

TAR 2025

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Graffham with Woolavington for the year ended 31st December 2025

Parish of Graffham with Woolavington

St Giles Church, Graffham, Petworth, GU28 0NJ

HMRC reference number X79965

Contents:

1	Trustees' Annual Report	02
2	The Financial Report	21
3	Independent Examiner's Report	29

Website: www.stgilesgraffham.org

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Vivien Turner, The Rectory, Graffham, Petworth, GU28 0NL

Church Wardens: Mrs Ginny Barrett, Greenwood Cottage, Graffham, GU28 0PT
Mrs Cindy Bradley, Upper Norwood Farm, Graffham. GU28 0QG

Independent Examiner: Mrs Rosalind Britton, Sandrock Cottage, Graffham, GU28 0QG

Bankers: NatWest and Barclays Bank.



Practising for Messy Church.

Parish of Graffham with Woolavington

Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Our aims and purposes as a charity

- The purpose of our charity is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, obeying Christ's two great commandments '*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*' Mark 12.30-31a
- Our key aims are to:
 - Manage parish affairs responsibly / **Governance**
 - NEW KEY AIM Realise a vision for our parish that responds to people's needs today / **Governance**
 - Provide a hospitable welcome for worshippers and visitors / **Worship**
 - Worship reverently, inclusively and accessibly / **Worship**
 - Grow in understanding and experience / **Worship**
 - Communicate our ministry and services effectively / **Community**
 - Serve our local community / **Community**
 - Offer support beyond our parish boundary / **Community**
 - Care for St Giles Church as a place of worship, historic monument and community resource / **Fabric**
 - Increase environmental care of our parish / **Fabric**

We also hold services at All Saints Chapel and help to maintain it in a welcoming condition as a place of worship, in conjunction with the All Saints' Chapel Trust.



Harvest Festival at St Giles; Presentation to retiring PCC Secretary.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

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

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

Following the strategy of the 'Four Mores' at the heart of the Chichester Diocesan Strategy 'Vision for Growth 2020-25', each of our parish aims has been identified in the context of being more open, more generous, more converted, and more engaged.

Aims and objectives for 2025

For 2025 the following objectives and activities were identified to fulfil our Mission Action Plan, linking as applicable to objectives from the four elements of the Chichester Diocesan Strategy 'Vision for Growth 2020-25'. They are formulated in an annual five-year planning meeting considering short- and long-term goals across all four areas of governance, worship, community, and fabric, encompassing the spectrum of charitable purposes of our charity.

Governance

- 1 Affirm and promote single parish ministry as a valuable model of ministry for the future of the Church of England, 'more open.'
- 2 Develop succession plans for key roles in the parish for good continuity of service, 'more engaged'
- 3 Continue to balance our budget: 'more generous.'

Worship

- 1 Be open to the introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith witnessing covenanted friendship between two people of the same or opposite genders: 'more open'.
- 2 Mark the 150th anniversary of the rededication of St Giles in a fitting manner: 'more open'
- 3 Build our congregations by attracting more participants, particularly younger members of the community: 'more converted.'

Community

- 1 Engage with important social concerns like poverty, environment, and loneliness: 'more engaged.'
- 2 Build relationships with local church school and other churches for mutual benefit; 'more engaged.'
- 3 Consider a survey to discover how best to serve our community in worship and outreach: 'more open; more engaged.'

Fabric

- 1 Progress maintenance on our church exterior and interior including roof and plasterwork: 'more open.'
- 2 Progress a project developing our church interior for worship, hospitality & community engagement: 'more open and more engaged.'

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives.

GOVERNANCE

Key Aims:

Manage parish affairs responsibly.

Realise a vision for our parish that responds to people's needs today.

Aims and Objectives for 2025: See page 3 and below.

Context

Graffham with Woolavington is an active benefice in Petworth Deanery in the Diocese of Chichester. At the beginning of the year Parish priest Revd Vivien Turner had been in post six and a half years. The Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 26 March 2025 when the electoral roll number was 75, following establishment of a new Roll. Mrs Virginia Barrett and Mrs Cindy Bradley continued as churchwardens. Including the priest in charge, two deanery synod members, and one co-opted member, the new PCC elected in 2025 had a complement of fourteen members for its now quarterly meetings. Tower Captain & Safeguarding Officer Mr Howard Pescott ensured our safeguarding responsibilities were fulfilled, transferring all relevant data into the new Safeguarding Dashboard. Graffham Parish News editor Mr Michael Blunt stepped down as PCC Secretary at the APCM and was warmly thanked for his service, and Mrs Liz Jenkins welcomed into this role. Alongside a small but highly supportive congregation, and a community generous with both time and talents, these willing volunteers enable the benefit our charity offers for others.

Aim 1: Affirm and promote single parish ministry as a valuable model of ministry for the future of the Church of England.

The five-year plan of the PCC resolved to take every step possible to maintain Graffham with Woolavington as a standalone rural benefice with its own priest and reap the benefits of this. The PCC continued to express support for the Save the Parish movement, encouraging its inspiration to retain single parishes as much as possible. With one church and chapel of ease, Reverend Vivien has good opportunity to engage in parish life, recognising how much a community seeks to be known and valued by its priest where, remarkably for a single parish, the Eucharist is offered every Sunday, with further Services two or three times a month.

Aim 2: Develop succession plans for key roles in the parish for good continuity of service.

In a parish whose modest size limits the availability of capable and willing volunteers the PCC recognises the importance of being forward-thinking and succession planning to enable the best continuity and vitality of service. Teamwork has proven a good policy in addressing this, for example, by continuing to share responsibility for various areas of the Treasurer role in 2025. The PCC was delighted to approve the appointment of Mrs Caroline Perry as an Administrative Assistant in 2025, relieving the parish priest of a number of administrative responsibilities and extending awareness of tasks needing to be performed in the parish.

Aim 3: Continue to balance our budget and be generous in our giving.

Maintaining parish financial security continued an important focus of attention in 2025. The Financial Statement following this report explains how the parish worked to fulfil the aim of balancing our budget this year. Our communication network continues to prove its worth in advertising our need for financial support to the community, eliciting a generous response.

WORSHIP

Key Aims:

Provide a hospitable welcome for worshippers and visitors.

Worship reverently, inclusively and accessibly.

Grow in understanding and experience.

Aims and objectives for 2025: See page 3 and below.

Pattern of Worship in our Parish.

Ambience and welcome in church

St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are part of the whole village community, an integral feature of a rural parish. Many value the church's presence and we do our best to serve holistically in the community and provide open opportunities for engagement in worship itself. Our church has long valued being open daily for villagers and visitors to the South Downs National Park, made possible through the kindness of a resident living nearby. Visible features of worship in our church remind visitors of the liveliness and spirituality of our worshipping community. A free welcome booklet explains our church history, and over a hundred entries in our visitors' book in 2025 include many good comments showing how much our church is appreciated.

Thank you for the lovely warm and informative welcome from the lady clearing your Easter flowers away. What a beautiful church. God bless you all. April 2025 - A wonderful and inspiring church. Impressive Parish Magazine. June 2025 - A peaceful place to be in a wonderfully well looked after church. July 2025 - So glad church was open, a special place as the wonderful Wilberforce family apparently lived in area. Praise to their memory for fighting for anti-slavery legislation. July 2025 - Like a pearl. Beautiful! Thank you. September 2025 - Lovely to see still here. Buddhist visitor October 2025 - Came to remember Sue Morton my school friend who died 1966. October 2025 - Reliving my childhood. My grandparents Tom and Dorothy Swards were sidesmen in the 60s and 70s October 2025

I really enjoyed the service in your beautiful church and wanted to comment on the wonderful welcome I received. It was so nice too that you had such a multicultural congregation (Italy, Argentina and to add to the mix, my origins are from Wales!). Email from visitor to service in June. NB The above visit coincided with our welcoming a party of Italian tourists visiting West Sussex who joined our Service that day. Please see page 19 for comment by a group member.

In 2025 table space was provided for information on entry to the church, with sheets allowing any congregation member to sign up as a welcomer, lesson reader, chalice assistant if authorised or refreshment provider. A much-appreciated seamstress created new children's bags to contribute to welcoming children to church, and beautifully embroidered seasonal legilium falls in green and purple to enhance our services. We look forward to completion of the set of four in due course. A table of tealights was set up to provide opportunity for quiet, private prayer after communion. A sparkling cool drink or warm mulled juice has continued to be offered after each Parish Eucharist, to offer hospitality, enjoy each other's company and welcome visitors after services. A prayer tree introduced at Christmas time has remained in church for service attenders and church visitors alike to remember a loved one or offer a prayer of concern or thanksgiving.

Cleaning and flower arranging

A dedicated group of church volunteers maintained the church in a clean and welcoming condition, with a rota of flower arrangers ensuring the church interior was enhanced by floral arrangements, most spectacularly evidenced during the 150th Rededication Anniversary Service and at Easter and Christmas Services. Filled planters on either side of the church door continued to contribute to the church's welcome.



A selection of flower arrangements for special occasions in 2025.

Music: Little Choir, Festal Choir, and Organists.

Supported by regular much appreciated excellent organists, the 'Little choir' singing during communion each Sunday continued to uplift congregations in worship in 2025. The choir is supported by monthly Saturday morning 'Come and Sing' sessions in which a small group of singers, and sometimes an organist, meet for an hour about once a month on a Saturday at St Giles Church to sing together.

We enjoy singing an assortment of both new and familiar congregational hymns from our hymn book 'Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship' and hymns suitable to sing during Communion. Some of the new hymns are becoming regular features in our Sunday morning services. We also look at hymns from other hymn books and resources – from the Taizé and Iona Communities, and from contemporary pastoral music composers including Marty Haugen, Bernadette Farrell, Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty and John Bell. We also sing anthems which have included so far Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart), Lead me, Lord (Wesley) and Panis Angelicus (Franck). Everyone is very welcome to join us! Report by Come and Sing organiser

The larger Festal Choir including local people and one young chorister also came together for special services like the Rededication Anniversary and Lessons and Carols, contributing to community life and the quality of music in church. The Peruvian Gloria continues to be sung in Services, appreciated particularly by younger congregation members. A significant addition to the church's musical provision this year was the anonymous gift of a baby grand piano to replace the upright piano then currently in use. The church is grateful to those who provided each of these pianos to enhance the church's worship.

Bells

Hearing the bells ring out on a Sunday morning or during bell ringing practice is a welcome aspect of village life. The team of bell ringers meet every week for practice with an additional once a month on a Saturday morning. They are supported by visiting trainers. Visiting bell ringing teams also are warmly welcomed. Two quarter peals were rung during the year, and

one peal of 5040 changes of spliced surprise minor comprising 14 methods on 31 December by a band of ringers from Steyning, in honour of St Giles 150th Rededication Anniversary. Social gatherings and a ringers' outing giving the ringers chance to ring in other churches including this year at Chichester cathedral contributed to the social aspect of ringing for everyone participating.

Graffham Infant School

From the beginning of 2025 weekly Infant School Assemblies began to take place alternately in school and church. This has been a welcome introduction allowing the children to become more familiar with the church, and for the priest in charge to describe its features, seasons and Services. Christingle, Easter and end of Year Services and an annual Nativity play also take place in church, with parents attending. A lay member of the church has also been much appreciated for leading some assemblies this year.

Acts of Worship in our parish

Aim 1: Be open to the introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith witnessing covenanted friendship between two people of the same or opposite genders: 'more open'.

This first aim was decided upon in response to a request by two well respected members of the local community for a Service in church to celebrate their long-standing serious mutual commitment. However, the number of people wishing to support them by attending made the regular Sunday Service impractical. The subsequent hope that General Synod would broaden its permission in 2025 for this public covenant friendship commitment to take place as a standalone act of worship failed to be realised, making our parish unable to honour their request in this way. This PCC continues to remain pastoral sensitive to this concern and hopes for greater openness to come, permitting honourable commitment between two people of the same gender to be publicly declared in accessible ways.

Aim 2: Mark the 150th anniversary of the rededication of St Giles in a fitting manner: 'more open'

Please see under *Festival, Family and Special Services: September to November*.

Aim 3: Build our congregations by attracting more participants, particularly younger members of the community: 'more converted.'

This is a perennial aim of our parish church, though in practice our challenge is as much to keep our numbers steady and to thrive within that realistic context. We are always delighted when new people decide to join us in worship and we welcome them as much as we can, value their company and build friendships. A small church has the advantage of being able to do this well. Messy Church also provides a new, practical way of including more families which is good to see developing.

Regular Sunday Services

A new welcome introduction to the Parish Eucharist in 2025 has been the offertory procession in which children particularly, when available, are encouraged to bring up bread and wine for Communion. Tealights are also now provided for congregation members to light prayerfully after communion, which has been taken up enthusiastically. In addition to weekly Parish

Eucharist and monthly BCP Matins, Holy Communion and Evensong Services, families continued to be encouraged to attend monthly 'Third Sunday' morning Services. Their broader remit provided more flexibility following a variety of themes and styles of worship. Sunday evening Taizé Prayer Chapel Services also continued to be supported and appreciated, benefitting this year by the accompaniment of a harpist.

By the way I thought your sermon on Sunday was very clever linking the OT with today's problems! I could hear S making agreeing noises behind me... Email of church member.

Festival, Family and Special Services

A full programme of Seasonal Services was offered in 2025, the variety of worship offered evidenced by the following calendar of Services, with all the opportunities of deepening worship this affords. A new key aim in 2025 to realise a vision for our parish that responds to people's needs found expression in broadening people's perception of where an act of worship can take place, as evidenced by some occasions of worship described below.

January to April – Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter

One of the Annual Petworth Area Churches Together Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer lunches took place in the unusual location of the Graffham Sports Pavilion and was well received by those who attended from different churches in the area.

We could all see that you had put much thought into the prayers, and I must say that it set me thinking. The hospitality afterwards was impressive; the ladies of Graffham did us proud. Altogether, it will be a hard act to follow, but it is the fellowship that matters, and it doesn't get much better than we had today. It seems that your wish to spread our activities around the churches has got off to a very good start. Thank you from all of us in PACT for making this happen. Email of PACT chair from Roman Catholic church following occasion.

It was a lovely occasion, and the pavilion was the perfect setting! Everyone really enjoyed it and were very enthusiastic about the lunch too! Email of parishioner.



Unity prayer lunch at pavilion; churchwardens at Petworth Deanery Year of Faith Service

The 950th anniversary of Chichester Diocese Year of Faith Deanery Service at St Mary's Petworth was also well attended by our parish, with churchwardens processing and testimony by a young adult member of our church. This inspired further testimony of congregants' faith journeys in our church during the weeks of Lent.

Mothering Sunday and Holy Week were fully observed, with Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot-washing ceremony followed by a Watch of Prayer in the Lady Chapel Garden of Gethsemane with effective gradual extinguishing of candles, Tenebrae style. A Good Friday walk carrying the cross preceded the Good Friday Liturgy which included a recording of the Reproaches. An Easter Eve Service welcomed Easter this year, with a fine fire and Paschal candle-lighting and celebratory Easter Family Eucharist the following morning. This wonderfully included the total immersion baptism of an adult candidate in a birthing pool in the churchyard, and the blessing of lambs and dogs.



Easter at St Giles Graffham

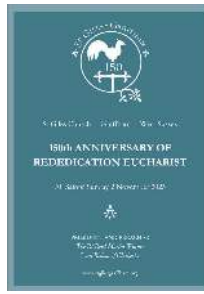
May to August

Seasonal Services for Ascension and Pentecost were offered in church and VE80 and VJ80 prayers said at the War Memorial on 8 May and 15 August respectively. Bell Sunday again highlighted the contribution of ringers to our worship and gave opportunity to give thanks for this. An afternoon Songs of Praise Service with organist and tea in a parishioners' garden also uplifted our summer worship this year.

September to December

St Giles Sunday, Harvest Festival with the blessing of food donated by the schools and parishioners, an Animal Blessing Service, and St Luke's service with anointing for healing took place during September and October and were all much appreciated.

A great highlight of this year was the Service celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Rededication of St Giles Church in memory of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, Lord of the Manor of Graffham, on Sunday 2 November. Much preparation went into this service, which was presided over by Bishop of Chichester Martin Warner, who carried Wilberforce's own crozier in the Service - as seen in the photograph below. Invited clergy included Bishop Humphrey Southern, Principal of Ripon Cuddesdon Theological College, founded by Wilberforce; also the new Archdeacon of Chichester and the Chaplain of Seaford College which now occupies Wilberforce's home, Lavington House in Graffham. Others invited included our MP, representatives of our schools and parish councils and the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and descendants of Wilberforce. The church was filled for the Service for which our church bells rang out joyfully and choir of church and village sang, augmented by talented former students of Seaford College, Louisa and Sam. Three St Giles organists accompanied the singing in church for a glorious celebratory act of worship with thanksgiving that day.



The pictures of the Service really capture the light-filled happy spirit of the day. Congratulations to all involved for making it such a wonderful occasion. Email of Chair of Graffham Parish Council.

I cannot fathom the amount of organising and effort it must have taken you and the entire team to produce today. It was a huge success and it was a joy to see people so happy and giving glory to God. Email of school chaplain following Service.

Be assured everyone present this morning was enthralled by such a beautiful, well thought through and thought-provoking Service - Quite how everyone remembered to be in the right place at the right time I can't imagine. Emails of attenders.

Thank you so much for inviting J to do the reading! Recognising these historic figures from our community is very important and will hopefully inspire the next generation. Email of mother of young person invited to read at the Service.

The pictures of the Service really capture the light-filled happy spirit of the day. Congratulations to all involved for making it such a wonderful occasion. Email of chair of Graffham Parish Council

It was an honour to be there. I cannot remember a more uplifting Sunday! Email of newly appointed Archdeacon of Chichester - *Thank you for all your work in bringing this event together, and the pastoral work that undergirds it as part of pattern of rural ministry and mission.* Email of Bishop Martin of Chichester.

Traditional observance of Remembrance took place both in church and at the War Memorial, with wreaths laid by the Chairs of both Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils, and the parish church.



Infant school children's poppies; wreath marking VE80; Remembrance Sunday display.



Child's Christmas card of St Giles Church; Advent wreath in church; Christmas illuminations; Nativity angels processing..

Following our traditional Advent Service with Seaford College choir, a full programme of seasonal services took place in December. In addition to Infant School Services and Nativity, this included Lessons and Carols with gathered choir, and ever-more-rousing carol singing in the Foresters Arms. A full church attended our Christmas Eve Crib Service, with animals in the tower 'stable', enjoyed by very many families. This was followed once again by a candlelit first Eucharist of Christmas, providing a peaceful, serious beginning to Christmas. A Christmas Day Family Eucharist on Christmas Day made Christmas joyful for all who came.

It really was a super Service and we are ever so pleased to be involved each time. Your new piano is simply beautiful and makes a beautiful sound - Kate was delighted to play it. Email of Seaford school director of music.

It was a beautiful Service this evening, you chose all the readings and carols for all so well. It was nice that so many people stayed for a decent amount of time at the end - great community spirit. Email of church organist and choir arranger - What a wonderful service and excellent choice of the loveliest carols. A perfect start to Christmas! Email of service attender.



Messy church Goes Wild at Lavington Stud and Messy Advent Worship at All Saints Chapel.

'Messy Church'

Messy Church, introduced to Graffham in November 2024, continued to be offered on six occasions in 2025, including a 'Messy Church Goes Wild' session in the summer. Craft work and a time of worship on a Christian theme followed by a hot shared meal continued to be the format followed, with generous support from a number of enthusiastic helpers. The location moved during the year from the pavilion to a working farm for the summer session, and then to the Empire Hall, as the advantages and disadvantages of different venues were explored. The opportunity to help families engage with the Christian faith in creative ways has been both recognised and welcomed by the Parochial Church Council.

Occasional offices

Baptism and Confirmation

Two couples married at St Giles brought their first babies for baptism in 2025, and an adult was baptised by total immersion in the churchyard, followed by confirmation at St Mary's Petworth. All these occasions lifted our spirits and made us hopeful for the church.

Thank you again for a wonderful service and making it so joyful for us and all the congregation. The children loved having the bags of fun that went around, a very thoughtful addition. Email from grandparent in baptism family.



Weddings and wedding blessings

In 2025 the church of St Peter's Woolavington in the parish of Graffham with Woolavington was sold to Seaford College as a chapel. Consequently, the number of weddings for which our parish is responsible has lessened. Nevertheless we continue to welcome couples here. Two weddings took place at St Giles in 2025, particularly memorable for being both on the same day. In addition, we were pleased to welcome back a couple to renew their vows on the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding at St Giles. We continue to do our very best to make every occasion personal, individual and memorable for every couple.

Your words and kindness made the day so special and meaningful for us both. So many of our guests commented on how personal, uplifting and memorable the ceremony as - it really set the perfect tone for the celebration to follow. Card from wedding couple E&M

Thank you so much for this lovely and unforgettable wedding service! PS We are still smiling :). Card from wedding couple P&M - It was such a privilege to be part of the joyous wedding of P&M. What a truly lovely couple they are and what a beautiful service. Email of chorister.

Funeral Services

Six funerals and one thanksgiving service took place at St Giles in 2025, with four churchyard burials and one burial of ashes, a valued aspect of ministry in service to those who grieve.

I was so moved by the service and so impressed with the care and thought you'd put into your address. My own mood lifted from morbid sorrow to a real sense of being reminded of the true meaning of the Christian faith. It was uplifting. Letter of attender at MR funeral.

Study

Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrim Study Group continued to offer a regular weekly pattern of worship and study in 2025. Galatians for Everyone by Tom Wright was studied alongside Lent and Advent courses. Preparation for confirmation took place with support from Pilgrim group members. A visit to the Wintershall 'Life of Christ' on 20 June was another highlight of the year.



Wintershall Life of Christ; Singing at Songs of Praise; Reception for magazine distributors.

COMMUNITY

Key Aims:

- Communicate our ministry and services effectively.
- Serve our local community.
- Offer support beyond our parish boundary.

Aims and Objectives for 2025: See page 3 and below.

Communications

Communication with those living in the Parish continues to go well. Graffham Parish News is delivered free every month to all households within the Parish. The magazine is well written, informative and great to read and provides a vital tool of communication to everyone, now including a village calendar. Free copies are also left in the public houses in the village and village shop where copies are read by the many walkers and cyclists that stop for refreshments spreading village news and events to a much wider audience. The magazine now benefits from free printing, an amazing gift from a family recently moved to the village, whom we warmly thank. The magazine is supported by the St Giles website and the church page on the village Facebook site. Once again, a Christmas card was included with the December issue of the GPN, giving details of all services and activities over the Christmas period as well as a message from Rev. Vivien. Our team of volunteers who deliver the magazine each month also hand addressed the cards to add to the welcome message.

Community Life

The village of Graffham is vibrant and welcoming, a wide range of pastoral and social activities that take place throughout the year in which St Giles plays an important part. Members of the church community are closely involved in these activities throughout the year, building community life in our village in various ways, growing friendships as well as providing financial benefit for the church and other important causes. As well as regular coffee mornings and afternoon teas, including a delightful coffee morning held in the Foresters pub, a well-attended much appreciated Bridge tea at the Empire Hall, and a great open air movie night at the Foresters', the following standalone events from the calendar took place in 2025.

Lent Lunch in March

In 2025 a Lent Lunch was held in the Empire Hall, this year's speaker was Wes Wright from Frontline Debt Advice, a support group that a villager volunteers with. Once again, the soup served at the lunch was made by locals along with the homemade bread, and cheeses. A collection taken supported this charity in its work.

I thought the Lent lunch was great - a superb effort by the generous Graffham ladies. The talk was interesting and certainly pointed up a great need. Email of attender.

Graffham Fete in August

Building on the success at the 2024 fete, St Giles Church once again ran a 'Graffham Fashion Exchange' at the annual village summer fete. Unwanted clothes were collected in church and visitors to the Fete had the opportunity to exchange or take away free of charge or for a voluntary donation. This initiative brings awareness of the wastage in the clothing industry and also helps those who do not have the wherewithal to buy.

Harvest Supper in September

The Annual Harvest Meal reverted to a Supper in 2025, this year local villagers provided entertainment with folk songs and poetry readings. This is a "Bring & Share" event and it is amazing how the right number of main course dishes and desserts come together. Donations from this event are given to the Foodbank while produce from the Harvest Festival Services is taken to Stonepillow.



Lent lunchers; Harvest offerings for Stonepillow; Sponsored walk to Abinger Roughs.

Sponsored Walk in September

The sponsored walk in 2025 took walkers along a route in the Surrey hills leading to the memorial to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce on Abinger Roughs, where he sadly fell from his horse in 1872. Public distress following the news of his death due to this fall led to the subscription which funded the rededication of St Giles Church. It was fitting to make this pilgrimage therefore, ahead of the 150th anniversary service in St Giles. We were glad to show our respect by doing so.

150th Anniversary of the Rededication of St Giles Church in November

This was an important celebration for Graffham and brought together many who although not regular "church goers" wanted to be part of this special occasion. Our talented village graphic designer produced a logo that was used in the months leading up to November on all church communications and invitations. Nearer the date posters inviting all villagers to the service and reception were put around the village. Because of the articles in the GPN local benefactors came forward to support us, including a sizeable financial donation and the offer of a local pub to make the canapes for 150 guests attending the reception, and of the local funeral director to pay for printing the service booklets. Banners were produced and put in the church during the weeks leading up to November, these gave the history of the original dedication. On the day itself they were moved from the church to the reception. For the first time in many years there was a direct link with Graffham Infants School as the reception was held in the school hall. The Headteacher and School Business Manager were very helpful and supportive in preparing the space even though it was the half term holiday.

It was a wonderful day for our community, the church was full to bursting with regular congregation members, village residents and special guests. The reception following the service was an opportunity for the congregation to come together and admire the children's artwork describing what St Giles means to them now, that decorated the Hall. Tea towels designed by a Graffham artist and a book of the recipes of Graffham residents printed through the generosity of a local resident printer were all sold at the event. A truly happy and unifying day.



The church looked so wonderful, clean and sparkling with beautiful flowers, the car parking seemed to go without a hitch and the reception worked really well. It was good to see us all working together as a team. Thank you. Email of reception organiser.

It was a wonderful Service and you did a great job. It was really lovely to be able to invite so many into the school hall afterwards and I met a number of new people from the village. Email of new school headmaster.

Absolutely fantastic achievement! Thank you to everyone who supported this. So next year I now need to work my way through the recipes... Email of recipe book purchaser.

Christmas Fair in December

This very special village event really kicks starts the Christmas Celebrations within Graffham and is a major fund raiser for church funds. Once again Father Christmas was able to visit and traditional Christmas music was played on the piano. Graffham is a village of great cooks and bakers and this year's homemade produce was fantastic. In fact, all produce sold at the Fair including sausages, charcutier, cheese and metal work was made within 2 miles of Graffham. The tree used to decorate the Hall was taken up to St Giles and erected by the Lychgate to welcome villagers and school children to the Christmas services. For a second year a parent from Graffham Infants School provided and installed lights along the path to the church adding to the ambience and welcome.

Carol Singing at The Foresters Arms in December

Building on last year's success many villagers gathered in the local pub on the last Sunday before Christmas. Delicious refreshments were provided by the landlord and traditional carol singing was followed by singing of Christmas songs. Once again the generous collection was in aid of St Giles' Church.

Reverend Vivien was also delighted to be invited to bless this village pub earlier in the year, at the beginning of a new phase of management, by 'chalking the door' with the Epiphany message 20+C+M+B+25 *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, 'Christ Bless this House' and the additional adage *Reverenda Gratis Bibit*, 'the Reverend drinks for free!'



Hospitality and carols in aid of St Giles at the Foresters' Arms; The Reverend's Sherry decanter now reserved for her use.

Aim 1: Engage with important social concerns like poverty, environment, and loneliness.

PACT

Regular contact with Petworth Area Churches Together members enabled fellowship and the furthering of mutual social concerns in joint enterprises. The village collection point for the Petworth Foodbank managed by PACT remains in the church for church members to contribute regularly.

Teddy Time

This small weekly group continued to provide opportunity for parents, carers, children and church representatives to get together, so helpful for those caring for children on their own in the daytime, courtesy of the pavilion committee which offered this free of charge.

Food with friends

A new initiative started in 2023 continued to thrive in 2025, with new people joining this year. A simple monthly shared lunch, home-made soup, bread and cake, and fresh fruit being offered to village residents who live alone, an opportunity to meet and enjoy a social meal, and guard against loneliness.

Thank you again for hosting Food with Friends. It is such a wonderful thing to have started and certainly prevents people feeling lonely or forgotten. Email of attender.

Charitable donations

Social and fundraising events described above show our church's engagement with people's difficulties and concerns. The PCC donated 10% of its income, once costs have been met, to designated charities. In addition, our Parish Priest Discretionary Fund continued to support families and people in need in 2025, and a congregation member took her own initiative to collect a car boot full of shoeboxes for Ukraine. Cash donations to the Lent lunch debt relief charity, and to the Foodbank following the annual Harvest lunch, and generous amounts of produce for the homeless charity Stonepillow from church and school were delivered at Harvest time. No matter how much is provided, it remains a small part of what is needed to bring relief to all in need. We hope what we do expresses the care and concern we have for others and a little of what is needed to help provide relief.

Aim 2: Build relationship with local church schools and other churches for mutual benefit.

Lavington Park Federation Schools

Good relationship with our Infant school has been enhanced by the appointment of a new headmaster who is enthusiastically supportive of a close relationship between church and school. Alongside Reverend Vivien's regular assemblies in school, and festival services in church at Christmas, Easter, and the end of school year with presentation of holding cross and Lord's Prayer, and Foundation Governor visits to school and nursery to get to know pupils and their work, parishioners continue to come to come into school to help pupils with their reading skills, and the Parish Priest's Discretionary Fund is drawn on for the benefit of families in need.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for awarding us this much needed funding towards our play therapy. Email from headteacher following donation from the Parish Priest's Discretionary Fund.

Your service yesterday was really wonderful and very heartwarming to have so many lovely children and parents in attendance. The relationship between Church and School is a true reflection of yesterday. Email of congregation member.

Seaford College

Once again, we were delighted to welcome school children to help clean and tidy the church as part of the Seaford College Community Action Day in June, Seaford College choir also led singing at our Advent Service, and for the first time provided an excellent chorister to augment our village choir at the Lessons and Carols.

We have been glad to fulfil our mission in this parish in all these worthwhile ways, enabled through the energy and dedication of church members facilitating community life in this parish. We hope our service to others will inspire greater service and commitment to the whole of church life in this part of rural West Sussex, increasing faith and enabling ever more generous giving of time, talents, and resources in God's service. We hope too it will show what is possible for a single small parish to achieve with the support of a resident priest in charge who considers chaplaincy to the community integral to ministry here.

Aim 3: Consider a survey to discover how best to serve our community in worship and outreach. *This aim has once again been held over until 2026.*

FABRIC

Key Aims:

Care for St Giles Church as a place of worship, historic monument, and community resource.
Increase environmental care of our parish.

Aims and objectives for 2025: See page 3 and below.

Context

St Giles Church is situated within an open churchyard in the shelter of the South Downs with delightful views across the countryside and an open churchyard extension. The core of the church is medieval, though much rebuilt in the later nineteenth century in memory of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. The main construction of the church is Fittleworth stone with walls faced in flint. The steeped church has a nineteenth century tower, containing six working bells.



Churchyard working party breakfast; next page, churchyard wildflowers; souvenir booklet of Italians' visit to West Sussex, including Service at St Giles Church; Betty the pony at Crib Service

Aim 1: Progress maintenance on our church exterior and interior including roof and plasterwork.

Exterior Environment including Churchyards

Our churchwardens and Fabric Group continue to work hard to maintain both our church and two churchyards, also encouraging urgency to bring about greater care of our planet for which we continue to pray each Sunday. Once again in summer, the old churchyard was partially left to grow wildflowers, including many orchids, to charming effect and the benefit of the local ecology, extensive research of species discovered having been charted and uploaded onto the church website. Both churchyards continued to receive attention during the year, with church and village work-parties and friends continuing to manage hedge-cutting and churchyard extension clearing and tidying, for which we are most grateful. Alongside ongoing discussion between church and parish council concerning the funding of repairs, a report on the condition of the church boundary wall by the church architect was also commissioned and received this year.

Interior Environment

The condition of the church roof continued to be a focus of attention in 2025. We continue to hope this work will be sufficient to prevent leakage in the future. Ahead of the 150th anniversary service, chancel and sanctuary walls were replastered and repainted. We also worked to implement the recommendations in the current quinquennial and bell-tower inspections, to the timescales recommended, with regular inspection of the bells and bell frames continues conducted by the steeple-keeper and team, and hosted further visitors interested in the pew cushion heating which was installed here in 2023. Plans were also set in place to transfer the electricity account to a more ethical provider, which has taken place.

Aim 2: Progress a project developing our church interior for worship, hospitality & community engagement.

A long-standing aim to improve St Giles church by providing a lavatory and tea point, more environmentally sensitive and effective heating, better vestry and storage arrangements, informally described as the 'Teepee' project, began to be developed in 2025. Ahead of briefing architects to provide estimates of the projected cost of preparing plans for proposed church improvements, a digital survey of the church was carried out, and the first architect meeting took place in December. Whilst an ambitious project for a small church congregation, the PCC has now set wheels in motion to reveal the potential for its completion, supported by the village community.



FABRIC



COMMUNITY



WORSHIP

'I have travelled extensively. This was the best trip I have ever had. It was uplifting to be in the company of so many friendly and helpful people. Attending an Anglican service, led so sensitively, was a highlight.' Katalin Somkutl, entry by Italian visitor in visit booklet above.

Aims and objectives for 2026

For 2026 the following objectives and activities have been identified to fulfil our Mission Action Plan. These are formulated in an annual five-year planning meeting considering short- and long-term goals across all four areas of leadership, worship, community, and fabric, encompassing the spectrum of charitable purposes of our charity.

Governance

- 1 Affirm and promote single parish ministry as a valuable model of ministry for the future of the Church of England and do our best to enable St Giles to remain a single parish.
- 2 Develop succession plans for key roles in the parish for good continuity of service.
- 3 Encourage people to volunteer to share tasks and spread the load of serving our parish as much as possible.

Worship

- 1 Encourage people to come to church.
- 2 Encourage people to train to lead intercessions in church services.
- 3 Use village facilities in as many ways as possible in offering worship and study, to reach out into the community and beyond.

Community

- 1 Continue to engage with important concerns like poverty, environment and loneliness and revise our church charitable giving policy.
- 2 Begin to work on fundraising to support the Church Development 'Teepee' Project.
- 3 Organise a survey to discover how best to serve our community in worship and outreach.

Fabric

- 1 Complete repairs on our church exterior and interior including roof and plasterwork.
- 2 Progress the Church Development 'Teepee' Project to benefit worship, hospitality & community engagement.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The PCC is a charity but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

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

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Vivien Turner	Chair
Wardens:	Mrs Virginia Barrett Mrs Cindy Bradley	

Elected Members

Mrs Diane Bellis	+ Deanery Synod
Mrs Ann Brown	+ Deanery Synod
Mr Stuart Lewis	
Mr Michael Blunt	+PCC Secretary to March 2025 +Parish Magazine Editor
Mrs Fiona Mackie	+ Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Marie Bracey	+PCC Vice chair
Mrs Barbara Edge	
Mrs Nettie Lanaghan	
Mr Howard Pescott	+ Safeguarding Officer + Tower Captain
Mrs Dinah Lamming	+ Treasurer
Mrs Liz Jenkins	+ PCC Secretary from March 2025

Co-opted member

Miss Beanie Bradley

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and six (if up to 50 on electoral roll) or nine (if up to 100 on electoral roll) or a further three (per hundred names on electoral roll) members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd Vivien Turner, Chair

..... Date.....

Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31st, 2025

The Financial Review

Summary

St Giles has had a good year financially too, with income of £83,680 and spending of £71,033, ending the year with funds of £127,867 – a healthy balance sheet given the church development project we are now embarking upon.

Our aim for 2025 was to at least balance our budget so that all costs were covered by income generated in the year, but the generosity of parishioners – whether giving in church or supporting our events – has meant that we were able to add a surplus of over £10,000 at year end to our funds. Not only does this give us a good start to the fundraising we'll need to do to make the improvements to the church that Vivien has described, but it's comforting to have a healthy balance in a year when the five-yearly Quinquennial inspection by the church architects is due.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	general	designated	restricted	endowment	2025	2024
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	39,229	—	12,136	—	51,365	46,802
Charitable activities	3,838	—	470	—	4,308	7,449
Trading activities	24,803	—	—	—	24,803	21,773
Investments	2,603	—	—	602	3,205	3,142
Other	—	—	—	—	—	0
Total income	70,472	—	12,606	602	83,680	79,166
Payments						
Cost of raising funds	1,396	—	—	—	1,396	1,075
Cost of charitable activities	44,870	—	23,360	—	68,230	74,694
Trading costs	1,407	—	—	—	1,407	7,277
Total expenditure	47,673	—	23,360	—	71,033	83,047
Gains/losses on investment assets	(1,071)	—	—	(866)	(1,938)	1,079
Net income / (expenditure) before transfer	21,727	—	(10,754)	(264)	10,709	(2,803)
Transfers						
Transfers between funds, in	—	—	14,638	—	14,638	0
Transfers between funds, out	—	(14,036)	—	(602)	(14,638)	0
Net movement in funds	21,727	(14,036)	3,884	(866)	10,709	(2,803)
Total funds brought forward	36,815	41,679	16,999	21,673	117,167	119,969
Total funds carried forward	58,542	27,643	20,883	20,807	127,876	117,167

INCOME

Donations and legacies

Giving to the church – in the Statement of financial activities as ‘Donations and legacies’ – totalled £51,365 in 2025, up from £46,802 in 2024. As the more detailed ‘Analysis of receipts and payments’ tables, below, shows, giving in and to the church was largely flat on 2024, except for the Parish Giving Scheme, which goes from strength to strength. Gift Aid recovery was strong too, though as set out here last year, that was to be expected as we moved from a quarter by quarter reclaim to an annual one.

Otherwise, grant income was strong again, as Stuart Lewis continued to apply for, and win, grants towards building costs; and so was income from the Listed Places of Worship scheme where we reclaim the VAT on that work (a scheme sadly being discontinued this April).

Charitable activities

This is fee income from weddings and funerals, and at £4,308, is below the outturn from 2024 – when the church saw multiple weddings – but still ahead of our budgeted number.

Trading activities

Trading, however, was well ahead of our 2025 budget, bringing in £24,803 (against £21,773 in 2024). Advertising and subscriptions in and to the parish magazine brought in £10,033 gross, £8,626 net – an incredible margin thanks to the generosity of villager Paul Emberson who prints it free of charge, not to mention the enormous hard work of editors Michael Blunt, Bill Barrett and Philippa Sanders. More hard work came from Marie Bracey and her Christmas Fair team, which is a huge contributor to the church’s income; and from Fiona Mackie and her team, who conceived of and then produced a village cookery book, raising over £4,000 for the church. Many thanks to all of them and of course to you, any Graffham villagers reading this, who support these endeavours with generosity and enthusiasm.

Investment income

Also ahead of the 2024 number, and of our 2025 budget, at £3,205.

EXPENDITURE

Cost of charitable activities

As mentioned in 2024, the payment to Chichester Diocese is the largest recurring cost we have: £28,786 in 2025 as our contribution to the diocese, and indeed the wider Church of England, for its work – not least in supporting our parish.

The second largest cost this past year was for work on the fabric of St Giles – this time largely to the roof and internal plasterwork. As mentioned under ‘Income’, above, much of this cost was offset by grant income – and applying for grants will be a large part of the fundraising campaign we are expecting to do to raise funds for the church development project. Costs here were lower than in 2024, however, when the major part of the work on the roof was done: overall fabric costs totalled £21,621, almost £10,000 less than was spent in 2024 – and it is this that accounts for the lower overall spending figure in 2025.

After the parish share to the Diocese, and the work on the building, the rest of the costs of charitable activities – set out in the ‘Analysis of receipts and payments’ table below – are for the running of the church over the year, from churchyard maintenance, to visiting priests, to looking after the bells and organ, to energy costs and incumbent expenses.

Finally, as far as charitable giving is concerned, the church made several gifts to charities over the year, and Revd. Vivien has also made payments from the Parish Priest's Discretionary Fund – a generously grant-funded restricted fund on our balance sheet whose aim is to help local families, both in the village and at the school, who are in financial need.

It is worth noting that, as in 2024, 'Gifts to charities' look lower in this table than they in reality were: gifts pledged in one year but paid in the next are not acknowledged here, as they are accounted for under 'agency collections'. From 2026 we are going to pay out donations immediately to ensure a representative figure for St Giles' giving to charities (see also comment under 'Liabilities', below).

Cost of raising funds, trading costs

Low this year – much lower this year for trading, thanks to the generosity of the Emberson family, mentioned above – and low too for the various fundraising events that took place over 2025.

ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS	general	designated	restricted	endowment	2025	2024
Donations and legacies						
Gift-aided donations: st. orders, CAF	2,370	—	—	—	2,370	2,660
Parish Giving Scheme (gift-aided)	16,127	—	—	—	16,127	15,483
Gift-aided donations: envelopes	310	—	—	—	310	60
Parish Giving Scheme (not gift-aided)	454	—	—	—	454	544
Collections	3,269	—	—	—	3,269	4,978
St Giles donations box	20	—	—	—	20	69
One-off Gift Aid gifts	1,429	—	—	—	1,429	3,634
Other donations	3,211	—	2,104	—	5,315	2,795
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	6,956	—	—	—	6,956	4,772
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	0
LPOW VAT grant	—	—	7,033	—	7,033	0
Other grants	5,000	—	3,000	—	8,000	11,750
Other	82	—	—	—	82	57
	39,229	—	12,136	—	51,365	46,802
Charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,838	—	470	—	4,308	7,449
	3,838	—	470	—	4,308	7,449
Trading activities						
Christmas Fair	7,825	—	—	—	7,825	5,191
Other fundraising events	6,945	—	—	—	6,945	7,631
Parish mag advertising: current year	5,963	—	—	—	5,963	4,384
Parish mag advertising: advances	3,700	—	—	—	3,700	4,509
Parish magazine: subscriptions, sales	370	—	—	—	370	58
	24,803	—	—	—	24,803	21,773
Investments						
CBF funds interest income	2,603	—	—	602	3,205	3,142
	2,603	—	—	602	3,205	3,142
TOTAL	70,472	—	12,606	602	83,680	79,166

PAYMENTS	general	designated	restricted	endowment	2025	2024
Cost of raising funds						
Christmas Fair	404	—	—	—	404	785
Other events	992	—	—	—	992	290
	1,396	—	—	—	1,396	1,075
Cost of charitable activities						
Gifts to charities	1,124	—	214	—	1,338	1,543
Diocese contribution, Deanery costs	28,786	—	—	—	28,786	26,656
Incumbent's expenses	1,027	—	—	—	1,027	830
Rectory - council tax, water, fuel	4,714	—	—	—	4,714	4,265
Rectory - repairs, renewals	—	—	—	—	—	0
Parish training and mission	87	—	—	—	87	133
Organ repair/ piano tuning	—	—	525	—	525	0
Routine repairs, maintenance	1,271	—	—	—	1,271	1,036
Upkeep of services	219	—	—	—	219	525
Church flowers	150	—	—	—	150	218
Churchyard and cemetery maintenance	2,568	—	—	—	2,568	2,423
Bells repairs, renewal, maintenance	—	—	73	—	73	0
Administration/other	2,036	—	—	—	2,036	2,007
Visiting priests	43	—	—	—	43	40
Church utility bills	406	—	1,066	—	1,472	1,723
Church insurance	2,300	—	—	—	2,300	2,249
Major church repairs, redecoration	139	—	19,022	—	19,161	31,047
Major new building work	—	—	2,460	—	2,460	0
	44,870	—	23,360	—	68,230	74,694
Trading costs						
Parish magazine	1,407	—	—	—	1,407	7,277
	1,407	—	—	—	1,407	7,277
TOTAL	47,673	—	23,360	—	71,033	83,047
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	22,799	—	(10,754)	602	12,647	(3,881)

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	general	designated	restricted	endowment	2025	2024
Current assets - cash at bank and in hand						
NatWest current account	2,034	—	—	—	2,034	3,589
Barclays current account	27,763	—	1,355	—	29,118	20,482
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	28,744	22,800	—	—	51,544	45,198
	58,541	22,800	1,355	—	82,696	69,269
Current assets - investments						
CCLA CBF/610072001S Investment fund	—	4,843	20,885	—	25,728	26,800
CCLA CBF/110001731S (Nudd fund)	—	—	—	15,880	15,880	16,542
CCLA CBF/110001739S (Brandt fund)	—	—	—	4,926	4,926	5,132
	—	4,843	20,885	20,806	46,534	48,473
Liabilities						
Agency collections	—	—	1,355	—	1,355	575
	—	—	1,355	—	1,355	575
TOTAL	58,541	27,643	20,885	20,806	127,876	117,167

Thanks to the surplus of income over spending in 2025, the church's funds at the end of the year stood over £10,000 higher than at year end 2024, now at £127,876 – an excellent result.

Reserves policy

Over the year, we have begun at once to simplify the structure of our accounts and to formulate a reserves policy that combines prudence with the need to allocate funding towards the church development project.

On the simplification, we plan to spend down some of the smaller restricted funds. The designated fund – £27,643 at year end – is now designated against the church development project. Any new monies from fundraising for that project will be restricted and so held in the restricted Fabric Fund.

When the church development project is complete – probably two to three years hence – the designated reserve will have been spent down to zero. That will leave all of the church's unrestricted funds in the general fund, which the reserve policy intends will not in future exceed an average of 12 months' worth of spending (a figure which is currently around £75,000, if we take a five-year rolling average of the church's spending). At year end 2025, we held £58,541 in the general fund, which, added to the £27,643 in the designated fund, means our unrestricted reserves represented just under 14 months' spending.

Bank accounts

Of the nearly £130,000 on the balance sheet, some £46,000 is invested via CCLA's CBF Investment Fund, with another £52,000 in the CCLA deposit fund. The remainder is split between our main bank, Barclays, holding just over £29,000, with a smaller account at Nat West, for standing orders from some of St Giles' regular donors.

Liabilities

Agency collections are monies that are received, due to others and held in the accounts pending payment. At y/e 2025 the balance was £1,355 and payments have been made in the first part of 2026. In the comparative numbers for 2024 there is a difference of £575 which was included in the restricted funds total in 2024. It is not included in the restricted funds comparative numbers as shown here, but in the agency total of £1,355.

Following Diocesan guidance, we are no longer including pre-paid advertising to the parish magazine in liabilities. The full breakdown between current and next-year advertising is shown under 'receipts'.

This financial report for the year ended December 31, 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by the Revd. Vivien Turner, Chair:

.....

Date:.....

SUMMARY OF FUNDS

FUND MOVEMENT BY TYPE	opening	incoming	outgoing	transfers	gains/losses	closing balances
General fund						
Unrestricted	36,815	70,472	47,673	—	(1,071)	58,542
Designated fund						
Designated	41,679	—	—	(14,036)	—	27,643
Brandt endowment fund						
Endowment	5,132	143	—	(143)	(205)	4,926
Nudd endowment fund						
Endowment	16,542	460	—	(460)	(661)	15,880
PCH: pew cushion heating						
Restricted	1,385	—	1,066	—	—	319
PPDF: Parish priest discretionary fund						
Restricted	2,499	2,000	214	—	—	4,286
Garden: garden, cemetery						
Restricted	2,164	—	—	602	—	2,767
Bell fund						
Restricted	5,736	304	73	—	—	5,967
Organ fund						
Restricted	783	270	525	—	—	528
All Saints fund						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabric fund						
Restricted	4,432	10,033	21,482	14,036	—	7,018
TOTALS	117,167	83,680	71,033	—	(1,938)	127,876

Unrestricted funds

Both the general and designated funds are unrestricted, meaning that the PCC is free to decide how to use them. The designated fund is now designated against the church building project described above.

Restricted Funds

The Fabric Fund receives and then spends grant income for building works to St Giles. 2025 has been another good year in getting grants – applied for successfully by Stuart Lewis – to spend on the fabric of the church.

The Garden Fund receives the income from the Nudd and Brandt endowment funds, which is spent on the upkeep of the churchyard and cemetery.

The Bell Fund and *the Organ Fund* Part of the fees from weddings and funerals in the church goes into these restricted funds, as do any fees for bellringers or organists which they kindly donate back to the funds.

The Parish Priest Discretionary Fund allows Reverend Vivien discretion on payments to local families in need.

The Pew Cushion Heating Fund, having achieved its purpose, is being wound down by using it to pay our heating costs.

Endowment funds the *Nudd Fund* and the *Brandt Fund* are restricted capital funds, invested in the CBF Cof E Investment Fund at CCLA and held by the Diocese on our behalf. The income is paid into the *Garden Fund* and used for the maintenance of the graveyard extension.

PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS AND RELATED PARTIES

Nettie Lanaghan, £118

Marie Bracey, £37

No payments were made to relatives of PCC members during the year

BASIS OF PREPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

These financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of assets and liabilities: moveable church furnishings, which are held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

RELATED CHARITIES

The collection from evening services held at All Saints Chapel is transferred to St Giles. Graffham PCC covers the cost of the electricity and any costs of services at All Saints Chapel. The chapel and its attached cottages are the responsibility of a separate trust, the All Saints Charitable Trust.

FINANCE TEAM

2025 saw the setting up of a new PCC sub-committee – to join the Worship, Fabric and Community sub-committees – the Finance Group. Chaired by treasurer Dinah Lamming, this group has members of each of the other three sub-committees represented on it: Diane Bellis, Nettie Lanaghan, Stuart Lewis, Phillip Turner and, until her resignation from the PCC in 2026, Ginny Barrett. We meet a week before the quarterly PCC to discuss the church's finances, and to debate policies, proposals or needs in more detail than the larger meeting often has time for.

Phillip Turner, having done most of the admin work in finance in 2025, has formally moved to 'bookkeeper' email address, and continues to support Dinah as she takes on the full role (and the 'treasurer' email address!) Many thanks to him for the enormous amount of time he continues to spend on church finances; to Diane Bellis for collecting and banking the cash we receive; to Carole Sargent for administering the Parish Giving Scheme; and to Ann Brown and Ginny Barrett for having been signatories on our bank accounts in 2025.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to Ros Britton for her many-more-than-expected years as examiner to these financial statements – it is an incredibly time-consuming task which she takes on with good humour, supportiveness and rigour. She has now three times tried to hand the role on and three times very kindly stayed to help first with the transition between treasurers and now with the simplification of the balance sheet – and will much deserve her retirement from this task after the 2026 TAR is done. Ros will be a very hard act to follow!

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Giles Church, Graffham for the year ended December 31st 2025

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Giles, Graffham, on the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or,
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Examiner's signature

Examiner's name

Date

Relevant professional qualifications

Examiner's address Sandrock Cottage, Norwood Lane, Graffham, GU28 0QG

Final