

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th May 2026 at 11.00am, St Martin's Church, Herne**

Contents	Page
<u>AGENDA FOR 2026 MEETING</u>	3
Church information	5
<u>REVIEW OF THE APCM Meeting Sunday 27th April 2025</u>	
Minutes of the APCM (Vestry/ Parish Report and Annual Meeting)	12
and Incumbent's report	15
Rules for elections of officials at both meetings	21
<u>APCM MEETING 2026</u>	
Priest in Charge's report for the year 2025	23
<u>Reports required under the Church Representation Rules 2025</u>	
Churchwardens report	26
Electoral roll report	26
Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC during 2025	27
St Martin's and St Peter's Financial Report for 2025 (including Reserves Policy)	28
<i>(See Annexe pages 1 To 9 for the Church Accounts /Financial Statements)</i>	
Fabric Report from the Fabric Committee and the Churchwardens	30
Deanery Synod Report for 2025 (part 2026)	31
<u>Reports from Church Organisations and Committees</u>	33
Introduction	33
August Activity Days	33
Bell ringing report	33
Bubble Church	34
Children and Sunday School Report	34
Choir Report	35
Churchyard maintenance team	36
Community Café	36
Flower arrangers	37
Gift Aid	37
Herne Community Fun Day	38
House group bible study	39
Little Fishes	39
Messy Church	40
Pastoral report	40
Safeguarding (see safeguarding statement in annual report on the PCC)	40
Schools	41
The St Martin's Church (Institute) Hall: otherwise, Herne Church Hall	42
St Martins Readers and Intercessors	43
St Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers	43
St Martins Tuesday Toddler Group	43
Worship Band	47
Financial Statements and Accounts Annex/front sheet/locator index	49 pages 1-9

THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE 2026 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Martin's Church Herne on Sunday 10th May 2026 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA for 2026

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence. Declarations of proxies if any

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 27th April 2025
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two). If there is a contested election then this will follow the principles agreed at the APCM on 2025 (and are set out in the minutes of that meeting). The order of the meeting may have to change to provide for counting votes

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies and procedures
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 27th April 2025
4. Matters arising from minutes

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2025

5. The incumbent's report to cover both St Martin's and St Peter's Churches
6. Churchwarden's report
7. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 10th May 2026
8. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2025
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2025 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's (proposal is Hilary Adams)
11. Fabric Committee Report
12. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Mandatory elections

13. Election of two Deanery Synod Representatives (if nominations received)
14. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
15. Election of PCC members. To include
 - a. Appointment of deputy/assistant churchwardens
 - b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2026 to 2029 (being three retiring)*
 - c. Election of one PCC member to take a casual vacancy not filled in 2024

**This is calculated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 101*

NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

16. Reports from church organisations
 - a. August Activity days
 - b. The Bellringers
 - c. Bubble church
 - d. Children's and Sunday School report
 - e. The Choir
 - f. The Churchyard maintenance team
 - g. Community Café
 - h. The Flower arrangers
 - i. Gift Aid
 - j. Herne Community Funday
 - k. Home bible study class
 - l. Little Fishes
 - m. Messy Church
 - n. Pastoral report
 - o. Safeguarding
 - p. Schools
 - q. St Martin's Church Institute
 - r. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
 - s. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
 - t. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
 - u. The Worship Band
17. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: probably May 11th 2026, 7pm at St Martin's Church
18. Any other business
19. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION FOR 2025

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,

Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2025

St Martin-in-Herne Church

Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church

Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent.

INCUMBENT

Priest in Charge Revd. Christopher Carnaby Denyer

CURATE

None

BANKERS

St Martin-in-Herne Church

Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

BACKGROUND

The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2025.

THE TASK OF THE PCC

The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent and overseeing safeguarding. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church) or (b) co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2025 and specifically from the APCM on the 27th April 2025 in addition to Revd Chris 14 persons served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Christopher Carnaby- Denyer	Priest in charge
Priscilla Cox	Church warden from 27 th April 2025 and Deanery Synod Rep
John Bennett	Churchwarden from 27 th April 2025
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 27 th April 2025
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021 and Deanery Synod Rep

(b) Co-opted members/invitees each for one year only

- Susan Record (choir and organist) with effect from April 2025
- John Dilnot with effect from July 2025

(c) Elected being 8 PCC members

Elected 2023 term of office expires 2026 (So, there are now three vacancies to be filled)

- Sheila Gough (treasurer)
- Peter Frost
- Ann Ackland (parish safeguarding officer)

Elected 2024: so, they will retire in 2027

- Wendy Ann Dinley
- Richard Chant
- One casual vacancy remains

Elected 2025: so, they will retire in 2028

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough (secretary)
- Fiona Anelay

That means in 2026 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected.

- 2 Churchwardens (an annual appointment at the vestry meeting)
- 2 Deputy/assistant church wardens (an annual appointment at the parish meeting)
- Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (a triennial appointment)
- Election and appointment of Deborah Waller to the PCC in her capacity as lay reader (and not as an elected lay member to the PCC)
- Elected PCC Members representing the laity This is based upon an electoral roll of 86:–
3 vacancies for office 2026-2029
1 casual vacancy for office until 2027

Current Officers

Revd Chris	Chair
<u>Specific roles on PCC</u>	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Ann Ackland	Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Rep each for a three-year appointment made on 16th April 2023 so they will retire at this APCM in 2026

- Priscilla Cox
- Deborah Waller

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda although this can be set by the incumbent alone.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked.

Members: Priscilla Cox and John Bennett (as churchwardens) and Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Deborah Waller (lay reader) both appointed by the PCC. Andrew Gough (secretary) attends to take minutes. The two PCC members should be appointed by the PCC at the first PCC meeting after the APCM

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee or hold some position in the church administration or worship.

Other Committees in 2025 were:

Finance and Stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Andrew Gough 	Fabric – St Martin’s, Institute Hall, St Peter’s and reordering at St Martin’s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priscilla Cox • Peter Frost (Chair) • Doug Bubb • John Bennett • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson* 	Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bingham (chair) 	Communications & Publicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Lehane* • Sarah Bingham
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*Denotes non- members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan “Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations”.
- Parish Safeguarding coordinator: Anne Ackland
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2025

[NB: Figures in brackets denote previous year’s figures where known]

Church attendance averaged 64 (55) adults and 8 (6) children across the year on normal Sundays during 2025, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services.

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	15 (20): 13 (8) infant, 1 (12) children; 1 (0) adults
Weddings	7 (4)
Funerals	3 (5): last year (4) in church, (1) at crematorium or cemetery

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 10.00 am Sunday Services Average Attendance	64 (55) (estimated 45 aged 18-69 years and 19 aged 70 years plus)	8 (6)	72 (61)

Easter Day services Total Attendance	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no breakdown</i>	132 (122)
Christmas Day Total Attendance	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no breakdown</i>	213
Special Services during Advent 2025, e.g. nativities, memorial carol service of nine lessons, carols around the crib, Christingle and school service	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no breakdown</i>	Congregation and local community: 826 (455).

Joiners and leavers:

15 (12) adults and 10 (2) children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2025. 2 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2025.

Other mission and ministry to Children & Young Families:

(A) We have **two thriving toddler groups**: one on Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (88 (88 in 2023 too) registered families - 36 (36) regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children; and one on Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (both weekly in school term time).

(B) **Monthly Messy Church** at St Peter's Greenhill averaged 30-40 people attending.

(C) **August Activity Days** on 4 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill averaged 50 children + adults each week.

(D) **Bubble Church** every other Sunday at St Martins Church

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request.

Electoral Roll

At the APCM on the 27th April 2025 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 86. As at the 31st December 2025 the roll is confirmed at 86. The numbers on the roll following the review of the roll in March 2026 will be announced at the APCM

*Andrew Gough
Electoral Roll Officer*

PUBLIC BENEFIT

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement:

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges in the Diocese (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:

- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:

- The provision of chaplaincy services; for example, to Strode Park, Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, and community Cafe.

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:

- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

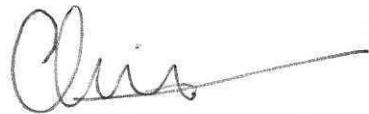
Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:

- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g. Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:



Revd. Chris Carnaby- Denyer and a Church Warden

Date; 22/4/26

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11.15am at St Peter's Church, Greenhill.

AGENDA for 2025

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence. Declarations of proxies if any

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

4. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Election of churchwardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

20. Apologies and procedures
21. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
22. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
23. Matters arising from minutes

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2024

24. Churchwarden's and incumbents report
25. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 27th April 2025
26. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2024
27. Churchwarden's report
28. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2024 accounts
29. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's (proposal is PG Lemon LLP)
30. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
31. Fabric Committee Report

Mandatory elections

32. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
33. Election of PCC members. To include
 - a. Appointment or election of deputy/assistant churchwardens
 - b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2025 to 2028 (being three retiring) *

**This is calculated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 100*

- c. Election of one PCC member to take a casual vacancy not filled in 2024

NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

34. Reports from church organisations

- a. August Activity days
- b. The Bellringers
- c. Children's and Sunday School report
- d. The Choir
- e. The Churchyard maintenance team
- f. Community Café
- g. The Flower arrangers
- h. Gift Aid
- i. Little Fishes
- j. Messy Church
- k. Pastoral report
- l. Safeguarding
- m. Schools
- n. St Martin's Church Institute
- o. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
- p. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
- q. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
- r. Worship at St Peters Greenhill
- s. The Worship Band

35. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: Monday 28th April 2025 7pm at St Martin's Church

36. Any other business

37. The Blessing

The meeting actually commenced at 11.15am

Opening Prayer

Revd Christopher Carnaby-Denyer welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Under the Church representation Rules as incumbent, he would chair the meetings

Apologies

Apologies have been received from Fiona Anelay, Sarah Bingham, Jonathan Cox, Angela Cox, Amanda Brealy, Valerie Smith, Keith Record, Susan Record, Jean White, Caroline Wardle, Anthony Millard, Helen Hare, Elizabeth Wood, Leane Sands, Peter Thomas, Dorothy Power and Peter Frost

Proxy voting forms had been received from Fiona Anelay, Sarah Bingham, Jonathan Cox, Angela Cox, Amanda Brealy, Valerie Smith, Keith Record, Susan Record, Jean White, Caroline Wardle, Anthony Millard, Helen Hare, Elizabeth Wood, Leane Sands, Peter Thomas, Dorothy Power and Peter Frost

These were all confirmed as valid by Andrew Gough as PCC Secretary

An attendance sheet was passed round for all those present to sign (see annexe)

Preliminary Issues presented by the PCC Secretary

There was to be a contested election for the post of churchwarden

Andrew Gough as PCC secretary explained that as there were three nominations there would have to be a vote for the two vacant positions of the churchwardens. The vote would be undertaken secretly and the procedure would be explained shortly. However, given that the vote had to be counted the order of the agenda would have to be changed to allow for this.

Full minutes and reports (including accounts) were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

The minutes would be signed off if approved.

Part 1 Chaired by Revd Chris Carnaby- Denyer

The Vestry Meeting

Revd Chris. explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above
2. Proxies had been received as above
3. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 21st April 2024 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Wendy Dinlay. Secunder Deborah Waller. They were unanimously approved
4. There were no matters arising
5. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant)

Three candidates had put their names forward as Churchwarden.

Priscilla Cox for re election

Proposed by Andrew Gough

Seconded by Wendy Dinley

Sarah Bingham

Proposed by Fiona Anelay

Seconded by Michele Nicholson

John Bennett

Proposed by Peter Frost

Seconded by Shirley Frost

Each candidate was invited to speak to the electorate to set out why they ought to be voted as churchwarden. In her absence a statement from Sarah Bingham was read out by Revd Chris as chair

A formal election was therefore required. Andrew Gough as PCC Secretary outlined the rules of the election (see annexe)

Revd Chris asked if there were any persons present not on the electoral roll but who claimed the right to vote because they were on the Local Government electoral roll of the parish

Four persons declared their entitlement to vote for the churchwardens as being resident in the parish although not on the church electoral roll:

Sophie Carnaby-Denyer

John Harrison

Hazel Worrall

Colin Jones

Their entitlement was confirmed because of their addresses in the parish

Election voting slips with the names of the three candidates were given to those present who cast votes secretly. The votes would be checked and counted by Deborah Waller and Sheila Gough

It was decided to continue with the Annual Meeting whilst the votes were counted

There being no other business the vestry meeting was suspended.

Part 2 Chaired by Revd Christopher Carnaby- Denyer

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.
2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet was taken as read. Also, the general reports were taken as read
3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 21stth April 2024. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.
5. The Priest in charge's verbal report was given. Here is a transcript.

"It is such a joy to give my first APCM report -it feels like the first seven months have whizzed by! Thank you for welcoming me, Sophie and all the family.

As we look back on 2024, don't forget the great chunk of the year that is time "BC" ... "Before Chris"! There is much appreciation for all those who ensured the ministry and mission at St Martin's and St Peter's continued during the interregnum, and those involved in appointing a new priest for the parish.

A huge thanks especially to the Wardens, Priscilla and Chris and the Deputy Wardens, John and Sarah, as well as our Reader, Deborah. Thanks go particularly to Chris Exley as he steps down as Church Warden for new adventures ahead.

There are so many dedicated volunteers who contribute in a myriad of ways to the life, ministry and mission of our two churches and the communities we serve: to each one of you, thank you.

I listed a few of the highlights of the year in my written report.

Specifically, the Back to School service that set a pattern for our first Sunday service, with a focus on inviting families back to the all-age service each month with a special focus for our worship such as Harvest and Christingle, the latter included Worship Leaders from Herne Junior School and attendance of 165 people.

Remembrance was a gathering to behold with around 500, with thanks to Cllr Alan Marsh for organising the road closure and his support in this final year of his involvement.

Advent saw a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival where the community came together to take on the challenge to dress a tree and support the event. The annual Memorial Carols saw over 200 people coming together to remember those we miss especially at this time of year, again supported and facilitated by the generous team at Welch's. The huge tree looked marvellous (thanks to the team who wrestled it into place) and many stars were added to it with the names of loved ones right up to the end of epiphany.

Singing carols under the yew tree was fantastic as was the nativity and new Christmas Eve Carol service. A total Christmas Eve/Day attendance in church of 917 (compared to 740 in 2023) marked out the effort in delivering 5000 Christmas Cards to the communities we serve, thanks to all the delivers, and to John Bennett masterminding it.

Service attendance was up on the year previous year even in a time of interregnum with much appreciation to all who made this happen by leading services, especially our Reader, Deborah. Thanks also to Chris Exley for also sharing the leading of 8am services with Deborah. Easter Services had a total attendance of 122 people, compared to 93 in 2023. The service pattern is well established and beyond Sundays, Messy Church continued to welcome and offer a different format of church for families each month on a Saturday, and our toddlers groups met each week in term-time. At St Peter's, the weekly Tuesday morning café welcomed the community in for refreshments and a chat. Thanks to the hard-working teams involved.

Our schools ministry is a real strength, including new links at Thornden Wood School and Herne Bay High School.

The PCC met in November to reflect and pray on what good things were going on in the parish and what we might like to build on and inform our mission action planning. We are continuing to build a clear vision for the future, and we invite you to support that with your prayers and participation, as well as financial support to enable plans to come to fruition and to grow the church numerically and spiritually.

It's been a great year in the life of St Martin's and St Peter's, and the communities we serve, and we look forward to so much more to come in 2025."

6. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in April 2024 there had been 92 members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following the latest republication of the roll 24 people had been removed or had not re applied and eighteen new members had been added, Accordingly, there were now eighty-six (86) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC.

Three places on the PCC were now available for nominations. He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM and had been for over 14 days. There had been no objections.

There were no questions. He confirmed that after the APCM congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM

7. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2024 was taken as read. There were no questions. Thanks were given to all the PCC members for their dedicated service over the year
8. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley had nothing to add.
9. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add. Thanks were given to Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller for their considerable service.
10. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Thanks were given to the Committee members for their stewardship of the church buildings throughout the year.
11. Deborah Waller as licensed lay reader to the parish can be elected to the PCC in her own right as an ex officio member of the PCC even though she was also on the PCC in her capacity as representative to the Deanery Synod. This did not mean that she had two votes in the PCC There were no objections to that appointment being made and this was agreed.
12. Appointment of members of the PCC
 - a. Election of Assistant Church wardens
Following the adoption of the Deputy Church Warden scheme in 2024 it was now possible to legitimately appoint two assistant churchwardens.

The persons nominated were

Sarah Bingham

Proposer Finona Anelay
seconded by John Anelay

John Bennett

Proposed by Jean Dilnot
Seconded by Sheila Bennett

However, both candidates had offered themselves as churchwardens so their candidacy could not be confirmed until the vote for churchwardens had been settled

- b. Three candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.

Andrew John Gough

proposed by Priscilla Cox
seconded by Sheila Gough

Douglas Bubb

proposed by Lynda Martin
seconded by Sarah Bingham

Fiona Anelay

Proposed by Sarah Jane Bingham
Seconded by Jack Anelay

There being no other candidates who now wished to put their names forward all three were duly appointed as members of the PCC

- c. Revd Chris confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

13. There was no appointment to the casual vacancy on the PCC that had not been filled in 2024

14. Thanks were given to those who had been PCC members and to those continuing on the council

15. Revd Chris then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. He hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Thanks were given to all persons who contributed to the life and administration of the church. We all worked hard as a team.

The counting of votes for the churchwardens had now been concluded and the APCM was suspended to permit the vestry meeting to be reconvened so that the result of the election could be announced

16. Resumption of the Vestry meeting

The tellers of the votes (Deborah Waller and Sheila Gough) announced through Revd Chris as chair that the two candidates with the greatest number of votes were Priscilla Cox and John Bennett.

Accordingly, they were both appointed as churchwardens

This also meant that John Bennett's application as assistant churchwarden was nugatory and could be withdrawn, However Sarah Bingham's nomination would proceed

No party present objected to the conduct of the election

The Vestry meeting concluded and the annual meeting was reconvened to conclude unfinished business

17. Appointment of assistant churchwarden. There being no other candidates Sarah Bingham was elected as assistant churchwarden

18. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2024 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill. She made the following points.

- a. A copy of the examined annual accounts is attached to the back of the APCM booklet, I am not sure whether you have been able to have a look at them but I will briefly go through the accounts and if anyone has any questions I will try and answer them today or will get back to you with the answer as
- b. General Fund – Receipts
- c. We saw an increase in planned giving of £444
- d. There was a slight increase in collections at services
- e. Gift Aid and other donations increased by £9,951 this was due to an anonymous donation of £10,000
- f. Gift aid recovered was down on 2023 although this figure does not include gift aid recovered for December 2024 which was £1,344
- g. We received a legacy of £40,000 from the Estate of the late Lydia Quilty who was a member of the congregation for many years.
- h. There was an increase in fundraising.
- i. A decrease in Church activities due to lack of weddings and funerals.
- j. St Peter's had an increase in rentals of over £1,000
- k. We had to transfer nearly £43,000 from the reserve fund this was £27,301 for Parish Share and £14,244 for repairs to the organ.
- l. We also had to transfer £16,000 from St Martin's Hall account in order to pay the parish share but both St Martin's and St Peter's halls continue to pay their way.
- m. With regard to expenses, the Parish Share is our biggest expense but we paid this in full.
- n. There was a small reduction in clergy and staffing costs
- o. An increase in church running expenses due to increase in our insurance premium and repairs to the organ.
- p. Total receipts £195,403

- q. Total payments £195,301 giving a small surplus for the year of £102.
- r. The interest earned on our CCLA investments over the year amounted to £7,023.
- s. St Martin's Hall
- t. Income increased by £2,755
- u. Payments increased by £3,484 due to transferring funds to the general fund for parish share which meant that the Hall account had a deficit of £4,836
- v. Youth Account – all of our activities pay for themselves
- w. As the end of the year we had £9,928 of unrestricted funds and £485 restricted funds (Restoration account).
- x. Our investments saw an increase of £14,430
- y. I would like to thank Andrew Gough for continuing to administer the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me

Reserves Policy

- z. We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of funds in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. We do however have a CCLA Reserves account which currently has a balance of £91,524.
- aa. It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

The accounts were proposed by Sheila Gough to be approved and seconded by Andrew Gough. They were unanimously approved by those present.

Sheila Gough was specifically thanked for her hard work and diligence

19. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill

- a. Sheila Gough had proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re-appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year. However, they were no longer willing to act.
- b. It was agreed that the PCC should have authority to seek and appoint another independent examiner Those present voted unanimously for this proposal.

20. Revd Chris confirmed that the Parochial Church Council would be commissioned on a date to be agreed. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will, however, be Monday 28th April 2025 at 7pm in the Ridley Room.

21. Any Other Business. Revd Chris invited questions from the floor.

22. Chris Exley as retiring churchwarden thanked Revd. Chris for his stewardship over the past six months. Exciting times were promised as new ideas were introduced. He also thanked Revd. Chris's wife Sophie for her great support

23. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Revd Chris led those present in the grace.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm

RULES FOR AN ELECTION AT A VESTRY MEETING (THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING) OR AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCCIL (THE APCM)

1. The chair of the vestry meeting (or Annual Parishioners Meeting) or the APCM is the presiding officer
2. In the event of the necessity of an election for a position within the church (for example as churchwarden or assistant churchwarden or as member of PCC) the PCC has agreed that any such election will be by way of a secret vote. Any one person at the meeting can call for a secret vote so the PCC has pre-empted this.
3. Voting slips will be given out to those attending the vestry meeting (that is the Annual Parishioners Meeting) or the annual meeting of the AP CM and who are entitled to vote
4. In the case of the Annual Parishioners Meeting these are
 - a. persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the ecclesiastical parish, or who are
 - b. persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors.
5. In relation to the Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council (the APCM)
 - a. only those who are on the electoral roll of the parish.
6. Any vote cast by a person who is not entitled to vote will be invalid.
7. The chair of the vestry meeting shall ask any voter who is voting solely on the grounds that they are entitled pursuant to point 4 (b) for proof of their entitlement and in the absence of such proof may bar the voter from participation in the election

Voting for churchwarden

8. The vote takes place at the Annual Parishioners Meeting (the vestry meeting).
9. There are two vacancies for the position of churchwardens. Each voter therefore has up to 2 votes to cast for the candidates.
10. Under the Church Representation Rules each voter is not
 - a. obliged to vote or
 - b. cast both votes and
 - c. can simply vote for one candidate
11. To vote each voter must mark the choice of candidate or candidates on the voting slip and then print and sign his or her name on the reverse of the voting slip. If they fail to do so then the vote is invalid.
12. The voter may choose up to 2 candidates. However, a voter cannot cast both of his or her votes for one candidate., A voter may only cast one vote per candidate Any voting slip that casts two votes for one candidate will be invalid.
13. if a voter is acting as a proxy for a person who is absent then that person must print and sign their name on the back of the voting slip and state the name of the person for whom they are acting. Failure to do so will invalidate the vote.
14. Voting papers will be collected at the vestry meeting and will be counted by two persons who will be nominated at the AP CM. The suggestion is Deborah Waller and Sheila Gough
15. The two counters of the votes will check the name of each voter (including the donee of any proxy vote) against the electoral roll. If a vote is being cast by a person who is not on the church electoral roll, or has not given proof pursuant to clause 7 then the voting slip is invalid

16. The names of the successful candidates will be announced as soon as possible at the APCM. There is no requirement for the counters of votes to declare the number of votes cast for each candidate.
17. If requested by a majority of those present at the APCM and entitled to vote those who have counted the votes will give the total number of votes cast for each candidate and the number of invalid votes
18. The two candidates with the greatest number of individual votes will be elected as churchwardens. In the event that there is an equal number of votes cast for all three candidates then the presiding officer will draw lots to choose two candidates.
19. In the event that there is a tied number of votes for the second candidate then the chair of the AP CM will draw a lot for the second position.
20. The candidates may call for a recount and if there is a tie then this must be before any drawing of lots.
21. All voting slips will remain confidential. They will be collected by the presiding officer and retained until a period of 14 days has elapsed following the election and there has been no appeal either against
 - a. an individual vote being invalidated or
 - b. the result of the election itself
22. In the event of there being an appeal on either ground then the voting slips will be retained until the result of the appeal has been announced. After the above time periods have elapsed then the voting slips will be destroyed.

Voting for assistant church warden or a member of the PCC

23. Similar procedures will be adopted if there are more than two candidates for the position of assistant churchwarden or more than three candidates for the three vacant positions as members of the PCC.
24. The relevant entitlement to vote is that of being on the electoral roll of the parish (point 4 above)

Revd Chris Carnaby Denyer

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2025

Priest in Charge's Annual 2025 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

Church life is often marked Sunday by Sunday, and over this past year the worship in our parish has included a variety of special services to celebrate highlights in the church calendar, often in new ways, alongside the established regular pattern for gathering together. Added to this, we have celebrated 15 baptisms and 7 weddings at St Martin's in 2025, with a teenager and an older primary pupil coming to us to seek baptism for themselves, as well as confirmation candidates. For the feast of St Peter and St Paul, we held the first Communion service at St Peter's for many years. From the highlight of Candlemas in January 2025, with baptism candles brought back to be blessed, right through to the festive favourites of Memorial Carols, Yew Tree Carols (sadly not round the Yew Tree thanks to the rain!) and the Nativity, we have journeyed together in word and song to worship God.

We are dependent on the dedication and service of a variety of people who contribute to the life of St Martin's and St Peter's. So a huge thank you to everyone involved in worship, prayer, singing, music, welcoming, children and youth ministry, coffee mornings, toddler groups, flowers, bell ringing, pastoral visiting and care home team, caring for the churchyard, cutting the grass, maintenance and repairs, cleaning and fundraising. Thanks also to school governors, PCC members, deanery and diocesan representatives, community lunches, administration, outreach, managing hall lettings, caring for our community, and refreshments (the ministry of tea and cake!). These lists are in no particular order and hopefully encompasses all the many facets of what it is that we do as a church community in the community. Our Church Wardens and Assistant Warden, PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer and Lay Reader also give so much to ensure that things happen as they should and, along with the PCC and Priest, that we have good governance and leadership.

Life of course does not happen as we expect, and early in the year our community was faced with a huge gas emergency around Greenhill, with St Peter's able to serve as a hub for the SGN response. Those who did not know where we are soon found us, and our name was synonymous with giving help, including in press coverage. Many thanks to Steve who manages the St Peter's site for his extra work and for the organisations whose regular bookings had to be cancelled.

Life is also about change and new things. At the start of the year, two opportunities for training led to new things that have shaped a new pattern to our church life. Firstly, I undertook a course called Launchpad, focused on youth ministry. This led to the plan for reaching out to post-primary age young people, providing a ministry of "presence" by inviting Herne Bay High School pupils to a safe space at St Peter's on a Wednesday afternoon (early finish), where they can be welcomed, listened to, and given a place to socialise. This took shape by the end of the year, and from 2026 we have been welcoming over 20 Year 7-9 pupils fortnightly at St Peter's to "Hangout". Thank you to our new team of leaders who enable this ministry.

Another new team for 2025 emerged with a group who attended Bubble Church training early in the year, including two young people and their parents. Bubble Church was launched in May, and this short 30 mins service with puppets, story and song for families has become embedded in the worship of our parish. The team has begun to grow and thank you to all involved.

Life does not take place in one place. We might get caught up in our church buildings, but 2025 saw us look outside to the space around St Peter's. We made a grant application to the Dorothy Kerin Trust (formerly Burrswood), a Christian charity that look to make grants to Christian organisations improving mental health and well-being, to set up a community garden. Good news soon came– they loved the idea of us developing the overgrown garden beside St Peter's as a community garden and were prepared to double the amount of our bid! This made it possible to fund a local garden contractor to clear the site ready for work to begin in 2026. This was not the only generous surprise we welcomed. A defibrillator was gifted to us for St Peter's and funds given for smart new blinds to also be fitted there.

In the sunny churchyard, we were able to celebrate the 50th birthday of our Toddler Group at St Martin's with a teddy bear's picnic. Another highlight of the summer months was the successful run of Activity Days, again this year at St Peter's, with lots of positive comments appreciating the activities provided. Thank you to all who gave their time to help run these.

Tidying St Martin's also took place in the summer in readiness for plans to open the church in the daytime. This begun in December and continues through into 2026 as a regular pattern of our church life. Visitors from further away and more locally have been able to explore the church, and many people come in to find a space for reflection.

Autumn brought the launch of Community Lunches ("Let's Do Lunch") on the first Thursday of the month at St Peter's. Thank you to Chef Ian, and sous-chef Viv, there have been delicious lunches and opportunity to gather for friendship over a hot meal. The Christmas lunch was very popular.

Throughout the year, pastoral care continued with regular services at Broomfield Lodge and Herne Place, in addition to pastoral visits by Sheila Gough and myself taking Home Communion to those requesting it. Please let us know of any others who might need this.

The latter part of 2025 saw the Diocese invite parishes to discern and commit to three things – what we are doing in the community towards leading mission. That's where a Mission Action Plan (MAP) comes in, helping with identifying what the three things are. We had already journeyed through 2025 discerning and putting together a Mission Action Plan for our parish, which is now in place and well underway. From this, we identified our Three Things: (1) welcoming new people into the church; (2) ensuring financial and ecological sustainability; (3) increasing attendance, particularly among families and younger people.

As 2025 drew to a close, the life of our parish at Christmas really showed the impact of our work in encouraging, inviting and trying to get our message out. Well done everyone involved! A particular effort was delivering 5000 Christmas cards to the parish, focused on areas of new building and places we have not delivered to before, such as Talmead and Herne Common. The idea of the card was to give a more personal welcome and Christmas greetings (rather than solely an advert of services), with a photo of yours-truly on the front. Feedback said that this was well received and the welcome was reflected in the good numbers at Christmas services where we saw lots of new people, as well as younger people exploring faith. Our collections were also very good over Christmas, and the Christmas tree festival was very well supported. It was great to be able to draw the community together again with this event, kindly supported by Kemp's Funeral Directors and Vincent Nurseries. Our Christmas tradition of Memorial Carols was again an important part of marking the season,

offering space to remember those we especially miss at Christmas, kindly supported by Welch and Sons Funeral Directors.

To the backdrop of another busy year in the life of the church, we also look ahead – and this has been an important juncture to recognise that our income is just about sufficient to pay the church expenses, but the Parish Share is the straw that breaks the camel's back and we are in a monthly deficit. Parish Share is not discretionary. We are already paying any shortfall from our capital reserves, which is untenable, and we will exhaust our reserves in the coming year. My post was made with the understanding that we would reach a point soon when the parish would be in a position to meet its financial obligations without using reserves. There is much to do in making this possible. Thank you to all who give generously to support our mission and ministry, and to care for our church buildings.

Life is also about relationships. We are very fortunate to continue to foster good partnerships with our local schools. We have governors from our church family at Herne Infants and Herne Juniors, and I also serve on the governing body of Herne Bay High School. Collective Worship takes place each week at the Herne schools, and I lead assemblies at Thornden Wood Primary School each term, as well as story time at Briary nursery. Another close partnership is with our Community Warden in Greenhill, who supports our youth ministry at "Hangout", the Community Garden project and Community lunches at St Peter's, for which we are very appreciative.

As we reflect on the life of our parish over the past year, there is so much life to see – new things, new hope and new opportunities. Thank you for the help with all these things to bring them to fruition, for the support and trust in getting new ideas off the ground and sharing in my enthusiasm to grow the church. May we continue to nurture, foster and shape new life for our parish as we join in with what great things God is doing in the life of our parish...

God bless,

Chris

*Revd Chris Carnaby- Denyer
March 2026*

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2025

The Church wardens report for 2025

This has been a very positive year for the parish under the enthusiastic and energetic leadership of Revd Chris. He has worked tirelessly to get to know the community and the various organisations, schools and societies in Herne and Greenhill. There has been an increase in attendance at services and new initiatives and services for families and young people have also seen growth in that part of our church family.

We are fortunate to have people in the congregation with the time and expertise to help with the maintenance and upkeep of St Martin's, St Peter's and Herne church hall and their grounds. Members of the Fabric Committee work continuously to carry out repairs and improvements, ever mindful of the need to make the buildings as safe and welcoming as possible. All work has to be considered within the restraints of the church finances and the ever-present shortage of funds, and prioritised according to need and urgency. We have a gardening team which meets regularly to maintain the churchyard and preserve the ecology and wildlife there. We are very grateful to them and to all those who help to keep the gardens tidy at the hall and St Peter's, and particularly to Steve King the caretaker there.

Looking forward the PCC and congregation have ideas and improvements they hope to implement to engage with the community and grow the church, always constrained by the need to improve our income and to find innovative ways to increase funds.

The churchwardens are very grateful to all those who contribute to the smooth running and upkeep of the church: members of the Fabric Committee, the churchyard team, and cleaners and Flower Ladies. Our thanks also go the sidesmen and welcomers who regularly help before services and to those who help provide refreshments at services. We have a strong team of people who give their time and energy to help, and we are always very pleased to welcome new members to that team.

*Churchwardens
March 2026*

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

Report from the Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2025

At the APCM in April 2025 there were 86 members on the new electoral Roll. As at December 31 2025 we still had 86 members on the roll.

The numbers on the roll following the March 2026 revision will be given orally at the APCM and that will determine the number of PCC representatives to be elected.

*Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
March 2026*

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2025

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

There have been nine meetings during the year all being face-to-face meetings. We missed a meeting in March 2025 as this was delayed to early April to finalise the arrangements for the APCM due to be held that month. The meeting in August was postponed to enable Revd Chris to review PCC meetings during the remainder of the year

There is guidance for the conduct of online and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. On line Zoom meetings are usually recorded with the consent of the participants. The recording is expunged once the minutes have been approved at a PCC meeting.

Also, emergency business has been conducted online by on line correspondence. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020 (now 2025).

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration, politely and with good humour. We prefer face to face meetings as this enables debate to be undertaken fully and we sometimes have cake at the refreshment break which is much appreciated! Although this year we have had very few breaks!

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary.

The following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee (see separate report).
2. Reviewing the quinquennial survey inspection of St Martin's Church and ensuring work should be undertaken where possible
3. Formally appointing Hilary Adams as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
4. Approving the 2024 accounts (the 2025 accounts are approved at a PCC meeting in March 2026 for presentation to the APCM in 2026)
5. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2025 (arrangements for the 2026 APCM are finalised in February/March 2026)
6. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2024 (a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution).
7. Reviewing, at the June meeting, the minutes of the APCM on 27th April 2025 which were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April/May 2026 for approval
8. Agreeing at the April 2025 meeting the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
9. Considering an Ignite Project in the parish
10. Supporting the opening of a Bubble Church at St Martin's church
11. Considering a Mission Action Plan for our churches following the PCC Away day in 2024

12. Pledged Harvest collection to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury) and the local food bank.
13. Agreeing to open St Martin's church to the public at given times if possible
14. Agreeing to implement the rent review for the Telecommunication Mast and collecting the arrears of rent and interest
15. Resolving that the collection from the Christingle Service should go to the Children's Society. All other Christmas collections for the church funds generally
16. Receiving safeguarding reports from Anne Ackland as safeguarding officer. See resolution and further declaration below.
17. Receiving updates on the church schools
18. Putting together a Mission Action Plan and "Three Things" to achieve
19. Receiving reports on the fabric of the building and proposals for work such as a new toilet and wheel chair lift (see below)
20. Approving a revised welcome pack to be given to new residents at the new estates
21. Discussing potential repairs to the Church Organ, costings and alternatives to the pipe organ. Agreeing an immediate repair.
22. Considering the feasibility of improvements to the toilet facilities at St Martin's Church and in particular disabled access and a toilet for the disabled.
23. Passing the following formal resolutions
 - a. Accepting the appointment of Anne Ackland as the new safeguarding officer and to apply the approved parish safeguarding statement
 - b. Approving the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services
 - c. Approving those entitled to administer Holy Communion
 - d. Deborah Waller confirmed as governor for the Infant's school

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Statement is available for inspection and is on the Church website. There is a separate report on safeguarding.

*Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
February 2026*

Financial Review for 2025

The accounts this year have been prepared on an accrual's basis by Hilary Adams Ltd from information provided by me. The income and expenses figures are the amalgamation of our Lloyds Bank accounts, which are General, St Martin's Hall and Youth and gives an overall position of the Church's finances which I hope will clarify our financial situation. The accounts have been laid out in a different manner from previous years.

Please see the annexe with the detailed Financial Statements.

During 2025 we saw a decrease in our planned giving. This is due partly to members of the congregation leaving and therefore cancelling their donations or members reducing their contribution.

Collections at services and other giving increased by over £2,000. Offering collection bags to the congregation during the offertory hymn seems more effective than relying on people to donate in the dish as they enter or leave the service.

Gift aid envelopes increased by over £300 and gift aid recovered also saw an increase of £335.

General donations (that is donations not at services) were down from last year.

We have had an increase in the rental paid for the Telecommunications Mast backdated from 2021 which is why the amount received in 2025 was £17,168.

Various popular fundraising events took place over the year including the Community Funday, Tree Festival and the Christmas Fair. The aim of these events is not only to fundraise for the Church but to bring fun and fellowship for the Church and the community.

The use of the hall at St Peter's Greenhill made a surplus of £3,177.

St Martin's Hall saw a small deficit of £420 over the year, but we did have to use £3,000 from the Hall account to pay towards our Parish Share.

Overall, our total income for the year was £121,321.

In respect of expenses, we were able to pay our Parish Share in full but only by using £41,508 from our reserves plus the £3,000 from St Martin's Hall account. If we continue to use these reserves to pay for the Parish Share, they will have all been used by the end of 2026. We have still not been able to repay to the Diocese our outstanding Parish Share for the years 2017/2018 and 2021. This amounts to £43,215; however, we are not alone as there are other parishes with similar indebtedness. We must try and increase our giving/fundraising events so that we can pay our Parish Share out of income which is what we promised the Diocese when they agreed that we could have a full-time vicar.

Direct Ministry expenses were down on last year.

Church Running Expenses also decreased by £15,500 this was because in 2024 we had repairs to the organ the costs of which came out of our reserves.

Overall expenses for the year were £147,367. The net result for the year shows a deficit of £26,046 but we do have current assets of 87,582.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for continuing to administer the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me. As he has said in his report if you purchase an item and give it to the church this may not be the most tax efficient way to deal with the donation. It may be better to make a donation to the church, so it can buy the item and if you

can gift aid the donation then we get 25% extra from the HMRC, which we would not get if the item alone is gifted.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of funds in the bank account ring fenced to pay for ongoing debts in the event that the parish amalgamated with another and we had to make redundancies or pay future debts such as hire or lease fees. We do not have any long-term hiring, leasing or hire purchase contracts.

However, we do have monies in reserve accounts some of which require the money to be used for specific restricted purposes (for example the poor and needy of the parish). Other sums have historically been set aside for particular uses such as building repair but can be accessed for other purposes if agreed by the PCC. Currently at the 1st January 2026 the restricted funds amounted to £56,470. This is held on deposit with the CCLA investment fund

Separately, we do have what is called a CCLA Reserves account which at the end of 2025 had a balance of £53,604. This money is in an interest-bearing account but is part of our unrestricted monies. The remaining unrestricted money is cash funds in the various church bank accounts for day-to-day use.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

*Sheila Gough, PCC Treasurer
March 2026*

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2025 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

This committee meets a week or two before each PCC meeting and submits a report updating Members on the status of actions, those completed, in hand, or outstanding.

The overall objective is to maintain the fabric of our churches and hall as effectively and inexpensively as possible. In practice this means a DIY approach is taken wherever possible, relying on a small number of men (usually), willing and available, and with the skills to get things done.

Occasionally, a problem crops up for which a DIY approach is inadequate. For instance, the flat roof above the kitchen at St. Peter's has suffered a serious leak thanks to recent heavy rain. Here, a Committee Member, Steve King, has been responsible for identifying and qualifying potential repair contractors and recommending the best remedy to the PCC who, in this case, has authorised the £7000 necessary to affect a repair.

More usually, a problem will be identified, and steps taken to deal with it, ourselves. For instance, a recent combination of heavy wind and rain caused a significant leak above the letter rack beside the main door. The cause was traced and the problem remedied by deflecting the water away from the

area using a Perspex sheet found behind the organ! This cost-free fix appears to have been totally effective.

Sometimes leaks are less easy to deal with. The one at the foot of the lectern is still a slight problem despite the crack that appeared to be the source having been dealt with by a contractor. The assumption is that the water is getting in somewhere remote from where the water is dripping. Finding exactly where is a problem still unresolved.

The current action list includes 27 issues of which one, St. Peter's roof, is urgent and essential, four or five need to be dealt with soon and the rest are in the 'as and when' category.

Finally, the grant for long promised improved lighting at St. Martin's has been approved. The installation has been designed but this has not found favour with the DAC who can veto projects that they deem detrimental to the building. The Committee is now investigating ways round this impasse.

Fabric Committee; Peter Frost (Chair), Priscilla Cox, John Dilnot, Paul Tapsell, Roger Jackson, Doug Bubb, Steve King, Chris Denyer, John Bennett (Sec). NB. Steve is not a member of the Church but is our Halls Caretaker. He is one of the most active and valued members of the Committee.

If you would like to join our team and have useful skills and the time to deploy them, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

*John Bennett, Churchwarden
March 2026*

A Report on the 2025 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The first Deanery Synod of the year met in February. It was an open session at St Andrew's Church Hampton and introduced a presentation from Ms Jen Tobin, who is the Lead Officer for the Canterbury Diocese on Children and Young people. There were tables arranged by the six parishes, represented in the Diocese setting out details of the initiatives that each parish was promoting to bring mission to children and young people. Our parish was well represented. All present were encouraged to visit the tables and discuss what was happening.. There then followed a question-and-answer session with Jen Tobin in which she outlined the various initiatives that the Diocese was supporting

In June 2025 Deanery Synod met to discuss Mission Action Planning with Canon Amanda Boucherat and Jane Myhill. Both gave a range of ideas, including starting with prayer and finishing with prayer at each planning session; a suggested pro forma for planning was offered and both emphasised the need for regular reviewing of such plans from a SMART perspective. Members then shared their ideas following a break out discussion in church teams and brought their ideas together in a plenary session.

The current situation, being a vacancy at the Reculver benefice, was reported where a Parish Profile was being prepared in advance of advertising for a priest. Each parish was reminded that they should complete the Energy Footprint data required on the Diocesan website. It was reported that

there were 10 churches in the deanery of which six were up-to-date with their parish share and four were not. It was apparent that under the current church rules a parish still had to pay the full burden of their parish share even if they did not have an incumbent and this was acknowledged by those present to be unfair.

A Deanery Roadshow was held on 17th September at All Saints Whitstable at which some members found the finance sub-group useful.

Our next meeting on 6th October considered 'The Three Things' that we were asked to consider by Bishop Rose and a range of parishes offered their proposed ideas. Grants for Youth Work from the Strategic Mission Investment Board were considered and it was agreed that the best approach would be to concentrate on two centres of mission at Seasalter and Christchurch/ S Andrews, (Herne Bay), with the possibility of grants being applied for by other parishes such as St. Martin's with St. Peter's in the future.

As an introduction to the present calendar year. we met on 26th January, 2026 with Safeguarding being the main topic for the open part of the Synod meeting. Fiona Coombs (the Diocesan Lead on Safeguarding) enlightened members about how we can effectively manage and supervise individuals who have past convictions but are now attending church regularly, as well as monitoring our safeguarding training and processes within the parish to ensure consistent compliance and good practice. Ease of training people in safeguarding practices with good, interactive training was also discussed with breakout sessions to enable sharing of good practice.

*Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller Deanery representatives
April 2026*

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the third edition of the church directory has proved invaluable. This will be updated after the APCM.

August Activity Days

The activity days this year were a great success. Although quieter than usual this year, we welcomed lots of families for all or part of the days and we provided a wide range of activities suitable for a broad range of guests. These days were initially designed to capture and help families that struggle with the cost of entertaining their young families in an entertaining and safe way for 6 weeks over the summer holidays, and to ease the loneliness and parenting pressure for the carers over this break. It was clear that this was still a valid facility that still met this criteria and was enjoyed by all.

These days take a large commitment from our congregation both in planning as well as in volunteering for the days to make the facility a success, and I cannot thank you all enough for stepping forward to help with crafts, bouncy castle, refreshments and all of the other jobs that you so wonderfully engaged in to offer such a positive environment for our families over the summer break. You are amazing, thank you!

*Sarah Bingham
April 2026*

Bellringers Report for 2025

We ring on Sunday for services from 9.30am and practice on Wednesday evenings. We also ring for other services and events during the year, including Christmas Midnight Communion. We joined other towers across the country ringing for the VE Day 80th anniversary in August 2025.

On Wednesday evenings the practice begins with the learners at 7pm. We have a young learner who started learning in the summer and older learners who are learning methods. Ringers are of all ages, and though many learn when they are young, there are many ringers ringing well into their nineties. Other ringers learn later in life.

It's a social activity as we visit other towers for ringing outings and meetings. Several of our ringers joined the Canterbury District outing to north Kent in the summer (on a hot, sunny day) with lunch in Shoreham before ringing. One tower had to be rescheduled at short notice as we could not ring at Chevening due to security for the visit of the American vice president to the foreign secretary's official residence.

Visitors come regularly to join us at practice night from Canterbury, Sturry, Thanet and Herne Bay. We hosted a District Surprise practice on a Saturday evening in October 2025 for Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers practised Surprise methods. Other ringing has

included quarter peals (ringing continuously for 45 minutes) some for special events and some to practice bellringing methods.

The bells were rung for weddings during the year in March, July and August 2025.

We hosted a visiting band of ringers from Faversham in November 2025. Visiting ringers and their families have been interested in the history of the church and the bells, the oldest of which dates from 1621.

Anyone who is interested in learning about ringing, wants to learn to ring or just to come and visit us in the tower is very welcome.

*Susan and Keith Record
March 2026*

Bubble Church

Since May 2025 we have offered a fun and exciting new service at St Martin's for younger children. Bubble church is for pre-school children although of course older children and adults are also welcome! Currently the service is held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 9am before the main morning service.

Participants sit on round mats (the bubbles) to be entertained by puppets, sing songs and listen to stories. The puppets are used to tell of events in the bible or explain particular themes. There is always a God Slot (undertaken by Revd Chris of course), short prayers and a thank you slot where we all appreciate the wonderful things that happen to us and those who help and love us. There is a bubble church bag of mystery too!

Bubble Church has been very successful in bringing new children and parents to the church and widening our mission. Huge thanks must go to the enthusiastic puppeteers, supporters and organisers who have helped to start and maintain this venture. If anyone would like to know more about Bubble Church and how you can support this amazing family mission, please do see Chris, Deborah or myself. This bubble will not burst!

*Sarah Bingham
April 2026*

Children's and Sunday School report for 2025

Children have continued to be welcomed at every Sunday service with shared table activities on the first and third Sundays, at St. Martin's and St. Peter's churches respectively. These have ranged from single poster type of words and pictures (usually displayed on the church display boards afterwards) to individual items such as puppets which may be taken home. All the activities are linked with the lectionary and/or theme for the service by regular communication with those leading the services. Grateful thanks to Shirley Frost and her creativity in organising these activities and providing the resources with support from Anne Post.

On the second and fourth Sundays and occasional fifth Sundays during term-time children are welcomed to the Ridley Room where they follow the ROOTs programme of learning which is again

linked with the lectionary and service patterns throughout the church year. Anne Post supported by Shirley Frost continue in the leadership of these sessions.

Each Sunday service has a regular slot before the final hymn or song where the children are invited to come out to the front of the church and share their learning, this may involve explaining what they have learnt to the congregation or just simply demonstrating their creations after which the youngsters lead the congregation in a short appropriate prayer. On some Sundays, children also join whoever is leading worship during the reflection. The children's presence always brings great pleasure and often some very interesting comments are made which provide worshippers with a chance for an alternative reflection. We are all very inspired by the families who take part and grateful for their encouragement of the children that they bring along and pleased to see a number of new faces.

*Deborah Waller
April 2026*

The Choir Report for 2025

The choir has sung hymns and anthems at Sunday morning services during 2025, together with other services during the year. There was an Evening service for Choral Candlemas on Sunday 2nd February 2025 with hymns and anthems sung by the choir, and the evening Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday.

At the end of Lent there was an evening service on Palm Sunday with hymns and two Lent anthems, a service of Holy Communion Maundy Thursday with hymns and other music, the Good Friday afternoon service and Easter Sunday Communion. After Easter, there was an evening service on Ascension Day.

In June 2025, the choir took part in an evening concert which included music from the repertoire.

In the autumn, the choir sang at Songs for All Saints on Sunday 2nd November 2025, at the Remembrance Sunday service in St Martin's church which included hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard and on Advent Sunday.

The Memorial carol service at the beginning of December 2025 included familiar carols (with descants) and the choir sang Christmas anthems whilst stars were placed on the Christmas tree. The choir sang carols, with descants, at the Lessons and Carols service before Christmas, and Christmas anthems. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, together with Christmas carols, on Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas.

The Choir practice on Thursday evenings in St Martin's church and new members, also visitors are always welcome to join. Our thanks to all the choir members, including new members and those who join as they can, for attending practices. It involves time and effort to learn or when known, to help others to learn music in the repertoire. Thanks also to our "in house" composer and arranger of music for the choir.

*Susan Record
March 2026*

The Churchyard Team report for 2025

The churchyard team have been working very hard the past year keeping the churchyard looking so beautiful. Our small team of willing volunteers work so hard each time they come, I like to think of us as the little secret invisible gardening fairies the cast their magic making the churchyard perfect for the humans as well as all the little creatures that come to visit.

During 2025 the gardening fairies received a very kind donation for a lovely lady in Herne Bay who was having her front garden re-done and didn't want to throw away the plants that needed to be removed, but instead find them a new home where they would thrive. These were collected from her as soon as they were dug up and placed with care in various places around the churchyard. Most have taken well, a few need a little more encouragement.

With the beds around the church, these were again weeded and tidied, and plants thinned out and planted in other spaces. The beds are slowly filling up with colour and this is what the gardening team are going to concentrate on for this year. The eventual plan is for there to be colour throughout the year in all the beds, but this will take time, but that is the ultimate plan and it will be accomplished, if not this year the following year.

The dead hedges are coming along beautifully, one is in the far corner of the churchyard, by the gardens of the houses that back on to the churchyard and the other is being created by the public right of way. These dead hedges are essential for the local wildlife and are a safe sanctuary for any that come wandering by.

The reward of cake is always on offer for those who come along on the Saturday sessions, sometimes the treats are themed for the season, sometimes they're not. We still meet from 10am-noon on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of every month, except January as it's just far too cold; there is a limit to what I'll even do.

We always welcome new fairies to come and help us, so if you're interested please contact Claire Stay at claire.stay@mac.com Happy Gardening

*Clair Stay, Churchyard team
March 2026*

Community Café 2025

Community Cafe coffee morning meets in St Peter's church every Tuesday and has met regularly throughout the year.

It provides an opportunity for people to enjoy each other's company and to chat together. Lisa Harrison the community warden is a regular visitor and is always willing to assist and advise with problems affecting peoples' welfare. The local policeman also calls in occasionally. In addition to our weekly coffee mornings we have enjoyed several outings to have lunch together locally and our thanks go to Myra Mizon for organising these.

*Priscilla Cox, Churchwarden
March 2026*

The Flower Arrangers report for 2025

We have had a quiet year and our numbers are dwindling but towards the end of last year we had two ladies from the congregation join us and they have been a great help.

Flowers are not getting any cheaper but we are still maintaining to keep arrangements plentiful and trying to keep costs low whilst looking at alternatives with regards to sundries and flowers. We have not been involved with any of the weddings that have taken place. And, of course we did participate in the lovely Christmas Tree Festival and how amazing that was along with other festivals at Easter and Harvest.

*Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
February 2026*

Gift Aid Matters for 2025

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2025 we still had 41 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledged their payments. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition, there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made. For the year ending 31 December 2025, St Martins reclaimed £7,764.00 from all sources, which is higher than in 2024. This sum includes repayments from the Gift Aid returns for December 2024 (credited in January 2025). The sums from December 2025 are credited in January 2026 and will be shown in the 2026 accounts.

These sums include payments derived from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates or by the bank card reader can qualify. Also, if you originally pledged your giving using the coloured weekly envelopes but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a GASDS limit of £2,000 (based on donations of £8,000) which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity. Since June 2023 we have dispensed with the weekly envelopes except for the one-off gift Aid donations.

Please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving. Donations can still be made in the plate. Also, we have a card reader.

Regular church goers will know that a decision was made in August 2022 to register the church with the central Parish Giving Scheme. This requires pledged payments to be paid by members of the congregation direct to the PGS administration (a separate charity) rather than our church bank

account. It is easy to set up and you can do so on line, by telephone or a postal application. If you require help. please speak to me or Sheila Gough.

PGS then claims the Gift Aid and pays monthly all payments (that is the donation and the claimed Gift Aid) to our bank account. However, PGS works independently from the Canterbury Diocese and I continue to make separate Gift Aid claims for those donations paid direct to our church account. Actually, this has proved less onerous than I had expected and HMRC make payment very quickly. So, having two means of paying pledged sums is not a problem.

Individual donations given in the plate, card reader or by separate Gift Aid envelopes (which are still available) are the subject of separate direct claims to HMRC which I make at the same time.

Please note that whilst we always welcome gifts in kind to the church (for example purchasing items for the church or the fabric of the building) this is not necessarily the most tax efficient way to assist the church. If you pay income tax (whether at the basic rate or higher) it is often better for the church to receive a donation equivalent to the value of the item. If you are willing, then that donation can be gift aided and be used by the church to purchase the item and we can claim 25% extra money from the Inland Revenue! If a specific item or even repair to the church building is in memory of someone then the church can still arrange for the acknowledgement to be made.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name. please let me know immediately. I have to inform HMRC or PGS.

*Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
March 2026*

Herne Community Fun Day

This event went ahead this year without the parish council as they decided that they did not have the resources to join in this year. Despite it now only being run by the church this was a very successful and engaging event with everything happening as it had always done and the volunteers from the church stepping up on the whole to support the day.

We have committed to doing this event again this year as this is a great outreach opportunity as well as funding opportunity for the church and we need YOU to step forward and help if you can.

I could do with some help gathering raffle prizes, securing sponsorship, preparing the games, moving furniture, etc. but most importantly running stalls on the day! The games on each stall will be provided for you, so we just need smiley fun faces to meet and engage with our local community to make our church seen in the local community as a people of God that they might like to join!

I cannot do this day without you!! So, if you have helped, THANK YOU!! And if you have not so far, PLEASE get involved this year, we NEED you!

This year's date is Sunday 13th July and we run from 11-4pm. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

*Sarah Bingham
April 2026*

House Group Report for 2025

Our house group continues but only sporadically due to the time I am able to give. We very much enjoy working with the same group of seven together with the very welcome addition of Amos when his school studies allow. We use studies from "Faith and Worship". At the end of each meeting, we have a time for prayer together.

*Sheila Bennett
March 2026*

Little Fishes Report for 2025

The numbers attending Friday Little Fishes fell dramatically last September after many of our children started school. However, numbers have now picked up again and some Fridays we are extremely busy.

We have an excellent selection of toys, which are rotated so that there are several different options each week. Last summer, when the weather was very hot, we introduced a paddling pool along with our usual sandpit. This addition proved very popular with adults and children alike, adults appreciating their children being able to cool down in the pool.

Our toast continues to be very popular with the children and also some of the adults who have to rush in the mornings to get their older children off to school and sometimes have no time to eat breakfast themselves. It is heartwarming to see the little ones sitting around the table eating and drinking together.

We are fortunate to have the regular assistance of Helen Hare to help with refreshments. Anne Post, in addition to helping run each session, helping with the set up and clearing up, also organises a different craft for each session, designing something the children can make and take home.

Deborah continues to assist in all areas, particularly in getting to know the parents/carers. John enjoys chatting to the children and they often ask him to read them a story.

The parents/grandparents/childminders and children all enthusiastically help with clearing up the toys before we end the session. Once the floor is clear we gather to sing nursery rhymes together, then join in a circle for our final songs, including a sung prayer thanking God for our families, friends, and our time together at Little Fishes.

We very much appreciate Rev. Chris's attendance whenever his busy schedule allows, and are also very grateful for Steve King who kindly sets up the hall for us, and for the members of our congregation who kindly stand in when one or two of our team are away on holiday.

*Sheila Bennett
March 2026*

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to thrive although numbers have been down a little over the last few months. We are delighted to welcome families back month after month and have a very regular congregation for this monthly church offering. If you have never been, I urge you to pop along and see the great work that this service offering does for our younger congregants.

We are able to offer a delicious two course, home cooked meal every month thanks to all those who so willingly prepare and donate the food. It is wonderful that we have so many volunteers. So, thank you very much to Sally and Ian who turn up every month. Thank you also to Dot, Vanessa, Sheila B, Joan, Lisa, Anne, Sheila G, Linda, Hilary, Jenny, Priscilla, Leah, Mary, Pete, Helen, Yamit and Wendy. We really couldn't manage without you all.

If anyone else would like to join our team of cooks please let Carolyn know. You would probably only be asked about three times a year. The food is collected from your door and the clean dish returned at the end so you don't need to turn up!

We could do with some more people to help deliver the crafts and other jobs too, so if you feel that you would like to get more involved with Messy Church or would like to know more about it, please do let me know, I would be delighted to share and explore with you!

*Sarah Bingham
April 2026*

Pastoral Report 2025

Home Communion and visits to the Residential Homes in our Parish - Herne Place and Broomfield Lodge have continued and flourished. There have been regular monthly services of Communion at Broomfield Lodge and twice-monthly services at Herne Place. This year we have added additional services to celebrate Christmas and Easter. These services are greatly enjoyed by all residents who enjoy both singing the hymns and joining in with the liturgy. We also enjoy good opportunities for conversation and fellowship as well tea and home-made cake at Herne Place. Home Communion continues to be delivered, particularly by Sheila Gough who also supports Revd Chris along with Anne Ackland and myself with pastoral duties

*Deborah Waller
April 2026*

Safeguarding Report 2025

Safeguarding is at the heart of our calling to be a safe and welcoming church for all. During the past year, the PCC has continued to adopt and follow the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and guidance, reviewing our parish policy and ensuring that clear safeguarding information and contact details are readily available, so that everyone knows how to raise a concern.

We have sought to nurture a culture where children, young people and vulnerable adults are respected, protected and listened to.

Those serving in roles involving children, young people, or vulnerable adults are either in the process of or have undertaken the required safeguarding training-including DBS checks where appropriate. We have started using a parish safeguarding dashboard. The main idea of this is to enable us to see

Are we meeting safeguarding requirements?

What still needs to be done?

Are there any risks or gaps?

We are grateful to all who give their time in ways that uphold the safety and dignity of others.

Safeguarding remains a standing item on the PCC agenda, helping us to remain vigilant, prayerful and attentive in this important area of our common life.

Anne Ackland Parish Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults

March 2026

Schools Report

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continued to grow and is highly valued. Six members of the congregation are governors to the Junior School and four sit on the board of governors for the Infants School. So, the relationship between Herne Church and Schools becomes ever stronger.

Revd Chris has led worship at both the Infants and the Junior School. During 2025 Andrew Gough, as governor at the Junior School, has given a full school worship once each term at Herne Juniors whilst Deborah Waller, as Lay Reader and governor at the Infant's School, has led whole school worship at both the schools as well as contributing to a joint worship between the two schools.

There have been a number of Herne School Services in St Martins, with services being led and organised by the Juniors and by the Infants. Both schools attended the Remembrance Sunday service and at that service placed poppies around the War memorial.

On several Sundays in 2025, we were joined by Herne Junior school Worship Leaders who helped lead a Morning Worship with Deborah, along with a choir. It is hoped to continue building on this practice and to encourage the children and their parents to attend Sunday worship more regularly.

Great credit must be paid to the Senior Leadership teams and all the staff and the governors at the schools who work tirelessly and with great skill and vision to provide such an excellent education for the children. Several of the governors are active contributors to the SIAMS curriculum at both schools.

Revd Chris is now a governor at the Herne Bay High School and he has arranged planned initiatives to improve mission and pastoral outreach in 2025. The Wednesday “ Hang Out “ sessions at St Peter’s Church for young people have grown from that.

Revd Chris has also worked with the head teacher at Thornden Wood School and links have now developed for regular worship

Both schools are Ofsted Outstanding and the Infants School is due an inspection in 2026. The Junior School had an outstanding SIAMS inspection in March 2025.

This was followed by a visit from Bishop Rose and representatives of the Archbishop’s Appointment Council which was the body charged with appointing the new Archbishop of Canterbury. This meeting was attended by some of the governors. The representatives wanted to find out what the children thought were the principal attributes and skills that the new Archbishop should possess. A very good impression was made, as the pupil worship leaders spoke with intelligence, clarity and enthusiasm.

A promise was made by the Council representatives (will it be fulfilled?) that the Junior School should be one of the first places of visit for the new Archbishop! We shall see.

*Deborah Waller and Andrew Gough as Foundation Governors
March 2026*

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

The hall currently has 14 regular weekly / fortnightly / monthly bookings, most of which have been using the hall since I started taking bookings back in the ‘90s.

The maintenance and cleaning of the hall is in the capable hands of Steve King.

There were only eight bookings made which did not complete out of 93 bookings. From April there will be a deposit required for evening Bookings and the charge for children’s parties is being increased.

We had to move a booking in December to St. Peters as we had blocked toilets and drains. It was beyond our abilities to clear it so Drain Specialists had to be called in. It was a combination of roots getting in the pipes and baby wipes catching on them! Chris has done a notice for all church property toilets re: what can and cannot be flushed down them.

The hall could make more money regularly if we could book Antiques Valuation companies, I get at least six requests a year but it would mean cancelling a regular booking on that day, which is not fair on the local groups who keep St. Martin's Hall going.

*Wendy Dinley Hall Booking Secretary
March 2026*

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

I compile the Readers Lists five times a year from the start of Advent November 2025 to November 2026. I have 16 regular readers, including myself, some who do readings and prayers and some who just do readings.

I have been doing this for as long as I've done the hall bookings! I usually set the dates and ask what dates people are available or not then I compile the list. If anyone is interested or would like to a reading or prayers, please come and speak to me on a Sunday, I always need more people.

*Wendy Dinley St. Martin's Readers
March 2026*

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2025

I have been privileged to act as the server at Holy Communion for many years. I am often the chalice bearer although Leah Willey and Sheila Gough act in my absence. Since January 2023 wine has been offered separately but Revd. Chris has re-introduced the intinction of the wafer in 2024.

My thanks go to, Leah, Sheila and Deborah Waller who assist in offering the chalice and to the churchwardens who lay out the altar table if I am absent. Also, thanks to Roger Jackson who administers the chalice at the Sunday 8am communion service

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

*Andrew Gough, Sacristan
February 2026*

Tuesday Toddler Report 2025

The year began with our regular activities such as Valentine Craft and a Clothes Swap. We also celebrated Earth Day by planting dwarf sunflower seeds (*these turned out to be taller than the average adult!*)



In May we had our annual outing to The Jungle at Quex Park. This was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone.



For most of our children Sports Day in June was their first experience of racing (although it is non-competitive at this young age). We had a number of age-appropriate races which I think the parents enjoyed as much as the children!

The big event of the year was our 50th Anniversary celebration on 28th June. Particular thanks must go to Wendy Dinley for her considerable help in the planning and organization of this event.

Members past and present met in St Martin's church for a short service of thanksgiving. During the service former members of the group drew around their hand on gold paper and the results were put together to form a collage which can be seen in St Martin's Church Hall.



A plaque was unveiled by founding members of the group (Jean White and Wendy Dinley) and then dedicated by Rev. Chris. The plaque is also displayed in St Martin's Church Hall. The service was followed by a Teddy Bears' Picnic in the churchyard. We were blessed with beautiful weather.





The celebratory cake was cut by Joan Ball, a former leader of the group. Many of those who attended the celebration also contributed to our memory book. This is now a precious document which really shows the impact a group such as ours has had on individuals, over many years.

At the end of the summer term, our Leavers' Special was an opportunity to say goodbye to 14 of our families. Each child was given a Christian book and the adults were given a Christian coaster.

The new academic year started with far fewer numbers so the need to book a place was removed. However, we did welcome two new members to the 'staff' team. Shirley Frost is now in charge of the weekly craft activities and Michelle Guida (a former parent) comes whenever possible. Michelle befriends new members of our group and helps in so many other ways, including sharing ideas on how we can develop.

Harvest was well supported and we added our gifts to those at the church which were donated to Catching Lives. We also welcomed grandparents for our Grandparents Special in September.

Along with other organisations in Herne, we were invited to take part in the Scarecrow event. Thanks to Pete Frost who made the frame and to Shirley and Chloe who dressed the scarecrows, we were able to depict Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay from Julia Donaldson's book *The Scarecrow's Wedding*.

Armistice Day fell on a Tuesday this year. We rang a bell at 11 a.m. and everyone stood. Despite the very young ages of our children there was complete silence for a whole minute; it was a very moving moment.

In December, along with Friday Little Fishes, we made decorations which adorned our Little Fishes Christmas Tree. This was part of the church Christmas Tree Festival. We ended the year with our usual Christmas Party attended by Father Christmas.

This lively group couldn't function without the dedicated help of so many people and this report must end by thanking them all:-

The regular team – Theresa, Val, Shirley, Carolyn, Donna and Michelle, Anne Ackland our supply cover, Peter Thomas who gets all the furniture and toys out at the beginning of every session, Doug Bubb, our Father Christmas, Allan Forrest who helps with the party and Geoff Mitchell and Pete Frost who put the tables away at the end of each session and Roger Jackson who mows the grass so that the children can play outside.

*Carolyn Thomas
February 2026*

Worship Band

This year has been an amazing development year for the band and I feel that the congregation are really starting to enjoy and engage in the offering that the band brings to worship at both of the churches. We were delighted to be joined this year by both Derek who is a fabulous drummer and Michelle who is a great asset to vocals. Both are amazing additions to the sound that we can bring to the services. Paul, Jack and Fiona continue with faultless commitment too, to ensure that as a team we are delivering the best quality sound lead that we can, to ensure that the congregation can learn new material as well as enjoy older favourites and worship in a contemporary way.

Thank you to all in the congregation for your enthusiasm and positivity. Please remember to ask if you have a song that you would like us to try and we will do our best to learn them.

*Sarah Bingham
April 2026*

ANNEXE: THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1ST JANUARY 2025 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Independently examined by Hilary Adams Limited Accountants

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134604

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
FOR
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE
WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN
HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Statement of Financial Activities	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Notes to the Financial Statements	4
Report of the Independent Accountants	8
Income and Expenditure Account	9

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE
WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1134604

Principal address

35 Curtis Wood Park Road
Herne Bay
CT6 7TZ

Trustees

Fiona Anelay – appointed 27 April 2025
John Bennett – appointed 27 April 2025
Richard Chant
Wendy Dinley
Anne Ackland
Peter Frost
Deborah Waller
Andrew Gough
Sarah Bingham
Susan Record
Douglas Bubb
Priscilla Cox
Sheila Gough
John Dilnot co-opted July 2025
Revd. Christopher Carnaby – Denyer as Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner

Hilary Adams Ltd
Chartered Accountants
158 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent
CT6 5NP

Approved by the board of trustees on 20 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Sheila Gough - Trustee



Revd Christopher Carnaby – Denyer
as Chair of Trustees



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST MARTIN IN HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming resources:	3				
Voluntary income:					
Donations & grants		72,297	-	72,297	107,727
Activities for generating funds:					
Investment income		6,065	-	6,065	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Activities for generating funds		7,449	-	7,449	7,003
Church activities - St Martins		7,854	-	7,854	8,261
Income received for St Martins Halls		13,115	-	13,115	2,154
Church activities - St Peters		13,171	-	13,171	13,321
Youth income		1,370	-	1,370	-
Total incoming resources		121,321	-	121,321	138,466
Resources expended	4				
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income		1,234	-	1,234	1,322
Charitable activities		146,133	-	146,133	143,979
Total resources expended		147,367	-	147,367	145,301
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES					
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains (net income for the year)		(26,046)	-	(26,046)	(6,835)
Fund transfers		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(26,046)	-	(26,046)	(6,835)
Total funds brought forward		118,628	-	118,628	125,463
Total funds carried forward	9	92,582	-	92,582	118,628

Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE
WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 December 2025**

	Notes	31.12.25		31.12.24	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		5,000		5,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		<u>131,517</u>		<u>156,844</u>	
		131,517		156,844	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>43,935</u>		<u>43,216</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>87,582</u>		<u>113,628</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>92,582</u>		<u>118,628</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	9		<u>92,582</u>		<u>118,628</u>
			<u>92,582</u>		<u>118,628</u>

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.


The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with the Charities Act and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 20th April 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Sheila Gough - Trustee


.....
Revd Christopher Carnaby-Denyer
as Chair of Trustees

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill is a registered charity. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial Reporting Standard Number 1

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that the charity qualifies as a small charity.

Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy, The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Gifts and donation are recognised when received;
- Investment income is included when receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with both the costs of attracting the income and those of providing the facilities to generate the income.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

**Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

Notes to the Financial Statements

3. General Fund Analysis of Receipts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Voluntary Receipts		
Planned Giving	14,809	16,011
Planned Giving Scheme	<u>18,184</u>	<u>17,920</u>
	32,993	33,931
Collections and other giving	6,942	4,800
Gift Aid Envelopes	602	235
Donations General	777	11,610
Collections for specific purposes	1,425	435
Telecommunications Mast	17,168	8,978
Flower Box	44	65
Candle Tree	37	75
Wall Box/Acrylic Box	228	169
Refund - Visual Liturgy	55	-
	<u>20,336</u>	<u>21,567</u>
Income Tax Recovered	7,764	7,429
Legacy	-	40,000
Grants	4,262	-
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	351	148
Mothers & Toddlers Group	579	691
Fundraising Events and Activities	<u>6,519</u>	<u>6,164</u>
	7,449	7,003
Receipts from Church Activities		
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	429	288
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	3,053	2,414
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	2,317	1,868
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	1,400	1,810
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	655	1,160
Vacancy Fees Refunded	-	532
Vicarage Grass Cutting	-	189
	<u>7,854</u>	<u>8,261</u>
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall		
Income received for St Martins Halls	13,115	2,154
St Peter's Greenhill		
Community Café	1,153	876
Rental income	11,718	12,220
Donations	300	100
Santander Account	-	125
	<u>13,171</u>	<u>13,321</u>
Youth income		
Activity Days	238	-
Messy Church	145	-
Little Fishes	407	-
Mothers & Toddlers	580	-
	<u>1,370</u>	<u>-</u>
Investment income	6,065	-
Total Receipts	<u><u>121,321</u></u>	<u><u>138,466</u></u>

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

4. General Fund Analysis of Payments	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct Ministry Expenditure		
Parish Share	83,024	80,329
Incumbents Working Expenses	804	457
Vicarage Telephone	192	64
Other Clergy Expenses	6	204
Organist/Secretary Salaries	4,117	4,092
Administration	1,832	2,243
	<u>6,951</u>	<u>7,060</u>
Church Running Expenses		
Utilities	4,584	5,570
Insurance	9,096	8,925
Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	1,317	3,506
Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	165	155
Upkeep of Churchyard	100	-
Worship	520	390
Music	3,415	15,820
Training Costs/Outreach	-	320
Red Lion Parking	720	720
Flowers	412	496
	<u>20,329</u>	<u>35,902</u>
Occasional Office Expenditure		
Weddings/Funerals	1,650	2,160
Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	100	-
Parochial Fees	2,575	1,503
	<u>4,325</u>	<u>3,663</u>
Charitable Giving/Mission		
Royal British Legion	200	366
Herne Junior/Infant Schools (Leavers Books)	413	-
Friends of Kent Churches	435	200
Childrens Society	548	-
Mothers & Toddlers	634	275
Catching Lives	-	(30)
Bubble Church	1,674	-
Messy Church	18	-
Wototo	511	-
Subscriptions	-	166
Refreshments	350	160
Bishops Justice Appeal	-	363
Taxi Fares (Herne Infant School)	-	42
	<u>4,783</u>	<u>1,542</u>
Fundraising		
Community Funday	705	568
Wine & Wisdom	160	330
Christmas Fair	227	142
Christmas Tree Festival	92	282
Barn Dance Deposit	50	-
	<u>1,234</u>	<u>1,322</u>
St Martins Church Hall		
Utilities	13,535	3,569
Fire Extinguishers	-	286
	<u>13,535</u>	<u>3,855</u>
St Peter's Greenhill		
Utilities	4,505	5,322
Cleaning Materials	226	165
Insurance	-	1,393
Caretaker Salary	3,788	3,744
Maintenance/Repairs	1,315	615
Lunch Club	149	-
Community Café	11	-
Booking Refund	-	60
	<u>9,994</u>	<u>11,299</u>
Youth costs		
Activity Days	303	-
Messy Church	105	-
Little Fishes	109	-
Mothers & Toddlers	510	-
Caretaker	135	-
	<u>1,162</u>	<u>-</u>
Vicars Discretionary Trust	1,000	25
Accountancy fees	720	-
Bank Charges	310	304
Total Payments	<u>147,367</u>	<u>145,301</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

6. TAXATION

As a charity The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 Of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity

7. TANGIBLE ASSETS

COST OR VALUATION & NET BOOK VALUE	Plant and machinery etc.
	£
At 1 January 2025	
and 31 December 2025	<u>5,000</u>

8. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>43,935</u>	<u>43,216</u>
	<u>43,935</u>	<u>43,216</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds
	£
At 1 January 2025	118,628
Movement in funds	<u>(26,046)</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>92,582</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Income and expenditure account	<u>121,321</u>	<u>(147,367)</u>	<u>(26,046)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>121,321</u>	<u>(147,367)</u>	<u>(26,046)</u>

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN
HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL**

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

We did not independently examine the accounts for year ended 31 December 2024. We cannot make any comments on the accuracy of the comparative figures.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hilary Adams

Hilary Adams Ltd
Chartered Accountants
158 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent
CT6 5NP

Date: 07/04/2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL

**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025**

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Planned giving	32,993		33,931	
Collections at services	6,942		4,800	
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts	20,336		21,567	
Gift Aid recovered	7,764		7,429	
Legacy	-		40,000	
Activities for generating funds	7,449		7,003	
Church activities - St Martins	7,854		8,261	
Income received for St Martins Halls	13,115		2,154	
Church Activities - St Peters	13,171		13,321	
Grants	4,262		-	
Youth income	1,370		-	
Investment income	6,065		-	
		121,321		138,466
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Clergy and staffing costs	6,951		7,060	
Parish share	83,024		80,329	
Rates	170		-	
Worship	520		390	
Utilities	4,414		5,570	
Music	3,415		15,820	
Security costs	165		155	
Red Lion parking	720		720	
Flowers	412		496	
Occasional office expenditure	4,325		3,663	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	1,417		3,506	
Insurance	9,096		8,925	
Training costs	-		320	
Accountancy fees	720		-	
Bank charges	310		304	
Mission giving and donations	4,783		1,542	
Fundraising	1,234		1,322	
Vicars Discretionary Trust	1,000		25	
Church Hall - St Martins	13,535		3,855	
Church Hall - St Peters	9,994		11,299	
Youth costs	1,162		-	
		(147,367)		(145,301)
DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		(26,046)		(6,835)