The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Waldron

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

Registered Charity no. 1084369

## Annual Report
## For the year ended 31st December 2025

CONTENTS


| Page | |
|---|---|
| 2-6 | Trustees annual report |
| 7 | Financial review- Treasurer's Report |
| 8 | Structure, Governance & Management |
| 9-10 | Statement of financial receipts and payments |
| 11 | Statement of assets and liabilities |
| 12-14 | Notes to the accounts |
| 15 | Report of the independent examiner |
| 16-22 | Reports - Appendices |


Website: www.waldronchurches.org.uk

| | |
|---|---|
| Incumbent: | The Revd Simon Hobbs |
| Independent examiner: | Mr Gary Hicks, FCCA |
| Bankers: | Lloyds Bank and NatWest Bank |

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand Trustees Annual Report for 2025

**Reference and administrative information**
**i) Administration address:-**
c/o Brambles, Dern Lane
Waldron, Heathfield, East Sussex
TN21 0PN

**ii) Charitable Status of the parish**
The parish is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission and our number is 1184369

**iii) Name and address of Independent Examiner**
Gary Hicks, FCCA
14 Meadow Way
Heathfield
East Sussex
TN21 8AL

**iv) Name & Address of Primary Bankers**
Lloyds Bank plc
82 Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN1 1RP

## Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Simon Hobbs, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

## What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of the various events which were organised throughout the year
- Continuing to maintain close contacts with our Church of England school
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.

## What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

**Achievements and performance**

**i) Church attendance and electoral roll totals**

There were 101 entries on the Church Electoral Roll at the end of the year of which 27 relate to people not currently residing within the parish (121 in 2024 ).

The average Sunday attendance was 70 (64 in 2024)

*n.b. calculated by adding all of the Sunday only worshippers EXCEPT Easter Sunday and dividing by 51*

303 came to Church over the Christmas Period, including 48 children. (260 in 2024)

153 attended the Easter Sunday Services

**ii) PCC Meetings**

The PCC met on 4 occasions in 2025 –, 31st January, 7th March, 1st August, 10th October,. Attendance as recorded in the minutes.

**iii) Review of Activities**

During the course of the year, the PCC :-

Continued the successful integration of the congregations of the two churches, using both venues for various "special" service .More recent members of the congregation readily accept the use of both churches as a regular occurrence, which is evidence of major progress in this area. For those unable to attend church services, strenuous efforts are made to maintain contact via telephone calling and personal visits. Home communion became available when requested, following the appointment of our new Rector

We had four weddings in our churches during the year along with 4 Baptisms. Additionally, 10 Funerals took place.

The very successful school leavers service at St Bartholomew's Church again took place in the summer and we also welcomed local school children to their now familiar Easter event in St Bartholomew's church.

Our Alleluia Room is now being used regularly by a variety of groups, including a day centre for the elderly now part of the programme along with exercise classes for the elderly and singing lessons!. A weekly "open" coffee morning is held on Wednesday mornings.

We continue to encourage use of the facility by the local community and have been pleased to welcome a number of other groups for their activities, something we continue to build on. We were delighted to offer the facility to our Church of England school along with Churches Together in Heathfield. We were also pleased once again, to welcome the Haymakers Nursery to All Saints when they presented their nativity play.

Both churches are now used fairly regularly for concerts and other activities, some arranged by the PCC and some organised by Friends of Waldron Churches who are very active in supporting our efforts and assisting in maintaining the fabric of both churches.

The garden area near the Alleluia Room is enjoyed by passers by and especially those who visited the graves in the adjacent churchyard. We are grateful to volunteers for maintaining the garden areas and to those who have worked tirelessly at clearing the churchyard at All Saints, making it so much more accessible to those visiting graves.

We continue to maintain and develop an active working relationship with the local Cof E school where we have representation on the Board of Governors and we continue to make regular visits to join in the weekly collective worship. Safeguarding issues are covered at each PCC meeting and we are pleased to report that there have been no instances that required reporting.

Perhaps most significantly, 2025 saw the completion of a long held aspiration to have an internal toilet facility at All Saints. This was achieved by generous personal donations, some much appreciated grants and amazing support from Friends of Waldron Churches and the Waldron 800 Trust.

**iv) Church Groups – *see separate reports in the appendix***

Cross in Hand Church of England Primary School – *appendix 1*
Dallington Deanery Synod – *appendix 2*
Churches Together in Heathfield & District – *appendix 3*
The Choir - *see Music report appendix 4*
Parish Prayer Group – *appendix 5*
Pastoral & Fellowship – *appendix 6*
Friends of Waldron Churches – *appendix 7*
Freewill Offering - *appendix 8*
Family Support Work – *appendix 9*
Bell Ringers – *appendix 10*
Parish Pealers – *appendix 11*
"Lost & Found" – *appendix 12*

**Connected Charity see appendix 13 for a report on Waldron 800 Trust**

## Rector's Review

**I think I would describe the year 2025 as a year of solid progress in our church community life. A year in which we saw our congregation grow numerically and also in the quality of its community life. It is always a joy to come to church on Sundays as there is a real sense of a happy community. And that is the best foundation for our future. There are so many people who contribute willingly and cheerfully to our community - the churchwardens, PCC who help steer the direction of the church and deal with practical matters too; those who make the services so beautiful - from Andy and Tim our Readers, the choir and musicians, those who read and pray, to the flower arrangers, to our wonderful group of bellringers; to those who clean and look after the church and the churchyard; those who do the important work of welcoming people on a Sunday to our services and provide hospitality afterwards; everyone of these makes a quiet but hugely important contribution to the life of our church: so a big thank you to all of you.**

**We have moved last year fairly seamlessly towards a more frequent Parish Eucharist every Sunday and I think this has helped us grow more together as one congregation, whilst at the same time celebrating the Church's year in all its variety. It was a huge joy to have four people confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes in Burwash Church in June.**

**We held two study courses last year - one in Lent on the Anglican Tradition and one in the autumn on Scripture. Both were very well attended and led to some fascinating discussions.**

**We also held two healing services and a Pet service in addition to our regular services.**
**We were very fortunate that a number of local clergy were available to cover for our services when I was away.**

**We completed the work on the loo in All Saints which was great blessing in all sorts of**
**ways! We were greatly blessed by the gift of a substantial bequest which is enabling us to take a number of projects forward into 2026, and which means our church buildings will be in good order, these sacred places where we encounter God in his Sacraments, in his Word and in his people.**

**Sadly we had to bid farewell to a number of our congregation, past and present: Peter Jennings, Richard Purdey and Murray Sandeman, amongst them, and we also held four baptism services and three weddings including Freddie and Martin's!**

**As always our task, mission and joy is to grow in holiness and love of God and neighbour - this is the end to which all our church life moves. As I often quote St David of Wales: "to be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things well". This is how we stay faithful to our Lord. There is so much about our life together which encourages us towards that, and which we can all rejoice in and feel confident in and hugely thankful for our future Christian life together.**

**Churchwardens' Report**

**We echo Father Simon's comments in that 2025 proved to be a year of progress. The life of the parish continued to flourish under Father Simon's leadership and progress was made with other matters as well, including the major project of installing the internal toilet at All Saints, something we are quite proud of, not only for the fine finished result, but also the fact that it came in slightly under budget!**

**There were a number of occasions when people could get together socially, not least the monthly coffee mornings in people's homes, but the weekly coffee, cake and chat on a Wednesday morning.**

**Our Alleluia Room continues to be well used by a variety of groups and is truly serving the wider community as intended. It provides a welcome space for after church refreshment as well as multiple uses for others.**

**As has been said, our parish functions well due to the tremendous support we receive from many people and we echo Father Simon's thanks to all concerned. We also extend our thanks to those retired clergy who we are delighted to welcome to occasional services and, dare we say, enjoy coming!**

**2026 holds a number of new challenges, but we enter the year full of optimism for our parish and the various projects we have in mind.**

**Perhaps we should finally add that neither of us will go on forever, so, if anyone feels a calling to move into the churchwarden's role in future, now is a good time to flag it up!**

**Sarah Mackenzie and Ian Dixon**

## Financial review and future plans

2025 was a year in which we achieved the goal of installing an internal toilet at All Saints and much of our efforts were directed at funding this major project. Our public appeal produced over £17,000 and we were significantly supported by grants from the Garfield Weston Trust, Bernard Sunley Trust, Benefact Trust, Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council and, significantly , £40,000 from Friends of Waldron Churches and £20,000 from the Waldron 800 Trust. As a consequence, after allowing for the recovery of VAT, the project was fully financed.

If we remove the financing aspects of this project then “normal income” just about covered our normal outgoings which was satisfying in that we had budgeted for a shortfall of around £6,600. Having said that, and entirely unexpectedly, the parish received a significant donation of just over £150,000 from the late Peter Leeves. Regrettably, we have not been able to establish his connection with our church, but thanks were sent to the family via the solicitors. As a result of this windfall, our finances finished the year in very good shape.

The Parish Giving Scheme continues to be a significant benefit to us in providing regular income and tax relief through Gift Aid. We are very grateful to all who have joined this scheme and recommend it to everyone who wishes to support us.

We committed more to our Parish Contribution than was requested in recognition of our financial status, although this was to be reduced in 2026 as we did not expect the legacy and were not sure of the final bill for the toilet project.

We continue to benefit from being on a three year fixed contract for gas and electricity and lower oil prices throughout 2025 have been a great help. Nevertheless, our utility bills are a major expense. Fortunately, the increased use of the Alleluia Room, means that donations have increased and do go a fair way towards the overheads.

All of the above means that we ended 2025 with disposable reserves of £178,000; a very healthy position, but one which will enable us to address some issues in both churches that may well need significant funds. The Friends of Waldron Churches also hold around £22,000.

We remain mindful of the fact that virtually all of the work of our parish is done voluntarily; and give thanks for the many contributions of time and effort.

Ian Dixon – Hon. Treasurer

**Structure, governance and management of the charity**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

*Ex Officio members*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Incumbent: | The Revd Simon Hobbs | Chairman |
| Readers: | Mr Tim Hough and Mr Andy Delves | |
| Wardens: | Mrs Sarah Mackenzie | Vice Chairman |
| | Mr Ian Dixon and | Treasurer |

*Elected Members*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Miss Frederica Everett | (Deputy Treasurer) |
| Mrs Carollyn Stanbridge | Mrs Mary Everett | |
| Mr David Mattinson | Mr Tim Williams | |
| Dr Peter Venn | Mr Roger Clark - | Safeguarding |
| Mr Martin Tunstall | Mrs Penelope Mayfield | Secretary |

*Deanery Synod* Mr Tim Williams & Mrs Mary Everett

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and xx members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

**Committees of the PCC**

The PCC's Standing Committee, which is the only committee required by law, has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by the Council. This consists of the Priest-in-charge, the Churchwardens, the Secretary, the Treasurer and one member from the PCC. A finance sub-committee monitors the income and expenditure of the PCC. The PCC also oversees the stewardship of the church buildings and fabric. Other groups who operate under the authority and directions of the PCC have their activities summarised in the appendices to this document.

**Induction and training of PCC Members**

All members of the PCC have their duties and responsibilities explained to them including their duty of care and the implications of the Charities Act 2006 and SORP 2005. This also includes Safeguarding issues. They are regularly updated on changes to rules, regulations and law.

There were no safeguarding issues to report during the year relating to our parish.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and

signed on their behalf by The Revd. Simon Hobbs, PCC Chairman

…… Date……..

# Annual Financial Report

**of**

## The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Waldron

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew’s, Cross in Hand

Registered Charity no. 1184369

---

## For the year ended 31st December 2025

**CONTENTS**


| Page | |
|---|---|
| 10 | Statement of financial receipts and payments |
| 11 | Statement of assets and liabilities |
| 12-15 | Notes to the accounts |
| 16 | Report of the independent examiner |

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 11843691*

# Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

| | *Unrestricted* | | *Restricted* | *Endowed* | *Total* All Funds | *Total* All Funds | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General Fund | Designated Funds | Fund/s | Fund/s | 2025 | 2024 | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| **Income and endowments from:** | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 212,318 | - | 94,249 | - | **306567** | *686591* | *1* |
| Fees | 3,326 | - | - | - | **3,326** | *2557* | |
| Other trading activities | | - | - | - | | | |
| Investments | 1,959 | | | - | **1,959** | *2553* | |
| FOWC | (31,210) | - | | - | **(31,210)** | *11424* | |
| Bellringers Fund | | | 3,445 | | **3,445** | | |
| **Total received** | **186,393** | **0** | **97,694** | **-** | **284,087** | *85193* | |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | **-** | | |
| Cost of raising funds | | - | - | - | | | |
| Charitable costs | 64,531 | | 1,200 | - | **65,731** | *85283* | |
| Trading costs | | - | - | - | | | |
| Other payments | 7,872 | - | 104,372 | - | **112,244** | *12650* | |
| **Total paid** | **72,403** | | **105,572** | **-** | **177,975** | *97933* | |
| *Reconciliation of funds:* | | | | | | | |
| **Net income or (net expenditure)** | 113,991 | | (7,879) | - | **106,112** | *(12740)* | |
| Transfers between funds/ change in investments | 21,624 | (1250) | (19,080) | (124) | 1,170 | *504* | *1&2* |
| **Net movement in funds** | **135,615** | **(1250)** | **(26,959)** | **(124)** | **107,282** | *(12236)* | |
| Bank accounts at 1 January | 42,670 | 1,250 | 65,808 | 27,108 | **136,836** | *149072* | *3* |
| **Bank accounts at 31 December** | **178,285** | | **38.849** | **26,984** | **244,118** | *136836* | *4* |

Note 1; £30,000 held on behalf of FOWC towards costs of new toilet were held in the church Deposit account, but were freed up for church use once the toilet project commenced

Note 2; The costs of the new toilet exceeded the funds specifically raised, hence a drawing on the main account to cover the shortfall.

Note 3; The organ fund is now considered “restricted” along with the Bellringers fund and the FOWC balances and the stained glass window value

Note 4; Endowed funds relate to silver at Chichester and the Clock Benefaction Fund managed at Chichester

# All Saints. Waldron & St Bartholomew’s, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 1184369*

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

| | ***Unrestricted*** | | | | ***Total*** | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **General Fund** | **Designated Funds** | ***Restricted Fund/s*** | ***Endowed Fund/s*** | **All Funds 2025** | *All Funds 2024* | *Notes* |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | **£** | *£* | |
| **Assets:** | | | | | | | |
| Bank current account( Lloyds) | 1869 | | | | **1869** | **7,548** | |
| Bank account – Organ Fund- Natwest | | | 805 | | **805** | **1,250** | |
| Bank account- Bellringers - Natwest | | | 3445 | | **3445** | | |
| CBF Deposit Fund | 169,860 | | | | **169860** | **29,860** | *1* |
| | | | | | | | |
| PCC-owned bank balance | | | | | | **38,658** | |
| Friends of Waldron Churches | | | 22599 | | **22599** | **53,808** | |
| **Total bank and deposit accounts** | **171,729** | | **26,849** | | **198578** | **92,466** | |
| | | | | | | | |
| M&G Charifund | 6556 | | | | 6556 | 5,262 | |
| **Investment assets at market value** | **6556** | | | | **6556** | **5,262** | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Parish silver at Chichester | | | | 24,000 | 24000 | 24,000 | |
| Stained glass window | | | 12,000 | | 12000 | 12.000 | |
| Clock Benefaction Fund | | | | 2,984 | 2984 | **3,108** | |
| **Investments assets at cost** | | | | | **38984** | **39,108** | |
| **Total assets** | **178,285** | | **38.849** | **26,984** | **244,118** | ***136,836*** | |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Liabilities:** | | | | | | | |
| Utility bills outstanding | | | | | 501 | *198* | |
| | | | | | | *-* | |
| | | | | | | *100* | |
| | | | | | | *-* | |
| **Total liabilities** | | | | | **501** | *298* | |

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Simon Hobbs, PCC Chairman:

.....

Date .....

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 1184369*

# Notes to the Financial Report

## Analysis of total received

| | Unrestricted | | *Restricted* | *Endowed* | Total All Funds | *Total All Funds* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General Fund | Designated Funds | *Restricted* Fund/s | *Endowed* Fund/s | 2025 | *2024* | |
| | | | | | | £ | |
| Planned giving (excl. tax refunds) | 25,946 | | | | 25,946 | **27.101** | |
| Planned giving (no tax refunds) | 1,200 | | | | 1,200 | **1.200** | |
| Loose cash collections | 7,099 | | | | 7,099 | **4.634** | |
| VAT recovered | 2,159 | | | | 2,159 | | |
| Gift Aid recovered | 7,092 | | | | 7,092 | **8.058** | |
| Donations/ Legacy | 162,526 | | 97,693 | | **260,219** | **10.057** | *2* |
| Events income | 1,547 | | | | **1,547** | **2.987** | |
| FoWC | | | | | | **10000** | |
| | | | | | | **6.424** | |
| Grants | 4,626 | | | | **4,626** | **4.622** | *1* |
| Donations - Flush Fund and Organ and bell ringers | **212,195** | | **97,693** | | **309,888** | **75.083** | |
| Fees held for retired priest | **123** | | | | **123** | | |
| Fees for weddings & funerals | 3,326 | | | | **3,326** | **2.557** | |
| **Charitable activities** | **313,3379** | | | | **313,337** | **2.557** | |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Other trading activities** | | | | | | | |
| Bank & CBF deposit interest | 1,873 | | | | **1,873** | **2,469** | |
| Clock Benefaction Fund | 86 | | | | **86** | **84** | |
| **Investments** | | | | | | **2,553** | |
| Donation to AS building fund | | | | | | **5,000** | *2* |
| **Total received on all funds** | **217,603** | | **97,693** | | **315,296** | **85,193** | |

Note 1; Received from Waldron 800 Trust

Note 2; Donation towards the "toilet" project at All Saints

# All Saints, Waldron & St. Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 1184369*

# Notes to the Financial Report

## Analysis of total paid

| | Unrestricted | | *Restricted* | *Endowed* | Total All Funds | *Total All Funds* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General Fund | Designated Funds | Fund/s | Fund/s | 2025 | *2024* | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | **£** | *£* | |
| Summer fete expenses | | | | | | | |
| Concert posters & musicians expenses | | | | | | | |
| Other appeals expenses | | | | | | | |
| **Cost of raising funds** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable grants and donations | | | | | | | |
| Parish share to Chichester Diocese | 31,000 | | | | 31,000 | 31,000 | |
| Mission/ ministry costs | 5,495 | | | | 5,495 | 2,296 | |
| Clergy and other people's expenses | 4,020 | | | | 4,020 | 299 | |
| Music | 5,097 | | | | 5,097 | 5,031 | |
| GP Retirement Fund | | | | | | 682 | |
| Insurance | 4,214 | | | | 4,214 | 4,085 | |
| Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil | 6,910 | | | | 6,910 | 6,952 | |
| Printing & photocopying | 526 | | | | 526 | 633 | |
| Other regular church running costs | 1,651 | | | | 1,651 | 1,533 | |
| Organ | 1,550 | | | | 1,550 | 2,281 | |
| Church maintenance & redecoration | 5,267 | | | | 5,267 | 30,490 | |
| New building work | 264 | | 104,108 | | 104,372 | 12,650 | *1* |
| **Charitable costs** | **65,994** | | **104,108** | | **170,102** | 97,933 | |
| Other trading costs | | | | | | | |
| **Trading costs** | | | | | | | |
| Other payments (Printer) | 7,872 | | | | 7,872 | | |
| **Total paid on all funds** | **73,866** | | 104,108 | | **177,974** | 97.933 | |

Note 1; Funds drawn from unrestricted accounts to cover shortfall in building costs not covered by donations to restricted funds

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 1184369*
# Notes to the Financial Report

**11** Payments to PCC employees:

| | **2025** | *2024* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | *£* |
| Wages, salaries and honoraria | **0** | *0* |
| Employer National Insurance | **0** | *0* |
| Employer pension contributions | **0** | *-* |
| | **0** | *0* |

# All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand *registered charity number 1184369*
# Notes to the Financial Report

## Statement of Funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

| | Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2025 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers, other gains and losses | Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2025 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | **£** | |
| Clock Benefaction Fund | **3108** | | | (124) | **2984** | |
| Parish Silver at Chichester | **24000** | | | | **24000** | |
| **Total of all endowed funds** | **27108** | | | **(124)** | **26984** | |
| All Saints Heating Fund | **0** | | | | **0** | |
| Friends of Waldron Churches | **53809** | | 1210 | (30000) | **22599** | **1** |
| Stained Glass Window | **12000** | | | | **12000** | |
| Donations to "Flush Fund" | | 93494 | 104108 | 10614 | **0** | **2** |
| Bellringers Fund | | 3445 | | | **3445** | **4** |
| Organ Fund | | 755 | | 50 | **805** | |
| **Total of all restricted funds** | **65809** | **97694** | **105318** | **(19336)** | **38849** | |
| General fund | **42075** | 217603 | 73866 | (14083) | **171729** | |
| Change in investments/ balance | **595** | | | 5961 | **6556** | **3** |
| Designated organ fund | **1250** | | | (1250) | **0** | |
| **Total of all unrestricted funds** | **43920** | **217603** | **73866** | **(9372)** | **178285** | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Total funds** | **136836** | **315297** | **179184** | **(28831)** | **244118** | |

Note 1; Funds held in church account on behalf of FOWC, but released to add to funds for the Flush Fund

Note 2; Flush Fund contributions relate to specific donations towards the new toilet facility in All Saints. The overspend is covered by taking from unrestricted funds, hence the transfers

Note 3; This year we include the value of investments in full rather than just the "gain". This is the M&G account

Note 4; Bellringers fund is held separately in a NatWest account and is restricted to their use

## Independent Examiner's report

## To the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Waldron

## (All Saints, Waldron & St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand)

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Waldron on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025 as set out in pages 1 to 14.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to;

1) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
2) To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act and
3) To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1.which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
3.The PCC have prepared receipts and payments accounts due to the large legacy that has taken them over the £250,000 turnover as they consider this to be a one-off occurrence

Examiner's signature..... Gary Hicks

Examiner's name; Mr G A Hicks FCCA

Date..... 11-03-2026

Examiner's address; 14 Meadow Way, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8AL

## 1. Church of England School – School Governors' Report

During 2025 the Governing Board met termly to both support and monitor all aspects of school life. In addition, there were full governing board visits across the whole school and individual visits all of which focused on either aspects of the School Improvement Plan or individual governor responsibilities.

In September 2025 following the retirement of Mrs Sarah Mashedar, Headteacher for ten years, Mr Richard Blakeney was appointed to take her place.

Over the school year pupils take part in additional immersion activities supporting the curriculum. Activities such as World Book Day, fund raising activities, performances for parents and sports challenges. Enabling the children to experience broader learning opportunities both in school and in the community.

A representative of the Parish visits the school on Monday to be present during morning assembly. They usually contribute a prayer at the end of the assembly. A team of six people take it in turns to attend.

There are at least three visits a year to St Bartholomew's church and the Alleluia Room usually covering Easter and Christmas as well as the Year 6 school leavers service.

The school is presently preparing for its SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection, which is due sometime during the 2025/2026 academic year. This is a statutory evaluation of Church of England and Methodist schools that assesses how effectively a school's Christian vision shapes its ethos, teaching and pupil development. There has been no notification of when this will be as yet.

Philippa Clarke
Foundation Governor

## 2. Dallington Deanery Synod

**The Dallington Synod** (under Rural Dean Marc Lloyd), held on Monday 24 March 2025 at Christ Church, Horam, was attended by our Reverend Simon Hobbs who presented a parish report on Waldron and Cross in Hand where Simon has been Rector since December, having previously been involved in NHS work. He said Waldron is one of the oldest parish churches in the deanery. There is an 8am BCP and then 10:00am Parish Eucharist. He said different types of services are being trialled and "there are good relations with a brilliant church school. The churches would love to see more children in the services". Simon is supposed to work two days a week and on those days he prays the office in the church and people are joining with him. Challenges include getting the buildings fit for purpose, but he said the real ones are to grow in discipleship, holiness, and faith.

On Thursday 12 June at Warbleton the Revd Buff Stone, The Diocesan Environment Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation on Carbon Confidence. On Wednesday 26 November 2025 the Dallington Synod was addressed at St Richard's Church in Heathfield by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, concentrating on how to deal with suspected domestic violence.
Once again the Parish contributions are agreed at the Deanery Synod meetings with due note also being taken of those parishes that remain without a priest.

## 3. Churches Together in Heathfield

We have maintained our support for CTH which does enable us to keep contact with other churches in the area and to come together for various functions/ events. Inevitably, there is some overlap, but we are always represented at Forum meetings and endeavour to provide support where we can. We have two members of the Street Pastors team in Martin Jenner and Martin West. We supported the annual Christmas Tree event in Union church and have made our Alleluia Room available for a number of meetings including the AGM.

Ian Dixon

## 4. The choir and music

We continue to enjoy strong support for our worship at ten o'clock services and on other occasions. David Oakenfold led the choir and played the organ for virtually all of 2025 but felt obliged to stand down after the Carol service , leaving us to review the arrangements for both organ and choir. This was regrettable and disappointing, but we have been fortunate enough to find that Kirsty Steele, who had been one of our reserve organists, was prepared to step into the position and this will inevitably be developed during 2026. We continue to be supported by a number of "guest" organists from time to time as well.

We offer a friendly welcome to anyone who would like to join the choir and, of course, it would be good to have a massed rank of tenors and basses! Indeed, it was pleasing to see the choir augmented by one or two of the congregation over the Christmas period.

We remain indebted to a choir committee who, assisted by Father Simon, create the draft of a hymn schedule appropriate to the seasons and the readings for forthcoming services. We continue to include a range of newer hymns to keep us on our toes, whilst always including much loved favourites.

As ever, we extend a special thank you to Peter Lawrence for his loyal and valued support in all that we seek to do with our church music. Peter stepped down from playing during 2024 but continues to actively support our music in an administrative manner.

During the year, David made use of his musical contacts to arrange concerts for us which were well received and which may well continue into 2026.

## 5. Parish Prayer Group

Our small group meets regularly each Wednesday in the Alleluia room (except during Advent and Lent when we take a short break).
Meetings include a short bible reading (often a psalm), and a period of silent prayer. We close with The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. Praying together feels special and is a welcome period of stillness and calm.

Each week we start by updating each other about people we have been praying for and where new needs have been identified, add names to the Parish Book of Prayer or note when prayers may thankfully be no longer needed. Discussions are kept strictly confidential. We also pray through wider areas of concern both locally and worldwide especially where events such as natural disasters or conflicts have been highlighted in the media.
Individual "pray-ers" regularly lead Sunday intercessions and, during Holy Week organised three Compline services of prayerful reflection at St Bart's when we were delighted to be joined by members of the congregation.

If you would like us to pray for yourself or someone close to you please do not hesitate to let us know.

Dates and times of our meetings can be found in the Parish Diary.

Dorothy Withers
(01435 866737)

## 6. **Pastoral and Fellowship 2025**

We have just completed our first year with our new parish priest, Father Simon Hobbs. He has led our Pastoral and Fellowship team with home visits and house communions parish wide. When times were difficult and not so happy, our small and dedicated team of lay people have complimented Father Simon's lead and continued to care in our community. We have supported individuals and families alike, at the time of their crisis with visits and follow up telephone calls and have been available for as long as we have been needed once their lives begin to return to 'normal.'

There are many non secular groups using the Alleluia Room, in particular our Wednesday Morning community coffee get togethers, 'Help We Care' community group meet Tuesdays and Thursdays providing a day club for elderly folk and dementia sufferers. Our knitting group meets monthly on a Monday afternoon and singing lessons take place regularly on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. It has also been used by Churches Together, the Street Pastors, Rotary for meetings, First Aid training sessions and also by other groups needing a warm and welcoming space.

During the summer months we enjoyed our Saturday Morning coffee mornings. These were kindly hosted in different homes in the parish and not only provided a social opportunity but raised a useful amount of money too.

We also enjoyed our first 'Parish Lunch' at the Star and later on we celebrated Harvest Festival followed by our Harvest Lunch . Never let it be said that we don't know how to make the most of being together!!!

Weddings and Baptisms - We have had a few! Both churches have played important roles in family celebrations, weddings, renewal of vows and baptisms too. It is lovely to see our churches bedecked and full on these occasions.

Sadly and not unreasonably, with the passage of time, we have paid our respects and made our farewells to some of our congregation. They will all be missed by their families and friends and our church family too.

With thanks to everyone in our congregations who are our eyes and ears. Between us all we have managed to reach out and support when and where it has been needed

Sarah Mackenzie

## 7. Friends of Waldron Churches

2025 was another good year for the Friends of Waldron Churches, kicking off in January with the Pantomime expertly created and delivered by Nigel Beard, which raised £3049. The events arranged or facilitated by FOWC now follow a well-established pattern and the community continues to punch above its weight, bolstered by the likes of the annual **Rotary Classic Car Show.** The increasingly popular annual Cracking **Christmas Craft Fair was run o**n Sunday the 7th December 2025 by Mobbs Pitcher and Helen Porter and promoted (along with our other activities) by Ian Dixon at the week-long **Christmas tree** festival in Heathfield's Union Church in late November.

Concerts (such as Faronel, arranged by Michael Withers on Saturday 8 February 2025 in St Barts (and another the following January) with interval refreshments are also a source of funding (£391 in 2025

On Sunday 10 August 2025 the **Rotary Classic Car Family Fun Day** raised over £11000 for charity, the Friends again receiving £1500. The weather held. As previously, over 300 classic vehicles were on display leaving the rugby pitches unharmed, with possibly 3000 people attending. Old Glebe field was used for visiting spectators' vehicles thanks to Laura Tenison; thoughtful parking off-street by Waldron villagers helped improve traffic flow. Thanks go to all those Friends, Rotarians and others who gave their time and helped in so many ways, including loaning equipment.

The now annual **Christmas Cracker Craft Fair was** well organised by Mobbs Pitcher, Helen Porter and Ian Dixon. Held in All Saints' Church on the second Sunday in December (when the mid-morning service was at St Barts), it kicks off at 12.30 pm with a magician/entertainer (Jonathan Cann in 2025). Father Christmas popped up (resembling David Geear, aided by elf Helen Porter) and moving to his ice-encrusted Grotto he dispensed presents in the belfry. This year each youngster again received a present, this time included in the entry fee (£2 per adult; 50p for those under 16 years of age). Craft activities were on offer, as were mulled wine, mince pies, light refreshments and a spin on the Tombola and Raffle, all of which raised £519 (now mainly taken cash-less via Stripe) for the Friends thanks to generous donations.

The Friends are committed to maintaining the fabric of the two local churches and have in recent years funded flooring, cupboards and lighting at All Saints, and have supported the development of the Alleluia Room and essential work renovating the Bell Tower at St Barts'. At both churches, socialising over coffee after Sunday morning services is now a regular feature thanks to the provision of kitchen facilities, and the Alleluia Room is in frequent use for numerous community activities.

December 2025 saw the completion of the toilet facilities and revised vestry at All Saints, thanks to significant grants and donations, including £40,000 from the Friends, Thanks go to Neal and Evelyn Taylor for their initial proposal of and substantial financial support for the Flush Fund. The Friends who will now direct their fund-raising towards the installation of adequate heating at All Saints and the possibility of replacing the pews at St Barts with chairs, to increase the potential uses of the church.
We are grateful to the local community for their membership of the Friends and for their support, and that of Rotary for Friends' events. Your help in keeping us going makes it all worthwhile, helps maintain the two churches and is widely appreciated.

Tim Williams

## 8. Freewill Offering

The vast majority of our regular worshippers are now members of the Parish Giving Scheme which is a significant benefit to our Parish.. This excellent free service means that we are credited monthly with the total of contributions and that the Gift Aid associated with these contributions is also credited to us monthly. This makes a major difference to our cash flow and simplifies the administrative process.

We continue to have a few folk who prefer to use the “Pink envelope” scheme and this, we understand and, indeed, thank them for their continued support. Indeed, it is helpful that “occasional” visitors to our church at weddings and funerals for example, also use these envelopes since we are able to obtain Gift Aid in many situations.

If anyone else wishes to join this scheme please have a word with the Treasurer for more information and application forms.

In 2025, we received over £27,000 through Free Will Offering and trust that this will continue to increase as we move forward with ever increasing costs.

Ian Dixon – Treasurer

## 9. Family Support Work (FSW)

The committee has had a very busy successful year fundraising to continue supporting our Deanery practitioner, Rebecca Hale. She continues to have a full caseload of families with whom she is working, including with some of those at our Church school. The support provided is tailored to each family’s needs and covers supporting with such issues as mental health, parenting, parents with SEN (Special Educational Needs) children as well as those in need of help with budgeting. All your contributions have helped to make this financially possible so thank you from all her families.

With the economic situation we all continue to find ourselves in, it will come as no surprise that the work of FSW continues to be in demand. As always here in Waldron our supporters rose to the occasion and have continued to support with regular donations of food and household supplies, items for the shop, Easter eggs, summer games and equipment, harvest time and Christmas presents and of course cakes to support our refreshment activities. If you are willing to make a cake for any of our tea events or to serve them on the day do please let us know. It is busy but we also have fun – and you usually have a chance to wander round the garden as a bonus.  In addition please continue to leave your used ink cartridges in the FSW box for recycling, from whence they will be taken and posted collectively.

A huge thank you for your continued and generous support.

Carollyn Stanbridge
Secretary Dallington Deanery FSW Committee

## 10. Tower Report

I am very lucky to have sixteen ringers to ring our eight bells. For a village parish church we are very fortunate as many churches, even in larger towns, are struggling to recruit ringers. Long may this continue for us in Waldron.

Last year we had five visiting bands of ringers, the same as the previous year. Pre-Covid, we had double this amount.

History was made in the tower of All Saints in June 2025. On one practice evening, all eight of the lady ringers were present. This gave us the unique opportunity of the lady ringers ringing the eight Waldron bells, possibly, never to be repeated! They did not ring for very long but they achieved it without a hitch. I am very proud of this and even prouder that I have taught five of the eight the basics of bellringing in fairly recent years. We will again be giving the tower the usual annual spring clean.

Our thanks as always, go to Simon, Ian and Sarah and the rest of the PCC for your continued support and words of encouragement.

Brian Tompsett – Tower Captain ( 01435 – 866054)

**Addendum**
The entire parish gives thanks for the incredible amount of work that Brian puts in to lead his team and maintain our bells. Thes ringing on a Sunday morning greatly enhances our services.

### 11. The Parish Pealers

The Parish Pealers have had an enjoyable year of ringing. We rang at Holy Cross Nursing Home in March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and again in December to play some carols. We also played at the Carol Service at St. Bart's. This year we gave donations of £100 each to St. Wilfrid's Hospice in memory of Patricia's late husband Michael and to Amyloidosis Research in memory of Faith's late husband Murray. New members are always welcome. We practise for one hour on a Friday morning.

If you are interested please contact me on 01435 862666 or by email at maureenkeith931@btinternet.com Maureen Keith

Maureen Keith

### 12. **Lost & Found Social Bereavement Group**

The Lost & Found group saw in January with an invitation to the Friend's ' Panto at All Saints Church - " Jack Waldron and his Enchanted Beans "
In an unusually sunny Springtime, we all shared a bring-a-brunch dish at Culverwood together.

During May, about eight of us met up at The Star in Old Heathfield for a very pleasant pub lunch.
After a warm summer we met in September to sample the brunch menu of newly-opened Dernwood Farm.

October saw some of us gather at the Blackboys Inn for a lunch together.

During November, a few of us shared cake and a cuppa at Hilliers Garden Centre in Stone Cross ahead of the Christmas rush.

The year was rounded off by our now well-attended and traditional visit to the Boughton Lounge at Holy Cross Priory for a magnificent Afternoon Tea.

Mobbs Pitcher

## 13. WALDRON 800 TRUST

For the first quarter of 2025, the value of the Trust was £187,621.00 after a successful 2024 year, which saw it maintain its favourable financial situation, despite some turbulent times for the FTSE.

The Trustees continued to have confidence in the managers of our portfolio, Charles Stanley, which was further endorsed by their performance during 2025, appreciating the further calls on the Trust's financial support.

In accordance with the constitution of the Trust, all the income accruing, was paid to the Waldron Parochial Church Council (PCC), after the management fees had been deducted, according to the scale of fees agreed between the Trustees and the investment managers. This resulted in quarterly payments to the PCC, totalling £4,626.21 for the year.

In June 2025, as a result of pressures on church finances, due to the installation of a toilet at "All Saints" church, Waldron, the PCC requested £20,000.00 to help with the annual Diocesan precept payment. This is within the remit of the Trust's constitution and was paid on 23/6/25.

During the early part of the year, the Trust was pleased to contribute £480 to assist with the ministry of Father Simon Hobbs.

Despite these calls on the Trust, amounting to £25,106.00, its end of year value was £190,630.00. Obviously, besides effective management, trading was beneficial.

"*But ultimately 2025 was a strong year for equities across the World, with double digit growth across Europe, US and Asia"*
(Jon Curtis, Investment Manager, Charles Stanley 2025)

Needless to say, this favourable trading environment cannot be guaranteed, particularly during these current uncertain times.

Raymond Cade (Chairman)