

Annual Meetings 2026



The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

to be held in the Nave

SUNDAY 03 MAY 2026 AT 12 NOON

1 Lord Jesus Christ

53 people in an
average Sunday
congregation (up from
49 in 2024)

4000 the number
of tourist visits to
St Eanswythe's

2 weddings

12 people joined our
worshipping
community in 2025

5 the number of places the
parish has risen in the
national deprivation index
(not a positive rise...)

3000 the number of
communion wafers
we've made it
through (probably!)

∞ the value of our volunteers and their contribution!

18 baptisms

14 confirmations

1 church

50+ the number of
school services and acts
of worship our church
members have
participated in.

30kg of spring
bulbs planted
in the autumn

£21k generously
donated through
legacy giving

75kg of paper sent for
shredding and recycling

1 faith



Welcome to our Annual Report for 2025 and our Annual Meetings in 2026!

It's been an exciting and quite a busy year here at St Mary and St Eanswythe's, so do please read on for further information not just about what has happened, but also what we're working on and planning too.

In this booklet you'll find a mixture of formal annual meeting information, not least the accounts for 2025 and the minutes of the last annual meeting, but also some future plans and a little bit of trivia to give an illustration of what's been going on – often behind the scenes.

Could you be part of that work in 2026 and beyond?!

Best wishes,
Fr Chris



Agenda

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the 2025 Meeting and Matters Arising.
3. To receive the Churchwardens' Charities Account.
4. Election of two Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 2025 Meeting and Matters Arising.
3. To receive:
 - a. Report on changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM.
 - b. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary & St Eanswythe Folkestone and the activities of the parish generally.
 - c. Examined financial statement of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2025.
 - d. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.
 - e. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
 - f. Additional Reports relating to the life of the church.
4. To elect:
 - a. Up to two Deanery Synod representatives.
 - b. Up to six Parochial Church Council members.
5. To appoint:
 - a. Independent Examiner.
6. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest (to be referred to PCC).



Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the meetings held in the Nave of St Mary and Eanswythe's Church,

Sunday 4th May 2025, 12 noon

30 people attended.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Fr Chris opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Santa Vessey appointed as Secretary
3. Fr Chris offered apologies regarding the minutes of 2024 (or lack thereof) due to matters outside of our control. No objections that the minutes received from 2024 are a true representation of actions of that meeting.
4. Tom Bertram explained that the funds of the Churchwardens' Charity Account are a little depleted due to the expenses for the sound system needed for the translation service. The funds are still okay, and a copy of the accounts are available on the board at the back of the church. Tom Bertram and Andrew Plested reiterated that the fund is discretionary and funds can be awarded at the Churchwardens' discretion.
5. Election of Churchwardens - Tom Bertram (*proposed Sue Bauhahn, seconded Marilyn Edey*) and Andrew Plested (*proposed Angela Flisher, seconded Tom Bertram*) There were no objections and the nominations are received. Fr. Chris thanked the Churchwardens for all they do.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence - John and Clare Tomlinson, Pam Mullet, Steve Friedrich.
2. Minutes from 2024 - Apologies from Fr Chris about the minutes of 2024 (or lack thereof) due to matters outside of our control. Proposed by Pam Keeling and seconded by Vicky Friedrich that the minutes received are an accurate representation of the meeting in 2024.
3.
 - a. Electoral Roll Report – Fr Chris explained that the numbers should creep up to around 51 (from 49) due to people not realising the cut off dates for the new Electoral Roll this year. The numbers have dipped and Fr Chris encouraged people to add themselves to the roll if they've forgotten to or not realised that they're eligible to do so
 - b. Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish - Fr Chris began by explaining the ending terms for PCC Elected Representatives have changed slightly - split out the three year terms so that there's never a year where everyone's term ends at the same time. Fr Chris pointed to the safeguarding section on page 8, pointing to the things we need to action this year as a PCC - but that each person within the church community has a part to play so we have a culture of good practice in ensuring everyone is safe.
 - c. Examined Financial Statements - Jenny Coleman asked everyone to look through the accounts and direct any extra questions to her, and that everything needed should be in the report. Everyone thanked Jenny for all her hard work.
 - d. Fabric Report - Andrew Plested explained that the report is up to date as of now. The weathervane issue has been ongoing since last July, but he has finally contacted the contractors in January so hopes are that it will be completed this year. The roof, although ongoing, has had the major problems sorted and that the next roof project will be the roof seals. Fr Chris thanked Andrew Plested and Tom Bertram for all the hard work they do.



e. Deanery Synod Report - Fr Chris thanked Vicky Friedrich for the report which was taken as read.

f. Additional Reports - Fr Chris asked everyone to have a good read as there's so much love and good works that go into the workings of the church. Fr Chris went on to say that parish life is very different from when he was ordained 12 years ago. There's been lots of rule changes, and they'll be more which might be frustrating, but we need to ensure that everything we do is legal. As we're a registered charity, sometimes it may seem that things we have to do are pernicky, but there are rules we need to be compliant on. Fr Chris thanked the volunteers, and explains that any innovations being brought in are to make life easier. Fr Chris continued by thanking everyone and explaining how he's really enjoyed his time so far and it's been lovely to slot into the community. He also says this has to be a team effort, so thanks again to everyone who helps, and that we're moving in the right direction. Fr Chris explained that there will be challenges, but he encouraged everyone to approach such things with hope and optimism, and to remember that God is working among us and in times of caution, to step out in hope and optimism. Open the doors, open our hearts and open our minds.

There were no questions on any of the reports from the parishioners, but general questions will be saved for the end.

4. To Elect:

a. Up to one Deanery Synod Representative - The vacancy will stand.

b. PCC elections - Proposed Candidates are Carol McBeath (proposed Jenny Coleman, seconded Jan Clarke) and Catriona Hunter (proposed Victoria Friedrich, seconded Pam Mullet). No people opposed the nominations so they are accepted into the PCC, leaving two vacancies.

5. To appoint: Independent examiner - Negotiations are ongoing for an independent examiner as our present examiner is unlikely to be able to undertake the work going forward. The Church Representation Rules state that the PCC can select an independent examiner at a later date if none are opposed. None are opposed.

6. Any other matters -

Ian Gordon asked about the grave of William Brown and how the preparations for the stone are going. Fr Chris replied that there are lots of pastoral matters underpinning the decisions and process. The next part will be to speak with the family to discuss the design of the stone and the general graveside. A wider observation was that there has been a significant change in approaching grief and memorialising graves and advice and guidance is being reviewed at national level in light of this. The grave has become a focal point for many in the community so understanding and a careful pastoral approach will be needed here.

Sue Bauhahn asked about the ongoing appointment of an organist - Fr Chris explained that one person has been interviewed, but that it was decided not to appoint. The choir and Fr Chris will meet to discuss next steps, and Fr Chris thanked all the stand-in organists that have played for us. Hopefully in due course we'll be able to discuss progress.

Fr Chris explained that the sidesperson election is not now an annual meeting issue, which is why it hasn't been mentioned today.

Fr Chris proposed that next year the meeting will be scheduled for the middle to end of May, to give everyone time to prepare the accounts and reports, and to avoid the meeting falling directly after Holy Week or very close to Easter.

Ian Gordon thanked Fr Chris for everything he's done so far, and went on to express how moving the Easter services were.

The meeting concluded with The Grace at 12.45pm.

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2025



Administrative information

The Parish of Folkestone, St Mary and St Eanswythe with St Saviour is in the Elham Deanery, in the Diocese of Canterbury with the Church of England. There are two places of worship, the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe in the town centre of Folkestone and the Chapel of St Augustine, 39/41 Dover Road, Folkestone which is shared with the Greek Orthodox Church of St Mark and St Fotini (though no Anglican acts of worship took place there in the foregoing year). The former Parish Church of St Saviour, Canterbury Road was closed for worship as a Church of England parish church in the late 2010s and is now occupied by Harbour Church.

The correspondence address is: St Mary and St Eanswythe Church, Church Street, Folkestone. CT20 1SE. sainteanswythe@gmail.com.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, No.1192616.

PCC Membership		
<i>PCC members who have served from 4th May 2025 until the date this report is approved are:</i>		
Ex-Officio		
The Revd Christopher Johnson Priest-in-Charge	Chair	
Tom Bertram	Churchwarden	
Andrew Plested	Churchwarden	
Synod Representatives		
Vicky Friedrich	Deanery Synod (Term ends 2026)	
Vacancy	Deanery Synod (Term ends 2026)	
Elected Representatives		
Name	Term Began	Term Ends
Jan Clarke	2023	2026
Jenny Coleman	2023	2026
Patricia Skelsted	2023	2026
Marilyn Edey	2024	2027

Administrative information (cont)

Elected Representatives		
Name	Term Began	Term Ends
Vacancy	2024	2027
Vacancy	2024	2027
Catriona Hunter	2025	2028
Carol McBeath	2025	2028
Vacancy	2025	2028
Co-opted		
Elaine Furminger	May 2025	2026

Bank	Independent Examiner
Natwest, Europa House, 49 Sandgate Rd, Folkestone CT20 1RU	Beresfords Chartered Certified Accountants 1-2, Point, Hawkinge Business Park, Hurricane Way Rhodium, Spindle Close, Folkestone CT18 7TQ

Advisors to the PCC The PCC is grateful to work alongside and receive the support and advice of employees, volunteers and professional agencies, including:

Employed Positions or roles for which a fee or honorarium is payable

Parish Administrator, PCC Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer	Santa Vessey
Organist & Choir Director	James Brown
Professional Advisor under the Care of the Churches Measure 2018 (Parish Architect)	George Esdaile of Clague Architects

Other Roles

Care of St Augustine's Centre	Tom Bertram
Head of St Eanswythe's School	Claire Jacobs
Head of St Mary's School	Richard Paez (with effect 1.9.25)
Parish Safeguarding PCC Lead	Tom Bertram (until 23.3.26) Elaine Furminger (from 23.3.26)
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Hayward (until 23.3.26)
Parish Disclosure Officer	Andrew Plested

Electoral Roll Report

Numbers on this year's Electoral Roll, with the previous figures, are as follows:

	New Electoral Roll	Previous Electoral Roll
Total number	53	52
Of which, Resident in Parish	23	23
And those Non-resident	29	29
Those who are new to the roll		2

The present Roll is current up to Sunday 19th April 2026: those who are included on this list are entitled to vote at the APCM. The Electoral Roll is, however, an ongoing list and anyone wanting to be included on it can do so if they complete a Form and hand that to Santa Vessey (Please ask Santa or one of the Churchwardens if you would like a form).

Santa Vessey
Electoral Roll Officer



Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Customarily, the Chair of the PCC is taken by the Priest-in-Charge or by an elected Vice-Chair in their absence.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC meets regularly in order to fulfil its obligations. Matters are attended to by correspondence where necessary between meetings.

In order to fulfil its functions the Council has the following sub committees:

Standing Committee

Membership: Priest-in-Charge, Vice-Chair, Churchwardens, Treasurer, two members elected by the PCC (currently vacant). This committee conducts business on behalf of the full Council between meetings where necessary. It has a spending limit of £750.

Working Parties and ad hoc groups are appointed for the following matters:

Personnel Committee, Social and fundraising events

Aim and purposes

St Mary and St Eanswythe with St Saviour PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the priest-in-charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC works from the basis of 'Worship: Community: Heritage' as it seeks to focus its work and mission and has adopted a Mission Action Plan based around these three headings, in line with the wider mission strategy of the Diocese of Canterbury.

Objectives and activities

The Church exists to make Jesus Christ known in Folkestone through worship, fellowship and mission. It looks to encourage its members and the people of the community of which it is a part, to realise their full potential as children of God. It also has the responsibility of maintaining the fabric of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone a Grade II* listed building.



Achievements and performance

There were 49 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll at the time of the full revision in April 2025, 20 of whom are resident within the parish. One name was added during the year meaning a total of 50 by the end of 2025. The average weekly attendance in the parish was 53 adults and 6 under-16s. One adult and seventeen children were baptised. 13 children and 2 adults were confirmed by Bishop Rose. Two weddings were held. There was one funeral in church, one at the crematorium and one graveside service at the cemetery.

The full PCC met six times during the year. Members of the PCC are on the St Augustine's Joint Council which manages the St Augustine's Centre together with representatives from the Greek Orthodox congregation there.

The church played host to a number of concerts, services and community events in 2025 to serve its mission and responsibilities as a parish church. Members of the church community regularly visit our church schools to provide acts of collective worship and the church has a particularly close relationship with St Eanswythe's Church of England Primary School who visit weekly for Collective Worship and termly eucharists and other acts of worship in church.

The priest-in-charge has served as chaplain to the Town Mayor of Folkestone in 2025/26 and the church has discharged its function as the Civic Church of Folkestone with the Town Sunday service in June and the Town Mayor's Schools Christmas Carol Service in December.

We are grateful to The Revd John Tomlinson and The Revd Ben Rutt-Field for their continuing contribution to the worship of the parish. Vicky Friedrich was licensed as a Lay Reader in September 2025. She helps at services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. We are grateful to Jenny Coleman for her work as treasurer; to Tom Bertram and Andrew Plested for their roles as Churchwardens. The PCC is also deeply grateful to the band of volunteers who give so generously of their time and resources in order to allow us to pursue the ministry and outreach that we do – sometimes unseen but always greatly valued.

*The Revd Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge*



Our Priest-in-Charge, Parish Safeguarding Officer, PCC Lead, and Parish Disclosure Officer work to ensure that our parish procedures, organisation and pastoral practices comply with our duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The action plan arising from the annual appraisal of these tasks is included below. The PCC has also begun to use the national Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard as a means of checking and recording its progress in expected tasks and implementation of good practice.

The duty of safeguarding is incumbent not just upon the PCC but upon the whole church community as we seek to protect all God's people and to promote a safer church.

There are also statutory duties that the PCC must keep in good order and up to date, particularly in matters of policy, implementation, training and good practice in relation to safeguarding.

Having completed an annual review in preparation for the 2026 APCM, we have identified several areas which require attention and work over the coming year:

New Parish Safeguarding Officer

*The PCC has appointed Elaine Furminger as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with effect from March 2026. This role will require some work in getting the new PSO up-to-speed and to begin to respond to changes in good practice as they arise.

Training

- All PCC members must have DBS checks (renewed every 3 years) and up-to-date training as required by the Church of England.
- Others who undertake specified roles will need to complete safeguarding training as specified by Church of England guidance.
- A log will be created and maintained of training and DBS checks.

Policies & Information

- The policy folder will be kept updated and kept in church.
- Relevant safeguarding contacts and other required information will be displayed as required by current CofE guidelines.

Other matters

- There is work to be done on risk-assessing our activities.
- Safer Recruitment Policy & Practice will be reviewed over the coming year.
- Our record-keeping practices are due for review (though any information held about Children's Church participants is already reviewed annually).

*The Revd Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge*



2025 could be called the Year of Enlightenment. So many uplifting and worthwhile changes have occurred.

A working group consisting of Fr. Chris, Santa Vessey and Jenny Coleman has initiated a new accounting system based on the information required by the Diocese annually and this has simplified our working enabling us to provide the final figures for the year in a timely fashion.

We have had a rise in church attendance and consequently additional donations. The church has become a very popular venue for concerts, music and dance festivals and various other events and so all this increased activity has helped to improve our income over the year.

We introduced the Parish Giving Scheme in September and this has simplified regular giving for our very generous donors.

Over the year we achieved total payment of our Parish Share and we were able to pay some of our outstanding debt which we will continue to do in 2026.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive some generous bequests which will be used for our Heritage project to enable us to welcome visitors from far and wide and host them in a suitable manner. We are also grateful to have received grants from the Town Council and we are pleased to have forged an excellent relationship with both our Councils.

We hope that we can consolidate and improve our income through 2026 and of course, we cannot do this without the help of our generous donors and volunteers who work tirelessly to boost the income of the church.

My grateful thanks to Fr. Chris, Tom Bertram and Santa Vessey for their support over the year and of course, to all my fellow PCC colleagues. And thank you to Pam Keeling for her continuing work on Gift Aid.

A very special thank you to Ada Foreman for her wisdom and endless help over the year.

*Jenny Coleman
PCC Treasurer*



**Independent Examiner's Report to
The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary and St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the act')

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under 'the Regulations' and section 145 of the Act, and in carrying out the examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Daniel Payne FCCA
Beresfords
Chartered Certified Accountants
1-2 Rhodium Point
Spindle Close
Hawkinge
Folkestone
Kent
CT18 7TQ

Date: 24th April 2026



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Note	Funds 2025 £	Funds 2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Charitable activities					
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	47,822	2,992	50,814	50,586
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	21,000	-	21,000	1,022
Incoming resources from operating activities					
- to further the Council's objectives	2(c)	2,761	-	2,761	4,523
- to generate funds	2(d)	2,024	-	2,024	-
Income from investments	2(e)	3,519	-	3,519	3,575
Other incoming resources	2(f)	11,678	-	11,678	56,793
Total		88,804	2,992	91,796	116,499
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Donations	3(a)	352	-	352	-
Activities directly related to the work:					
-of the church	3(b)	83,350	2,992	86,342	128,231
Church support costs	3(c)	13,612	-	13,612	14,367
Governance costs: independent examiners fees		780	-	780	-
Unrealised (gains)/losses on UK investments	7	-	-	-	-
Realised (gains)/losses on UK investments		-	-	-	-
Total		98,094	2,992	101,086	142,598
TOTAL INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(9,290)	-	(9,290)	(26,099)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME/(EXPENDITURE after transfers)		(9,290)	-	(9,290)	(26,099)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Balance Brought Forward		46,626	-	46,626	72,725
Funds introduced		102,633	5,575	108,208	-
Balance Carried Forward	10	139,969	5,575	145,544	46,626



BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6		415		-
Investments	7		100,778		-
			<u>101,193</u>		<u>-</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-		-	
CCLA Deposit Fund		2,000		-	
CCLA Deposit Fund		801		-	
CCLA Deposit Fund		1,872		-	
Natwest Current Account		5,633		40,215	
Natwest Reserve Account		28,368		6,411	
Natwest Planned Giving Account		3,700		-	
Lloyds Churchwardens Account		2,757		-	
		<u>45,131</u>		<u>46,626</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amountsfalling due within one year	9	<u>780</u>		<u>-</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			44,351		46,626
NET ASSETS					
			<u>145,544</u>		<u>46,626</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			139,969		46,626
Restricted funds			5,575		-
TOTAL FUNDS					
	13		<u>145,544</u>		<u>46,626</u>

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 24th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by;

C. J. Johnson

.....
Revd C Johnson



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR, FOLKESTONE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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), Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities Act 2011, the Trust Deed and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of section 7 Statement of Cash Flows

1(b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purpose of the PCC.

Restricted funds represent income that has been received on the condition it is for a particular purpose or purposes.

Incoming

1(c) Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

1(d) Resources Used

All expenditure is on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT.

Governance costs represent costs incurred as a result of the church's status as a charity.

1(e) Fixed assets

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed property or individual items of less than £1,500 are written off as incurred.



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
 ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR, FOLKESTONE**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1(e) Fixed assets - continued

Computerequipmentis depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2025.

2. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
2(a) Income from donors				
Service collection	14,142	-	14,142	7,259
Donations	22,828	-	22,828	43,177
Planned giving balance brought in	10,852	-	10,852	-
Gifts in kind	-	-	-	150
Grants	-	2,992	2,992	-
	47,822	2,992	50,814	50,586

2(b) Other voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025 £	2024 £
Legacies and bequests	21,000	1,022
	21,000	1,022

**2(c) Income from operating activities:
 to further the Council's objectives**

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025 £	2024 £
Fees	2,761	4,523
	2,761	4,523

**2(d) Income from operating activities:
 to generate funds**

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025 £	2024 £
Other Fundraising activities	2,024	-
	2,024	-

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025 (cont)



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2(e) Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	
	Total	Total
	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends received	1,355	448
Interest received	2,164	3,127
	3,519	3,575

2(f) Other income

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Heating fund	-	16,808
Fabric fund	-	27,566
Organ fund	-	618
Concerts	-	2,485
Heritage centre	-	2,502
Widow's mite	-	2,562
Gift aid	7,634	-
Other income	4,044	4,252
	11,678	56,793

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
3(a) Donations		
Missionary and charitable giving:	352	-
	352	-

3(b) Activities directly related to the work of the church

	Restricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
	Total	Total	Total	Total
	2025	2024	2025	2024
			£	£
Establishment costs:				
Organ Tuning&Repairs	-	-	2,255	1,708
Cleaning	-	-	-	84
Church Utilities	-	-	7,035	5,379
Insurance	-	-	9,617	9,762
Repairs & Maintenance	2,992	-	14,493	52,122
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan parish share	-	-	40,000	19,816
Church Services	-	-	5,679	12,016
Clergy expenses	-	-	1,419	4,134
AV and presentation	-	-	-	4,140
Eanswythe found project	-	-	-	13,217
Miscellaneous	-	-	2,852	5,853
	2,992	-	83,350	128,231



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

3(c) Church support costs

	Unrestricted funds	
	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Printing, stationery & advertising	2,991	2,074
Computer software and maintenance costs	1,020	-
Licences and subscriptions	719	-
Telephone	1,653	1,629
Accountancy fees	625	335
Staff salaries	5,906	10,251
Bank charges	684	78
Depreciation	14	-
	13,612	14,367

4. STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross salaries, Employers NIC and Pension contributions	5,906	10,251

5. PCC MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

PCC Members have been reimbursed for general expenses throughout the year.

The provision of the Vicar to work within the parish is enabled by the Church Commissioners and the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance. This is indirectly funded by the payment of the Ministry fund element of the Diocesan parish share. No other members of the PCC, or persons connected to them, received any remuneration.



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

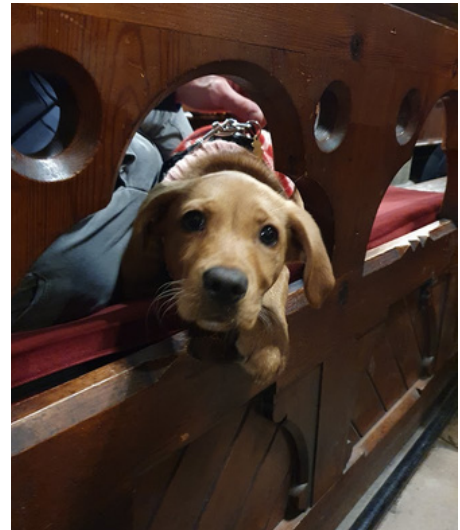
6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
As at 1 January 2025	-	-
Additions	429	429
As at 31 December 2025	429	429
Depreciation		
As at 1 January 2025	-	-
Charge for the year	14	14
As at 31 December 2025	14	14
Net Book Value		
As at 31 December 2025	415	415
As at 31 December 2024	-	-

7. UK INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Market value as at 1 January 2025	-	-	-
Net investment gains/(losses)	-	-	-
Valuation as at 31st December 2025 brought into accounts	99,876	902	100,778
Market value as at 31 December 2025	99,876	902	100,778





St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025 (cont)



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITH IN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	-	-
Accruals	780	-
	<u>780</u>	<u>-</u>

10. MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR ON FUNDS

	Balance at 01.01.25	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Fund Brought In	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25	Balance at 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds							
General Funds	46,626	88,804	(98,094)	84,943	-	122,279	46,626
Designated Fund - General Fabric Fund	-	-	-	14,933	-	14,933	-
Designated Fund - Churchwardens Acc	-	-	-	2,757	-	2,757	-
Total unrestricted funds	<u>46,626</u>	<u>88,804</u>	<u>(98,094)</u>	<u>102,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,969</u>	<u>46,626</u>
Restricted Funds							
The Vera & Leslie Vale Memorial Fund	-	-	-	902	-	902	-
Pipe Organ Fund in Memory of F Nicko	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Pilcher Bible Fund	-	-	-	801	-	801	-
Music & Choir Fund	-	-	-	1,872	-	1,872	-
Listed Place of Worship Grant	-	2,992	(2,992)	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>2,992</u>	<u>(2,992)</u>	<u>5,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,575</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>46,626</u>	<u>91,796</u>	<u>(101,086)</u>	<u>108,208</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,544</u>	<u>46,626</u>

11. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purpose of the PCC.

Designated Fund - General Fabric Fund

This fund is to be used for fabric repairs to the church.

Designated Fund - Churchwardens Account

This fund is to be used for relief for the poor at the churchwardens discretion.

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Vera & Leslie Vale Memorial Fund is to go towards interior fabric work.

The Pipe Organ Fund is restricted to any works on the pipe organ.

The Pilcher Bible Fund is to go towards bibles for St Eanswythe School.

The Music & Choir Fund (Sidney Pink Fund) is for funding any music and choir activities at St Eanswythe Church.



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangiblefixed assets	415	-	415	-
Investments	14,933	902	15,835	-
Current assets	37,701	4,673	42,374	46,626
Current liabilities	(780)	-	(780)	-
Fund balance	<u>52,269</u>	<u>5,575</u>	<u>57,844</u>	<u>46,626</u>

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

There is a historic underpayment of the parish share which the church are encouraged to try and settle rather than it being demanded. The amount of the liability as at 31st December 2025 stood at £1,203.54.



1. Quinquennial Phase 2

Weather Vane

Having erected the scaffolding on the top of the Tower to access the weather vane, it was found to be in much worse condition. Darent Valley Forge can start the repairs in mid August and estimate the repairs to take 4 weeks. The weather vane needs taking down and reinstalling by someone else as the weather vane companies do not like working at height! Ames have quoted for this process. We have had a £5,000 grant towards this work and I have applied for grant funding for the balance for this work.

Nave Roof seals to stonework

For some unknown reason, when the church was re-roofed in 1988 the slate roof to Tower and Western Gable stonework for the central span of the Nave was made in mortar rather than the usual lead flashing used elsewhere. The mortar is well stuck to the slates but has pulled away from the stonework. This work requires scaffolding to the west end and against the Tower. I have £20,000 grant funding. Work will start once the remaining roof issues are resolved.

Belfry Louvres mesh

This is to keep the pigeons from roosting/nesting on the louvres and causing blocking of gutters etc.. I have a quotation for abseilers to fit the screens and a supplier for the screens but need external measuring of the four apertures, probably only possible by abseilers. I am trying to get funding for this but the PCC has meanwhile put in hand works to renew the internal meshing and to clean and disinfect the belfry following the infestation.

2. Calvary

The Diocese has approved the plan for the restoration and we have Planning approval. The War Memorials Trust will cover 75% of the renovation cost and have given me a link to reclaim the VAT - it is a different scheme to that for works on the church. We have also received ward grants from FHDC (£500) and Folkestone Town Council (£200) and my thanks to David Wright for further fund-raising. Work is now complete after a long delay to source the missing ridge tile. I have completed the completion document and sent it to the War Memorials Trust together with the Invoice and photos for before, during and after the work was completed and await the funding.

3. Churchyard Walls

There are two areas of fractured walling, both revealed when the Council cut back the ivy. One is on the curve of the wall opposite the Calvary, the wall has been split by an ivy root and the top capping stones are loose. The other is the wall to the left of the steps which has moved due to ivy infestation. Both of these have been reported to the Council (FHDC). No progress as yet on the wall by the steps but the wall opposite the Calvary has been rebuilt to a very good standard and did not in the end need headstones moving. I will chase up FHDC about the wall at the top of the steps. FHDC also attended to trip hazards with the paving stones.



4. Adam and Eve (before the apple!) Window

Broken during the 2017 break-in. Canterbury Cathedral Stained Glass Workshop have measured the stone setting for the window and made a template. The new window will have a Makrolon protective glazing but, unlike the present Makrolon it will be fitted into the window aperture and fixed with metal clips rather than surface applied with screws, making it far more difficult to remove. I received a quotation for the work (£9,437 plus VAT) and passed it on to Ecclesiastical Insurance for their approval, which they have now given and work is progressing on repairing the window. There were problems in obtaining the correct green colour which is now resolved but they then had problems with the staining medium reacting with the glass.

5. Chancel Sanctuary Lamps

One of the three brass chains on the central lamp has snapped and the mechanism jammed so that the lamp cannot be raised or lowered from chest height. Each lamp is connected to its counterweight with three brass chains. Although the central lamp is raised and lowered far more often than the rest, given the age of the chains and the access issue it is probably best to consider replacing the chains on all seven lamps. The central lamp has been moved into the small Vestry for safe keeping. I have obtained two quotations, one by scaffold tower for £2,500 and one via ladder and rope work for £2,800 although the latter has a chain price of just under £1,000, three times that of the other quote. The work may also be undertaken in-house and we are exploring options to do so.

6. Heating

My Thanks to Tom Bertram for managing this project. The Heating System is fully installed. EDF, our electricity suppliers, has uprated the fuses and meter tails in electricity supply in the organ blower room in autumn 2024 and the Nave heating has been connected and is in use. The rest of the heating has to be connected to our other electricity supply in the Choir Vestry. There is a problem with this supply, it had 200 amp fuses but the EDF tails are only rated for 60 amps. The UK Power Networks fuses are in an old cast iron housing which is no longer deemed safe for the higher amperage so it needs replacing with a modern plastic unit. To do this the supply to the church has to be cut involving digging a hole in the grass just outside the Vestry door to access and cut the cable before the unit can be changed. (This work is anticipated to be done in early May 2026). Once this is done, EDF has to come and uprate the meter tails to 100 amps and fit isolator switches. Then the electrician can connect the heating for the Chancel, Lady Chapel, North Transept and Choir. The system is zoned so we only need to switch on the area we want to use. The Nave, Chancel and Choir Stalls have under-pew heating. The North Transept and Lady Chapel have overhead heat and light chandeliers. This system will allow us to reduce our oil consumption as a lot of the heating burden can be undertaken using the electrical system.



7. Roof issues late 2025

After all the roof problem at the end of 2024 had been resolved, I was hoping for better situation in 2025 but, thanks to a number of storms and defective drain pipes, together with some kind soul throwing a brick at the North West Porch roof coupled with a very wet winter we now have a number of leaks again. Ames have inspected the whole roof and quoted for the repairs. I need to finalise a List B (Archdeacon's Approval) Faculty application for the works before the work can start. The work should solve the deterioration of the St Augustine with the Celtic Bishop at the north side of the back of the Nave. We will also be having a drone survey of the roof shortly.

8. Tower Mural

A small part of the mural halfway up the curved left side of the mural fell down late 2023. The damage was surveyed from ground level and there are five areas where the mural is bulging. The mural was scaffolded for a thorough examination, temporary reinforcement of fragile areas and preparation of a full estimate. The work proposed is itemised below although 5.1 and 5.4 have already been done and is expected to take 8 weeks. The total cost, including scaffolding, will be £25,000 plus VAT. I have been advised of two sources of funding and will make the applications in due course.

9.

Sadly, James Ford, who had been our church architect for over 10 years, passed away in 2025. George Esdaile, who also works for Clague in Canterbury, is our new architect.

*Andrew Plested
Churchwarden*



Over the past year the Deanery Synod has continued its role in bringing together parishes across the deanery to share learning, discuss local mission priorities, and receive updates on both diocesan and national Church of England initiatives. Meetings have followed their usual pattern, beginning with a guest speaker or thematic presentation, followed by the business portion of Synod.

1. Thematic Talks and Presentations

Across the year, Synod members heard from a range of invited speakers who offered insight into key areas of ministry and mission within our deanery and the wider diocese. Topics have typically included:

- **Youth and Children & Ministry** – exploring how churches can better support young people, including examples of successful deanery-wide collaboration.
- **Vocations and Lay Ministry** – updates on pathways for lay and ordained ministry, with encouragement for parishes to nurture discernment within their congregations.
- **Local Mission and Outreach** – sharing of practical initiatives taking place in deanery parishes, particularly those responding to community needs and cost-of-living challenges.

These sessions are intended to inform, equip, and inspire parish representatives, and have provided helpful opportunities for discussion and sharing good practice across churches.

2. Business Meetings

The second part of each meeting focused on the formal business of the Deanery Synod, including:

- **Reports from Diocesan Synod**, highlighting decisions and developments at diocesan level.
- **Deanery finance and parish share updates**, with continued emphasis on transparency and mutual support across parishes.
- **Elections and governance matters**, ensuring the deanery's structures remain representative and accountable.
- **Information on diocesan priorities**, including mission planning, safeguarding updates, and forthcoming initiatives.

These sessions help ensure that parishes are kept informed about the wider context in which we all work and worship.

3. Representation

Our parish is entitled to **two lay representatives** on the Deanery Synod. At present we have **one** serving representative, and we would very much welcome another member of the congregation to join Synod. It is a valuable role that offers insight into the life of the wider church and helps ensure our parish has a voice in deanery and diocesan matters.

If you might be interested, or would simply like to know more about what the role involves, please do speak to me or to a member of the PCC.

Vicky Friedrich
Deanery Synod Representative



Annual Report: Supplementary Reports

for the year ended 31st December 2025

Clergy Report

Christopher Wren's famous epitaph in St Paul's Cathedral says, 'If you seek a monument, look around you.' To a certain extent, if you seek a clergy report in 2026, look through this booklet and you will find evidence of all sorts of things happening and God being at work in our midst. From random statistics & photographs to candlelit suppers & floodlit gigs, from the top of the tower to the churchyard and even an arm's length down a drain at one point, our wonderful church community has been working together throughout the previous year to make St Eanswythe's Church both function and prosper. It's a great delight to work amongst our wonderful volunteers as we serve God and our parish and town.

In late 2025, the PCC committed itself to Three Things as part of its engagement with the Diocese of Canterbury's wider mission strategy. Based around our existing strapline of 'Worship: Community: Heritage', we identified ways in which we could enhance what we're already doing, but also think about other things that we could or should be involved in as a parish church. Whilst that was something worked on by the PCC, it's not the work of the PCC alone and if you'd like to take part in and support elements of that, we'd love to hear from you! The Three Things are printed in this booklet so you can look at what we're thinking about and perhaps ponder a bit whether God might be encouraging you to take part in some way?

Whatever we do here, our principal focus will always be the worship of Almighty God – of that there is no doubt – and it's something we will always endeavour to do well, with dignity, but also with joy (and the occasional twinkle in the eye - as anyone who witnessed the dog coming in through the west door last summer, before leading its human on a merry chase around the altar mid-way through the Eucharistic Prayer, can attest!).

Moreover, all our work here needs to be underpinned by prayer and, even if you're not up to helping with other aspects of our work, through lack of time or wealth of years, you can still share in this vital part of our ministry and work by saying one for us each day. If you'd like to be part of a more intentional prayer ministry, even from the comfort of your armchair do please let us know.

As ever, I'm indebted to all those who work front of house and behind the scenes to make things happen – sometimes the bits that you'd almost think no-one notices (but we do) - whether you're here first thing on a Sunday or the one to lock up on a cold night in February, and a host of other things in between, thank you!

*Fr Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge*



Children's Church has continued to meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month. It has been a delight to watch the children develop their confidence in our meetings as, through stories, songs, prayers and craft activities, they are becoming more familiar with the stories of Jesus. The number attending is usually between 5 and 12. The youngest child who comes at present is 16 months old and the oldest is 12 years old so we try to offer a broad range of activities to challenge and engage everyone!

The children really feel part of the church family when they present the bread and wine and take the collection and they enjoy sharing what they've done with you at the end of the service.

The family area in church is well used and Fr Chris has been working on an annotated child-friendly edition of the Eucharist booklet which is being introduced gradually.

In the past 12 months, we have broadened our outreach to include activity mornings on Good Friday (Good Friday Special) and another one on the last Saturday in November to make Birthday Cakes for Jesus. We've been very encouraged by the attendance of children from outside our church family as well as our regulars!

We are so grateful to all of you for your prayers and to those who have been able to lend a hugely important hand at these events - we could not do these without your support.

Clare Tomlinson, Sue Bauhahan, Maureen Foreman and Rose Hill



After several years of organising the welcomers for the church, in August 2025 Judy Doherty and husband Chris moved to Shropshire to enjoy their retirement. As to be expected this has proved a huge loss to us all as we miss Judy's knowledge, patience and expertise at keeping everyone in touch with rotas etc.

I took over the role in August and with grateful thanks to all the welcomers we have managed to show an increasing number of visitors around the church. The role of welcomer also includes being a ready ear for those who need it, as well as recognising when visitors just want time to pray.

We did hold a recruitment coffee morning a few weeks ago, our aim was to try and open the church an extra day each week. We were delighted that two of the visitors decided to join us which has meant that we are now also able to open on Mondays.

Unfortunately, just over a week ago we heard that one of our long serving welcomers has had to resign due to ill health and the following day a relatively new member of the team contacted me to tell me that he does not think that welcoming is for him and he will not be on the rota after April. Hopefully, he may decide that he would like to come back and of course he would be most welcome.

Welcoming is a vital part of the church, and we do have visitors from all walks of life both young and old. Recently we had an arranged group of 55 children plus 4 adults from a school in France, the children were aged 14 and I have to say that the three of us on duty were somewhat nervous. The children were excellent, interested in everything and their leader was an excellent translator whilst one of the welcomers, a French speaker, dealt with smaller groups. Amazingly, not a phone was in sight and the leader said that he would like to come back next year with another group.

If there is anyone reading this, who would like to join us, even for one or two sessions per month I would be delighted to hear from you. It would certainly mean that we did not have to worry about the church being closed and disappointing visitors.

Pam Keeling
Welcomers co-ordinator



Each Sunday our small choir sings in four part harmony a psalm, anthem, and communion hymn as well as leading the musical side of the service. The average number of singers is around six.

However, 2025 was a challenging year for the choir due to the lack of organist and choir director in post, so all choir members were thrilled to learn shortly before Christmas that James Brown had been appointed to the role to start on 1 January 2026. We were fortunate to have Tim Clark and Patti Whaley covering three Sundays most months throughout the year, leaving only one Sunday per month when we had a wide variety of organists playing for us, including Fr Chris himself on at least one occasion. Choir numbers did drop a bit during the year during the organist interregnum but have picked up again since James' appointment.

We are also fortunate to have some excellent singers in the congregation whom we can draw on occasionally for special services, but who don't want the regular commitment of singing every week. Though for Fr Chris and Vicky, being pulled into the choir to help at the last minute has been a more than occasional occurrence, and we are grateful to them for their flexibility.

For special services the choir draws on a wider network of singers, including from other church choirs, choral societies, past choir members, and members of the congregation. In 2025 we sang evensong with choirs of around 20 singers for Candlemas, jointly with Holy Trinity church choir in June, and for the St Eanswythe Festival. Additional special services included Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day.

Christmas is always a busy time for the choir and the familiar carols and seasonal music make it easier to recruit extra singers for the Advent Carol service and Nine Lessons and Carols. The annual Creative Quarter Carol Service is a fun occasion for all, with the choir wearing Christmas jumpers instead of their usual cassocks and surplices and leading the congregation in popular carols.

We are now actively recruiting new members for the choir – all voices welcome. If you're interested please speak to James after the service or email sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com

*Catriona Hunter
Choir & PCC member*



The aim of our flower ministry is to enhance worship through the seasons, celebrate festivals and special occasions and bring beauty to the church not only for the congregation but also for the many visitors who come to the Church and often comment how lovely the flowers are.

The major events throughout the year when we decorate the Church are Easter with Easter Lilies, St Eanswythe's Festival with summer flowers and lilies; Harvest, with the Harvest tables of vegetables and fruit alongside packet and tinned food generously given by the congregation for the Food Bank; Remembrance Day with silk poppies and rosemary for remembrance from the garden. Lastly, at the beginning of December we decorate the Advent candle with greenery, followed by Christmas itself when the Church is once again decorated with lots of holly, red berries and ivy plus the Christmas Tree brightening the South Aisle with lights and baubles. Many thanks to my husband Paul for putting them on and the younger members of the church for taking them off.

Just before Easter is Mothering Sunday when numerous posies of Daffodils are made not only for the ladies but also any additional ones left given to the male members of the congregation who are always pleased to have them as well.

Towards the end of Holy Week I created several small displays in the Lady Chapel to represent the Garden Of Gethsemane while we sat in prayer and meditation during the Maundy Thursday Vigil in the evening. For Easter Day, Spring flowers and fresh evergreen are always a joy to introduce to the Church again after the sombre tone of Lent. Easter lilies adorning the Altars are paid for by donations from parishioners in memory of loved ones.

Following Carol McBeath's suggestion at the Building Committee meeting, the immediate grounds outside the Church have been beautified this Spring by numerous Daffodils which were planted by Church members and their friends and our own Fr Chris in October, and we are grateful to them for all the effort and energy put in for what has been a rewarding display this year (2026). We're also very grateful to those who donated bulbs, including Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Also in the churchyard, we would like to thank Carol for creating and maintaining the Labyrinth on the west side of the Church, I have personally seen several people enjoying a time of quiet reflection as their walk through it.

Sustainability and sourcing - throughout the year we try to use seasonal fresh flowers, some of which have come from my own garden or the hedgerows . We use additional silk flowers that are so good now that it is hard to sometimes tell the difference. Greenery, again from my garden or my near neighbours' front gardens help to enhance the displays and keep down costs. We are cutting back on using floral foam, and will in the future be using vases more, some of which we have recently acquired from the charity shops so we are both benefiting from this change.

Finally, I would like to thank Jenny Coleman and Carol McBeath for all they do to contribute to our Flower ministry in the Church and for being such a cheerful part of our small team and for the hot coffee and biscuits that keep us going especially on cold winter days.

Jan Clarke



The Friends first meeting was on the 21st of March 2014 and over the past years we have gained some wonderful new members but sadly we have also lost members. Rosemary Siebert, who died recently, was one of the founding members, her knowledge as a solicitor was extremely useful amongst other things as we needed to be a charity registered with the Charity Commission and that required writing our Constitution. Another loss was Robin Lawrence whom we are also indebted to. Robin made us a bequest which will not only cover the cost of the new display cabinet but also, we can cover the shortfall for the cost of pew cushions so that all pews will be more comfortable to sit on.

The Friends have had various activities over the course of the year including the Sips and Saints evening and of course providing and serving the refreshments to the increasingly popular Creative Quarter Carol Service.

The Ukrainians are still coming to regular Saturday morning sessions, which occasionally attracts unexpected visitors. One example was the day that 33 students plus two leaders came into the church. They were a mixture of Brazilian and some Saudi Arabian students, studying at Canterbury University. They were so enamoured with the Ukrainians singing that they asked if they could join in. Never have we heard a version of 'Alleluia' and 'The Girl from Ipanema' sung so well by all those voices. Amongst all the anger in the world today, it was such a joy to witness the coming together of different ages and nationalities in the refreshment area of the church.

Pam Keeling
Secretary to the Friends of St Eanswythe's
Registered Charity No. 1161358

Tower Report



Here at St.Mary & St. Eanswythe we have 8 lovely bells with the heaviest weighing just over 25 cwt. We ring at 10am Sunday mornings for the 10:30 morning service. We also practice on Tuesday afternoons between 2:30-4:00pm. We currently have 7 members in the band with two people currently learning to ring but could do with some more people to learn to ring.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers says “If you roll forward the current demographic profile of ringing 20 years, keeping recruitment as it is, there won’t be that many active ringers-many ringer are now over 60, and too few are under 25”.

So if you want bells to continue ringing please come and join us. Bell ringers come from all walks of life and can range in age from about 10 or 11 up to; well there isn’t really an upper age limit. It all depends on general health and fitness.

If you would like to find out more about bell ringing, please contact me on 07955 599 498.

Last year we rang for the VE Day 80 celebration on 8th May at 6:30pm.

We currently have problems with pigeons in the belfry. Work is scheduled for later in April to remove the pigeons, clean and disinfect the belfry. Once this is done new mesh will be installed against the louvres. Finally I would like to thank Santa and Sue Atkinson for the logo shown below which now can now be embroidered on a range of clothing.

*David Robinson
Tower Captain*



St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Schools Engagement Report



We continue to maintain good relationships with both of our Church Schools within the parish.

St Eanswythe's School attends collective worship at church each Tuesday morning in term time and the Priest-in-Charge is a regular visitor at other times. In the academic year 2025/26 we have also re-started a termly school eucharist for Key Stage 2 (years 4-6).

At St Mary's School, the Priest-in-Charge is on the Collective Worship rota and continues to build and maintain relationships within the school and remain a visible presence, including helping with the RE curriculum when invited.

In April 2025, Bishop Rose visited for the annual service of baptism and confirmation for a number of candidates from St Eanswythe's school along with one from St Mary's and four from St Peter's School.

Both St Eanswythe's and St Mary's Schools underwent Ofsted inspections last year. The reports are available via the Ofsted website, but the outcomes were broadly positive and areas to work on were as anticipated.

By long-standing arrangement, the Priest-in-Charge is a Director/Governor within the statutes of both schools and that duty continues to be fulfilled. Within the Articles of Association for both schools there is scope for a church representative to be a 'Member' who attends the Annual Meeting of the Board and provides a link with the Parish Church and PCC. At St Eanswythe's School this is fulfilled by Tom Bertram and at St Mary's School by Jan Clarke. Fr John Tomlinson was also invited by St Mary's School to be a Member.

Fr Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge

Open the Book

Once a fortnight during term time our little band of eight storytellers go to St Mary's School in Folkestone to act out a story from the bible.

There are four of us from St Eanswythe (Clare, John, Maureen and Carol), two are from Harbour Church, and two are from the Methodist church in Lyminge. All good for interchurch relations.

Although we get tremendous satisfaction from spreading God's word, it is heartwarming to know that the children get inspiration from each of the bible stories. There is always a theme in the stories which the teachers in the school develop during the week.

The children really look forward to our visits and there are many enthusiastic volunteers willing to be recruited as characters in the stories each week.

Carol McBeath



The Winter Shelter is a service provided jointly by Churches Together Folkestone and the Folkestone Rainbow Centre over the coldest months of the year from 1 December to 28 February. It provides beds for 12 rough sleepers in a local B&B, and every evening the guests enjoy delicious home cooked food prepared by volunteers from local churches and other organisations.

For the 2024-25 Winter Shelter we as a church prepared and served the food to the guests on 6 Monday evenings in January and February; and for the 2025-26 Winter Shelter out of the 13 Mondays, volunteers from our church prepared 9 main courses and 8 puddings – a third of the volunteers working in the kitchen and serving were from our church.

We also hosted the 2025-26 Winter Shelter Dedication Service on 29 November. This was well attended by representatives from Churches Together Folkestone, and Folkestone Rainbow Centre, as well as those who would be volunteering for the Winter Shelter.

Our Church Liaison Officer, Marilyn Edey attends regular meetings at the Rainbow Centre.

Catrina Hunter
Winter Shelter Venue Coordinator –
Monday Evenings

ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR,
FOLKESTONE



WORSHIP

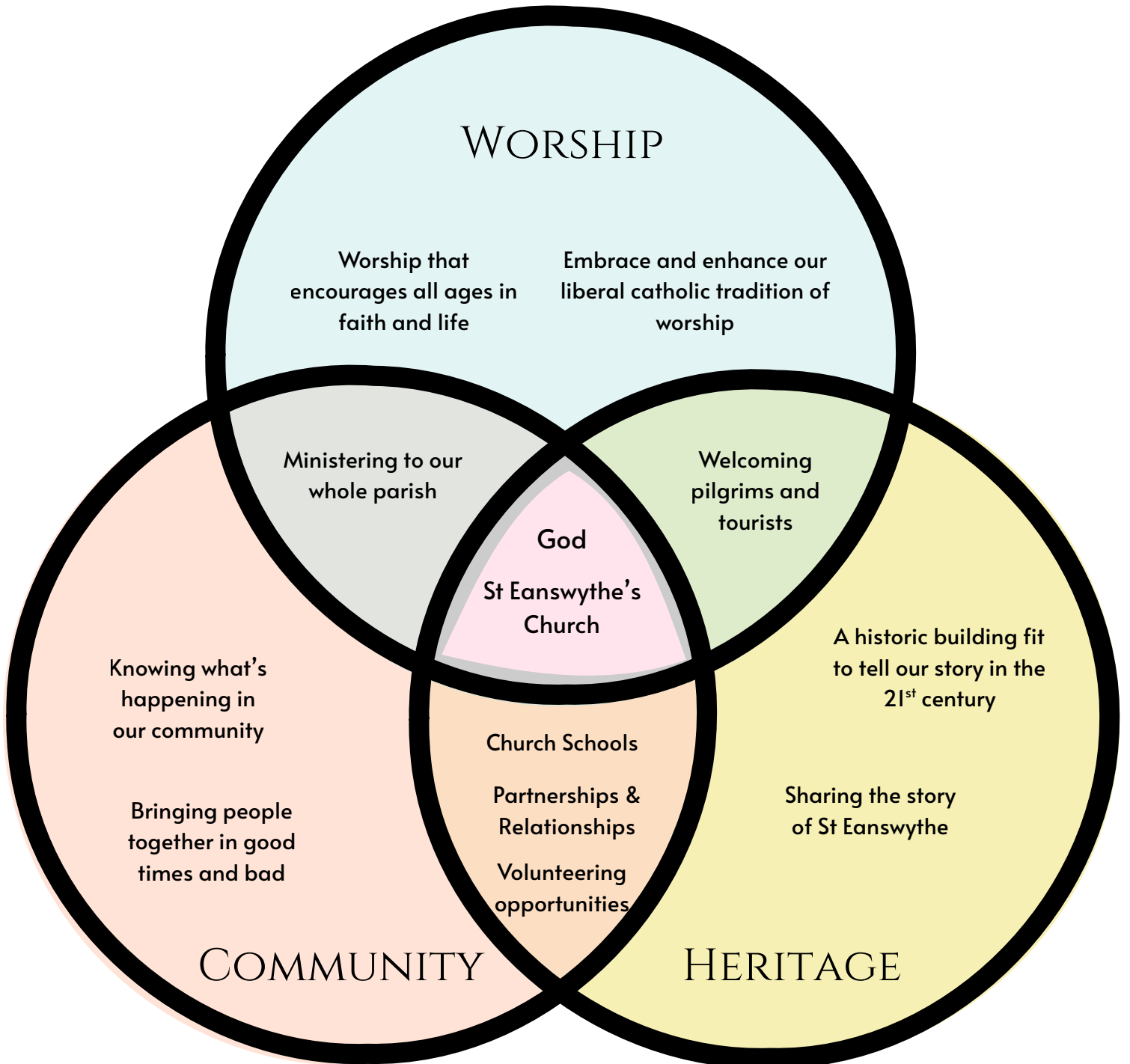
Sits at the heart of who we are what we do

COMMUNITY

Is where we are and who we work with

HERITAGE

Informs what we've inherited and how we share and value it in the future



WHAT WE'RE HOPING TO DO:

1. Embrace and enhance our liberal-catholic tradition.
2. Minister to the people of all ages whom we already have and helping them to deepen their faith.
3. Develop our ministry to children's church & their families.
4. Looking to use music as a tool for mission.

HOW WE'LL WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL:

1. High effort, high quality liturgies and observance of festivals with hospitality.
2. Gaining a sense of what might help people through consultation and putting things on.
3. Drawing greater links between Children's Church and other events & services.

Linking more with schools.

4. Recruitment of director of music with heart for this work, reviewing our expectations and learning from other places.

WHAT WE'RE HOPING TO DO:

1. Develop relationships and partnerships within the wider community, e.g. Town Council, Schools, Creative Quarter, Rainbow Centre.
2. Minister to the whole parish, bringing people together.
3. Undertake a Community Mapping Exercise.

HOW WE'LL WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL:

1. Range of events with different groups, e.g. Town Sunday, Rainbow Centre, Creative Quarter services. Church members engaging with school related events and clubs.
2. Developing an understanding of what's happening within our whole geographical parish and how we can be present and engaged. Advertising services and events more widely, being deliberately invitational and encouraging church attendees to be so too.
3. To investigate options (paid and voluntary) for a community mapping exercise and liaising with other local voluntary & statutory agencies.

WHAT WE'RE HOPING TO DO:

1. Make the building fit for purpose in the middle of the 21st century.
2. Embrace St Eanswythe's story and legacy to welcome tourists and pilgrims alike.
3. Utilise the building and wider grounds more fully to support the mission of the church.

HOW WE'LL WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL:

1. Engage with the DAC and other stakeholders to progress plans for heritage area, toilets & welcome space.
2. Develop materials & interpretation re Eanswythe & general heritage + consider 'education offer' for wider engagement.
3. Develop and enhance the space through improved access, signage, investment in the grounds through planting & presence. Create volunteering and engagement opportunities (e.g. welcoming, historical interest) for people across the whole community – of all faiths and none.



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