Charity Registration No. 1185491



St Matthias Church
360c Ditchling Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 6JG

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rev Thomas James Holbird (Chair) Isaac James Athanasius Watson Christine Richardson Andrew Peter Denham Auld Rev Dr Katherine Sarah Middleton Sarah-Jane Buys Rachel Holland Jonathan Hugh Green Nicola Ruth Probert Timothy Mark Hugo Palmer Fry Christopher Adrian Lomas Dr Katherine Jennifer Gardner Caroline Rachel Palmer Fry Susan Elizabeth Middleton David Benjamin Jones Laura Batten Thomas Deering Blair-Fish Helena Lomas (appointed on 30/04/2025) Katy Maeve Holbird (appointed on 30/04/2025) Florence Ann Sparham O Reilley (appointed on 30/04/2025)
Charity number	1185491
Principal Address	St Matthias Church Office 360c Ditchling Road Brighton BN1 6JG
Independent Examiner	TC Group The Courtyard Shoreham Road Upper Beeding Steyning West Sussex BN44 3TN
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 153 North Street Brighton BN1 1SW

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the charity's Trust Deed and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Status
The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission. Our Charity Commission number is 1185491.
These are our sixth accounts as a registered charity and cover the year to 31 December 2025.

The PCC members who served during the year were:

Tom Holbird (Chairman and Vicar)
Kate Middleton
Quin Delport
Christopher Lomas
Laura Batten
Sarah Buys
Andrew Auld (Treasurer)
Kat Gardner
Jonathan Green
Sue Middleton
Carrie Palmer-Fry
David Jones (Secretary)
Katy Holbird
Florence Sparham
Nikki Probert
Rachel Holland
Tim Palmer Fry
Christine Richardson
Isaac Watson – resigned December 2025

All staff undergo a formal recruiting and selection process, followed by an induction period that includes any training considered necessary to effectively perform their role. Volunteers and trustees' follow the recruitment and selection process in line with our Safer Recruitment Safeguarding policy and they receive necessary induction and training for their specific roles

Aims and Organisation

The aim of the PCC is the promotion in the Ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Overview of Church Activities: 2025

We are thankful that 2025 was a very good year for St Matthias and St Richard's in which we continue to see lots of new people join both churches, in which we are celebrating baptisms and weddings, and in which the growth in children and young people has been especially encouraging. St Richard's is now bursting at the seams on Sundays with additional seating created on the stage and utilising both portacabins for children and youth groups. 2025 was a year of change for the Hollingdean and Fiveways Foodbank in which we launched the Community Support Cafe in order to journey with our clients beyond reliance on emergency food through sustained and relational support alongside other partner agencies. In 2025 we launched some new events and groups at St Matthias including an Older Youth group on Sundays, a Justice Team as well as a Summer Garden Party. We saw record numbers of people attend Focus as well as Christmas and Easter services at both churches. Works on the building included the removal of the stage in the St Matthias hall to create additional space.

This report gives a summary of our activities as a church throughout 2025.

St Matthias

Kids

This year, Kids Church split into two distinct groups: Older Kids (Y3-6) & Younger Kids (Reception-Y2). This change has helped us better tailor our teaching to the needs of the children, as well as allowing them to be better known by Kids Team volunteers in these smaller groups. We have covered a range of topics on Sunday, including the Armour of God and an exploration of the different aspects of God's character. Balfour School visited the church again this year, allowing another cohort of Y2s to explore the building and think about why church is a special place, as part of their RE curriculum. Our School Disco was another moment in which we were able to host the local community for an evening of fun, excitement (and loud music!). From the School Disco we were able to invite the community to join us both for our Christmas events, and our brand-new Kids Café – run by our Kids, Youth & Production Assistant, Tshepo Brown. Kids Café successfully launched in Autumn term, providing an afterschool drop-in space for primary-aged children and their families. The separate Y5-6 hangout zone has allowed us to especially invest in these older children at a crucial stage, whilst also helping to solidify their own group identity.







Groups

Groups run regularly, offering people an opportunity both to get to know a smaller group of people in more depth, and to dig further into the content from our Sunday series talks. The majority run fortnightly, although some also hold regular socials, or move between in person and online meetings. Content is provided in the form of questions and a short video recorded by the person preaching that week, encouraging further exploration following the Sunday theme. There's always a lean towards personal application, recognising a greater capacity for people to discuss their own personal reflections in this smaller space.

6 groups have run throughout the year, covering a variety of different locations and times and including one daytime group. All our groups now meet face to face in people's homes or in the church. Around half of our regular congregation connect with a group for bible study and friendship. We're also encouraging some other groups that meet more informally – for prayer and accountability or just to build friendship and connection.

TOTS is one of our groups aimed at the older, retired members of our congregation. They meet in the church hall, once a week, on a Friday morning, between 10 am to 12. They use this time to have fun and support each other. Each session includes a variety of activities (for example: indoor bowls, sit down football, indoor games, sit down keep fit, bingo, talks, where possible singing, making decorations for Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Remembrance Sunday). They also use a variety of quizzes to keep our minds active. However, throughout these sessions we also look to support each other, so lots of chat and a cuppa, support through the good and difficult, more challenging times. As well as our regular Friday sessions we also try to organise occasional trips. This group is an important part of our churches community outreach. Although small in number they seek to support all of faith or no faith, so they all know that we are here for them but also rejoice when a member of our group find their way back to regular church attendance.

Alpha

We hosted 4 Alpha courses at St Matthias – two in the morning and two in the evening. In total we had 18 guests and each course created welcoming and inclusive environment to help people explore the Christian faith.

PlayCafé

2025 has been an exciting year for PlayCafé. Millie and Amy took on new roles as cafe co-ordinators, with Millie heading up volunteers and training and Amy taking the lead on stock management. This has freed Laura up to manage and oversee the vision of PlayCafé, and focus on building relationships with our community.

This has resulted in collaboration with mum and baby groups that have been meeting in the cafe. Working with Rosie from Postnatal Minds, running some great events like the Teddy Bears Picnic, our Easter Party, another successful Pub Quiz and 2 toddler carol services that saw 500 people through the doors over 2 days.

Our events and giving last year totalled £3,887.43

We sold 8192 items to PlayCafé guests and our total sales were £46,764.88

We ran one Alpha in the autumn term, with 3 guests attending. 2 of the guests who didn't consider themselves Christians before the course now do and one guest was baptised.

We have continued our volunteer partnership with Pro Barista and built a new one with Spear, a young adults employment support organisation based at St Peters. We are excited to be developing PlayCafé as an encouraging and supportive work experience placement for those seeking cafe or barista experience, or looking to grow in confidence to help them in future employment.

We feel we have grown in our connection with our community, and have built amazing mutually supportive relationships with parents, carers and volunteers. We are thrilled to see how this has grown over time.

The dramatic rise in the cost of living and the employer costs of moving the staff over to PAYE left us with £6930.81 loss. To address this we are running extra events and also having conversations with guests about the structure and vision of the PlayCafé, which is making them more aware of the options to donate.







Youth

In 2025, we kicked off the year by running the brand-new Alpha Youth series in partnership with St Richards and St Cuthmans. Alpha Youth sessions ran directly after our regular Youth Café slot, allowing us to specifically invite the young people we see and build relationships with each week to explore questions of life, meaning and purpose. After 24 young people trying out Alpha in week 1, a core group of about 10 people came consistently for the rest of the series, and we were able to host and pray for over 60 young people from Alpha Youth courses across the city on Holy Spirit Day. Friday Youth has slowly been growing over the course of the year, as school friends have been invited along and eventually become regular members of the Friday Youth community! On Fridays we have brought Jesus into the conversation in a range of more creative ways – from a series linking Young Adult books/films to key biblical principles like identity and sacrifice, to hearing weekly about how faith in Jesus shapes the lives of 5 different young adults living and working in Brighton. Sunday Youth has also continued to grow this year, as young people from a range of backgrounds have joined our community as we have eaten Oreos, opened the Bible together and discussed the relevance of topics such as Sabbath and Jesus' parables to their own day-to-day lives. As well as the regular weekly programing, the Youth Weekend Away and Maycamp were real highlights of the Year, with 10 and 12 young people from St Matthias attending, respectively. At these camps, young people from both Christian and non-Christian backgrounds were able to hear from God's word, be involved in worship, connect with other youth groups and make lasting memories together!





Dadventure

At Dadventure dads get together to enjoy the outdoors with their children while getting to know other dads and their kids. Dadventure has two functions. Firstly, it is a community building exercise for dads and kids joining St Matthias. Secondly, it's a chance for us to create a little bit of God's kingdom into which we can invite dads and their children from our wider community.

Dadventure continues to perform both functions and is constantly growing. We now have 90 dads in the Whatsapp group. Including the children, we have around 270 members! On average we have between 20 and 40 attendees every month. We have, at times had over 60. The Dadventure team also run periodic socials. These are a chance for dads to get to know each other better without the kids. These often involve a walk, a barbeque and a bottle beer.

We will be taking a small break in the Spring Term at the start of 2026. The reason for this is to take a moment to consider how we keep the Dadventure community together as some of our children get a little bit older. We are hoping that after a meeting and some planning, we can come up with a way of resourcing Dadventure, while freeing up some time to create something for the dads and their teenagers; working title 'Stay Feral'! We have had one 'Stay Feral' which involved a day in the outdoors and sleeping under the stars and it was a huge success. We have another Stay Feral planned for the 2026 summer term.







Events and Special Services

The church connects with many hundreds of people who do not come to Sunday services, through a variety of events. The building is really well used, a hub of conversation, connection and celebration throughout the year.

Our PlayCafé runs every weekday morning in termtime, and has also run some special events, including Toddler Carols at Christmas which repeated twice, both to a full house. We are hoping that next year will see the start of a growing group of 'friends of PlayCafé' who have assist to organise fundraising/social events to support the PlayCafé.

Livewell, a community space to discuss some of the challenges of 21st century life, has continued this year, with wide ranging topics covered including safety online, and how to bring your values to work. Events have attracted a range of age groups and backgrounds including many new to the church space. The podcast also continues to reach many people as well.

The building is now used twice a week in the afternoons to create a cafe and social space for youth – and with the launch of our new Friday Kids Café, for primary school aged children and their families.
The church has also been able to host some celebration of key life events such as weddings and celebrations of life. Increasingly people also choose to use the space for drinks/food after these events, creating a beautiful space for people to connect and share the emotions of the day.

We've also run social events such as a pub quiz night, our primary school disco and a Christmas wreath making worship. All are well attended, often stretching the capacity of the space to its limit.

Meanwhile our services at key moments in the year continue to be very popular with the congregation but also with many from the local community. Easter combines traditional services, held during the daytime, with celebration or special events. Our Good Friday service adapts the traditional service format, combining a pattern of Bible readings and space for contemplation and prayer with contemporary worship. Easter Sunday is a time of celebration with a family garden party, easter egg hunt, petting zoo and hot cross buns followed by an informal service.

Likewise Christmas combines the fun and informal with traditional spaces. This year as well as Toddler Carols, our Carol Service combined traditional hymns with spoken word performances, and a multi-lingual reading of a passage from Isaiah 9 to celebrate the diversity and variety in our community. The traditional nativity services on Christmas Eve continue to be very popular, so we added a 4th service so as many as possible could share the joy with our children performing their own version of the nativity story – and of course welcomed the annual visit from our friendly real donkey. On Christmas day we gathered for an informal communion service for all the family.

Its wonderful to end the year with the annual trip to Focus, joining people from St Richards and the other HTB network churches at the Newark Showground to eat together, chat and have fun and attend events for worship and teaching together. This year we welcomed some people for their first ever Focus – everyone had a great time and we look forward to welcoming more next time!



















St Richard's

Introduction

Over the past year, St Richard's has continued to grow in depth, breadth, and impact. Our vision remains to be a welcoming, mission-focused church at the heart of Hollingdean—committed to hospitality, discipleship, and community transformation.

As a relatively young church plant, it has been encouraging to see the ways God continues to grow our community. We have seen people come to faith, families find belonging, and those facing hardship receive practical support and care. Our ministries have continued to develop, our partnerships across the city have strengthened, and our congregation has grown both numerically and spiritually.

We remain deeply committed to our core values: Hospitality, Mission, Discipleship, Authenticity, Community, and Generosity. These values shape not only what we do as a church but the kind of community we hope to be for Hollingdean.

This report reflects on some of the highlights and developments across the life of the church over the past year.

Sunday Gatherings & Worship

Our Café Church continues to be the heart of our community life together.

Over the past year we have seen encouraging growth in the number of people gathering on Sundays, including an increasing number of families and children. This steady growth reflects the way Café Church continues to resonate with both long-standing members and those who are newer to the life of the church.

One practical change this year has been the repurposing of the stage area in the church hall. With food storage no longer required following the transition from the Foodbank to the Community Support Café, this space has been opened up to provide additional seating for our growing Sunday gatherings.

The café-style format continues to resonate particularly well with people who are exploring faith or who have not previously been part of church life. Sharing food together before worship creates a relaxed atmosphere and often leads to meaningful conversations and friendships forming around the tables.

One particularly memorable moment this year was when Café Church moved to the beach for a special outdoor gathering. On that occasion we celebrated a baptism service for seven candidates, a joyful and powerful moment for our church family as we watched people publicly declare their faith in Jesus in the sea, surrounded by friends, family, and the wider church community.



Discipleship

Discipleship remains a central focus for St Richard's. While our Sunday gatherings are important, we believe that following Jesus is best nurtured through deeper relationships and intentional spiritual practices throughout the week.

Over the past year, more than 30 members of the church have participated in discipleship groups that function as a learning community. Together we engage with excellent resources such as the Practicing the Way course, the Bible Course from Bible Society, and more recently the Lectio365 Lent resource. We have found that gathering consistently around rich, formative content has been highly fruitful, helping to shape spiritual rhythms such as prayer, Scripture engagement, and life together as a core part of our discipleship strategy.

These groups have created spaces where people can ask honest questions, share life together, and encourage one another in their journey of faith. For many, it has helped move discipleship from something theoretical to something deeply integrated into everyday life.

Our hope is to continue expanding these kinds of environments where people can grow as apprentices of Jesus.

C.S. Lewis Study Group

Our C.S. Lewis study group has now been meeting monthly since September 2024. After working through the *Narnia* stories—with their rich cast of characters and profound insights into how Jesus (Aslan) works in our lives—we moved on to *The Screwtape Letters*, exploring the subtle ways temptation can disrupt our walk with God.

We then looked at *The Great Divorce*, reflecting on its striking portrayal of heaven and hell and the choices that shape our eternal direction. Most recently, we have been working through *The Problem of Pain*, wrestling with how a broken world can exist under the care of a loving and omnipotent God. As we complete this, we are preparing to begin the first of Lewis' science fiction trilogy, *Out of the Silent Planet*.

The group typically consists of around eight people, meeting from 7:30–9:00pm on Monday evenings in one of the cabins. Discussions are wide-ranging and often go off-piste, providing space to explore theological, social, and philosophical questions that we do not always have time to engage with on a Sunday morning.



The group remains open to anyone who would like to join. For further details, please contact Roger (07443 461734).

Play Café

Play Café is a welcoming space for local mums, carers, and their infants and toddlers to gather on Thursday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm. It offers affordable drinks and treats in a relaxed environment where parents can meet others in a similar stage of life. The café provides an important opportunity for friendship, support, and community—helping to reduce the isolation that many parents experience, particularly during the long winter months.

Each week we typically welcome around 40 people, including approximately 15 adults and 25 children. The space is lively and joyful, filled with conversation, play, and the beginnings of new friendships between families in the local area.

This year, after October half term, we chose to pause the ministry for a season in order to review its vision, ensure we are serving our community in the way it most needs, and strengthen the volunteer team that supports it. We are excited to reopen on the 16th of April, just in time to enjoy the beauty and sunshine of spring in our garden space, which is a much-loved part of the Play Café experience.

This ministry has also highlighted an important gap in our Sunday morning provision due to lack of space. Many of the families who connect with Play Café would benefit from a dedicated crèche space run by staff and volunteers, allowing parents with very young children to fully engage with what we offer on Sundays. Developing such provision would help us better welcome and support these families as they explore connection with the church community.





The Studio

The Studio is a safe and creative space where women can gather, grow, and build meaningful relationships. Each week during term time, a group of around 10–15 women meets to share crafts, conversation, and community. While activities such as sewing, knitting, and mosaic provide a welcoming starting point, the deeper purpose is to combat isolation and build genuine relationships.

Now in its third year, The Studio has become a beautiful example of strangers becoming friends. Some come for company, cake, and coffee; others for the creativity—but what consistently emerges is a strong sense of belonging. As one participant shared, “Here I feel I can be myself without pretending; it is not the case everywhere else in my life.”

Over time, conversations have deepened around themes of life, faith, and personal struggle. These relationships have opened pathways into the wider life of the church, with some now attending regularly, joining Alpha, or engaging in other ministries such as the Support Café and community meals.

A particularly meaningful expression of this community is a mosaic sign we have been creating together for the garden—using broken pieces of china to form something new and beautiful. It has become a powerful symbol of The Studio itself: people bringing their own stories and, together, becoming something whole and life-giving.



Youth Ministry

Our weekly youth group, Rich Thursdays, launched in September and has grown in vision and in its sense of community. We have introduced time in discussion groups to create space for deeper conversations on topics such as politics, mental health, social media, and many others that are shaping the lives of young people today.

A highlight of the year was our Youth Sleepover, where around 20 young people came along and we were able to spend extended time together building friendships and community. Several of these young people also took part in our Youth Alpha course, where we shared pizza together and explored questions of faith in a more intentional way.

We also took groups of our young people to both our Youth Weekend Away and Focus, where four young people made commitments to following Jesus for the first time. These moments have been deeply encouraging for the whole church.





Much of this momentum has flowed into our Sunday youth sessions, where we are seeing a growing community of young people who value curiosity, honest conversation, and a strong sense of belonging.

Kids Ministry

Our Kids' Church has continued to grow as more families have joined our wider church family. We introduced a split between younger and older kids within the learning and content of Sundays, which has brought further depth and built on friendships. We focused a lot of our attention on learning more about the Holy Spirit and the fruit that God grows within us as followers of Him.

Along with some kids' socials and Easter and Christmas events, the big highlight for children and families was our superhero themed Bright Party. We opened the doors to many new faces and families we've connected with before for an evening of fun chaos to celebrate the light of Jesus.



Foodbank & Community Support Café

The work of the St Richard's Foodbank over recent years laid the foundation for something new that has now developed into the Community Support Café. As the team reflected on how best to support people in Hollingdean, it became clear that many needs extended beyond emergency food. In response, the ministry was reshaped to create a space where people could receive practical help, advice, and relational support alongside food provision.

Since the closure of the Foodbank and the launch of the Support Café, we have seen an encouraging and meaningful response. In the first 21 weeks, 271 people attended the café, with 78 individuals receiving support—many of whom accessed help in more than one area. During this time we issued 70 food vouchers, alongside simple shopping lists and optional budgeting support—helping those in immediate crisis not only access food but also build confidence and skills to manage their shopping and finances more sustainably.

Encouragingly, a number of those we have supported have now moved beyond the need for food support altogether, reflecting the longer-term impact of this more holistic approach.

Over the past months we have been able to help people in a wide range of practical ways, including:

- Providing grants for essential items, including beds and mattresses (three families), a dryer, clothing and shoes, a microwave, broadband and phone bills for three months, decorating and school uniform costs, and carpet with fitting.
- Offering practical support and advocacy, including help with housing applications, bills and debts, budgeting, cancer support, gambling recovery, decluttering homes, addressing housing issues such as mold, applying for benefits, accessing additional benefits, attending benefit assessments, and support with the Job Centre.
- Signposting individuals to other services, including parenting courses, local charities, and specialist support organisations.

- Helping arrange medical appointments and fit notes when individuals were struggling to navigate the system.
- Supporting individuals experiencing domestic abuse, helping them access appropriate help and protection.
- Providing relational support for those facing isolation and loneliness, offering a place where people are known, listened to, and supported.

Through the Support Café we are increasingly seeing how practical care, advocacy, and friendship can work together to bring meaningful and lasting change in people's lives. This work has also begun to attract encouraging attention beyond Hollingdean, including a positive feature in the *Argus* newspaper and coverage across several local food network and sustainability platforms, helping to highlight the model of community-based support being developed at St Richard's.



Christmas 2025

The Christmas period was a particularly encouraging and fruitful time for St Richard's, with several significant points of connection with the wider Hollingdean community.

Our Community Christmas Fair and Live Nativity was a major highlight of the season. We estimate that around 200 people came through across the event, many of whom were new faces from the local area. The re-enacted nativity enabled many to hear the gospel story in an accessible and engaging way, and the atmosphere throughout the day was warm, relational, and open. Encouragingly, one of the external stallholders later brought his whole family along to our carol service—one small but meaningful example of how these events help create ongoing connections with the church.

Our Carol Service and other seasonal gatherings continued to attract a mixture of regular members, occasional attenders, and those connected through our community ministries. These moments not only celebrated the story of Christmas but also strengthened our growing reputation locally as a welcoming and accessible church.

Christmas Day itself was especially joyful, with around 50 people gathering together. The room reflected a wonderful mix of church members and individuals connected through the Community Support Café and other ministries. We were also deeply grateful for the generosity of local businesses, who donated vegetables and a turkey for the meal. Sharing food, conversation, and carols together created a powerful expression of the hospitality and faith in Christ that lie at the heart of St Richard's.









Staff Team

Laurel Nathan transitioned from her role as Kids Pastor to focus on developing the Support Café and Foodbank, helping to strengthen our community engagement and practical support ministries.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain deeply grateful for all that God has done among us.

Looking ahead, we are really excited to be on the cusp of launching an evening gathering at St Richard's. Where over the first few months, a small team will be meeting on Sunday evenings to pray, alongside prayer walking around Hollingdean during the week, seeking to discern what God might want to do in and through this space.

With the hope to plan to begin hosting a 6pm gathering after Easter 2026—an informal and welcoming space where people can meet, eat together, and engage with Scripture and prayer in creative and accessible ways.

Our hope is that this will become a place of encounter, formation, and community, complementing our Sunday mornings and creating another doorway for local Hollingdeaners into the life of the church.





Legal and HR

Staff

There was one addition to our staff team in 2025 which was to welcome Tshepo Brown to the St Matthias team as our Children's, Youth and Production Assistant.

Risk Assessments

All events and activities are Risk Assessed, and the PCC is confident that it has reacted appropriately to the risks it encounters. Financial Risk is minimised by robust accounting procedures, and strict procedures for the counting and receipt of monies. We are thankful to our book-keeper Maria Topping, and to Brian Steele for providing extensive support to our finance team.
Fire protection is well maintained and all those who run events are Fire Marshall trained. Our verger regularly reviews the premises for other Health and Safety issues and take appropriate remedial action.

Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding

The Priest-in-Charge is DBS checked, as are all of our Kids Church Team. The Priest-in-Charge and Kids Church Team have received training on Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment. We have fully complied with the Diocesan Safeguarding measures for children and vulnerable adults including the Simple Quality Protects process. All outside groups that use the premises and involve children must adhere to our Safeguarding Policy.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Financial Review

Total income for the year was £395,997 (2024: £434,019). Expenditure was £439,900 (2024: £415,391). This resulted in a deficit of £43,903 (2024: surplus of £18,628).

At 31 December 2025 the charity had total reserves of £75,809 (2024: £119,712), made up of unrestricted funds of £65,708 (2024: £74,491) and restricted funds of £10,101 (2024: £45,221).

Reserves Policy

The charity's reserves policy is to hold positive free reserves and a minimum cash balance totalling at least 3 month's staff costs in order to ensure the charity is able to meet its ongoing operational needs. The charity held positive free reserves and a cash balance of £49,510 at the year end. This is in excess of the minimum policy requirements.

Public Benefit

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the trustees have given consideration to the duties set out in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit and to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit. In particular, the trustees have considered how the planned activities will contribute to overall aims and objectives that they have set.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the accounts

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Approved by the board on ……29/4/2026……..

On behalf of the board of trustees



Thomas Holbird
Chairman

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 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 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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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.

Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
On behalf of TC Group
Office: Steyning, West Sussex

Dated:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
Income from:		**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Donations	**3**	**281,286**	**6,583**	**287,869**	335,043
Other trading activities	**4**	**107,196**	**-**	**107,196**	97,899
Investment income	**5**	**932**	**-**	**932**	1,077
Total income		**389,414**	**6,583**	**395,997**	434,019
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		**398,197**	**41,703**	**439,900**	415,391
Total expenditure	**6**	**398,197**	**41,703**	**439,900**	415,391
Net income and net movement in funds for the year		**(8,783)**	**(35,120)**	**(43,903)**	18,628
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		74,491	45,221	119,712	101,084
Total funds carried forward	**15**	**65,708**	**10,101**	**75,809**	119,712

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

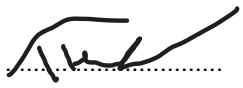
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets	**11**		**25,722**		28,814
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	**7,496**		8,969	
Cash at bank and in hand		**49,510**		91,706	
		57,006		100,675	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(6,919)**		(9,777)	
Net current assets			**50,087**		90,898
Net assets			**75,809**		119,712
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	**14**		**10,101**		45,221
Unrestricted funds	**15**		**65,708**		74,491
			75,809		119,712

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 29/4/2026



Thomas Holbird
Chairman

Charity Registration No. 1185491

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHIAS, BRIGHTON

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Legal status of charitable company

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthias, Brighton is a charity. The charity's registered number and office address can be found on the Legal and Administrative Information page.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthias, Brighton meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthias, Brighton ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as income when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

Income from charitable activities comprises grants awarded for activities undertaken by the charity's project partners. Grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable unless a grant is subject to donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of the resources can take place; in which case they are deferred.

2.4 Expenditure and basis of apportioning costs

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable activities comprises all expenditure directly relating to the objectives of the charity.

Governance costs (included within Support costs) comprises all costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements with which the charity must comply.

Depreciation relates to fixtures and fittings depreciation, being written off over 15 years straight line.

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

2.5 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.6 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

2.7 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2.8 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2.9 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

2.10 Cash flow statement

In accordance with Section 7 of FRS 102 the charity is claiming exemption from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on account of its size.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	187,917	6,583	**194,500**	168,325
Collections	1,648	-	**1,648**	1,196
Appeals and donations	58,333	-	**58,333**	90,730
Foodbank	1,243	-	**1,243**	17,499
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	32,145	-	**32,145**	57,293
Total income from donations	281,286	6,583	**287,869**	335,043

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
SDF salaries	-	-	**-**	14,364
St Matthias hall revenue	25,869	-	**25,869**	19,915
St Richards hall revenue	3,966	-	**3,966**	5,143
Snooker club	770	-	**770**	694
Weddings and funerals	2,560	-	**2,560**	1,937
Other events	53,246	-	**53,246**	50,160
Capex SDF	-	-	**-**	5,686
CDMF salaries	15,785	-	**15,785**	-
Capex CDMF	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
Total income from other trading activities	107,196	-	**107,196**	97,899

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	932	-	**932**	1,077
Total investment income	932	-	**932**	1,077

6 Total expenditure

	Staff costs	Depreciation costs	Other costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Activities undertaken directly	154,184	3,092	197,522	**354,798**	335,859
Support costs	-	-	85,102	**85,102**	79,532
Total charitable activities	154,184	3,092	282,624	**439,900**	415,391

Analysis of support costs (including Governance costs)	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
General office and administration	**82,582**	76,532
Governance costs:		
Independent examiners fees	**2,520**	3,000
	85,102	79,532

Activities undertaken directly includes £59,047 (2024: £60,000) payable for Parish Ministry Costs (PMC).

7 Comparative Funds – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Income from:	£	£	£
Donations	303,301	31,742	335,043
Other trading activities	97,899	-	97,899
Investment income	1,077	-	1,077
Total income	402,277	31,742	434,019
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	379,762	35,629	415,391
Total expenditure	379,762	35,629	415,391
Net income/(expenditure)	21,725	(3,097)	18,628
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	52,766	48,318	101,084
Fund balances carried forward	74,491	45,221	119,712

8 Trustees

Members of the PCC received remuneration directly from the charity in 2025 totalling £10,031 (2024: £6,661).

Trustees' expenses of £744 were incurred and reimbursed in 2025 (2024: £nil).

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was 10 (2024: 10).

There are no members of key management personnel for this current year or the prior year.

Employment costs	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**132,334**	131,648
Social security costs	**15,822**	7,411
Pension costs	**6,028**	2,159
	154,184	141,218

No employee earned greater than £60,000 in the current year or prior year.

10 Taxation

As a charity, The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthias, Brighton is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Fixed Assets

	Total Fixtures and Fittings
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025	**44,721**
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025	15,907
Charge for the year	3,092
At 31 December 2025	**18,999**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	**25,722**
At 31 December 2024	28,814

12 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Debtors	**6,355**	3,215
Other debtors	**489**	489
Prepayments and accrued income	**652**	5,265
	7,496	8,969

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	**1,225**	6,501
St Peters	**729**	482
Accruals and deferred income	**4,965**	2,794
	6,919	9,777

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2025	**Incoming resources**	**Resources expended**	**Transfers**	**Balance at 31 December 2025**
Elderly People Project	1,000	-	-	-	**1,000**
Youth Work	1,768	-	(1,768)	-	**-**
SRH Community Garden	1,658	-	(123)	-	**1,535**
Foodbank General	-	-	(2,000)	2,000	**-**
Foodbank Counselling	300	-	(300)	-	**-**
Foodbank Van	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	**-**
Kids Work	91	-	(91)	-	**-**
Acts 435	-	3,075	(2,108)	-	**967**
Foodbank Retained Earnings	38,404	-	(32,805)	-	**5,599**
St. Bernard's Charity Grant	-	3,508	(2,508)	-	**1,000**
	45,221	**6,583**	**(41,703)**	**-**	**10,101**

14 Restricted funds (continued)

Elderly People Project - donation for a new support group for elderly people.
Youth Work – grant to enable St Matthias to launch the Youth Café.
SRH Community Garden - grant to improve the St Richard's Garden for community use.
Foodbank General – grant received towards the church Foodbank for community use.
Foodbank Counselling - funding for counselling service at Foodbank.
Foodbank Van – funding received for purchase of a Foodbank Van.
Kids' Work - funding for children's work within the church.
Acts 435 - grants received to provide financial help for people in need.
Foodbank Retained Earnings - surplus remaining at the year-end of funding restricted to the foodbank.
St. Bernard's Charity Grant – funding to support individuals in need through furniture and food.

The transfer between funds represents £2,000 received from the Foodbank General fund, as the original grant was awarded for Foodbank purposes rather than specifically for the van.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	25,722	-	25,722
Current assets	46,905	10,101	57,006
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,919)	-	(6,919)
	65,708	**10,101**	**75,809**
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	28,814	-	28,814
Current assets	55,454	45,221	100,675
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(9,777)	-	(9,777)
	74,491	**45,221**	**119,712**

16 Related party transactions

Helena Lomas received £nil (2024: £7,798), Clark Buys (husband of Sarah Buys) £6,760 (2024: £5,544), Millie Chant £nil (2024: £2,398), and Martha Holbird (daughter of Tom Holbird) £140 (2024: £nil) in a self-employed capacity.

17 Ultimate controlling party

The charity was under the control of the PCC Members (trustees) during the period under review.