity life in 2026.

In June we held our annual coffee morning at Nicola Stone's house and garden. It was a lovely occasion with members coming from Polegate MU to support us. We raised over £300 to add to existing funds to send £250 to the Summer of Hope Appeal and £250 to AFIA. Many thanks to Nicola for letting us invade her home.

The speakers for our meeting this month were Revd Hugh Moseley and Julia Malling who spoke about the work of Caring and Sharing. We have long supported this Diocesan Project and it was good to hear updates. Their motto is 'Live more simply that others may simply live'. Money raised goes to support 13 projects around the world, paying for childcare and education and health and support for adults. In particular we support the important work of the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia.

In July we returned to Nicola's home and garden for afternoon tea, cake and chat. It was a lovely day and it was especially good to have the opportunity to mingle and share time with each other. There were 13 members and 3 visitors. Thank you once again Nicola.

This year's Mary Sumner Day Service was held in Battle. Pat Bacon, Valerie, Cissie and Dinah were able to attend this.

In September, Glen Ecclestone from Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team came to speak to us. The meeting was held in Hailsham Parish Church as SS Peter and Paul was closed for redecoration. Glen showed a powerpoint presentation and explained their role, saying they have a presence on the headland 365 days of the year. So important and worthwhile as well as rewarding when they manage to talk someone back from the edge of despair. Many of our meetings have been open to all and there were three visitors at this.

Back at Abbotswood in October Katy ran a Beetle Drive supporting the work of AFIA. Instead of drawing a beetle we threw a dice to gain parts of a caravan. We had great fun as well as reminding ourselves what a valuable asset the caravans at Winchelsea and Selsey are.

November we were in church for our meeting as it was Remembrance Day and Abbotswood had an event. Val Moore and Jane Tourle entertained us with photos and stories of their time wedding catering. Thank you to both for such a fun evening. Again we had several visitors to this.

Our Christmas meal in December was once again held at The Charles Hunt Centre as it was such a resounding success last year. This time the committee shopped for and provided all the food. Angela came and played for us and Mary provided quizzes to keep us busy. Several members of the congregation came too.

Thanks to the committee, Katy for looking after Birthday Bear, Val for looking after the money, Pat Booth for providing milk for our teas and coffees and Marj for members' birthday cards and the flower rota. Thanks too to all who have served the refreshments, done readings, said prayers and welcomed and thanked our speakers during the year.

**HELLINGLY CHOIR/MUSIC REVIEW.**

It has been a pleasure to continue directing our choir, and to developing techniques and repertoire, as well as to exploring more unfamiliar and experimental ideas. On the whole, the choir have grown more and more confident in the challenges presented to them, and there is a greater sense of interactive communication amongst members, despite a little resistance from time to time with regards some unfamiliar or more modern musical items.

Unfortunately, our progress this year has been a little suspended at times by the on-going complications caused by a head injury I sustained in July 2023, however, we have established an excellent supportive friendship as a unit, which has meant, in most cases, our musical offerings for services etc have been able to go ahead. I believe that the seed to our progress, along with practice sessions, has been staying connected via the WhatsApp group, where informative and supportive discussions can take place, and, where I am able to provide both pre-recorded and live recordings of musical parts and accompaniments, as well as links to supporting materials, to assist with the learning and practice of music between sessions, in the case of any absences, or by means of simply building confidence and reassurance by making learning materials accessible to everyone in a number of alternative format. Despite my on-going health complications, I am very pleased to report that there

have been significant improvements in my symptoms, thanks to medications and alternative therapies, which has meant I have gradually been able to undertake a greater work load, although a full recovery is still in progress.

This past year, we have introduced two additional Mass settings for use during Lent and Advent, 'Missa Simplex' and 'A Simple Mass' respectively, as well as including other parts of the standard St. Thomas 'Kyrie' and Acclaimations. We have also explored a number of new hymns/songs and anthems for weekly services, as well as those more specific to Lent/Easter, Advent/Christmas. We have varied our technical repertoire somewhat, most notably singing in cannon, singing unaccompanied both in parts and in unison.

I am currently encouraging exploration of solo voice opportunities, to incorporate greater variation in our 'performances', such as during Communion, which choir members are happy and willing to develop. We have, so far, experimented with dividing voices into male and female sections, as well as incorporating male and female solos within a piece, which as added significant interest and contrast, as well as developing confidence. Perhaps the most notable change we have made this year is, for the choir to sing the Communion items at the West end of the church, which has enabled them to project their voices more effectively. Following this, I decided to utilise the beautiful piano during our services, most notably for the Communion items, which has been received very well, and which has actually made communication between myself and the choir much easier and more efficient. We feel this makes for a lovely contrast within the service, and has proven to be a popular decision.

All in all, despite the medical-related difficulties and frustrations, lots of positive progress has been made this past year, achievements and goals met, and new experiences to look forward to, a 'Folksongs of Praise' is very much in the planning, so too is incorporating instruments other than those used already to diversify and enrich the musical life of the church. We have welcomed two new choir members, and there continues to be interest expressed by visitors.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for all your support, understanding, and patience during, what I can only describe as being, a very dark period in my professional and personal life following my accident in July 2023. I am pleased to report that my scan and test results have not indicated any long-term cosmetic damage, and I am currently taking a max strength medication to help settle the constant variable headaches and migraines, before undergoing memory/speech therapy; my consultant is positive that I will make a full recovery with the right support, but has also advised that time and appropriate rest will continue to play an important role in my recovery; I have noticed significant improvements in my symptoms, particularly that of memory, which I so clearly depend on, and the severity and frequency of my headaches have reduced. I fully intend to continue with my duties, but will notify someone as quickly as possible should I feel to unwell to perform.

Once again, I can't thank you enough for having me play such a significant roll in the development and success of our church, and for the very warm and supportive friendships I/we have made!

Angela Purll - February 2026.

## OPEN THE BOOK

Our Open the Book assemblies started in February and continued in April, June,October and December. As before they are in all of our three schools in the Parish.

In November we were invited to Dallington Primary School to take an assembly there. It was great to take our OtB to another school outside of our Parish and was very well received. Alongside our assemblies we held three Christingle making events in church with the Hailsham Academy and Hellingly Schools and a fourth in Park Mead School. We give thanks to Jean Piper for her major contribution to these events and to Chris Macdonald for his entertaining contributions too. The extra special part of these events are that quite a few parents attend as well and they take part and see what we get up to in Church having fun. It's a very positive outreach time.

Then the OtB team get involved as stewards for three Carol Concerts held in Church, two for Hellingly School and now with year 5 from the Hailsham Academy.

This year we launched the new OtB song which The Bible Society have created. We use this at each school and the children are really enjoying it.

The other first for us this year was sponsoring our own Christmas Tree at the festival. This was amazing as many of our children came and saw us and the tree and recognised lots of the stories that we had portrayed on the tree.

It has been another wonderful year of experiences for us, as a team, to share our faith with the children and their teachers through Bible Stories.

On a personal note I can't thank every member of the team enough for their support, encouragement and total commitment to this valuable project.

Jacky Clark
Open the Book

## BELLRINGERS ' ANNUAL REPORT 2025

During 2025 we were able to ring at most Sunday services, with the total number of regular Sunday ringers currently at seven, and we always managed to get a band together for weddings and funerals. Unfortunately, three of our number have been unable to attend for a good part of the year due to unforeseen health issues. All attend our weekly Wednesday practice nights when available. A few of us have started going to the monthly Eastern District Doubles Practice at Stone Cross to improve our method ringing.

Our latest new recruit, Paul (Fribbens), who began to learn in late 2024, has progressed remarkably well and is now a regular Sunday morning ringer. We have recently been contacted by two prospective new ringers which bodes well for the future.

In 2025 we rang for three weddings and three funerals, and hosted four groups of visiting ringers. We also hosted the Eastern District Doubles Practice in mid-November. In early

January we held our Ringers' Dinner at The Crown Hotel, Hailsham and again achieved a creditable result at the annual SCACR regional quiz in April.

Over the Christmas/New Year festive period, we rang for the Carol Service and, for the first time in many years, Christmas Day morning – a poignant moment marking exactly a year since the death of Bill Lovell. We were also able to ring half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday having replaced the muffle straps.

We held our Annual AGM in mid-January 2026. We noted the poor lighting in the ringing chamber has been improved but could still be better. We also noted that the letter we sent to the PCC last October to request an uplift in our ringing fees was approved and has been actioned. We need to have a discussion on what we feel we can offer for funeral ringing and relay this to the church as it seems we are doing something different on every occasion.

Bill Lovell, our Treasurer, former Tower Captain and long-time mentor sadly passed away on Christmas Day 2024. He is greatly missed and a small plaque in his memory has been hung in the Ringing Room.

Trevor Godden has now been appointed Treasurer as well as Tower Correspondent.

Trevor Godden
*Hellingly Tower Correspondent*

**FRIENDS OF HELLINGLY CHURCH**

Since The Friends were formed in2017 they have raised over £73,000 for the preservation of our church building..

During 1925 three events were held "An actor's life for me" David Burrough talking about his life story.A Barn Dance at Carter's Corner,and the annual Christmas Tree Festival ,raising a total of £3,844.67.Our regular contributors donated £2,802.31.including Gift Aid. WE are most appreciative of a donation of £20,000 .Gift Aid of £5,000 will appear in the 1926 accounts.

The Friends gave £10,000 towards the redecoration of the Chancel and Navel,and since formation have contributed £24,000,420 to Fabric projects.The Friends opened the year with £28,853,81,and closed with £45,681.22
As chairman since inception I am extremely appreciative and grateful for the support of the committee members, most of whom have also served from the launch: Andrew Piper, treasurer, Teresa Butler, Secretary and Margie Thorpe, Jackie Berry, Peter Funnell, Veronica Lee and Jenny West. A committee that has stuck together for eight years now. We strive to live up to our motto: When the roof leaks and the walls sag, we are there for you. I have given up most of my duties now as age is beginning to weary me and the years condemn, but will continue to support when and where I can.
Ronald Chatwin

**FAMILY SUPPORT WORK**
**Report for Annual Hellingly Parish Church Meeting 2026 by Mandy Pittman, Deanery Rep**

Help with fundraising for Family Support Work continued over the last year, including providing refreshments at the Bluebell Walk at Bates Green Farm in the Spring and local NGS Open Gardens over the summer, participating in a sponsored walk along the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path in May, supporting the Heathfield Rotary with catering at the Waldren Classic Car Show, and the Christmas lights at Heathfield. Janet Perez kindly sponsored a Christmas tree at our church's Christmas Tree Festival in December to help raise awareness of the work of the charity. Phoenix Choir voted to continue supporting FSW as their chosen charity for another year and we have been there at their concerts and carol singing at the Beacon Centre with our collection buckets and publicity material. Hellingly Church kindly donated £146 from a share of the Lent collections last year. FSW sent their sincere thanks on behalf of the families that they support saying that all this has helped provide relief and security to vulnerable families in Sussex that are struggling with financial, emotional, or relationship issues, showing them that there is community, compassion, and people that care.

Janet and I attended the FSW Annual General Meeting in September, which was held at St Thomas Church in Winchelsea. The meeting followed a service with a lunch provided afterwards. It was really interesting hearing more about the charity and included a very moving presentation by one of the family practitioners giving an outline of the work she does.

If you are interested in finding out more about the work of this charity that is part of the Chichester Diocesan, or wish to get more involved as a supporter or volunteer, please do come and talk to me or Janet. More information can also be found on www.familysupportwork.org. Janet and I will continue to attend quarterly deanery rep meetings in order to dissimilate information and will keep you up to date by means of newsletters distributed in the Church.
Warmest wishes
Mandy Pittman and Janet Perez

**MESSY CHURCH**

Messy church continues in the Hub, on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of every second month. Those who attend do seem to enjoy it.

We had many exciting plans which they all enjoyed and the Messy Church Praise Picnic that took place in the churchyard was a fun time for all those who attended. The arts and crafts are always favourites.

A big thank you to all those who come and join in and help and to those in the congregation who provide the tea, also a very popular, and much appreciated, part of the afternoon.

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF HELLINGLY AND UPPER DICKER, SUSSEX

## Accounts For The Year Ended 31st, December 2025

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# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Receipts and Payments Account 2025

| INCOME | General Fund | Designated Fund | Restricted Fund | Total All Funds 2025 | Total All Funds 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income Donations and Legacies** | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Legacies | 3000.00 | | | 3000.00 | 5041.56 |
| Planned Giving (Not PGS) Inc. CAF | 8514.00 | | | 8514.00 | 17556.00 |
| PGS including Gift Aid | 36273.91 | | | 36273.91 | 38457.97 |
| Collections and Other Giving | 10684.18 | 186.30 | | 10870.48 | 10969.20 |
| Gift Aid - From HMRC | 3583.14 | | | 3583.14 | 3505.06 |
| **Income from Church Activities** | | | | | |
| Trading Income | 1212.69 | | | 1212.69 | 1403.60 |
| Fundraising | 5748.15 | | | 5748.15 | 6331.75 |
| Fees Weddings / Funerals Etc | 7424.85 | | | 7424.85 | 8595.59 |
| Income from Using the Church as a Venue | 284.60 | | | 284.60 | 153.64 |
| Sale of Equipment | 90.00 | | | 90.00 | 0.00 |
| Grant Wealden DC | 2442.00 | | | 2442.00 | 2342.00 |
| Interest | 152.51 | | | 152.51 | 205.03 |
| Other | 542.91 | | | 542.91 | 1288.06 |
| **Income Fabric** | | | | | |
| Donations | | | | 0.00 | 50300.00 |
| LPW Grant Scheme | | | 7586.96 | 7586.96 | 3042.07 |
| Interest | | | 292.37 | 292.37 | 410.38 |
| **Total All Income** | **79952.94** | **186.30** | **7879.33** | **88018.57** | **149601.91** |

| EXPENDITURE | General Fund | Designated Fund | Restricted Fund | Total All Funds 2025 | Total All Funds 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure Raising Funds** | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Expenditure Raising Funds | | | | 0.00 | 218.80 |
| **Church Activities** | | | | | |
| Parish Contribution | 26000.00 | | | 26000.00 | 21000.00 |
| Charity Collection | 0.00 | | | 0.00 | 770.03 |
| Charitable Giving | 1982.45 | | | 1982.45 | 750.18 |
| Salaries, NI and Pensions | 17103.25 | | | 17103.25 | 17246.40 |
| **Church Running Expenses** | | | | | |
| Gas | 2566.76 | | | 2566.76 | 2707.60 |
| Electricity | 1449.64 | | | 1449.64 | 1814.05 |
| Water and Waste Water | 281.97 | | | 281.97 | 339.23 |
| Wafers / Wine | 321.99 | | | 321.99 | 294.57 |
| Candles | 184.98 | | | 184.98 | 242.38 |
| Church Insurance | 3360.68 | | | 3360.68 | 4499.58 |
| Lent Books / Palm Crosses / Christingle Oranges | 83.89 | | | 83.89 | 38.97 |
| Stationery | 181.64 | | | 181.64 | 330.15 |
| Baptism Cards / Candles / Confirmation Prayer Books | 12.79 | | | 12.79 | 98.66 |
| Hall Hire - Various Events | 800.00 | | | 800.00 | 502.50 |
| Music / Hymn Books / RSCM | 137.00 | | | 137.00 | 200.93 |
| Printing and Design | 851.36 | | | 851.36 | 647.26 |
| Assigned Fees & Fees - Other | 2931.50 | | | 2931.50 | 2444.20 |
| Refreshments | 448.69 | | | 448.69 | 1961.52 |
| Copyright | 379.00 | | | 379.00 | 364.40 |
| Wedding & Funeral - Support Costs | 1873.60 | | | 1873.60 | 2372.47 |
| Open The Book / Messy Church | 53.75 | 0.00 | | 53.75 | 134.10 |
| **Clergy Expenses** | | | | | |
| Vicarage Expenses - Water, Council Tax, Etc | 5713.05 | | | 5713.05 | 5330.79 |
| Vicar's Expenses | 903.68 | | | 903.68 | 1273.02 |
| Curate's Expenses | 978.87 | | | 978.87 | 1053.91 |
| Benefice expenses (other) | 293.20 | | | 293.20 | 286.38 |
| **Expenditure Other** | | | | | |
| Churchyard | 2064.00 | | | 2064.00 | 1960.00 |
| Church Flowers | 204.86 | | | 204.86 | 188.20 |
| Organ / Piano | 451.00 | | | 451.00 | 432.00 |
| Safety, Risk Assessments and Safeguarding | 20.16 | | | 20.16 | 106.32 |
| Security / Fire | 140.62 | | | 140.62 | 140.61 |
| Equipment | 671.06 | | | 671.06 | 924.17 |
| Office and Admin | 225.60 | | | 225.60 | 214.80 |
| Other Fundraising Costs / FOT | 105.00 | | | 105.00 | 112.50 |
| Website / Zoom / Facebook etc | 345.32 | | | 345.32 | 634.32 |
| Bank Charges | 92.44 | | | 92.44 | 263.70 |
| GBX Core Costs - (Contactless Terminal) | 360.00 | | | 360.00 | 360.00 |
| Upper Dicker Repairs | 2663.48 | | | 2663.48 | 3731.00 |
| Other | 673.50 | | | 673.50 | 954.61 |
| **Expenditure Fabric** | | | | | |
| Church Fabric | | | 43057.53 | 43057.53 | 663.00 |
| Bells and Clock | | | 65.00 | 65.00 | 14962.02 |
| Repairs | | | 828.00 | 828.00 | 122.31 |
| Electrician | | | 1993.20 | 1993.20 | 1015.20 |
| Churchyard | | | | 0.00 | 608.00 |
| Bank Charges | | | 60.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 |
| Other | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **Total All Expenditure** | **76910.78** | **0.00** | **46003.73** | **122914.51** | **94374.84** |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Reconciliation of Funds and Investments 2025

| | | 2025 | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | | £ |
| | | | | |
| Total Receipts | | 88018.57 | | 149601.91 |
| Transfer in from Church Trust (Fabric Fund) | | 17500.00 | | 0.00 |
| Transfer in from Chancel Fund | | 11262.00 | | 0.00 |
| Transfer in from Friends Account | | 10000.00 | | 7989.20 |
| Total Payments | | 122914.51 | | 94374.84 |
| **Excess Receipts over Payments** | | **3866.06** | | **63216.27** |
| Interest Retained in Deposit Accounts | | 1883.47 | | 45.84 |
| Unrealised Appreciation on Investments | | -510.62 | | 2124.71 |
| **Total Excess Receipts over Payments** | | **5238.91** | | **65386.82** |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | **2025** | | **2024** |
| | | £ | | £ |
| Barclays Current A/C ****3890 | | 0.00 | | 1487.18 |
| Cheques Outstanding | | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Barclays Deposit A/C ****5046 (Fabric) | | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Barclays Current A/C ****1795 (UD) | | 1587.15 | | 27.15 |
| CAF Cash General Fund | | 4125.45 | | 2110.52 |
| CAF Gold General Fund | | 5029.33 | | 3888.62 |
| CAF Cash Fabric Fund | | 498.34 | | 290.10 |
| CAF Gold Fabric Fund | | 17838.26 | | 17408.90 |
| CCLA Deposit A/C CB3023863-001 | | 950.70 | | 909.54 |
| CCLA Share Accounts (From below) | | 43234.01 | | 43744.63 |
| CCLA Deposit Account CB3023453-001 (Fabric) | | 1382.14 | | 1338.00 |
| CCLA Deposit Account CB1008509-001 A&R Kay Window Fund (Fabric) | | 51939.84 | | 50142.00 |
| CCLA Deposit Account CB3023454-001 (General) Was 003D | | 10.43 | | 10.10 |
| **Total in All Funds** | | **126595.65** | | **121356.74** |
| Excess Receipts over Payments | | | | 5238.91 |
| **Check Sum** | | **126595.65** | | **126595.65** |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Financial Statement for Deposit and Share Accounts 2025

| Financial Statement for CCLA Deposit Accounts | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2025 | | 2024 | | Interest Retained |
| CB3023863-001 - General Fund | | 950.70 | | 909.54 | | 41.16 |
| CB3023453-001 - Fabric Fund | | 1382.14 | | 1338.00 | | 44.14 |
| CB3023454-001 - General Fund | | 10.43 | | 10.10 | | 0.33 |
| CB1008509-001 - Fabric Fund - Window | | 51939.84 | | 50142.00 | | 1797.84 |
| **Total** | | **54283.11** | | **52399.64** | | **1883.47** |

| Financial Statement for CCLA Share Account | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2025 | | 2024 | | Unrealised Appreciation |
| **Fabric Fund** | | **£** | | **£** | | **£** |
| CB-3032452 Closing Balance | | 43234.01 | | 43744.63 | | -510.62 |
| Opening Balance | 43744.63 | | | | | |
| Sale of Shares | 0.00 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Total** | | **43234.01** | | **43744.63** | | **-510.62** |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Financial Statement for Upper Dicker Organ Fund 2025

| Financial Statement for UD Organ Fund | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2025 | | 2024 | | Interest Retained |
| | | **£** | | **£** | | **£** |
| CB3023863-001 ( Was 61014140001D) | | 0.00 | | 909.54 | | |
| **Total** | | **0.00** | | **909.54** | | |

The Upper Dicker Organ Fund has now been transferred to the General Fund and shows under the Financial Statement for CCLA Deposit Accounts above.

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker Church Trust and Chancel Fund

**CHURCH TRUST (This is Fabric Fund)**

| | | 2025 | 2024 | Unrealised Appreciation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Church Trust** | | £ | £ | £ |
| CB 3005213 Closing Balance | | 43234.01 | 57030.32 | 3703.69 |
| Opening Balance | 57030.32 | | | |
| Withdrawal from Diocese held account | 17500.00 | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Total** | | **43234.01** | **57030.32** | **3703.69** |

**CHANCEL FUND**

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Investment Income Received | 1619.42 | 924.65 |
| Deposit Account Interest Income received | 1114.44 | 1457.80 |
| **Total Accumulated Income Held on Behalf of the PCC** | **20665.59** | **29818.94** |

Following a review of the law the Chichester DBF decided in 2019 that the previous presentation of Chancel Funds had been misunderstood and that a revision was required. Income received from Chancel trusts is not investment income, as the PCC does not own the trust fund or its investments. Income from Chichester DBF is a restricted charitable grant to reimburse the cost of insuring and maintaining the Chancel.

Accumulated grant income not yet received from Chichester DBF and included in Debtors amounted to £20,665.59 at 31st December 2025 (2024 £29,818.94)

£11,262 was withdrawn from the Chancel Fund Accumulated Income in 2025 to cover the redecoration of the Chancel.

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2025

| | General Funds | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowed Fund | Total All Funds | Total All Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | | | | **2025** | **2024** |
| Current account ****890 See Note | 0.00 | | | | 0.00 | 1487.18 |
| Current account ****795 | 1587.15 | | | | 1587.15 | 27.15 |
| Current account ****710 CAF | 4125.45 | | | | 4125.45 | 2110.52 |
| Deposit account ****387 CAF | 4809.00 | 220.33 | | | 5029.33 | 3888.62 |
| Bank reserve account ***046 See Note | | | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Current account ****711 CAF Fabric | | | 498.34 | | 498.34 | 290.10 |
| Deposit account ****388 CAF Fabric | | | 17838.26 | | 17838.26 | 17408.90 |
| CCLA deposit account CB3023454-001 (General) Was 003D | 10.43 | | | | 10.43 | 10.10 |
| CCLA deposit account CB3023453-001 (Fabric) Was 002D | | | 1382.14 | | 1382.14 | 1338.00 |
| CCLA deposit account CB1008509-001 (A&R Kay Window Fund | | | 51939.84 | | 51939.84 | 50142.00 |
| CCLA Share Account CB3032452-001 (Fabric) Was 001J | | | 43234.01 | | 43234.01 | 43744.63 |
| CBF deposit account CB3023863-001 (UD Organ) Was 001D | 950.70 | | | | 950.70 | 909.54 |
| Church Trust | | | 43286.54 | | 43286.54 | 57030.32 |
| Debtors Chichester DBF Chancel Insurance Grant | | | 20665.59 | | 20665.59 | 29818.94 |
| **TOTALS** | **11482.73** | **220.33** | **178844.72** | **0.00** | **190547.78** | **208206.00** |
| | | | | | | |
| **LIABILITIES** | | | | | | |
| To DBF | 430.40 | | | | 430.40 | 400.50 |
| From PGS December Gift Aid | -543.73 | | | | -543.73 | |
| From Funeral invoices outstanding | -498.00 | | | | -498.00 | |
| To Friends Account SumUp payment | 208.91 | | | | 208.91 | 0.00 |
| **TOTALS** | **-402.42** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **-402.42** | **400.50** |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21/2/26

Signature [signature] Position Vicar

Date 21/2/26

Barclays Current Account ***890 Closed 6th March 2025
Barclays Reserve Account ***046 Closed 6th March 2025

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Notes to the Financial Reports 2025

1) The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

3) Payments to PCC Employees:
The PCC of Hellingly and Upper Dicker is registered as an employer with HMRC. The PCC has two current employees. Gross payments were made amounting to £15,046.16, included in this are the appropriate PAYE and NI deductions that were sent to HMRC amounting to £336.80. As an employer, the PCC contributes to the NEST pension scheme. The PCC paid £327.72 into the scheme.
The church cleaner is self-employed. Payments were made to the value of £1,729.37. No deductions for tax or NI were made.

4) Payments to PCC members / Trustees:
Payments were made to the following PCC members, who are also trustees, for duties carried out at weddings, funerals and events. (Verger, Sound, Choir and Sexton etc). R Moore £50.00; C Haywood £140.00; The only other payments made to PCC members were for the reimbursement of expenses. No PCC members / Trustees received payments for being a PCC member or Trustee.

5) Donations from PCC Members / Trustees:
Identifiable donations from PCC Members / Trustees exceeded £9745.27. Some donations into the charity are received anonymously. It is possible that some of these are made by trustees.

6) In 2025 the fund designated for the Upper Dicker organ was transferred to the general fund. With Holy Trinity becoming a private chapel, the PCC are no longer responsible for the organ. The transfer was made in consultation with the original donor who asked that £100.00 from the original fund should be donated to the Royal British Legion, this is shown in Charitable Giving on page 9.

7) Charity donations and retiring collections were paid as detailed in Appendix A on page 9.

8) Account Closures. The Barclays accounts numbered *****890, (General Fund – Current Account) and *****046 (Fabric Fund – Reserve account) were both closed during the year.

9) The total in all funds stands at £190,547.78. Of this amount £178,844.72 is restricted to the fabric of the church of St Peter and St Paul, any work on a Grade 1 listed building comes at an enormous cost.

   After our liabilities are taken into consideration the general fund balance at the end of the year stands at £12,105.48. It is the general fund that covers our Mission and Ministry and all of the general running costs of the church.

   In 2025 we paid parish share contributions of £26,000 out of the requested £81,445. This means that we have relied on the support of other parishes in the diocese to the value of £55,445

10) The accounts for The Friends of Hellingly Church are shown in Appendix B on pages 10 and 11. This account is under the control of the Parochial Church Council in conjunction with the committee of The Friends; however, it does not form part of the general funds. In 2025 £10,000.00 was transferred from The Friends of Hellingly Church Funds to the Fabric Fund as a contribution to the redecoration of the Nave.

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Appendix A – Charitable Giving, Retiring Collections and Fundraising 2025

| **Charity Giving** | | | **Retiring Collections** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Children's Society from Christingle Service | 45.00 | | Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate) from Crib & Carol Services | 782.02 |
| Children's Society from Coffee Morning | 267.43 | | | |
| Dallington Deanery Synod | 50.00 | | | |
| Royal British Legion - Wreath donation | 50.00 | | | |
| Maycamp Angels - Lent Donation | 292.00 | | | |
| Family Support Work - Lent Donation | 146.00 | | | |
| Hailsham Foodbank - Harvest Donation | 300.00 | | | |
| Royal British Legion - Donation from H Wodehouse UD Organ Fund (Now transferred to General Funds) | 100.00 | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Total** | **1250.43** | | **Total** | **782.02** |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Fundraising for Church Funds** | | | | |
| | Income | Costs | | |
| Ecclesiastical Trust 130 | 130.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Hellingly Open Gardens Refreshments | 2000.00 | | | |
| Coffee Mornings | 1770.46 | | | |
| Harvest Supper and Raffle | 440.00 | 147.00 | | |
| Bluebell Walk | 1261.83 | | | |
| S/H Book Donations | 145.86 | | | |
| **Total** | **5748.15** | **147.00** | | |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Appendix B – The Friends of Hellingly Church
# Receipts and Payments Account 2025

| INCOME | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| **Income from Donations** | | |
| Single Donations | 20090.00 | 540.00 |
| Donations in Memory | | |
| Standing Orders | 2250.00 | 2090.00 |
| Other Donations | | 6.00 |
| Gift Aid - From HMRC | 462.31 | 445.73 |
| Bank Interest | 540.25 | 640.50 |
| **Total Income from Donations** | **23342.56** | **3722.23** |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Income from Fundraising** | | |
| | | |
| Income from Events | 6659.21 | 6121.63 |
| | | |
| **Total Income from Fundraising** | **6659.21** | **6121.63** |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Total All Income** | **30001.77** | **9843.86** |

| EXPENDITURE | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure Raising Funds** | | |
| Advance Deposit Future Events | | 0.00 |
| Printing | | 0.00 |
| Stationery etc | 29.00 | 13.60 |
| Event Expenses | 2962.04 | 1919.74 |
| Web Renewal | 4.83 | 5.50 |
| Bank Charges | 178.19 | 206.29 |
| **Total Expenditure Raising Funds** | **3174.06** | **2145.13** |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Expenditure Charitable Activities** | | |
| Contribution towards Redecoration | 10000.00 | 7989.20 |
| | | |
| **Total Expenditure Charitable Activities** | **10000.00** | **7989.20** |
| | | |
| **Total All Expenditure** | **13174.06** | **10134.33** |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Appendix B - The Friends of Hellingly Church
# Financial Statement 2025

| **Financial Statement for Friends Account** | | **2025** | | **2024** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | | **£** |
| Income from Fundraising Events | | 6659.21 | | 6121.63 |
| Income from Donations inc GiftAid | | 22802.31 | | 3081.73 |
| Bank Interest | | 540.25 | | 640.50 |
| **Total Income** | | **30001.77** | | **9843.86** |
| | | | | |
| Fundraising Expenses | | 3174.06 | | 2135.13 |
| Donation to Hellingly Church Fabric | | 10000.00 | | 7989.20 |
| **Total Expenditure** | | **13174.06** | | **10134.33** |
| | | | | |
| **Excess Receipts Over Payments** | | **16827.71** | | **-290.47** |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Friends of Hellingly Church Accounts** | | | | |
| | | **2025** | | **2024** |
| | | **£** | | **£** |
| **Opening Balance** | | **28853.81** | | **29144.28** |
| Excess Receipts over Payments | | 16827.71 | | -290.47 |
| **Closing Balance** | | **45681.52** | | **28853.81** |

# The Parochial Church Council of Hellingly and Upper Dicker
# Appendix B - The Friends of Hellingly Church
# Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2025

| | General Funds | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowed Fund | Total All Funds | Total All Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 2025 | 2024 |
| **ASSETS** | | | | | | |
| Barclays Current account ****750 | | | 4188.08 | | 4188.08 | 413.61 |
| CAF Cash Current account ****712 | | | 220.75 | | 220.75 | 205.62 |
| CAF Gold Deposit Account ****890 | | | 41272.69 | | 41272.69 | 28234.58 |
| | | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **TOTALS** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **45681.52** | **0.00** | **45681.52** | **28853.81** |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LIABILITIES** | | | | | | |
| Uncleared Cheques | 0.00 | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **TOTALS** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21/2/26

Signature

Position Vicar

Date 21/2/26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/ members of**

Charity Name
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hellingly and Upper Dicker, Sussex

| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1164080 |
|---|---|---|---|

**Set out on pages** 1-12 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

**Responsibilties and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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; or
- 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.

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

| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** | 06.05.26 |
|---|---|---|---|

**Name:** John Charles Males

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** ICAEW FCA

| | |
|---|---|
| **Address:** | Watson Associates |
| | 30 – 34 North Street, Hailsham |
| | East Sussex, BN27 1DW |

| Section B | Disclosure |
|---|---|
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.** | |