

# **TRUSTEES REPORT**

## **The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Matthew, High Brooms**

### **(Also known as St. Matthew's Church, High Brooms)**

### **For the period January to December 2025**

2025 was an unusual year for St. Matthew's Church, as our vicar of 32 years retired part way through the year. Therefore, the church started its interregnum period on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, and this carries on into 2026. As a church we are so grateful to Rev. Chris Wicks and his wife Carole for all they gave to St. Matthew's Church over the years. We are also very fortunate to have so many volunteers who have stepped up and kept things going in the interregnum.

#### **MISSION & VISION**

The mission statement of St. Matthew's Church is 'Igniting Passion for Jesus', both within the church as we grow in our love for Jesus, and in our community as we want to help other people discover Jesus for themselves.

The following values are also of particular importance to us – the Word, the Holy Spirit, worship, the cross, love, presence, welcome and teams.

Here at St. Matthew's Church, we welcome everyone who comes to worship at our church and who attends and makes use of the groups and community projects we run. There are many points of contact that people have with our church, as you will see from this report, and we are committed to welcoming and including everyone who wants to be part of the ministries we run.

St. Matthew's Church is led and guided by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and by the Leadership Team, who together maintain an overview of worship, ministry and outreach throughout the parish and consider how our worship services and activities can involve the variety of people who live here. They meet regularly to plan and develop the ministry of the church and to make sure we are meeting all our responsibilities as a charity. This has been even more important during the interregnum, as these groups seek to keep ministries going but also take on some of the planning the incumbent would have done.

We also have various forms of Ministry Groups that meet regularly to pray and plan for mission and ministry in the church, including youth ministry, children's ministry, fabric, finance, community larder, pastoral care, worship and mission.

We are committed to furthering our mission of igniting passion for Jesus in the following ways:

- Worship and prayer - we hope to bring people to faith through our services;
- Reaching out to our community – through the community larder and hub, children's and youth groups and through maintaining and developing links with key community members;
- Supporting the work of mission agencies around the world.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St. Matthew's Church and St. Matthew's Church Hall and that we continue to stay up to date with policies and procedures which keep everyone safe.

Most of our ministries here at St. Matthew's Church are run by volunteers and would not be able to happen without the time and energy that these many volunteers bring. We are immensely grateful to all our volunteers and church members and everything they give as we seek to be Jesus in our community of High Brooms and as we continue through this period of interregnum. Every donation of time, ideas, money, food, and more is hugely appreciated.

## WHAT WE DO

### 1. Worship and prayer

#### Sunday services

Our main Sunday service in 2025 was our weekly 10am service. We also held 2 other monthly services on different weeks of the month (8am communion and 5pm service). Although most of our congregation come to the 10am service, the other services offer something quieter and more traditional.

Our 10am service is family-oriented, with groups for our children and young people during the service. Communion is celebrated once a month in this service. This is still a hybrid service every week, with the decision being made to intentionally keep live-streaming this service indefinitely, as well as other key services like Christmas and Easter.

We have a family service on the first Sunday of each month at 10am, as well as on all the Sundays through the summer holidays, where everyone stays in church together for a more relaxed, informal and fun service.

The monthly 8am communion service is a small traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer. It is a said service with a short sermon.

The monthly 5pm service is also traditional, and enjoys hymns played on the organ, as well as more liturgy than our 10am service. Communion is celebrated on alternate months in this service.

The average weekly attendance for our different services in 2025 was as follows:

8am communion – 7 adults (+1 from 2024)

10am service – 63 adults and 22 children (same adults and +1 children from 2024)

5pm service – 12 adults (+1 from 2024)

We estimate that we had an average of about 25 people watching our 10am service live online each week (although it is difficult to be accurate in this), and we know there are regular viewers who watch every week.

#### Special services

Christmas and Easter are special times in the church calendar, and in 2025 we also had a leaving service for Chris and Carole Wicks.

At Easter 2025, we had a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, and then family services on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday, with baptisms by immersion on Easter Sunday. This was Rev. Chris Wicks' last Easter with us, which made it even more special.

We had about 170 people in church on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, with more watching online.

The week after Easter was Chris and Carole Wicks' last Sunday with us, and we had a very special and emotional leaving service and lunch, with just over 200 people attending to say goodbye to them. It was lovely to see people come back who had left the church over the years, especially those who Chris had sent out to train to be vicars.

It was good to see lots of visitors from the community attending our Christmas services in 2025, with over 500 people coming through the doors across the Christmas week and more watching online at the time and afterwards. It was lovely to welcome visitors to the carol service, Christingle service and Midnight Communion especially.

We also repeated our Reflective Christmas service this year a couple of weeks before Christmas, which was a quieter service for those who wanted something which wasn't aimed at children or late at night.

The other special day in the church calendar is Remembrance Sunday. St. Matthew's Church held a Remembrance Day service in the morning and a memorial service in the afternoon for those who have been bereaved. These services were well attended and appreciated.

## **Electoral Roll**

At the end of December 2025, the number of names on the Electoral Roll of St. Matthew's Church was 91, following the preparation of a new roll before the APCM in May 2025.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is used to calculate the number of representatives we have on Deanery Synod. Electoral Roll additions, deletions and rolling totals are reported at each PCC meeting.

## **Life Events**

We love sharing in people's life events here at St. Matthew's Church – baptisms, weddings and funerals.

In 2025, three people were baptised at St. Matthew's Church. Two were infant baptisms, and the other one was a baptism by immersion for a teenager. We also had three people renewing their baptismal vows with baptism by immersion on Easter Sunday.

2 funerals were conducted by our clergy during 2025, one in church and one at the cemetery / crematorium.

There was one wedding at St. Matthew's Church during 2025 which was a special day for a family who are long standing members of the church.

## **Prayer meetings**

As our interregnum started, it was a good opportunity to meet regularly to pray for our church and community, as well as the wider world. We have held monthly prayer meetings since June 2025 with 10 – 15 people gathering each month to pray together.

We also have a monthly mission prayer meeting, to hear updates and pray for our mission partners around the world.

## **Home Groups and Pods**

There are 4 Home Groups at St. Matthew's Church, which meet weekly or fortnightly during the day or in the evening. These groups enable people to worship and pray together, explore their faith, ask questions to gain a greater understanding of both the Bible and Christianity and form a closer relationship with God and each other.

There are also numerous Pods, which are smaller prayer groups. These form out of existing friendships and connections and help people to further grow in their faith and deepen relationships with God and each other.

## **Revive Women's Ministry**

Following a scaling back of our women's ministry in previous years, in 2025 we just ran one event solely for women. This was our Christmas Craft Event, and it was a very successful and fun evening, bringing in women from the church and the community. There were different craft tables run by church members, and those who attended could make various crafts, with mulled wine and snacks on offer through the evening. There was a lot of positive feedback and a lovely atmosphere in the church on the night.

## **Pastoral Care**

The pastoral care team at St. Matthew's Church has continued to work very hard through 2025 to ensure the holistic care of individuals in need. This includes hospital visits, home visits where people are ill, suffering or unable to leave their homes, provision of cooked meals, and generally being available to listen. One of the members of the pastoral care team does odd jobs for those who are unable to do them. The team meets regularly to update each other about those they visit and to make sure no-one in the church is being missed when they are in need of support.

## **Hubs**

Hubs are small groups based around a shared hobby or interest. These mostly involve church members but are also great places for people to invite friends to.

The hubs which continued throughout 2025 were knitting hub, sewing bee hub, table tennis and gardening hub. The gardening hub was mostly on WhatsApp in 2025.

Unfortunately the walking hub was unable to keep going in 2025 due to a change in circumstance of those leading it.

### **Courses and training**

In 2025, five members of the church attended the Speaking God's Word course which the Diocese runs for those who preach in church. We are very grateful to all those who have taken part in these courses to develop their skills and to gain recognition for what they do from the Diocese of Rochester.

We also hosted Mark Arnold from Urban Saints in July 2025, who ran an additional needs training evening for our youth and children's team volunteers. This was a very informative and helpful event, and we are very grateful to Mark for his expertise and time in running this for us.

### **Social Events**

Giving opportunities for church members to meet socially and have time to get to know each other better is important to the growth and health of the church.

In 2025 we held a few social events – a dinner at church with homemade food and a lovely social atmosphere, a BBQ lunch and afternoon at Adamswell Scout Camp, a bring and share Harvest lunch, and a quiz night. All of these events gave opportunities for friendships to grow.

### **Team Thank You Meetings**

With most of our ministries at St. Matthew's Church being run by volunteers, it is important to us to find ways of saying thank you to them but also providing time for teams to get together and to review and plan for their groups.

In 2025 we held team meetings for the children's team and the youth team. These meetings started with some food and time to chat, and then there was a time of planning and reviewing how the groups were going. These meetings were appreciated by the volunteers and were well attended.

We also had a thank you Christmas social for the PCC and Leadership Team, which was hosted and catered by two of our volunteers and was well received.

During the interregnum, there has not been the same capacity to run these events for all our teams, but we are planning to restart them in 2026.

### **Link Mission Partners**

Our main mission links for 2025 were Sam and Abby Baguma with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Uganda, Tearfund, Church Mission Society (CMS), The Sozo Foundation (Cape Town, South Africa) and Life & Soul locally in Tunbridge Wells.

We also started supporting Berti Frroku and his family in early 2025 as they moved to Albania to start mission work there. Berti shared in one of our services in January about their plans for moving to Albania.

### **Retired Clergy**

We have one retired clergy member at St. Matthew's Church. Richard Arding has been a great support during the interregnum and also spends time helping other churches in the area as requested. We thank him for all his involvement and support.

## **2. Youth and children**

Reaching out to children and young people and helping them to have a place to belong in our church family is very important to us as a church.

All our youth and children's groups at St. Matthew's were run by our volunteers in 2025, with numbers staying steady or growing throughout the year in the different groups.

We have Sunday morning groups for primary school aged children and for youth every Sunday (except family services), and midweek groups for children in school years 3-6 and young people in secondary school, as well as a toddler group for preschool children and their carers.

On Sunday mornings, families start off in church altogether, and then the children and young people go out to their groups after the first songs.

Primary school aged children are all in a group together and meet in the church hall. The number in this group varies from about 10 to 20 children a week, which reflects the less consistent nature of families coming to church. The weekly average across the year was 14. We are very grateful to our committed and steady team of volunteers for this group. One of the volunteers plans the sessions for each week.

Young people in secondary school meet in the youth room each Sunday. There are generally between 5 to 10 young people there each week, with an average of 6 across the year. There are two volunteers with this group each week, and they look at something from the Bible with time for questions and discussion.

2025 has been a steady year for these groups, with the children and young people deepening friendships with each other and enjoying being in church together.

We also have a dedicated space on a Sunday morning for parents to be with their preschool children during the service, where there are toys and where the service is live on a TV for them to watch.

Our midweek clubs for children in church and in the community ran throughout 2025 in the church building and have mostly grown throughout the year.

Deeper (for school years 3-6) meets on Mondays after school and has lots of fun activities for the children to do, as well as giving them a snack of toast and squash. They also hear a God based thought for the week. An average of 13 children came to Deeper each week in 2025, which is a drop on the previous year due to quite a few children being year 6 and moving up to Ignite.

It is a struggle to find volunteers for this group due to the timing of it, but our numbers currently mean we have space for more children to attend. The children who come to Deeper are mostly non-church families, and there is an increasing pattern of some of these families accessing many of our groups, like Ignite, the community larder and toddler group.

Ignite is our group for secondary school age young people. They meet on Tuesday evenings, and one of the successes of this session is that they share a hot meal together and have time to chat and build relationships. At the beginning of 2025 we lost the support of Berti from Youth For Christ in running this group, but Brian, one of our church wardens, took over running it and numbers have stayed steady throughout the year. Ignite had an average of 19 young people attending each week in 2025, with these being a mixture of church young people and those from the community.

Ignite ran some special events in 2025 for the young people, including a BBQ, boating at Dunorlan Park, fireworks and ice-skating.

We also run a baby and toddler group on Thursday mornings, for preschool children and their parents or carers. The group is very relaxed, with lots of time and space for the children to play and the adults to connect with each other over refreshments. We then have a story and song time at the end, with biscuits and fruit for the children. The toddler group saw an average of 28 children a week with their carers in 2025, with steady growth throughout the year.

All these groups are great at nurturing and encouraging the children and young people who attend, but they are also great opportunities for us to then invite families to key services at church throughout the year, or other events we are running.

Thank-you so much to all our volunteers who put so much time and energy into all the groups week in and week out, and who go above and beyond to make sure we can welcome children and young people into our church.

### **3. Reaching out to the community**

St. Matthew's Church is a key part of the community of High Brooms. Everything we do as a church is open to everyone in our community, but certain activities and groups are more aimed at reaching the wider community and meeting the needs of those in our area.

#### **St. Matt's Community Larder (written by the community larder team)**

The Community Larder has stayed consistently busy throughout 2025. We have seen visitor numbers go over 100 on several occasions and this is quite a challenge in terms of providing adequate food. With the economic climate, and supermarkets looking to cut their costs, we have seen a drop in food donations which has necessitated increased direct food purchasing, to supplement the weekly Fareshare delivery. We remain hugely grateful for the generosity of donors and various grants which have enabled us to stay afloat financially.

We are blessed with a wonderful and committed group of volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the larder open. We have continued to have help from the residents of the Kenward Trust hostel, who come on Thursdays to help us set up. New volunteers and donors have popped up from the community and proved invaluable as well.

Our visitors remain a moving population - we have built relationships with lots of our visitors and feel very privileged to have many significant conversations week by week. The cafe area remains buzzing and gives us much joy. The Christmas event was another happy and financially helpful event.

Crosslight continues to visit once a month and their input is invaluable, helping individuals with budgeting and benefits and debt management. Citizens Advice Bureau also started visiting once a month in 2025 and this is also a valuable support for our visitors.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are excited to see links with the community and church growing, with visitors attending the community hub and toddler group, as well as the larder and sometimes church on Sundays. We feel so privileged to have this opportunity to practically help and befriend those around us.

### **St. Matt's Community Hub**

The community hub has continued to develop as it meets the needs of those who attend for friendship and activities. The Community Hub is a welcoming, friendly and free space, which offers drinks and a light lunch. There are board games and newspapers available, and people to chat to, as well as art activities each week to help people with their mental health.

In 2025 we had about 15-20 regulars coming to the hub each week and have a team of dedicated volunteers who serve drinks and lunch.

Sadly, our hub leaders left at the end of 2025, as they are moving out of the area, so a review of the hub and the volunteers available to run it was carried out at the beginning of 2026.

### **Community Events**

We have a small team of volunteers who run events during the year for older members of the community. Rosemary and her team held 4 events during 2025 – coffee mornings and afternoon teas. At each event they raised money for a charity. They also had the St. Matthew's school choir singing to them at their Christmas afternoon tea.

The local churches table tennis league used the church building for practices and matches during 2025.

The church was also used as a polling station for local elections in 2025.

Due to the number of our own groups using the church building, it doesn't get hired out much, but during 2025 we were able to host a lantern making workshop for the Tunbridge Wells Winter Lantern Parade, and we also hired out the church centre to West Kent Mind for one of their 12-week courses with local people.

### **School links**

St. Matthew's Church continues to maintain good relations with St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School, even while we are in our interregnum period.

We were able to welcome the school into church for their key services in 2025, which we did at Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and for a year 6 leavers' service in the summer.

2 members of the church served as Governors at the school during 2025 – one as a foundation Governor (David Johnson) and one as an associate Governor (Lynn MacKay). Another church member (Ruth Dearlove) joined the governing body as a parent governor in 2025.

Rev. Chris Wicks retired from his role as Foundation Governor of the school at the end of 2024.

### **Support for charities**

Support continues for a number of local, national and international charities and organisations through the tithe that St. Matthew's Church gives each year.

At Harvest money offerings were given to Tearfund and food offerings went to St Matt's Community Larder. Our quiz evening held in October also donated proceeds to Tearfund.

Our Christmas Offerings in 2025 were given to Life & Soul and almost £2,500 was raised for their work with young people in our town.

The charity Unlock was also supported in 2025 with a gift of money from our tithe and also with members of the congregation completing the Unlock walk and raising money through sponsorship.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working alongside the Incumbent (or the church wardens in the absence of an incumbent) in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, including pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical activities.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of St. Matthew's Church and St. Matthew's Church Hall in High Brooms.

St. Matthew's Church is situated on High Brooms Road in High Brooms (correspondence address: St. Matthew's Church, High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9BW). It is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently registered with the Charity Commission (registered charity number 1185772). Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. PCC members as at the APCM of May 2025 are:

### Ex Officio Members:

David Johnson	Church Warden
Brian Hobden	Church Warden
Hannah Mwesigwa	Secretary (also employed as Operations Manager)
Kate Whitehead	Treasurer

### Elected Members:

Mary Wilson	Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod representative
Kevin Barnes	Deanery Synod rep
Ian Wilson	
Julia Church	
Graham Church	
Phillip Grainger	Resigned from PCC in December 2025
Kim Shilling	
Michael Southwick	Re-elected at the APCM on 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Matthew Taylor	Re-elected at the APCM on 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Jane Richardson	Elected at the APCM on 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
David Seedhouse	Elected at the APCM on 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

Suzanne Owen and Fiona Wilson stepped down as PCC members at the APCM in 2025.

### Other key office holders in the church, but not on the PCC are:

Clergy – PTO:	Rev Richard Arding
Operations Manager (employed):	Hannah Mwesigwa

### The following roles are appointed by the PCC:

Parish Treasurer:	Kate Whitehead
PCC Secretary:	Hannah Mwesigwa
Safeguarding Officer:	Julia Church
Lead Recruiter (DBS checks):	Hannah Mwesigwa
Deputy Recruiter (DBS checks):	Mary Wilson
Electoral Roll Officer:	Hannah Mwesigwa
Health and Safety Officer:	Michael Southwick
Banks:	Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, Nat West Bank Plc
Independent Examiner:	Perrys Chartered Accountants (appointed in November 2024)
Patronage Board includes:	Church Pastoral Aid Society

### Induction and Training of Trustees

The 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.

All new Trustees (PCC members) are provided with a link to the Charity Commission’s publication: “The Essential Trustee: What you need to know” which provides guidance to all Trustees on what is involved in being a Charity Trustee. All new Trustees are provided with Guidance Notes covering the various meetings throughout the year and other responsibilities of PCC members plus a copy of the booklet jointly produced by the Charity Commission and The Church of England entitled “Trusteeship – An Introduction for PCC Members”.

**PCC Meetings**

The full PCC of St. Matthew’s Church met six times during 2025 with an average level of attendance of 85%. All of these meetings were held in person. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include mission, pastoral care, community larder, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

**A Standing Committee** is required under Church Representation Rules and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The Standing Committee which was agreed at the APCM of May 2025 consists of:

Church Warden	David Johnson	Elected member	Ian Wilson
Church Warden	Brian Hobden	Elected member	Graham Church
Treasurer	Kate Whitehead	Secretary	Hannah Mwesigwa

The standing committee carried out seven electronic votes during the period 2025 which were reported back to the following full PCC meetings.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

The APCM was held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at St. Matthew’s Church. At this meeting, Church Wardens were elected and sworn in, Lay Representatives to the PCC were elected and sidespeople were appointed for the coming year.

**Reporting Public Benefit**

The trustees of St. Matthew’s Church, High Brooms, are aware of the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Matthew, High Brooms, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

1. Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers; and
2. Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

**Major Risks**

The Trustees consider that major risks have been identified. Those which are not covered by insurance through EIG plc are namely Health & Safety and Safeguarding. These topics are reviewed regularly by the PCC. The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and the PCC complies with GDPR guidance.

**Responsibilities of the PCC**

In preparing the accounts of the PCC, the Trustees must make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, follow suitable and consistent accounting policies, follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the accounts and must apply the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate. The PCC is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **Our Staff**

The PCC of St. Matthew's Church employed Hannah Mwesigwa as the Operations Manager and Sue Green as the cleaner during 2025.

The Vicar of St. Matthew's Church up to the end of April 2025 was the Rev. Christopher Wicks, who was employed by the Diocese of Rochester.

## **WARDEN'S REPORT - OUR BUILDINGS**

**Report by the Church Wardens – David Johnson and Brian Hobden**

### **Church fabric, fittings and ornaments**

Since our last report we have had our Quinquennial Inspection (required by the Diocese every five years) and the report that followed has confirmed that the fabric of the church building is generally in good condition. It was good to note that our Inspector was especially complementary about the state of the garden around the Church, and we are most grateful to Darren Clarke for his good work in keeping the area looking nice.

In January the electrical distribution boxes were changed from plastic to metal to meet the latest regulations. One of the inner porch doors needed a new floor spring and new taps were fitted to the kitchen sinks. In July we had the Vestry and Youth Office redecorated and following a leak in the roof over the South Aisle new lead sheeting was installed to the valley gutter above.

With the Church of England setting the ambitious target to reach Net Zero Carbon by 2030 we are developing a Climate Action Plan. In October 2025 the floodlights in the church were all changed from halogen bulbs to LED, funded by a grant from the Diocese, for which we were grateful. We are already noticing a reduction in our electricity bills.

### **Church Hall fabric**

One of the side sash windows has had its bottom frame member renewed following the appearance of wet rot. The two escape doors to the rear of the hall have need adjustment to the 'panic' bolts to ensure they lock closed.

The fluorescent tube lights in the hall have been replaced with LED fittings and a reduction in electricity bills is evident.

### **Vicarage**

We don't normally report on the Vicarage since it is largely the responsibility of the Diocese. But during the Interregnum we have had every room re-decorated and new carpets or vinyl flooring laid throughout. We believe it is now an attractive prospect for the incoming Vicar.

### **Thanks**

We would like to thank:

- All those who volunteer either during the week or on Sundays
- All those that have taken on extra roles, or increased their volunteering during the Interregnum - your commitment and willingness to serve is so valued
- The anonymous donor who gave a donation that allowed for the upgrade of equipment for the music group (in ear foldbacks)
- And a special thanks to Hannah for all the extra work she has carried out during the Interregnum in keeping us all on the straight and narrow. It has been much appreciated.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

### **Report by Julia Church – Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Julia Church has been Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for St. Matthew's Church since November 2021. She oversees all safeguarding issues in the parish with the Operations Manager and Church Wardens' support. This includes being the contact person for anyone needing to report safeguarding issues or wanting advice, dealing with any safeguarding incidents within the church, keeping up to date with guidelines from the Diocese and Church of England, and making sure the children, young people and vulnerable adults in our groups know who they can talk to if they feel unsafe in any way.

Everyone that works with children, young people or vulnerable adults in the parish must have a current enhanced DBS check before they are allowed to work or volunteer with any children, youth or vulnerable adults, and they must complete training to the appropriate level within a couple of months of starting their role. The Operations Manager oversees all DBS checks and training updates for all church employees and volunteers.

### **Safeguarding Issues**

There have been several safeguarding concerns throughout the year that continue to be dealt with by the PSO, Operations Manager and one of the Church Wardens, with advice and support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead, Greg Barry, where necessary. We really value the support we get from Greg in dealing with these issues. These have all been reported and filed. In some of these cases, action was required and has been carried out, and again this has all been reported and filed. These can always be added too if any further information is reported.

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

Safeguarding is always considered in the planning of all groups and activities that involve children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are continuing to recruit much-needed volunteers to help with all our groups and in turn, each of these volunteers needs to be DBS checked before starting to help. Our children's and youth work has been slowly growing in most groups over the past year. It is important to maintain a level of leadership in each group to keep the child/adult ratio within the legal limits. At present, all our groups have sufficient volunteers to keep the adult to child ratios in line with the legal requirements. At our PCC meetings, all the names of the people who have applied to be volunteers with children, young people and vulnerable adults and have had DBS checks are put before the PCC for their approval. Safeguarding is included on the agenda at every PCC meeting so that updates can be made regularly.

### **Safeguarding Training**

All those who become volunteers in children and youth groups, are required to do some safeguarding training, with refresher modules needed every 3 years. Each volunteer is advised which modules to do and how to do this.

Safeguarding training completed in 2025:

Basic module – 10 people

Foundation module – 22 people

Leadership module – 4 people

Domestic Abuse Awareness module – 12 people

Safer Recruitment and People Management module – 2 people

In 2025, 13 DBS checks were carried out. We had 9 renewals and 4 new checks.

Thank you to all our new and old volunteers – we couldn't do without you and really appreciate the time you put into making sure your training is up to date!

We are signed up to the Diocesan 'Safeguarding Dashboard', which enables us to keep a check on all safeguarding practice and policy, including volunteer training, adequate adult to child ratio numbers in all our groups, safer recruitment, and media and information across the safeguarding role. This has been updated recently with all our groups involving children, young people and vulnerable adults, and it will be reviewed again after the APCM.

We have also recently signed up to the Diocesan 'Safeguarding Hub', which will enable us to track all our DBS checks and safeguarding training, as well as producing volunteer agreements and role descriptions, to help in our safer recruitment of volunteers.

## Conclusions

Safeguarding for all children, young people and vulnerable adults continues to be a major part of our church family life and it is all our responsibilities to ensure that we are all kept safe. Anyone who feels uncomfortable or sees or hears of an incident that they feel unhappy with should contact Julia Church or Brian Hobden (Church Warden) immediately.

We have excellent support from the Diocese to discuss any issues or concerns if we feel we need to. Safeguarding is never straight forward but always much better if shared with the correct professionals so that resolutions can be found.

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

### Report by Mary Wilson - Deanery Synod representative on the PCC

In 2025 the Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod met 3 times under the joint chairmanship of Rev. Richard Thomas, Area Dean and Andrew Smith, Lay Chair.

**The first meeting of the year was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March**, hosted by St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells. **Bishop Jonathan** shared the Diocesan 'Vision & Strategy' in his visits to every Deanery.

It is based on his original vision of "Change-Serve-Grow" and has the strapline:

"Seeking first the Kingdom of God, we are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity."

The key objectives are to grow Missional Churches, with Missional Leaders and Missional Disciples.

He identified 4 main workstreams, all undergirded with "growing a safe & healthy culture":

- Missional Leadership Development. [Includes Wellbeing programme based at East Malling]
- Children & Young people
- Missionally healthy church
- Revitalising Fragile Church

**The second meeting of the year was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July**, hosted by King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells. New members were welcomed, and a meal was shared.

**Andrew Dunlop**, the new Director of Mission and Ministry Development, gave us an inspiring talk thinking about Mission in our area.

The Diocese (and Andrew) are keen that we look outside the box and learn from one another to see what missional activities we could do, either together or as a pioneer venture coming out of our churches to our wider deanery.

**The third meeting of the year was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November**, hosted by Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells

**An OPEN meeting with the Bible Society**, hearing about their Quiet Revival Report and Gen Z, and reflecting upon local experiences. It was advertised locally and was well attended.

Firstly, we had a presentation by two representatives from the Bible Society including background, statistics and learnings from the Quiet Revival Report.

Secondly, we had local input. Speakers from Bennett Memorial & Skinners Schools shared about the significant growth in interest in the Christian Faith (Alpha course at Bennett Memorial and Christian Union at Skinners).

We then had discussions in break out groups around 4 key questions, finishing with report back & prayer.

**Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, High Brooms  
Charity No: 1185772**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the twelve months ended 31 December 2025**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice 2016 as the applicable standard to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP(FRS102)).

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**ASSETS**

Consecrated and benefice property: In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind (i.e. the church and vicarage) is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not classified in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings: These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included within the Church inventory.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity (functional fixed assets): Larger items are capitalised and written off over their useful lives. Smaller items are written off as incurred.

Short term deposits: These are the cash held on deposit either with the Diocese or at another bank.

**FUNDS**

Unrestricted Funds: These represent the income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC. These include amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are not included as 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report. If part of an unrestricted fund is earmarked for a particular project it may be designated as a separate fund, but the designation has an administrative purpose only, and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

Restricted Funds: These are income funds restricted by the donor that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds: These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes of the accounts.

**INCOMING RESOURCES**

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Voluntary income and capital sources:

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

Planned giving under covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by church events and activities are accounted for gross, i.e. before any associated expenses.

Other ordinary income: Rental from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is paid.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc. are accounted for when received.

## **RESOURCES USED**

Grants: Grants and donations are accounted for when paid, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the Church: The Diocesan Parish Offer, in respect of clergy and diocesan costs, is accounted for when paid. Any additional amounts agreed by the PCC but not paid across as at 31st December are shown as creditors in the balance sheet.

## **DEBTORS**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of income tax fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

### **Diocesan Church Repair Fund - Quinquennial Funds**

The Diocesan Church Repair Fund consists of funds designated by the PCC for future repairs.

### **2025 Accounts commentary**

The accounts are presented for the PCC's approval. During the year ending 2025, the PCC recorded a surplus of £5,821 (2024: surplus of £15,987) on day to day activities.

Unrestricted *voluntary* income was again slightly down on the previous year (2025: £134,119, 2024: £140,455, 2023: £145,337). Restricted overall giving/income was similar to 2024 at £38,273 (2024: £39,005).

Total costs remained broadly level year on year to £192,090 (2024: £188,951). Unrestricted expenses reduced by £5,251 to £154,119 (2024: £159,370); 2025 expenses included interregnum costs, i.e. visiting clergy (£846), vacancy advertising (£924), ongoing parsonage costs such as utilities and maintenance (£1,193), as well as the more significant redecoration costs (£14,361). Restricted expenditure increased by 28% to £37,971 (2024: £29,580). This was driven primarily by the Community Hub contribution to heating bills plus the installation of LED lights paid for by the grant; Community Larder expenses were 13% higher at £33,033, including £88 bank charges (2024: £29,246).

Unrestricted income/expenditure resulted in a surplus of £5,519 (2024: £6,562 surplus). Restricted income/expenditure resulted in a £302 surplus (2024: £9,425 surplus); £29,034 is now held for restricted expenditure.

The PCC has retained reserves, in cash, of £334,850, as at 31 December 2025. This is a sound financial position and meets the reserving requirements set by the PCC.

**Kate Whitehead - PCC Treasurer**

**Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772**

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2025**

Fixed Assets		None	
		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>Note</b>		
Debtors & Prepayments	4	£18,513	£12,558
Short term deposits	5	£216,984	£209,815
Repair funds	6	£45,647	£38,730
Cash at bank and in hand	7	£83,729	£94,318
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>£364,874</u>	<u>£355,421</u>
<b>Creditors/Liabilities:</b>			
Falling due within one year	8	<u>£30,024</u>	<u>£26,392</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>£334,850</u>	<u>£329,029</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Unrestricted		£305,815	£300,297
Restricted		£29,034	£28,732
Endowment		£0	£0
		<u>£334,850</u>	<u>£329,029</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature	Print name	Date
	David B Hobden (Churchwarden, PCC Chair)	
	Kate Whitehead (Treasurer)	

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended 31 December 2025

	2025				2024			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>								
Voluntary income	134,119	10,254	0	144,372	140,455	11,575	0	152,029
Activities for generating income	0	2,592	0	2,592	186	2,022	0	2,208
Income from investments	8,396	15	0	8,411	9,293	0	0	9,293
Income from church activities	17,122	25,414	0	42,536	15,998	25,408	0	41,406
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,637</b>	<b>38,273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197,910</b>	<b>165,932</b>	<b>39,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>204,937</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>								
Parish share	65,743	0	0	65,743	70,600	0	0	70,600
Salaries, wages and honoraria	27,356	0	0	27,356	25,615	0	0	25,615
Clergy & staff expenses	4,262	0	0	4,262	7,336	0	0	7,336
Church running expenses	25,199	4,666	0	29,865	29,495	0	0	29,495
Church activity expenses	5,042	33,305	0	38,347	5,493	29,580	0	35,073
Mission giving and donations	10,445	0	0	10,445	9,162	0	0	9,162
Hall expenses	1,711	0	0	1,711	11,670	0	0	11,670
Major repairs to church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to parsonage	14,361	0	0	14,361	0	0	0	0
New building work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,119</b>	<b>37,971</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192,090</b>	<b>159,370</b>	<b>29,580</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188,951</b>
NET Incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	5,519	302	0	5,821	6,562	9,425	0	15,987
Gains on investment assets on disposal on revaluation								
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	5,519	302	0	5,821	6,562	9,425	0	15,987
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS								
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2025	300,297	28,732	0	329,029	293,735	19,307	0	313,042
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2025	<b>305,815</b>	<b>29,034</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>334,850</b>	<b>300,297</b>	<b>28,732</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>329,029</b>

**Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772**

**INCOME**

	2025				2024			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>1(a) Voluntary income</b>								
Gift aided donations	102,526	3,548	0	106,074	104,075	2,751	0	106,827
Other donations	8,331	2,084	0	10,415	10,844	695	0	11,539
Tax recoverable	23,066	898	0	23,964	23,858	395	0	24,253
Collections at services	196	0	0	196	1,677	0	0	1,677
Grants	0	3,723	0	3,723	0	7,733	0	7,733
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134,119</b>	<b>10,254</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,372</b>	<b>140,455</b>	<b>11,575</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>152,029</b>
<b>1(b) Activities for generating income</b>								
Fundraising	0	2,592	0	2,592	186	2,022	0	2,208
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,208</b>
<b>1(c) Income from investments</b>								
Dividends and interest	8,396	15	0	8,411	9,293	0	0	9,293
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,396</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,293</b>
<b>1(d) Income from church activities</b>								
Fees	456	0	0	456	1,242	0	0	1,242
Hall lettings	10,828	0	0	10,828	9,760	0	0	9,760
Children & Youth	3,320	0	0	3,320	3,435	0	0	3,435
Church events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastoral events	826	0	0	826	841	0	0	841
Community events	1,693	0	0	1,693	720	960	0	1,680
Community Larder	0	25,414	0	25,414	0	24,449	0	24,449
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,122</b>	<b>25,414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,536</b>	<b>15,998</b>	<b>25,408</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41,406</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159,637</b>	<b>38,273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197,910</b>	<b>165,932</b>	<b>39,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>204,937</b>

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

EXPENSES

Note	2025				2024			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Church activities</b>								
2(a) Parish share	65,743	0	0	65,743	70,600	0	0	70,600
2(b) Salaries, wages and honoraria	27,356	0	0	27,356	25,615	0	0	25,615
2(c) Clergy & staff expenses								
Parsonage	2,313	0	0	2,313	6,909	0	0	6,909
Training	60	0	0	60	124	0	0	124
Mobiles	120	0	0	120	154	0	0	154
Other Vicar expenses	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	150
Other employment costs	924	0	0	924	0	0	0	0
Visiting clergy (interregnum)	846	0	0	846	0	0	0	0
	<b>4,262</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,262</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,336</b>
2(d) Church running expenses								
Operations	2,465	88	0	2,553	4,632	0	0	4,632
Fabric	10,870	2,190	0	13,060	9,639	0	0	9,639
Worship/services	2,120	0	0	2,120	2,811	0	0	2,811
Catering	863	0	0	863	1,034	0	0	1,034
Governance	754	0	0	754	602	0	0	602
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church utility bills	7,721	2,388	0	10,109	10,347	0	0	10,347
Cost of fundraising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission and evangelism	406	0	0	406	431	0	0	431
	<b>25,199</b>	<b>4,666</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,865</b>	<b>29,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,495</b>
2(e) Church activity expenses								
Children & Youth	3,450	0	0	3,450	4,340	0	0	4,340
Pastoral events	1,592	0	0	1,592	964	0	0	964
Church events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community events	0	360	0	360	188	334	0	522
Community Larder	0	32,945	0	32,945	0	29,246	0	29,246
	<b>5,042</b>	<b>33,305</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,347</b>	<b>5,493</b>	<b>29,580</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,073</b>
2(f) Mission giving and donations	10,445	0	0	10,445	9,162	0	0	9,162
2(g) Hall expenses	1,711	0	0	1,711	11,670	0	0	11,670
2(h) Major repairs to church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(i) Major repairs to hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(j) Major repairs to parsonage	14,361	0	0	14,361	0	0	0	0
2(k) New building work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(l) Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,119</b>	<b>37,971</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192,090</b>	<b>159,370</b>	<b>29,580</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188,951</b>

**Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772**

**Notes to the STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the twelve months ended 31 December 2025**

**1 (a) VOLUNTARY INCOME**

**RESTRICTED INCOME**

Donations (including Gift Aid) and grants (see 1(b) below) totalling £8,064 have been given to support the ongoing costs of the Community Larder. In addition, a further £25,414 has been received as a contribution towards food, or at the café, £15 from cashback (chargecard) and £2,592 from fund raising activities.

**UNRESTRICTED INCOME**

Unrestricted voluntary donations in 2025 were £6,336 lower than in 2024 (£134,119 in 2025 vs £140,455 in 2024).

**1 (b) GRANTS**

Community Larder received £1,533 in grants.

A grant for £2,190 was provided for replacing the lighting with more efficient LED bulbs was provided - this work was undertaken during the year.

**2(a) PARISH SHARE**

The parish share was set at £65,743 for 2025.

**2(b) STAFF COSTS AND PENSION**

During the year the PCC employed an operations manager and a cleaner. None of these employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. No trustees received remuneration for their services as trustees. Total Staff Costs were:

	£
Gross Salaries	26,718
Employer NI	93
Pension Costs	545
	<u>27,356</u>

All employees are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme administered by The National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). The PCC meets its auto enrolment obligations for all eligible staff.

**2(d) CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES**

Governance: includes Independent Examiner's fee of £567 (inclusive of VAT).

**2(e) CHURCH ACTIVITY EXPENSES - RESTRICTED**

The planned AV/PA work was completed in 2025 but paid for by a separate generous donation. Consequently, the £872 balance from 2024 has been carried forward to put towards a drum screen.

With total income of £36,083 (with rounding) and expenses of £33,033 relating to the Community Larder, a surplus of £3,050 is added to the previous balance of £25,112 resulting in a new balance of £28,162.

The Community Hub ("Warm Space") made use of the balance of funds previously given for this purpose (£2,748) leaving a balance of £0 carried forward.

The church lights were replaced with LED bulbs costing £2,190, using the total of the grant provided.

BALANCES	£
Online AV provision	872
Community Larder	28,162
Community Hub/Warm Space	0
	<u>29,034</u>

**2(f) MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING**

<b>Grants of £1,000 or more made in the period</b>	£
Berti Frroku	1,000
Life & Soul	1,800
MAF	1,800
Tear Fund	1,000
SOZO Foundation	1,000

<b>Grants of &lt; £1,000 made in the period, for mission</b>	£
Other organisations/charities	3,845
Other individuals	0
	<u>10,445</u>

**3 PCC Members**

It is a common practice, for reasons of expedition and value for money, for members (or other church members) to be requested to make purchases on behalf of the PCC for which they are later reimbursed on production of documentation. All such transactions are recorded in the accounts and accounted for under the relevant heads of expenditure.

**Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772**

**Notes to the STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the twelve months ended 31 December 2025

**4 DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Tax recoverable	£13,513	£12,558
Bethel Trust loan	£5,000	£0
	<b>£18,513</b>	<b>£12,558</b>

**5 SHORT TERM DEPOSITS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
DBF Account	£216,984	£209,815
	<b>£216,984</b>	<b>£209,815</b>

**6 REPAIR FUNDS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Church	£26,727	£21,048
Hall	£18,920	£17,682
	<b>£45,647</b>	<b>£38,730</b>

**7 CASH AT BANK & IN HAND**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cash card - Hannah	£7	£191
Lloyds	£34,449	£42,836
Nat West	£26,921	£31,153
Lloyds - Larder	£22,298	£20,087
Petty Cash	£54	£51
	<b>£83,729</b>	<b>£94,318</b>

**8 CREDITORS/LIABILITIES**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Falling within one year		
PAYE - HMRC/Pension	£1,184	£1,567
Late invoices	£11,102	£6,170
Owed Tithe/Earmarked giving	£11,295	£6,545
ChargeCard bill	£1,037	£273
Parsonage decoration	£0	£3,000
Other <£1,500	£5,407	£8,837
	<b>£30,024</b>	<b>£26,392</b>

**DECLARATION**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:

David Hobden (PCC Chair)

Date (of the APCM): 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FAMILY MATTERS

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2019 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Perrys Accountants Limited  
Churchdown Chambers  
Bordyke  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN9 1NR

Dated: .....