The Ecumenical Church Council

of

Sturry and District United Church

within the parish of

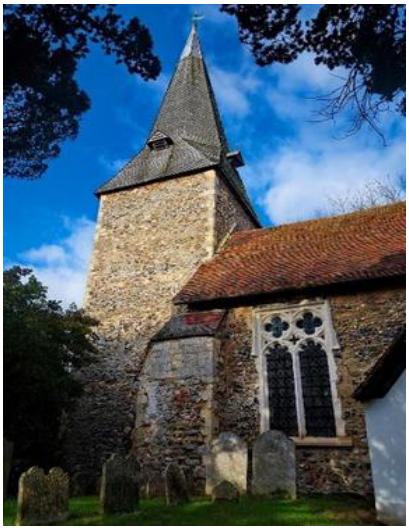
Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden

Charity Commission reg no: 1181753

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2025

STURRY & DISTRICT UNITED CHURCH



St. Mary's Fordwich



St. Nicholas' Sturry



All Saints' Westbere

The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025

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The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

This **Annual Report,** accompanying the parish and partnership annual accounts, is compiled in line with the requirements of the Charities Act 2006, the requirements of the Charity Commission and the public benefit reporting requirements that now apply to all charities.

Following the formal adoption of the new constitution on 20 February 2013, the responsibilities and the membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Anglican Parish of Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden and those of the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) of Sturry and District United Church are inevitably closely linked, and accordingly the following is a joint report approved by both councils.

Administrative information

Sturry and District United Church is a joint Anglican-Methodist Church serving the above-named parish. The Local Ecumenical Partnership in this parish was set up in September 1970 and its Sponsoring Body is Churches Together in Kent. It meets in two parish buildings, St Nicholas' church in Sturry, and All Saints' church in Westbere, both Anglican-owned but the subject of sharing agreements signed in 1988. (The church building of St Mary the Virgin in Fordwich was declared redundant in 1996 and is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust.)

As an Anglican-Methodist partnership, Sturry and District United Church is part both of the Diocese of Canterbury and Deanery of Canterbury within the Church of England and also part of The Canterbury and East Kent Circuit of The Methodist Church. The correspondence address is:
C/O The ECC Secretary, 88, Sweechgate, Broad Oak, Canterbury, CT2 0QU

The Ecumenical Church Council which was set up alongside the new Parochial Church Council from 20 February 2013 fulfils within this parish and partnership the roles normally carried out by a Parochial Church Council and a Methodist Church Council, and is therefore a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006). Sturry and District United Church was registered as a charity in January 2019.

The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 which imposes a legal duty on the clergy, readers and lay workers, churchwardens and parochial church councils to *"**have due regard** to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults*".

Given the suspension of the right of Presentation dated 18 May 2021, Revd Preb. Gillean Craig was licensed as interim 0.2 part time priest in charge rather than incumbent in September 2022. Revd Catherine Wagstaff was welcomed to the LEP as interim part tine methodist minister also on 0.2 in September 2022. Revd Gillean Craig and Rev Catherine Wagstaff both left the parish and partnership in 2024. In 2024 Revd Danny Wheadon joined us. Revd Danny was also the Methodist Circuit Superintendent for the Canterbury and East Kent Methodist Circuit. He left in 2025 when Revd Peggy Kabonde was appointed Circuit Superintendent and Methodist Minister at Sturry & District United Church.

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

(1) **PCC members who served during the period 1 January – 31 December 2025 were:**

Retired minister with Permission to Officiate	Revd Peter Freeman
Churchwardens	Mr Martin Pilgrim Mrs Jane Freeman
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mrs Georgina Glover
Elected members	Mr Paul Haines Mr Gavin Kennett (secretary) Mrs Angela Pilgrim Mrs Pauline Louch Mr Philip Lewis
Co-opted member	Mrs Anna Andrews

(2) ECC members who served during the period 1 January – 31 December 2023 were:

Retired minister with Permission to Officiate	Revd Peter Freeman

(The Circuit Superintendent minister, together with other ministers who have pastoral responsibility within the circuit, and the Bishop of Dover or her appointed representative, may also attend meetings)

Church Stewards & Churchwardens	Mr Martin Pilgrim Mrs Jane Freeman
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mrs Georgina Glover.
Members of the Circuit Meeting	Mr Martin Pilgrim (As Church Steward) Mrs Angela Pilgrim (ex officio as circuit steward)
Elected Members	Mr Gavin Kennett Mr Paul Haines Mrs Pauline Louch Mr Philip Lewis
Co-opted member	Mrs Anna Andrews
In attendance	Mr Peter Bartlett

Structure, governance and management

Since 20 February 2013 the method of appointment of PCC members and ECC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules of the Church of England, the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church and the constitution of the Sturry and District United Church within the parish of Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden, with the exception that in this parish and partnership those

whose names are on the Methodist membership list enjoy the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as those whose names are on the Anglican electoral roll.

There is no pre-determined 'quota' governing the balance between Anglican and Methodist members on the church councils; candidates are elected without regard to their formal denominational allegiance. All who attend worship regularly in our churches are invited to register on the electoral roll or Methodist membership list and stand for election to the PCC and ECC.

In 2007 a Joint Membership List was created, consisting of those who had registered on the electoral roll or Methodist membership list, and it is noteworthy that since that date all such church members have wished to regard themselves as joint members of both denominations. At the Joint Church Council (JCC) meeting of 30 March 2009 it was resolved that following the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting the numbers reported to our parent denominations would each be one-half of the total figure for the Joint Membership List.

Under the Anglican Representation rules and our constitution which came into force from 20 February 2013 and , the maximum number of elected representatives on the PCC is six and the ECC is nine. Elected representatives are elected to serve for three years. At the end of their first period of three years they are eligible for election for a further three years, but after a service of six consecutive years there must be a gap of at least one year before they can stand again for election.

Objectives and activities

As laid down by the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the PCC and ECC of Sturry and District United Church have the responsibility of co-operating with the Anglican and Methodist minister(s) in promoting in the parish and partnership the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of St Nicholas, Sturry, and All Saints, Westbere, and the churchyard only (not the church building) of St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich, and also exercises functions with respect to the Church of England Primary School in the parish.

The PCC and ECC met in person seven times during the year, including a brief meeting after the 2025 AGM and APCM. The PCC and ECC generally have joint meetings, at which the business of each council is handled separately, and a similar principle applies with respect to the AGM and APCM. The Standing and Finance Committee has met three times, generally between ECC / PCC meetings, and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and ECC and discussed where necessary. We are pleased that our many visitors comment on the friendly atmosphere and warm welcome that they receive at Sturry. We would like to develop our work further, particularly with the young people who join us for Sunday worship.

The purpose of Sturry and District United Church as a charity

The purpose of the Sturry and District United Church as a charity is to advance the Christian Faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of both The Methodist and The Anglican Church. The charity identifies its work as a charity in six areas;

The celebration of public worship – this included regular Sunday worship at Sturry and occasional services at Westbere.

The Teaching of the Christian Faith has been carried out through services, work in our local schools through "Open the Book", and articles in the church magazine "Link Up".

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Mission and Evangelism has been reviewed and a plan of action drawn up.

Pastoral Work is carried out by our Ministers and others such as by members of the Pastoral Committee which includes phone calls / visits to those who need support.

The provision of facilities within a Christian Ethos for the local community: We encourage the use of the church by all members of the community and amongst other things hold weekly coffee morning, children's activities during the school holidays, Butterflies, our bereavement group, craft afternoons and hosting Sturry Singers. Sturry Church is also open on Wednesdays and Sundays all day for people to come and visit and the building to pray and find out about its history.

Support of Other Charities in the UK and Overseas. The church has supported other charities through raising recognition of their work, praying for them and raising money during special services and events. We have collected money for Action for Children, The Children's Society, and The World Methodist Mission Fund amongst others. More details of how we meet our objectives as a charity are given in the different sections of this report.

Achievements and performance

Worship

The table below gives a summary of key numbers reported annually with the previous year's figures given by way of comparison. It should be noted that a completely new joint membership list was compiled in 2025 Following the pandemic, a few members of the congregation continued to 'worship at home', through the provision of printed or emailed worship resources, a live Zoom service held by the Methodist Circuit, pre-recorded services from other churches or broadcast worship on the BBC.

The figure for funerals included those conducted were held by parish ministers either in one of the church buildings, at a local cemetery or at a crematorium.

	2025	2024
Number on the Joint Membership List	41	47
Anglican Electoral Roll	21	24
Methodist Membership	20	23
Usual Sunday figure reported as part of the Anglican Statistics for Mission	25	23
Baptisms	5	2
Weddings	2	4
Funerals	13`	8

A year in the Life of Sturry & District United Church

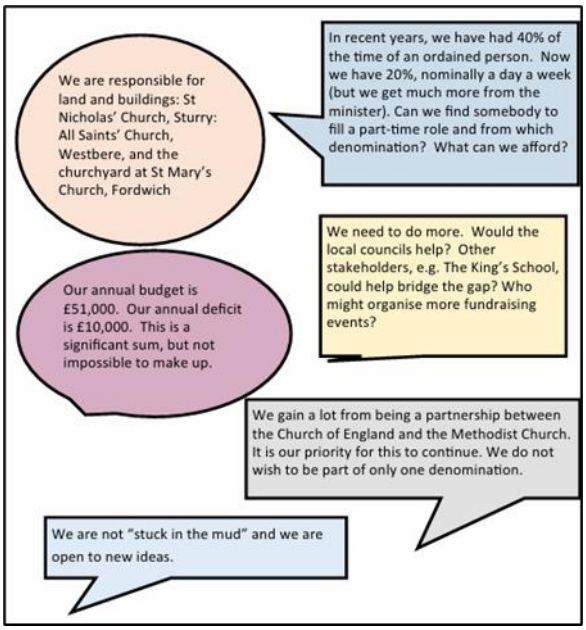
Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

January

We joined the Church of England Parish Giving Scheme, to make it easier to manage our regular giving to the church. This deals with all the administration on behalf of the church, including claiming the Gift Aid from the Government, and then pays the money to Sturry Church. It was also an opportunity for us to review how much we give. In 2024, our planned giving was £12,825, in 2025 it was £13,695, before Gift Aid.

February

We began discussions with our parent denominations, the Methodist Church and the Church of England, about the future of God's work in our Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Sturry and District. Until May 2021, Revd Peter Cornish was our incumbent priest, ordained as an Anglican but also an Authorised Methodist minister; 0.4 of his time was for Sturry and District. Since then, we have received support from both of our denominations, including a period when we had 0.2 of a priest from each denomination.



March

On 26 March, we held a consultation meeting to consider options about the future of Sturry church. About 30 people came – churchgoers, local councillors and members of the wider community. The meeting recognised that we have some financial problems. Our responsibilities in the parish include historic, Grade 1 Listed buildings in Sturry and Westbere and churchyards in Westbere and Fordwich. Remaining an LEP is a priority, we would not wish to be part of only one denomination. We are open to new ideas.

April

Easter Day at Sturry Church was very memorable. Revd Danny Wheadon presided over a service of Holy Communion at 09:30. This was followed by a Local Arrangement Café Church service and games and fun. (including Easter Bonnets). More than 60 people came.

May

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

The church remembered VE Day, 8 May 1945, the end of the Second World War in Europe. This was especially poignant as Sturry suffered heavily from bombing, when 15 people in the village were killed in a raid on 18 November 1941. Sturry bellringers joined in the national pealing of bells on 8 May.

As the weather improved, the residents of Fordwich were able to appreciate the work of Community Payback to open up and clear the Fordwich Churchyard. As Philip Lewis of Fordwich said, "*The churchyard had become a hard to manage wilderness that was slowly burying dozens of graves and memorial stones. The overgrown churchyard has now been transformed, thanks to the offenders and their supervisors. The work is not finished, but today it is already an open and bright space, with graves standing clear and offering a wonderful prospect on to the Stour. The offenders have also created bug hotels all around the churchyard.".*

We also began work with a number of community organisations to manage better the 10,000 square metres (or 2.5 acres) of land around Sturry Church. The aim was to be sustainable and "green".

June



Over the weekend of 13 - 15 June we were pleased to work with other local community organisations to host Family Fundays in and around Sturry church. The church, the Sturry and Broad Oak Residents Association and the Sturry Parish Council organised arts, crafts, music, food and events.

July



From 27 July to 3 August, the Knitted Bible came to Sturry. It is a display of 36 Biblical scenes as tableaux of knitted figures, skilfully crafted by the community of St George's United Reformed Church, Hartlepool, County Durham. The exhibition was publicised extensively. BBC coverage included a live broadcast from the church on Sunday, 27 July, and with numerous mentions in local news broadcasts and on the BBC Radio Kent website. Over 230 visitors signed the Visitors' Book. There were many local visitors, but—thanks to the publicity - viewers were from all over Kent and further, including the USA. Among the comments were, "fabulous", "inspirational" and "well worth the visit". Local MP, the Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale MP, said on his website, "An amazing experience. Don't miss it." The event raised over £2,000 and generated warmth and good will.

August

The Methodist year runs from 1 September to 31 August, so ministers take up new appointments from 1 September. This year we said goodbye to the Revd Danny Wheadon, who took up an appointment in London. And we welcomed the Revd Peggy Kabonde as our new Superintendent Methodist minister.

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

September

The annual Ride + Stride event encourages participants to seek sponsorship for visiting as many Kent churches as possible. Some of the Sturry and District riders and striders were sponsored for their laps of St Nicholas' church, assisted by their mobility aids. The event raised over £760 half of which will be used to support Sturry and half for all Kent churches.

November

On 9 November, Remembrance Sunday's service around the Sturry War Memorial in Sturry churchyard, was an all-faith, all-community event. The Junior King's School, local Scouts, local councillors and offenders and staff from Community Payback were there. For the first time, local Gurkha veterans, mainly Hindu, also participated.

Following extensive discussions with the Ven Will Adam, Archdeacon of Canterbury, and approval from the Bishop of Dover, we placed an advertisement for a new Anglican incumbent for our parish, Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden. The post was for 0.2 fte plus Sundays with accommodation in the Rectory in Sturry.

December

The advertisement for a new Anglican priest for Sturry produced only one applicant. The appointed interview panel met on 16 December and decided not to proceed with that application.

(Postscript: we readvertised early in 2026 and the panel decided again not to proceed with the single applicant. At the time of writing, discussions about the future continue.)

Work began to instal new supplementary glass doors to the north entrance to Sturry Church at the same time, the porch was to be repaired and refurbished. The budget for the project was circa £18,000. The scheme was made possible by generous donations, including £6,000 from the Friends of St Nicholas' Church.

On the first day of repairs, bats were seen. Work was suspended while we took advice about how to deal with the bats; they are a protected species and the penalties for disturbing them are severe. (The repairs were eventually carried out and the doors were fitted in March).

As part of the community effort in the Milner Ground various organisations planted apple trees to form a community orchard.

Advent and Christmas were as busy as usual, as well as the usual worship. We held a "Blue Christmas" service for those people who could not have a happy Christmas. We held a Community Christmas Singalong in Sturry Church and Fordwich Church hosted Carols at Christmas event. There was a Crib Service especially for children on Christmas Eve. And in the period between Christmas and New Year, the Methodist Circuit held a "Carolaire" of songs, readings and prayers at St Peter's in Canterbury.

Regular events throughout the year

Weekly Wednesday Coffee Mornings – numbers attending increased during 2025 and thanks go to Richard Wells for all his help and to Corrine Danaher who now also helps serve refreshments. There is a lot of chat and laughter each week and usually a tombola or raffle that adds to the excitement and the donations.

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Butterflies is our support group for the bereaved. This is held every second Monday in the month. There is a loyal team of listeners, and a small number of people have attended.

Monthly Soup on Saturday continues to be popular and numbers increased slightly during the year.

Open the Book – once a month during term time five church members dramatise a story from the Bible at Sturry C. of E. Primary School for their act of Collective Worship. The Bible Society publish the material and advice. There is always a positive response from the children, and they enjoy taking part in the drama, a short time of reflection and the prayers.

Free Activity Afternoons for children aged four to eleven [accompanied by parents or carers] were held during each half-term holiday. These were well attended and activities organised and delivered by a team of enthusiastic volunteers.

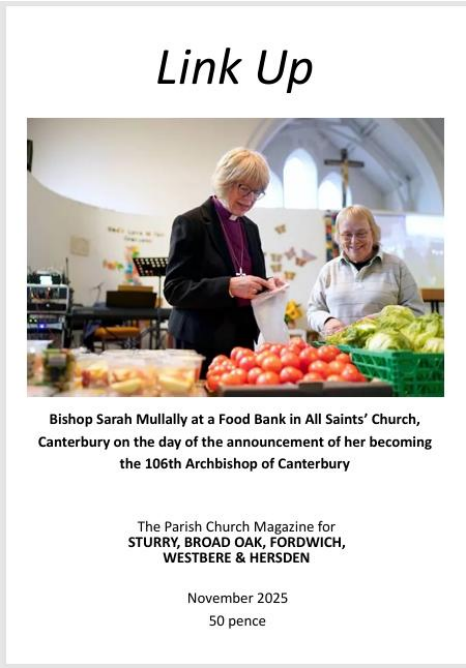
Communications

We communicate with our church family and the wider community with a mixture of old and new technology.

We produce a **weekly noticesheet**. Hard copies are available in church each Sunday and 21 copies are distributed by email.

We have a **website** https://sturrychurch.org.uk/ and a Fb page https://www.facebook.com/sturrychurch

Our **monthly magazine** has 10 editions a year, with 24 or 28 A5 pages a year. We print 450 copies per edition and, thanks to a network of distributors, it is circulated across our parish. It is also available online.



Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

In Remembrance

During the year we mourned the passing of the following members of our community:

Kinn McIntosh
Hazel Brackley
John Louch
Jean Wood
Ken Adams
Ron Chadwick

Property Report for Annual Report from the Church stewards / Churchwardens

Our responsibilities for property comprise: church buildings at Sturry (St Nicholas') and Westbere (All Saints'); the churchyards at Westbere and Fordwich; and, the Milner Ground which is land held in trust by the PCC for the people of Sturry. Both church buildings are Grade 1 Listed.

> *Listed buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest with legal protection. Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest. Only around 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I.*
> Source: Historic England

The PCC is grateful for the wider support we receive in meeting our obligations.

- ***Those who, in their giving, contribute to the annual expenditure of £15,000 on buildings and grounds.***
- ***The supervisors and offenders from Community Payback.***
- ***The grounds staff from the King's School, Canterbury.***
- ***All those community groups and individuals who have got behind the efforts to improve community use of the Milner Ground.***
- ***The cleaning teams at Westbere and Sturry churches.***
- ***The Sturry Parish Council***

Looking to the future

Work began in 2025 on longer term projects.

- *A new inner glass door and refurbished porch at Sturry church.*
- *Seeking to end public worship at Westbere church, saving £5,000 pa.*
- *Continued improvements to the churchyard at Fordwich.*
- *A community orchard and herb beds in the Milner Ground.*

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Also, looking even further forward, during 2026 we will need to commission the surveys of the state of the 1000-years old Westbere and Sturry Churches which must take place in 2027. These are almost certain to present challenges

Martin Pilgrim, April 2026.

Deanery Synod Report 2026

Synod has met 3 times since our last APCMs. Each Synod has picked up one of the themes from the Deanery Mission Plan (DMP) discussed at the February 2025 meeting.

- In *June 2025* at *St Mildred's* and Synod discussed the plan's provision for student ministry, focusing on addressing the needs of students that were currently not being met. One positive development has been the move to make known the variety of services available across the Deanery, with a particular focus on Evensong.

- In *October 2025* at *St Mary Bredin* the focus was on children and young people. It was stressed that not every church could be expected to follow the same path. From discussion groups a picture of the existing variety of provision across the Deanery emerged and it was agreed that more could be done to signpost the provision available.

- In *February 2026* at *St Dunstan's* we experienced an Ignite meeting led by Revd Patick Ellisdon of All Saints together with members of his team. The Ignite group at All Saints has been increasing and now has 20-30 active members. It was felt that this was a valuable resource to have in the Deanery.

Communication: We are trying to improve the level of communication of events as well as regular services by encouraging postings on the Deanery Facebook page www.facebook.com/CanterburyDeanery/ which provides current news of the huge range of activities among our Deanery parishes and Christians Together in Canterbury.

During the year: We were saddened by the death of Canon John Morrison who had served the Deanery loyally for many years, most recently as Treasurer. During 2025 the Area Dean and Lay Chair undertook five Visitations to parishes: St Cosmus and St Damian, Blean; St Michael and All Angels, Harbledown; St Nicholas, Thanington; St Stephen's, Hackington; St Nicholas, Sturry. At the February 2026 Synod Revd Canon Jo Richards completed her term of office as Area Dean along with Revd Brian McHenry as Assistant Area Dean. Grateful thanks are due to Jo and Brian for their leadership of the Deanery. Parishes had also been asked to compile a list of "Three Things" which would be the focus of their Mission Action Plans by December 2025. These will feed into the ongoing review of the Deanery Mission Plan to ensure coherence between parish and Deanery plans.

Thanks to all members of the DMMC for their hard work on the Deanery Mission Plan and for their continuing dedication to the needs of the Deanery, and to Harry Macdonald, our Administrator, for his efficient work in serving the Deanery. The June Synod marks the end of the triennium for the Deanery and elections will be held for a new Deanery Synod at APCMs.

Roger Vickerman

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Methodist Circuit Report

Sturry Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglican and Methodist Churches and as such plays an active part of the Canterbury and East Kent Methodist Circuit. Our Circuit stretches from Faversham to Dover and across to Thanet.

In September 2025 the Circuit welcomed our new superintendent minister, Peggy Kabonde. Sturry is one of the churches that Peggy has pastoral oversight for and we are pleased that she has been to preach a number of times at our church. Peggy has also supported our activities such as the Community Garden and children's activities.

As a circuit, we are delighted that in September 2026 there will be two more Methodist ministers serving our Circuit churches. This increase in staff will mean that Peggy can spend more time with us in Sturry.

Our minister, Peggy Kabonde, our two churchwarden

ns and church stewards, Jane Freeman and Martin Pilgrim, all attend the Circuit Meeting along with Angela Pilgrim, who is currently Senior Circuit Steward. The Circuit Meeting is the local decision-making body for finances and the deployment of staff including ministers. Sturry plays an active role in the work of the Circuit. We hosted a Circuit foundation safeguarding course and are pleased to host the Circuit Meeting in June 2026.

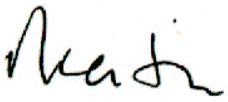
Angela Pilgrim (Senior Circuit Steward)

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Financial review We are grateful to those church members who reviewed their giving through the church over the year, and to all who have organised and supported fundraising events. However, we need to increase our income if we are to become truly sustainable. In 2024, the ECC signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme/ This allows for people to pay by direct debit rather than standing order and to review their giving more easily each year with the possibility of indexing their regular giving in line with inflation. When people started using the PGS scheme in 2025, there was a noticeable increase in giving. The scheme also allows for Gift Aid to be collected monthly. Not everyone is signed up so Gift Aid on their giving as well as Gift Aid an collections has to be claimed by the parish. Details of our receipts and expenditure, including our parish share and Circuit assessment by which we contribute to ministry costs not only in this parish but in the wider churches, will be available in the financial accounts.

Reserves policy The PCC has reviewed the church's needs for reserves in line with the Operational Guidance No 43 (Charity Income Reserves) issued by the Charity Commission. The income of the Parish, as well as its financial demands, are subject to fluctuation. Maintaining two listed buildings can be costly and in order to meet the cost of major repairs and other calls upon parish funds, the PCC consider it prudent to maintain substantial reserves.

Report approved by the Standing and Finance Committee on behalf of the Parochial Church Council and the Ecumenical Church Council on 29th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by the Churchwardens and Church Stewards

Signature here		
	Jane Freeman	Martin Pilgrim
Date here	*29 April 2026*	*29 April 2026*

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	STURRY AND DISTRICT UNITED CHURCH		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1181753
Set out on pages	15 - 17		

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

Responsibilities 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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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:	CSutcliffe	**Date:**	14 4 2026.
Name:	MRS. CLARE. SUTCLIFFE.		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER		
Address:	128 SANDWICH ROAD, WHITFIELD, DOVER, KENT CT16 3JP.		

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Sturry & District United Church							
Receipts and Payments Summary 2025						**2025**	**2024**
			Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Endowment**	**Total Funds**	**Total funds**
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts			£	£	£		
Planned giving	1		13695.00	-	-	13,695.00	12,825.00
Giving at services			2364.93	-	-	2,364.93	2,558.10
All other giving / voluntary receipts		KSC	5,040.00	-	-	5,040.00	5,040.00
	2	Donations (general)	36,633.52	-	-	36,633.52	3,902.04
	3	Fees to PCC	2,689.30	-	-	2,689.30	1,801.00
		Fees due to DBF		449.00	-	449.00	1,352.00
	4	Wedding staged payments	659.00		-	659.00	2,419.00
		Fees to non stipendiary		1,144.00		1,144.00	-
Tax Recovered	5	Gift Aid (planned giving)	4,417.40	-	-	4,417.40	-
			-	-	-	-	-
						-	-
			65,499.15	1,593.00	-	67,092.15	29,897.14
						-	-
Activities for generating funds		Coffee	871.38	-		871.38	631.58
		Fundraising events	2,451.81	-	-	2,451.81	1,525.83
		Soup lunches	905.20	-	-	905.20	907.25
	6	Porch / Glass Door Donations		800.00	-	800.00	1,251.81
	7	Milner Ground Grants etc		2,741.00		2,741.00	
		Heating				-	
		Flower Fund		100.00		100.00	
	8	Sundries	484.99	-	-	484.99	13,489.91
		Westbere Hall Rent	300.00			300.00	-
						-	
Investment Income			4,463.23	-	-	4,463.23	4,093.44
						-	-
Church Activities		Magazine	1,581.40	-	-	1,581.40	1,642.00
		Charity Collections	1,022.06	-	-	1,022.06	589.00
						-	-
Total Receipts			77,579.22	5,234.00	-	82,813.22	54,027.96
							-
							-
							-
PAYMENTS							-
Church Activities							-
Stipend contribution/share/assessment			24834.59	-	-	24,834.59	21,310.22
Clergy and staffing costs	9	Ministry Costs	1465.40	-	-	1,465.40	771.80
						-	-
Clergy and staffing costs		Heat, light,water,insurance	11490.01	-	-	11,490.01	11,792.72
Fund raising costs		Upkeep of services	181.30	-	-	181.30	395.38
Church running expenses		Bells,organists, virgers	1195.00	-	-	1,195.00	1,435.00
	10	Minor repairs, organ tuning	2238.87	-	-	2,238.87	4,700.01
		Churchyard maintenance	1393.36	-	-	1,393.36	1,924.50
		Admin	595.73	-	-	595.73	458.19
		Magazine	2565.00	-	-	2,565.00	2,875.80
		Flower Fund	99.98			99.98	-
		Deposits		-	-	-	-
	11	to Diocese	617.00		-	617.00	958.20
Fees returned				-		-	-
				-	-	-	-
					-	-	660.40
Hall running costs					-	-	860.76
Mission Giving and donations			896.50			896.50	-
Sundries	12		1186.32			1,186.32	-
Door & Porch Project			6760.80			6,760.80	-
SPC Grant Milner Ground Project)				101.75	-	101.75	
CCC Grant (to be reclaimed)				634.00	-	634.00	
						-	-
Costs of generating funds			104.53		-	104.53	309.92
Total Payments			55624.39	735.75		56,360.14	48,452.90
Receipts over payments			**£ 26,453.08**				
Cash in bank and at hand at 1 January 2025			**£ 42,771.55**				
Cash in bank and at hand at 31 December 2025			**£ 69,224.63**				

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Sturry & District United Church									
Statements of Assets and Liabilities									
					Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**2025**	**2024**
					£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cash Funds									
	Lloyds Bank Current Account				60,376.62	8848.01		69,224.63	42771.55
	Lloyds Magazine Account					434.42		434.42	434.42
	Cash in hand								
Other Monetary assets									
	Gift Aid Recoverable					work in progress for April 24 - April 25			
Investment Assets at 31/12/25									
	CCLA 1	**CB3021299-001**	**Development Fund**		22,221.04			22,221.04	21258.95
	CCLA 2	**CB3021230-001**	**Sale of Rectory Site**				30,310.22	30,310.22	29586.05
	CCLA 3	**CB3021231-001**	**Mission Room Recoupment Order**				19,036.37	19,036.37	19829.1
	CCLA DBF	**CB3003637-001**					99,522.30	99,522.30	103666.69
	CFB	**Deposit 06982010**			1,640.28			1,640.28	1578.32
								-	
				Totals	23,861.32		148,868.89	172,730.21	175919.11

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2025 (continued).

Notes to the 2025 Accounts.

1 Increase due to switch to Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) with some increasing their giving.

2 Includes £30,000 bequest from the estate of the late Joan Potter and a "one off" donation of £2000 and a "one off" donation of £2000

3 Includes fees paid to PCC for payment to Diocesan Board of Finance for funerals. From Jan 2024, Diocesan Board of Finance required PCC to pay 70% directly to non-stipendiary ministers.

4 Wedding Fees may be paid in total or as part of staged payments. The PCC is no longer allowed to take a deposit. Some of this money is used to pay to the DBF, Organist, Vergers and Bells.

5 The church has moved some of its regular giving to the Parish Giving Scheme from Gift Aid claims made through Canterbury Diocese. This includes GA claimed through PGS and claim for Apr 23 - April 24 made by the church

6 Porch and glass door scheme early donations.

7 One off grant from Sturry Parish Council for work to the Milner Ground

8 Including donations for gifts to Danny & Catherine (£290) and donation for a new projector screen (£169.99)

9 Includes fees paid by PCC to non-stipendiary ministers for occasional offices, paid by PCC acting as an agent for DBF. Higher than 2024 as more weddings / funerals.

10 Fewer minor repairs. Includes Fire Extinguisher maintenance £352.68, Southgate Electrical, £168, E-Bound alarm subscription, Additional Fire extinguisher maintenance, £176.99, Alarm Maintenance £523.20

11 Fewer incumbent led funerals / wedding so more money to non-stipendiary clergy. (70% of Diocesan Board of Finance fee)

12 Includes asbestos survey £300, cheques declined due to bank machine fault £738.70, fundraising leaflets £110, projector screen £169.99, new PAYAZ Sims card £67.44