

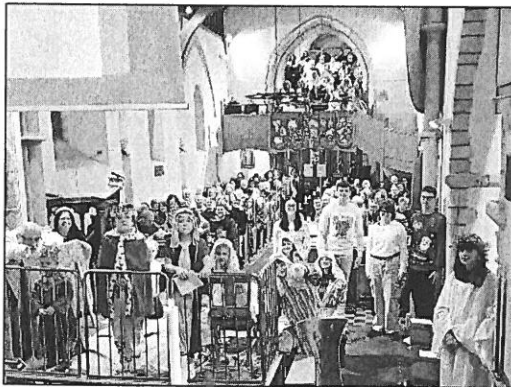
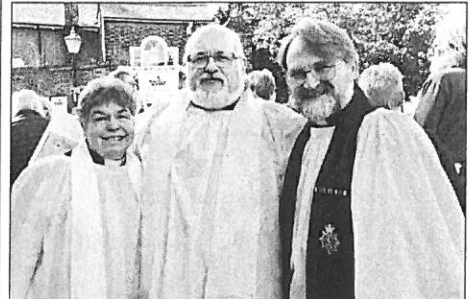


Chalk Church

(St Mary the Virgin, Chalk)

an Anglican Church
in the
Diocese of Rochester
and a
Registered Charity

Registration Number 132081



Annual Report & Financial Statements

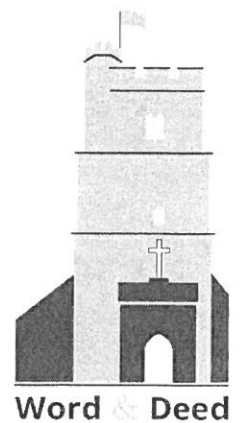
for the year ended 31 December 2024



'Lifting High the Cross'

Growing,
Reaching Out
& Stronger

in Christ by



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Cover Photographs – Scenes from 2024

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St Mary the Virgin, Chalk

Annual Report & Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024

Part One

Reference and Administrative Details

Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Chalk
(known as PCC Chalk – a Registered Charity – registration number 1132081)

Location: The Parish Church, Barns and Woodland are located at Church Lane, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2NL
Chalk Parish Hall is located at Pirrip Close, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2ND

Address for Correspondence: The Vicarage, 2A Vicarage Lane, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TF

Members of the PCC & Charity Trustees

The following served throughout 2024 and to the date this report was approved:

The Revd Nigel Bourne	(Vicar of Chalk & PCC Chairman)
Barbara Millatt	(Churchwarden & PCC Vice-Chair)
Steve Quinton	(Churchwarden)
The Revd Dr Mark Morgan	(Assistant Curate)
Ram Patla	(Treasurer)
Karl Addy	(Deanery Synod Representative)
Emily Bourne	(Deanery Synod Representative)
Christoph Bull	(Assistant Churchwarden)
Jenny Ellett	(Assistant Churchwarden)
Jane Abrehart	Mark Addy
Martin Lake	Suzanne Smit
Anne Wilkinson	

In addition to the above, the following served from May 2024

Mike Hammock

In addition to the above, the following served until May 2024

Duncan Garrod Philippa Perry
Claire Youells

Banks

National Westminster:
NatWest Business Banking
PO Box 16204
Birmingham
B2 2WP

Barclays:
Barclays Bank plc
1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

Independent Examiner

Tanja Lawes
Carleys
Second Floor South, The Fitted Rigging
House
Anchor Wharf
The Historic Dockyard
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TZ

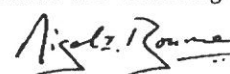
Preface by the Vicar of Chalk, Chairman of the PCC – Review of 2024

2024 was not all bad (the summer Olympics in Paris was probably a highlight) although there was much to cause concern. Many national elections saw newer parties and 'outsider' candidates gaining ground. A desire for 'change' was in the air. In some countries gains were made by the centre-right and far right. In the UK the Conservative party called an earlier-than-expected general election and was heavily defeated. The Labour Party won a landslide victory on a low percentage of the vote with significant gains for the Liberal Democrats and gains for the Green Party and Reform UK. There was probably a global dissatisfaction amongst electors with the inability of governments to deal with international problems including the economy, migration, armed conflicts and perhaps more domestic problems such as crime and violence (including terrorism) on the streets. The re-election of Presidents Putin and Trump (the latter for a very rare non-consecutive term) will probably continue to have long-term consequences for the world, some of which have emerged in the early part of 2025. Governments can sometimes change things, but words are easier than actions, which themselves are easier than positive results. Armed conflicts continued in numerous places with much in the way of atrocity and little prospect of peace. In addition, in the UK a series of scandals seriously undermined public confidence in institutions, leaders of institutions and professional standards generally. Significant in these scandals was the Post Office being shown to have knowingly withheld evidence where it (rather than the CPS) was the prosecuting authority. This led to a huge level of wrong convictions of sub-postmasters and untold misery. The scale of the mix of incompetence and deliberate deception by highly paid officials (including professional advisers) in a huge and powerful organization against individual and effectively powerless sub-postmasters is almost unbelievable. This scandal reached a new and overwhelming level of public consciousness and disgust due to an ITV drama broadcast in the early days of January 2024. Even today many victims still seem not to have been properly or fully compensated. The final days of 2024 saw failures of both our Archbishops brought into clear view. In the wake of a scandal relating to his failure to follow up on a report of physical abuse against young men and boys, the Archbishop of Canterbury announced his retirement (to take effect in January 2025) while withdrawing from the public-facing leadership of the church. The Archbishop of York remained in post although he was widely criticized for his failure to discipline a member of the clergy in relation to sexual abuse. We continue to pray for those in positions of power and influence in both church and state – they need it.

Despite this difficult backdrop, we do not lose heart! (See Bible verse below.) At Chalk we have attempted to maintain our mission of reaching out with the gospel message, addressing issues of personal and institutional brokenness and failure. Partly, rather mundanely, this relates to the maintenance of our buildings. Storms Isha and Jocelyn at the beginning of the year removed a large number of tiles from the church roof. We acted quickly with our insurers not only to replace the tiles but to improve the method by which they are held in place. (So far, so good.) A more long-term issue has related to the barns. Sadly, high inflation post-covid meant that it became too expensive for prospective investors to work with us on redeveloping the barns as a tea room. Therefore during 2024 the PCC began a project to renovate and improve the barns for mission, not least for our work with young people. Having established the factors that needed to be addressed, the PCC advertised this in the parish magazine and in October appealed for funds. Firms were invited to quote for the work with a view to work beginning in early 2025. In addition, the PCC is conscious of the need to improve facilities in the upstairs/loft area of the parish hall in accordance with plans that have been drawn up by an architect and with the relevant permissions in place. Funding will be sought in various ways but the PCC has taken the significant decision to limit the parish share/offer to the Diocese probably for three years in order to ensure the work can be done. However, this will be phased as funds permit and will only progress once the work on the Barns has been completed. Buildings maintenance though is only the means to an end, ie to mission. This occurs notably through our weekly and seasonal activities through church services (eg on Sundays and in funerals and weddings) and our regular village coffee morning *Take-a-Break* (which celebrated 30 years in 2024!), and our various activities with young people, eg (but not limited to) *Loaves & Fishes*. The impact on the community is shown in part through the large congregations at festivals and the footfall more generally at events such as the Summer Fete and the use of the parish hall. Another string to our bow is the local Sea Cadet unit (TS LENNOX) based in the parish and to which I am the chaplain. We also make grants to various good causes.

Inevitably all of this takes much resourcing – and much is offered! However, as a couple of key people knew well in advance that they could not be available for the Firework event and given its complicated nature and the paramount need for safety, it was decided not to hold it in 2024. Nevertheless, I would like everyone to know that every help and offering of time and talents is really appreciated and makes a real difference. While I cannot thank everyone here by name, I want to pay tribute to our churchwardens, Barbara and Steve, to our Treasurer, Ram (thanks also to Martin), to Michael and Janet (for many years of multiple service), to Julie, Philippa, Suzanne and friends who help with children's work and to Mark who was ordained as a priest/presbyter in 2024. Regarding funds, we appeal for grants for specific matters and occasionally we do benefit from legacies, but we can only operate as we do because of generous donations from the congregation and because of the hard work of many who help us to raise funds, and not least through the usual annual cycle of Fete, Fireworks and Christmas Fair. God willing, normal service will be resumed in 2025. Indeed, rather than lose heart, we are conscious that God is at work in us and through us.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." ... because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart ... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4: 13-17)



The Revd Nigel Bourne

Introduction: Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chalk (generally known as *PCC Chalk* or, in context, *the PCC*) works with the Vicar of Chalk, the Revd Nigel Bourne to promote the whole mission of the church (see *Aims* etc below). This section of the report, Part One, gives an overview of our life including some information on finances etc, but focuses on our liturgical worship and the spiritual and practical aspects of our work. The main information regarding finances is given in Part Two, *Financial Statements*.

Although the PCC is a relatively recent (early 20th century) creation, it is the modern expression of a traditional rôle of the parish church with clergy and laity working together for the glory of God and the benefit of the whole community. This process has been working here in Chalk for over 1,000 years. The PCC is focussed mainly on the ecclesiastical parish of Chalk, but has a wider remit through various relationships not least through the structures of the Church of England, as well as through missionary and charitable links beyond the parish boundary.

The PCC, like the PCC of every Church of England parish has various rôles. Although it has some executive functions, as constituted by the legislation of the Church of England, our PCC is, primarily, a consultative committee charged firstly with the function of co-operation with the Vicar of Chalk who is, ex-officio, the PCC Chairman. In the context of mission and co-operation, the PCC is concerned with fund-raising and the proper safeguarding and use of the assets of our parish church as well as with our worship and other activities.

The parish church of St Mary's is virtually surrounded by fields and lies to the east of the populated area of Chalk, which is itself at the eastern edge of Gravesend in Kent. Adjacent to the church building is our car park with some church meeting rooms known as the Barns and an area known as St Mary's Woodland. At the centre of the village lies Chalk Parish Hall, a large purpose-built church and community centre which was opened in 2007. Adjacent to the hall is a car park on which we hold a long lease.

Charitable and Legal Status

The church here in Chalk has long been recognised as a charity operating through its PCC under rules established by the Charity Commission for England & Wales. In 2009 Chalk Church through its PCC, a body corporate, became a Registered Charity (number 1132081) with PCC members continuing as charity trustees and with that role highlighted through the registration process.

Governing Documents

The legal basis on which the PCC has operated is set out both in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure (1956)* and the *Church Representation Rules*, both as amended from time to time through General Synod.

PCC Structure

The PCC has had a template for meetings in January and alternate months following. However, use of small groups and technology including email has kept the number of main business meetings down to a minimum and these will probably reduce to about four a year plus some shorter meetings. A Standing Committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings subject to any direction by the Council. While overall policy for the parish hall remains the responsibility of the PCC, the main running concerns of the hall are addressed by the Hall Committee, which is a committee of the PCC, with various members co-opted for their expertise regarding the hall. Similarly, groups operating for the PCC normally run both the fête and fireworks event.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. Normally there should at any one time be 12 directly elected members (with one third elected at each APCM) each member serving for three years (or less if filling a vacancy). After three years directly elected membership, members are not eligible for direct election for a period of one year. Deanery Synod Representatives are normally elected every third year at an APCM to serve for three years (or the remainder of the three years if elected subsequently). The next such Deanery election will be in 2026. They are ex-officio members of the PCC and help link our life to the wider life of the Diocese of Rochester and the Church of England. The names of all PCC members are listed at the beginning of Part One of this report.

Other Authorised or Licensed Personnel

In addition to the clergy, some people have been specifically trained by the Diocese and authorised or licensed by the Bishop to assist in the regular teaching and pastoral ministry of the church. Each makes a unique contribution.

Pastoral Assistant (Permission to Minister): Janet Munson.

Reader (Permission to Officiate): Michael Munson.

Aims & Purposes

The PCC works with the Vicar as a type of eldership to promote the good news or gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This mission has a particular focus within our parish of Chalk, but it engages with the wider church and the wider world, not least through *Churches Together in Gravesham*, the *Deanery of Gravesend*, and the *Diocese of Rochester*. Our mission is Christ-centred, spiritual, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We aim for the liturgical worship of the church (ie what we do in "services") to assist the wider worship of the church, ie the offering of every member's life to God in his service or mission. Worship, in both senses of the word, gives glory to God and helps the church to grow in holiness or maturity in Christ. In turn this maturity helps us see how our service or mission needs to be focussed at any one time. Thus our eldership, or rôle of spiritual leadership, is exercised with practical responsibilities, not least for the maintenance of all church buildings and property.

Vision Building Process

A vision building process built on earlier work was completed in 2017 and this should help us focus our thinking and activities as a church over the next few years. The PCC and congregation more widely reviewed the thinking in the vision and the congregation reaffirmed it in a service in March 2023. The aspiration is to achieve much of this by **Easter 2026**. The vision itself, sometimes called '**Lifting High the Cross**' can be summarised as follows:

The Renewed Vision:

...we will be stronger in Christ,
and reaching out to impact the whole community,
having grown significantly as a family of all ages.

Our vision has 5 'thrusts':

- Growth
- Greater Strength in Christ
- Communications
- Resources – personnel
- Resources – buildings & finance

Expanding on each of the thrusts:

Growth – our main thrust. There will be growth in faith and a marked increase in the size of the congregation, notably in the number of children and families, not least through *Loaves & Fishes*, young church and youth group

Stronger in Christ There will be an improved use of small groups so that every church member has an opportunity to develop as a disciple of Christ, to encourage and be encouraged. New groups/activities are being developed.

Communications There will be an increasingly effective communications network to reach members and people in the area using a range of modern and traditional media, including Facebook, bulk texting and email messaging.

Resources – Personnel There will be training and more use of teams and individuals in various critical rôles, paid and unpaid, clergy and lay. Diocesan/Deanery courses will help the leading of groups and occasional preaching.

Resources – Buildings and Finances There will be a review of all our property to ensure appropriate maintenance and improvement; there will also be increased donations to cover our increased commitments and our mission priorities, to give us options for growth and allow us generosity in away giving. Use of grants and income from EV chargers will help.

The vision emerged against the background of our understanding of our purpose and values: we defined these as:

Our Purpose:

The fellowship of Chalk Church believes that:

We exist to worship God,
to grow in faith, understanding and numbers,
sharing and spreading God's love and joy by
word and deed.

Our Values:

Chalk Church is committed to:

listening to the Holy Spirit,
especially through the Bible as God's word,
to shape all our values and actions;
with God's help we try to be:

- * Inviting
- * Involving
- * Together
- * Joyful
- * Welcoming
- * Supportive
- * Creative in Proclamation

PCC Meetings and Main Matters Discussed This Year

The atmosphere at PCC meetings and via email etc is always constructive, no doubt aided by the refreshments (when 'in-person'), provided beforehand by Barbara Millatt. Although a full range of opinions are voiced, when it comes to votes, these are almost always unanimous. Matters discussed have included: safeguarding: payments for services provided by individuals, eg gardening; improvements to the barns and hall; parish offer to the Diocese; programme of activities; annual review of accounting procedures. Correspondence or items for PCC consideration should be addressed to the PCC Secretary, Anne Wilkinson.

Objectives & Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become members of our church family or to work in partnership with us for the greater good. When planning the scope and detail of our activities the PCC is mindful of our need as a charity to provide a public benefit. This understanding has been shaped by the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit including guidance to charities for the advancement of religion and helps shape our approach to our services of worship, events and activities. We realise that in addition to what happens in our services etc, the life of the church extends into the community through the attitudes and actions of our members in their day to day lives. These attitudes and actions are often informed or shaped by their faith. The PCC has an overview of all church activities and, with the clergy, reader, pastoral assistant and individuals recruited to particular tasks, the PCC aims to facilitate and organise activities to encourage and deepen faith, notably through:

worship and prayer, including 'the occasional offices',
learning about the Bible and its gospel message,
growing the church numerically and developing belief and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
deepening connections with the community and supporting charitable, missionary and outreach work,
maintenance and improvement of the parish church, the parish hall and their associated facilities.

We offer a wide range of different styles of public worship, traditional and modern, and the encouragement to grow to maturity in faith, not least through public worship and private prayer. Our approach is based on understanding the Christian faith as revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament and seeking to understand how scriptural principles challenge and comfort us today. This approach helps to develop a recognition of our responsibilities towards both God and his world. It also helps to address pastoral and spiritual needs of all who come, both regular members of the congregation and those who come for particular reasons, eg to be married or when there has been a bereavement. In addition to worship with an explicit encouragement to develop a faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, we are involved with various projects that concern the practical well-being of a wide range of people, including the provision of facilities (and sometimes activities) for the elderly, parents and toddlers, other special needs groups and the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Achievements & Performance

Sunday Worship

While every day is an opportunity for worship in the sense of offering our lives to God, Sunday worship is a significant part of our Christian calling. In the context of public worship, joining together with the Lord's people on the Lord's Day, our fellowship aims to encourage and deepen the faith of each person who comes and also build up an awareness of that union which we have in Christ. This happens as we sing and give praise to God, as we reflect on his word to us and as we pray. Services create a space where we can expect to encounter both the encouragement and the challenge of God's love. The 8.30am and 4.30pm services are usually more reflective than the 10.30am services, which we want to be particularly accessible to newcomers (and at which we often use a large screen onto which we project words and pictures, which many, especially visitors, find helpful).

The Vicar, Curate and Reader lead and preach at our various services. The Pastoral Assistant and Churchwardens also help, eg assisting with the chalice at Holy Communion. Occasionally there are guest speakers. Not to be confused with the authorised "Readers", members of the congregation sometimes help in the reading aloud from the Bible in the services. Anyone who would be willing to organise a rota for these is asked to speak to the Vicar. The wheels of the services are of course oiled by many, including the choir, musicians, the coffee team and "sidespeople", who greet the congregation and give out books or service sheets. All these (and other) contributions are necessary for our services to work as they do; it is a significant example of our teamwork. The normal pattern of services is not quite fixed post-Covid (and the pattern can change especially around festivals with details in magazine, weekly notice sheet and website) but is essentially as below. (Services are of a contemporary format, officially "Common Worship", unless they are indicated as services from the Book of Common Prayer (1662) with abbreviation BCP):

8.30am [moved to 9am in 2025] BCP Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sundays [& 5th Sundays in 2025]
(There is a PCC prayer focus on 4th Sundays)

10.30am Morning Service

Morning Service - 1st Sundays
All-Age/Family Service - 2nd Sundays
Holy Communion - 3rd Sundays
Open House - 4th Sundays
Songs of Praise - 5th Sundays

Evening Service

BCP Holy Communion - 1st Sundays - (in the parish hall starting at 4.30 pm followed by tea)
Tea with the Vicar - 3rd Sundays (an informal event and service in the parish hall starting at 5pm)
[No evening service on 2/4/5th Sundays]

Weekday Worship and Major Festivals

As with Sunday, there are normally many opportunities for public worship. The main midweek service is Holy Communion (BCP) at 9.30am on Wednesdays in term time. This is celebrated in the Holloway Hall at the parish hall. We also conduct Holy Communion services on principal feast days, mostly at St Mary's. Major festivals have a series of services associated with them, again, mostly at St Mary's although we also have an informal service and event at the end of the Easter, Summer and Christmas terms in the parish hall. This service builds on our weekly *Take-a-Break* event which reaches out particularly to the elderly and unwaged. Details are given in the Calendar of Dates issued two or three times a year, in the monthly magazine, posters, service sheets etc.

The Occasional Offices: Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Baptisms usually take place during main Sunday morning services using a Common Worship pattern. Janet Munson has helped co-ordinate Baptisms. Anyone who would like to explore issues concerning the Christian faith and particularly with a view to taking a step of faith such as Baptism or Confirmation is encouraged to speak to the Vicar. Services of Marriage and Services of Prayer and Dedication are normally a feature in and around summer. All couples undergoing their services at Chalk normally receive several hours of marriage preparation arranged by the Vicar. It is our practice to preach a short sermon about marriage and give a small gift to the couple during their service. This ministry is supported by the efforts of many folk and normally includes the choir, organists and bell ringers. The Vicar hopes that we will continue to work at helping baptism families and wedding couples to take an on-going interest in the life of the Church. Funerals have been conducted by the Vicar assisted by the Curate mostly at St Mary's and the new Thames View Crematorium. We continue to see the complete cross section of tragedy, pain and bravery in the face of loss. Our hearts and prayers go out to the many bereaved families whose lives we touch. The Vicar is thankful for all those who help in these ministries, eg Peter Bull, our verger at weddings and funerals. The Vicar encourages everyone to pray for all those involved in these ministries as well as those to whom they minister. Marriage registration rules changed significantly in 2021 and that required some training and the cessation of the use of marriage registers in all churches.

Prayer, Learning about the Bible and its Gospel Message & Developing Belief and Trust in God

Many of the activities associated with these topics normally take place during Sunday and weekday worship including the occasional offices. In addition, there are normally regular small group midweek meetings and special courses run at various times, eg during Lent which allow a focus on certain Bible books or topics in some depth in the context of discussion, fellowship and prayer. The Chalk Bible Challenge (CBC) focussing on a particular set of readings usually lasts six or so weeks. A printed set of notes for each week of the Challenge is published and is made available in various ways to allow for personal reflection and a development of Bible knowledge, prayerful reflection and trust. This year's CBC (in Lent) used the Sunday readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. A new teaching activity started in 2024 in the spring/early summer which included fellowship and pancakes. The Prayer Circle has about 20 members and prays regularly using a distributed sheet with weekly suggestions/ topics. They also respond to urgent requests for prayer at any time when information is passed on by 'phone.

Growing the Church Numerically: Electoral Roll & Numbers Attending or Visiting the Church's Premises

As at the APCM in May 2024 there were 102 people on the Church Electoral Roll, revised annually an entirely new roll is made every six years. The next new roll is due in 2025. We estimate that normally well over 2,000 different people attend or visit the church premises annually. In addition to our own website, we use the village Facebook sites to advertise our services and events – see **Chalk (Gravesend) - Past and Present. & Chalk People and Opinions** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1730024447212622/> Our posts often attract several positive comments. In addition to church members, there are often visitors to our services and large numbers attend the events we normally run such as *Take-a-Break*, the Fête, Fair and the Bonfire events each year.

Connections with the Community & reaching out across the age spectrum

Notable here is the weekly term time activity *Take-a-Break*. Essentially this is run by a dedicated group of church members and normally provides a weekly coffee morning open to the whole village in the parish hall and has now been running for over 30 years. This regularly achieves attendances of approximately 60+. It is clear that the event is a highlight of the week for the many, largely elderly and unwaged, folk who come. Three times a year there is normally a lunch held for the same group instead of the coffee morning. In the week following each lunch, in the lead up to Christmas, Easter and the summer break, we aim to hold an informal service of worship in the hall. These informal services attract most of the *Take-a-Break* regulars, many of whom are not church members.

The church has over the years supported various groups helping people with autism, learning difficulties and mental health needs. This has included use of facilities, including use of the woodland area, provision of refreshments and simple acts of worship. Also, the *Loaves & Fishes For All* element of our *Loaves & Fishes* programme has continued to develop and is aimed at children and parents/carers who face some of these issues. We have also continued to support the local foodbank and more recently the Gravesend Hub which deals with homelessness issues. *Tea with the Vicar* takes place in the parish hall on the third Sunday in a month. Starting at 5pm with a buffet tea (in a cafe style) and continues with an informal service at about 5.30-6pm. It has drawn a wide age group (c.30 people – reduced since Covid to about 15) including families with children and others who find the short late afternoon walk to and from the hall (in the centre of the village) an easier undertaking than the journey to church (beyond the edge of the main populated area of the village). In addition to the toddlers corner in church and *Young Church* (our Sunday provision for any children present in church over toddler age), we hope

that the puppet ministry, *Loaves & Fishes*, led by Julie Garrod, will continue to expand in various ways (eg with puppet-making for primary-school age children and older youngsters as part of the puppeteer team), and so help to engage youngsters across a wide range of ages. *Loaves & Fishes in the Forest* has continued on 4th Sundays for children up to about 11 during church services and regularly attracts 20+ children as well as their parents etc.

The Wider Community and the Wider Church Community including the Gravesend Deanery Synod

We have two lay representatives as well as clergy representation on the local Gravesend Deanery Synod. Throughout 2024 this synod was chaired by the Vicar. Topics for the Deanery have included Deanery boundaries and the creation of a new Deanery for Ebbsfleet (this eventually became known as the Swanscombe Deanery) and the Diocesan Vision. The Vicar was also a member of the Diocesan Synod, resigning in early 2024 after 25 years of service. The Rochester Diocese covers about 200 parishes in the historic north-west Kent area reaching into the London boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. These Synods and the group Churches Together in Gravesham allow for a flow of information and a degree of co-ordination of activity between the churches. The PCC makes a significant financial donation called 'Parish Offer/Share' to the Diocese every year. The Diocese uses this, in part, to pay the clergy. Through our Vicar, we also provide a chaplaincy service both for the local Sea Cadet Corps which is based in the parish and also (with other chaplains of various denominations) for Kent Police. The Vicar helped bring the national church credit union (CMCU) into being during 2014 and was for several years its Vice-President until retiring from the Board in 2019. (He is currently a member of the CMCU Supervisory Committee but will step down from this role in 2025). CMCU is helping individuals and churches to borrow at fair interest rates.

Local Groups, Charities, Missionary Work and Similar Organizations Supported

Other charities etc are being helped in various ways, eg by use of facilities and donations. The PCC commits to support local charities and the Hands of Compassion School in Zambia. Over £4,000 was paid or reserved for charitable causes including Hands of Compassion School £1,380, Embrace Middle East £180, Sea Cadets £500, Elliott Holmes Memorial Fund £250, Sanctuary £500, Tear Fund £500, Salvation Army £500, Open Doors £500, RNLI £250, CPAS £250. Also, we organise collections totalling £1,300 for the Church of England Children's Society in the UK. The PCC, while gaining a rental income from Hall bookings, subsidizes the use of the Hall in various ways to community groups such as the Chalk Village Pre-School.

Buildings and Property

To facilitate our work with its pattern and programme of activities it is extremely important that we maintain and, where possible and appropriate, improve the fabric and facilities of all church buildings and property. The buildings and property essentially comprise, the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Chalk, its churchyard and the adjacent land and buildings comprising the Barns, St Mary's Woodland and the car park off Church Lane and Chalk Parish Hall in Lower Higham Road. We have a long lease on the car park adjacent to the hall. (The larger scale aspects of maintaining the Vicarage are mostly undertaken by the Diocese – a quinquennial inspection took place in 2021, supported by parish share and other common resources, although contributions are sometimes made by the PCC and Vicar.) A quinquennial (ie five-yearly) report on the fabric of the parish church was completed in 2020. This was essentially very positive about the physical structure of the building, which is very gratifying in the light of all the work to the roof and tower in 2008. The next church quinquennial inspection building is due in 2025.

Some Details of This Year's Work on the Buildings etc

At various points in 2024 a Community Payback team was able to complete various jobs around the churchyard, barns and church. The council continued to mow the churchyard, Duncan took care of the woodland, and Marion and Eric worked hard on the Garden of Remembrance and the flower bed by the church path. Fire extinguishers are checked and the lightning conductor tested on a periodic basis. We are grateful for everyone's hard work. Steve Quinton continues to apply for various grants to help improve different aspects of the properties (thanks to the small team of helpers!) and to address ongoing maintenance highlighted in the latest church quinquennial inspection. The pond/garden area of the woodland is being steadily improved, and Gary Cordice is doing much of this work. A commemorative stone for the Jubilee Garden is due to be in place during the summer of 2025. Significant work was planned to take place on the barns during 2025 (this is now nearing completion).

[Covid-19 stopped some activities & much of the following remains under review prior to any restarting

Tea and Toast was a weekly early morning event (Thursdays, 8.45am – 9.45pm) run by church members in the small room at the parish hall. This offered free refreshments and a simple snack to staff, parents, carers and children associated with the pre-school who use the back rooms at the parish hall. Appreciated by all concerned it has helped cement our relationship with the Pre-School. On the first Friday of most months a short service with hymns was held in the lounge of Mullender Court, a retirement housing complex in the parish, attended by several of the residents and usually led by the Vicar or Michael Munson. On most months approximately 50 homes were visited as part of a long-standing parish visiting scheme *You are Welcome*. This scheme's aim has been to ensure that every home in the village is visited over an approximately three-year cycle. It started in the mid-2000s and so every home has been visited several times. On these occasions a free copy of the magazine is given and an invitation made to our services and events. In conjunction with *You are Welcome* and also following up on other pastoral contacts, many letters were usually written to people throughout the year inviting them to particular events and services such as the Village Fête, and the November bonfire and firework event.]

Financial Review

After the high-inflation crisis of 2022-2023, at a macro-economic level, the UK saw significant moderation in price pressures in 2024. This is reflected in our unrestricted expenditure which increased marginally by 1.7% this year compared to a 7.1% increase in 2023. Overall, unrestricted income in 2024 decreased by 3.2% compared to an increase of 9% in 2023. In total, our unrestricted expenditure exceeded unrestricted income and we therefore incurred a loss of £13,125 in 2024 (£6,997 excluding depreciation). This loss was inflated due to our inability to hold a fireworks display event in 2024 but was sustainable due to the use of our reserves. For comparison, there was a loss of £7,288 in 2023 (£1,160 excluding depreciation). A summary of financial activity follows:

Unrestricted Income

Total unrestricted income for 2024 was £113,624, which constitutes 83% of the church's total income (£136,146). Key components of unrestricted income were:

- **Voluntary giving:** £62,371 (55% of unrestricted income)
- **Fundraising activities:** £7,338 (6% of unrestricted income)
- **Investment income:** £1,301 (1% of unrestricted income)
- **Church activities:** £42,614 (38% of unrestricted income)

Unrestricted Expenditure

Unrestricted fund expenditure totalled £126,749, accounting for 89% of total church expenditure (£141,661). Major areas of unrestricted expenditure:

- **Church activities:** £118,562 (94% of unrestricted expenditure)
- **Fundraising costs:** £8,187 (6% of unrestricted expenditure)

Fund Movements and Transfers

Control of Take-a-Break club finances was transferred to PCC Chalk in 2024 resulting in a transfer of £1,416 from restricted to unrestricted funds.

Designated Funds within Unrestricted Funds

Within the unrestricted funds, the PCC has designated £25,996 for specific future needs:

- Hall repair fund: £5,430 (increased by £1,165 during 2024)
- Church repair fund: £12,566 (increased by £1,607 during 2024)
- Organ fund: £8,000 (increased by £1,000 during 2024)

These designations represent internal commitments but remain technically part of unrestricted funds. As such, they represent 44% of the unrestricted net current assets, leaving approximately £33,097 in truly free (i.e. unrestricted) reserves.

Financial Resilience Assessment

Free reserves (excluding fixed assets and designated funds) equate to slightly over 3 months of unrestricted expenditure, which is in-line with our reserves policy. The operational deficit in unrestricted funds of £6,997 represents a drain on liquid resources that is not sustainable in the long term without corrective action such as the restoration of the fireworks display event. Despite this, overall the church's financial position remains sound with strong asset backing.

Notable highlights

- I. Increased funding of our growth initiative called 'Loaves and Fishes' with £8,017 (£6,269 in 2023) from church funds.
- II. An improved contribution of £51,000 (£50,000 in 2023) to Rochester Diocese towards clergy stipends, housing, training and pensions.
- III. Donations to charity slightly decreased to £4,860 (£5,039 in 2023).
- IV. Church hall running costs increased to £17,281 (£15,011 in 2023).
- V. Legacy income of £3,667 (£5,982 in 2023).
- VI. The Parish Hall generated income of £32,656 (£28,088 in 2023) and after deducting running costs, general maintenance and depreciation, a profit of £5,676 (£1,692 in 2023) was made.
- VII. Parochial fees for weddings and funerals contributed £3,382 (£3,999 in 2023) – there were 3 couples married at church (4 in 2023).
- VIII. Fund raising events (Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar) generated a net profit of £4,084 (£3,183 in 2023). No fireworks display event took place in 2024.
- IX. At year-end the net movement (loss) of unrestricted funds was -£13,125 (-£7,288 in 2023).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least 3 months unrestricted payments. Based on current year's figures (2024), this is equivalent to approximately £32,000. The balance as of 31st December 2024 of unrestricted free reserves is £59,093. Excluding £25,996 set aside for church and hall repairs and organ fund, leaves £33,097 available. It is our policy to invest fund balances with the Churches Mutual Credit Union and the Diocesan Central Board of Finance.

Various Matters including Risk Assessments and the Future

We are required to consider the risks we face and have policies that address the risks so as to minimize the chances of them occurring or minimize the effect if they do occur. The policies of the PCC are explicitly aimed at growing the church numerically and spiritually, by training (including the use of Diocesan resources), where possible, by maintaining a high level of financial support to the Diocese, by good stewardship of financial and material resources, and by use of good procedures in practical matters. The greatest risks to the mission of the church lie in four main areas:

- a failure to grow the church by continually renewing the membership through evangelism and mission generally;
- a failure to attract or maintain and grow appropriately gifted leaders, lay and ordained;
- a failure to renew the physical and financial resources of the church;
- a failure to prevent reputational damage from poor decisions, scandals or tragedies of various kinds.

While all of these are important and have had some attention, the renewed vision process has led to a particular focus on the first of these issues. The second issue has had some attention via two Diocesan courses run by the Deanery: *Hearing God's Word* and *Speaking God's Word* and will also be addressed in the coming years as the PCC considers the content of a 'parish profile'. The third issue received particular attention in 2024 (continuing into the first half of 2025) with respect to the barns (and subsequently this will include the upstairs of the hall). Additionally, renewing the financial resources of the church is partly achieved through, grant income where possible, fund raising events, advertising various ways of giving, using 'gift aid' and gift days including giving for certain projects which in themselves have a tendency to generate membership and income.

In regard to reputational damage, the PCC works in a very open way allowing questions and alternative viewpoints to be explored in regard to all major issues, eg the programme of activities and major expenditure. In addition, the church insures church property, arranges regular checks of fire extinguishers etc, adopts each year the Diocesan policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults, including the requirement for Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks (formerly known as CRB) for all relevant personnel, and carries out regular financial checks. In addition, the PCC is reviewing information held on file, eg it has produced a Health & Safety document. Formal risk assessments of the fête and the fireworks event are made each year they are held. The Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Hall Manager and PCC, as appropriate, routinely consider risks associated with our buildings and activities particularly when something new is planned or work envisaged but also when reviewing our normal operations. The general approach is to minimise risks (especially where a significant problem might result) and to put in place such mitigating factors that will reduce the impact of any adverse incident. A simple risk register is being worked on.

The Diocese, Diocesan Budget, Parish Offer (Share) etc and the Future

The Diocese now indicates to each parish the figure that it feels is appropriate for the parish to contribute or offer in what is called the 'Parish Offer' (but is often called the 'Parish Share' from an earlier arrangement). The formula is complicated but is essentially related to the income of a parish. For us the Diocese would like us to pay them well in excess of £50,000, although when all the parishes of the Diocese are affected by reductions of income (eg because of a long-lasting pandemic), experience has shown that the amount requested is not always reduced from earlier levels! Nevertheless, the parish share remains a gift to the Diocese that each parish decides it is able to make. In that context, we have in the recent past achieved paying the Diocese something over £50,000. However, we reduced our offer during the pandemic and then increased it again when that was affordable. In 2024 in the context of work being planned on the barns and the hall, the PCC decided that the Parish Offer figure should be significantly lowered in 2025, probably for a period of three years. (Thankfully a separate payment towards stipend and associated costs is not requested as it once used to be. However, the element of the fees that comes into a parish for weddings and funerals, which previously used to help in paying for the parish clergy in that particular parish, is now legally the property of the Diocese. Coupled with this, the Diocese itself remains responsible for paying the parish clergy.) In order for the system to work sustainably, on average, the parishes need to pay into the Diocese in parish share etc, what the Diocese pays out in stipends etc. In reality, some poorer parishes will never be able to afford this, so other parishes are expected to pay more. While some level of subsidy will work, if the level becomes too high, that will not be sustainable, and this is, in fact, the territory that the Diocese has been in for some time, ie the amount of money being asked for from the parishes as a total sum is not being met by the sum of the actual offers. This is reflected in the normal situation at Chalk; ie we can normally, including the fee income, cover the cost of our Vicar, but we cannot pay the full extra amount that the Diocese wants in order to help pay the shortfall from the poorer parishes who are not covering the cost of their clergy.

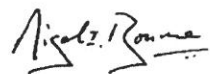
The number of paid clergy (full-time equivalent) posts in parishes is slowly but consistently falling yet there is still a consistent shortfall from the parishes taken as a whole in the money requested by the Diocese. The Diocese continues to balance its books by the use of reserves and the sale of freehold property (and support from the Church Commissioners), a situation that cannot continue for ever. Nevertheless, this is at least fairly transparent and there is a stated aspiration that the books must be balanced in a more sustainable and transparent way. Clergy pay (technically "stipends") was frozen or subject to below-inflation increases for some time but this is now changing – good for individual vicars, but potentially making the problem for the Diocese harder to solve. A new 'total return' policy is allowing some reserves to be invested in more creative ways. In addition, the central church has agreed to fund elements of the Diocesan strategy over the next few years and this is probably a recognition that the 'new' Diocesan Bishop and the Diocesan Secretary have (with others) worked up a credible plan under the strapline: 'Change, Serve, Grow'.

This may prove successful, but it will take some years before we can be sure and, even so, overall decline in paid clergy numbers seems likely to continue and some form of sharing clergy resources across parishes seems inevitable. There are various bridges that may have to be crossed when we come to them, but it has been the belief of the PCC that Chalk should, normally, continue to pay a level of parish share which (when combined with the fee income passed to the Diocese) covers at least the costs of the incumbent (as calculated by the Diocese). (NB this is a lot more than is actually paid to the clergy as it includes National Insurance, pension contributions, training and administration costs.) However, there may be times (as now) when the needs within the parish, or the moneys coming into the parish (or a combination of the two) will mean that the PCC will need to reduce the money paid to the Diocese for (it would be hoped) a particular year or very small number of years.

While the Diocese of Rochester and the Deanery of Gravesend both have a part to play, the PCC feels that if this parish and the parishes generally rely too heavily on the contributions and strategies of the Deanery and Diocese, there will be failures of the church at the parish level. It is not so much about being self-sufficient - God willing we will always see that we have things to gain from, as well as contribute to, the wider church. Rather it is about developing a reliance on God, his Word and the talents and other resources he has given us and listening to God that we use all that he has given in a way that discharges our specific responsibilities locally in the parish as well as in the Diocese and beyond, thus bringing glory to God.

While no definite dates have been agreed, it is likely that the current Vicar (aged 65 this year) will retire at some point in the next few years. It will be important to ensure that when this point comes, the parish looks to be a place where God has been allowed to be at work and there is a desire to continue to work with him to do more. Essentially we will want the church to be an attractive prospect to potential vicars as evidenced in the parish profile (and also attractive to the Diocese in terms of funding the post - as supported by the Parish Offer). Hence all the factors that have been important to us over the last years will need to go on being addressed, ie that we continue to "Lift High the Cross" in such a way that we are seen to be growing stronger in Christ, reaching out to impact the whole community and growing as a family of all ages. We pray that this will be so and that the glory continues to go to God.

**Approved by the PCC on 4 May 2025 by email and signed on its behalf by the Vicar of Chalk,
the Revd Nigel Bourne, Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.**



St Mary the Virgin, Chalk

**Annual Report &
Financial Statements of the PCC
for the year to 31 December 2024**

Part Two Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARYS THE VIRGIN CHALK

I report on the annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in Part One and Part Two of this document.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of 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 any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.

In my opinion there are no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

21st May 2025

Second Floor South
The Fitted Rigging House
The Historic Dockyard
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4TZ



T Lawes FCA
Carleys


**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	note	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Endowment funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2024</u>	<u>TOTAL 2023</u>
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS:						
Donations and legacies						
Voluntary income	2a	62,371	22,522	0	84,893	83,315
Activities for generating funds	2b	7,338	0	0	7,338	15,686
Income from investments	2c	1,301	0	0	1,301	613
Church Activities	2d	42,614	0	0	42,614	40,040
TOTAL INCOME		<u>113,624</u>	<u>22,522</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>136,146</u>	<u>139,654</u>
EXPENDITURE:						
Church activities	3a	118,562	14,912	0	133,474	128,503
Raising Funds	3b	8,187	0	0	8,187	13,980
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>126,749</u>	<u>14,912</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>141,661</u>	<u>142,483</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(13,125)	7,610	0	(5,515)	(2,829)
MOVEMENTS BETWEEN FUND TYPES	11a	1,416	(1,416)			
GAINS AND (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		0	0	155	155	584
CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND	7				0	18,980
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		<u>(11,709)</u>	<u>6,194</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>(5,360)</u>	<u>16,735</u>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AS AT 1 JANUARY 2024		553,328	193,426	6,782	753,536	736,801
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31 DECEMBER 2024		<u>541,619</u>	<u>199,620</u>	<u>6,937</u>	<u>748,176</u>	<u>753,536</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	652,515	657,209
Investment assets	5b	6,937	6,782
		<u>659,452</u>	<u>663,991</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	10,240	7,152
Short term deposits		18,021	15,248
Prepayments		0	0
Cash in hand		75,390	79,867
		<u>103,651</u>	<u>102,267</u>
SHORT TERM LIABILITIES:			
amounts due within 1 year	9	14,927	12,722
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>88,724</u>	<u>89,545</u>
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
amounts due within more than 1 year	9a	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>748,176</u>	<u>753,536</u>
FUNDS			
	6		
Unrestricted		541,618	553,328
Restricted		199,621	193,426
Endowment		6,937	6,782
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>748,176</u>	<u>753,536</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Nigel Bourne (Vicar & PCC Chairman)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARYS THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The PCC operates legally under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) and the Church Representation rules (2011) as amended from time to time through General Synod. The principal address is The Vicarage, 2a Vicarage Lane, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TF.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, also they have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

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

Moveable church furnishings

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 5 years) on a straight-line basis.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000.

Investments

Investments are quoted at market value as at 31 Dec 2024.

Short term deposits

These are cash holdings on deposit with CBF Church of England funds, at Natwest Bank and Barclays Bank or with CMCU (Churches Mutual Credit Union)

Current Assets

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

Current Liabilities

Goods and services received by the year end but not yet invoiced or paid for are included in the accounts as accruals. Wedding deposits received in respect of the following year are deferred.

Cont....

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
- Funds raised by the fete, bazaars and similar events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other income

- Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

- Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Grants

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

- The Parish Share contribution to Rochester Diocese made under the 'Offer' system is accounted for when paid. Any unpaid amount at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Volunteers

- The accounts do not show the monetary value of volunteers who have assisted during the year.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on future projects and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the Trustees Report.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds 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 any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Note	INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u> £	<u>Endowment</u> <u>funds</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2024</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2023</u> £
	Voluntary income					
2a	Planned giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	31,476	0	0	31,476	34,751
	Tax recoverable	10,026	2,274	0	12,300	15,605
	Collections (open plate)	10,619	8	0	10,627	9,619
	Grants		1,297	0	1,297	1,020
	Donations, appeals, etc.	7,583	17,943	0	25,526	16,338
	Legacies	2,667	1,000	0	3,667	5,982
		62,371	22,522	0	84,893	83,315
2b	Activities for generating funds					
	Bookstall/Mag Adverts	559	0	0	559	786
	Summer Fete	3,496	0	0	3,496	2,904
	Firework Display	0	0	0	0	8,609
	Christmas Bazaar	2,159	0	0	2,159	1,971
	100 Club	1,124	0	0	1,124	1,304
	Teas/Coffees	0	0	0	0	32
	Other	0	0	0	0	80
		7,338	0	0	7,338	15,686
2c	Income from Investments					
	Investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	Dividends & Bank deposit interest	1,301	0	0	1,301	613
	Misc Income	0	0	0	0	0
		1,301	0	0	1,301	613
2d	Income from church activities					
12	Church hall lettings etc.	32,656	0	0	32,656	28,088
	Fees (Weddings & Funerals)	3,382	0	0	3,382	3,999
	Take-a-Break	6,576	0	0	6,576	7,953
		42,614	0	0	42,614	40,040
	Total Income	113,624	22,522	0	136,146	139,654

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
31 DECEMBER 2024

3 EXPENDITURE Note	<u>Unrestricted</u> funds	<u>Restricted</u> funds	<u>Endowment</u> funds	<u>TOTAL</u> 2024	<u>TOTAL</u> 2023
3a Church Activities					
Missionary and charitable giving					
Overseas					
Overseas relief and development agencies	1,585	0	0	1,585	562
Home missions and other societies	3,275	0	0	3,275	4,477
Ministry			0		
Contribution to Rochester Diocese	51,000	0	0	51,000	50,000
Loaves & Fishes (puppet ministry)	7,887	130	0	8,017	6,269
Other costs	1,550	0	0	1,550	2,461
Church running costs & maintenance	14,790	5,711	0	20,501	21,928
Major repairs (tower & roof)	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure on parish magazine and bookstall	0	0	0	0	0
Upkeep of other PCC property	8,530	3,608	0	12,138	11,110
Church hall running costs	17,281	0	0	17,281	15,011
Organists payments	0	0	0	0	0
Administration including professional fees	1,825	157	0	1,982	1,992
Printing and stationery	3,877	0	0	3,877	2,786
Depreciation on hall and church equipment	6,128	5,306	0	11,434	11,097
	117,728	14,912	0	132,640	127,693
Support Costs					
Independent Examiner's fee	834	0	0	834	810
	118,562	14,912	0	133,474	128,503
3b Raising funds					
Christmas Bazaar	319	0	0	319	243
Firework Display	0	0	0	0	4,941
Summer Fete	1,252	0	0	1,252	1,449
Fund Generation - Other	24	0	0	24	0
Costs of stewardship campaign	48	0	0	48	44
Take-a-Break	6,544	0	0	6,544	7,303
	8,187	0	0	8,187	13,980
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	126,749	14,912	0	141,661	142,483

4 STAFF & RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (last year in brackets)

Vicar's stipend is paid by Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance

The PCC employs no paid staff.

Julie Garrod, a trustee, was paid consultancy fees of £6,570 (£4,413) for running the Loaves & Fishes outreach program.

Nigel Bourne, PCC Chairman and trustee was reimbursed £2,407 for 12 mths ministry expenses.

There are no related party transactions or payments to other trustees to report.

Aggregate donations by 12 of 16 Trustees is £9,503 (£9,480)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
31 DECEMBER 2024

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

5a Tangible fixed assets	<u>Freehold land and buildings</u>	<u>Church equipment</u>	<u>Paintings/ Statue</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Actual/deemed costs				
at 1 Jan 2024	799,518	57,765	1,100	858,383
additions	6,740		0	6,740
disposals	0	0	0	0
at 31 December 2024	<u>806,258</u>	<u>57,765</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>865,123</u>
Depreciation				
at 1 January 2024	164,764	36,410	0	201,174
charge for the year	9,211	2,223	0	11,434
Adjustment	0	0	0	0
disposals	0	0	0	0
at 31 December 2024	<u>173,975</u>	<u>38,633</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>212,608</u>
Net book value				
at 31 December 2024	<u>632,283</u>	<u>19,132</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>652,515</u>
at 1 January 2024	<u>634,754</u>	<u>21,355</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>657,209</u>

The freehold land and building comprise the land and buildings at the Parish Hall, Lower Higham Road, Chalk and the land adjacent to the Church comprising The Woodland, car park and two barns.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost over the expected useful life of the assets, on a straight line basis, at the following annual rates.

Parish Hall	1%
Parish Hall equipment	5-10%
Church equipment	20%
Church Barns	3%
Land and paintings, etc. are not depreciated.	

5b Investment fixed assets

Movements in the year

Market value

at 1 January 2024	6,782
revaluation gain or loss	155
at 31 December 2024	<u>6,937</u>

The holding at 31 December 2024 was 300 units in CBF Church of England Investment Fund for the maintenance of the chancel.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

	<u>unrestricted funds</u>	<u>restricted funds</u>	<u>endowment funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2024</u>
Fixed assets for Church use	482,525	169,990		652,515
Investment fixed assets			6,937	6,937
Current assets	68,391	35,260		103,651
Current liabilities	-9,298	-5,629		-14,927
	<u>541,619</u>	<u>199,620</u>	<u>6,937</u>	<u>748,176</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>		
7 Donations in kind				
Volunteers contribute in many ways to support the church ministry. The following roles are carried out by volunteers - Church Warden, Organist, Hall Manager, Hall Secretary, Treasurer, Verger, Choir Master, Event Organisers, Church Cleaners, Bell ringers.	0	0		
Marshalls Charity - Grant for church heating	0	18,980		
8 Debtors				
Gift Aid - HMRC	7,272	5,364		
Hall rents	1,218	1,788		
Other accrued income	1,750	0		
	<u>10,240</u>	<u>7,152</u>		
9 Liabilities; amounts falling due within one year				
Accruals	5,995	7,467		
Creditors	2,741	2,075		
Hall deposits	80	80		
Hands of Compassion funds	6,111	3,100		
Deferred income	0	0		
	<u>14,927</u>	<u>12,722</u>		
9a Liabilities: amounts due within more than 1 year				
Hall car park is leased at £272 per annum				
10 Designated funds				
Within unrestricted funds are balances as provision for necessary repairs to the church hall and a similar repair fund for the fabric of the church. Transfers are made regularly to provide maintenance funds for the buildings.				
	31.12.23	Xfer In	Xfer Out	31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Hall repair fund <i>(Saved from general giving and to be used as and when repairs are required.)</i>	4,265	1,165	0	5,430
Church repair fund <i>(Saved from general giving and to be used to satisfy repairs noted in quinquennial survey.)</i>	10,959	1,607	0	12,566
Organ Fund <i>(Saved from general giving and to be used to replace electronic organ)</i>	7,000	1,000	0	8,000
Total	<u>22,224</u>	<u>3,772</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,996</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHALK
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
31 DECEMBER 2024

11 Fund details

Restricted funds / assets Purpose and Trust Law restriction.	As at 31.12.23				As at 31.12.24
		Income	Expense	xfer	
• Village Hall asset: (<i>Rear Garden</i>) Provision of play area for pre-school. KCC grant	3,525	0	-420	-1,000	2,105
• Village Hall asset: (<i>Air Con equipment</i>) Climate control. Donor restriction	2,400	0	-600		1,800
• Take a Break: (<i>A club affiliated to the church</i>) Community outreach project. Self funded.	1,416			-1416	0
11a Club control transferred to PCC. Fund type no longer restricted.					
• Fixed assets for Church use: (<i>Land, Barn buildings, Artworks</i>)	163,631		-3,949		159,682
• Roof & Tower: (<i>Flag fund + roof fund</i>) Repairs and Flag renewals: Appeal restriction.	484	1,000	-796		688
• Hall Car Park: (<i>maintenance</i>) Tree planting and maintenance. KCC grant restriction	157	0	-157		0
• C of E Children's Society Street collection appeal. Donor restriction	-8	8			0
• Organ Fund For maintaining & replacing the organ in 2027. Appeal restriction.	105	0	-105		0
• Hall Lift Project & 2026 Refurb Donor restricted	17,369		-337	1,000	18,032
• Woodland. Donor restricted	867	0	0		867
• Graveyard/Garden of Remembrance Donor restricted	150	0	-150		0
• Hall Maintenance Donor restricted	3,200	32	-3,232		0
• Mission & Ministry Fund Puppet ministry	130	0	-130		0
• Church Maintenance Donor restricted	0	4,811	-4,811		0
• Barn Fund Appeal restriction	0	16,671	-225		16,446
Totals	193,426	22,522	-14,912	-1,416	199,620

12 Hall Rents:

Comprise gross rents of £43,373 less subsidies of £10,617
(2023: £39,972 / £11,484)