

East Dean and Friston Churches

Registered Charity Number 1131638

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025



East Dean and Friston Churches
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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CHURCH INFORMATION

Address

The Rectory
Gilbert's Drive
East Dean
BN20 0DL

Members of the PCC

Rev David Baker
Mr Peter Hewitt
Mr Phillip Hill
Mr David George
Mrs Stephanie Carter
Mr Harry Parke
Mrs Jodene Street
Miss Sheila MacNicol
Miss Carol Hyatt
Mrs Gail Huggett
Mrs Dawn Baker
Mr David Linsell
Mr David Reynolds
Mrs Pauline Porthouse
Ms Flora Richards

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
63/67 Terminus Road
Eastbourne
BN21 3NE

Independent Examiner

C J Dadswell FCA ACCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
BN21 1BF

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

1 Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the Churches is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. To this end the PCC have the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the ecclesiastical parish in order to advance the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

At the heart of all we do is the gospel: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," (1 Timothy 1:15).

There is nothing more important than the gospel. All that we do as churches must relate to this and reflect it. Our main challenge as churches is to see the urgency and imperative of the gospel and to be outward-looking in making it known clearly.

To this end we want people to hear the invitation of Jesus – "Come and see" (John 1v39), finding out who he is and what it means to repent and believe; to "Come and grow" – to grow into maturity as believers rather than remaining as infant Christians; and to "Come and care" – both for those inside and outside the church.

2 Public Benefit

We have considered the Charity Commission's advice on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on "charities for the advancement of religion". We aim to engage with the local community through a number of initiatives, examples of which are spelt out in the spiritual and nurture and social and mission sections of this report.

3 Structure, Governance and Management

The Church is a registered charity, number 1131638, registered on 15 September 2009 and governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) and Church Representation Rules.

The Trustees (Members of the PCC) who served during the year were:

Mrs Gail Huggett
Miss Sheila MacNicol
Miss Carol Hyatt
Mrs Dawn Baker
Rev David Baker
Mrs Stephanie Carter
Rev Andrew Spear [Resigned May 2025]
Mr Phillip Hill
Mr David George
Mr Harry Parke
Mr Peter Hewitt
Mr Charles Collins [Resigned May 2025]
Mr David Linsell
Mrs Jodene Street
Mrs Pauline Porthouse [Appointed May 2025]
Mr David Reynolds [Appointed May 2025]
Ms Flora Richards [Appointed May 2025]

4 Review of Activities

Review of the Year January 1st to December 31st 2025

(a) Introduction

The year has sadly been countenanced by the absence of the Rev. David Baker our Rector. David suffered a serious fall in January which resulted in damage to his nervous system. He has been absent for most of the year and remains on long term sick leave. We continue to uphold David Dawn Naomi & Jonathan in our prayers.

We have been blessed to have a strong team who working together have enabled us to maintain all our usual services in churches. We are especially grateful for the unstinting support of the Rev. Andrew Smith and also to Becca Parke our Administrator & Benefice Secretary. Huge demands have been made on them during a difficult time.

We are grateful to the many visiting clergy who have supported the ministry and we have greatly appreciated and benefitted from a rich variety of great preaching and teaching. A special word of thanks to the Rev Ian Hughes who with wife Helen joined us for an extended period and also as ever to Canon Michael Adams. We should not have been able to function without the wonderful support of our Lay Leaders for whom we are so grateful.

As ever we are indebted to our Churchwardens Gail Hugget and David Linsell at East Dean and David George at Friston also to Peter Hewitt our Treasurer.

Grateful thanks are also due to so many other who give freely of their time; our Children Leaders, our AV Team, Musicians and Singers, Hospitality Team, Stewards Readers – the list is long!

"His Grace has brought us safe thus far and Grace will lead us home"

(b) Spiritual & Nurture

Services Sunday by Sunday continue to be encouraging albeit below pre-pandemic levels. Our children's leaders at the Lighthouse Club have continued to show their love and nurturing and work hard to sustain numbers. This is not an easy task given the many conflicting demands on children's time at weekends. We continue to hold our ministry to children and young people in our prayers.

The Sunday evening Zoom prayer time continued to be well attended as does Prayer Time from 9.00-9.30am every Thursday co-ordinated by Phill and Jill Hill.

Home groups continued to meet regularly, both in person and on Zoom.

The Parish Magazine continued to be ably edited by Christine and Peter Jeffery, assisted by a strong team of volunteers, to whom many thanks are owed.

We continue to be hugely grateful to Steph Carter for her work as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

(c) Social and mission

We continued to support our former Assistant Minister Rev. Kip Chelashaw in his ministry in Nairobi, Kenya. We thank God for the wonderfully encouraging progress being made there and hold Kip Rachael & their family in our prayers.

More locally we supported the Beachy Head Chaplaincy, the Spinnaker schools work trust, and People Matter.

It is also encouraging that so many members of our church family are actively involved in the community, for example serving as members of the Parish Council, the Residents' Association and the Village Hall Trust.

PJH

4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)

(d) Wardens Reports

St Simon & St Jude East Dean

This year numbers attending services have declined slightly averaging between 60 and 70. Sadly with the non-attendance of a couple of families children's attendance has also decline averaging 5 or less. Despite this we have been able to attract a number new people, who have come once to see what we are like and stayed. They cite our Godliness and friendliness.

In respect of the fabric the most significant works this year was repair to the window near the pulpit. As usual the maintenance of the church fabric is fraught with administrative challenges, but all credit again to Peter Hewitt for his persistence and perseverance.

The most significant challenge this year has been the long-term absence of our Rector David Baker. Many members of the Parish have stepped up to maintain the smooth running of the Church and we have seen greater collaboration between the Churches in the Benefice, including a very successful joint service at Jevington. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the Diocese.

Amongst those who have stepped up, special mention goes to Andrew Spear who with a good heart has led many services (despite being retired!). Also, to Becca Parkes the church administrator, who has arranged preachers and schedules smoothly and thoughtfully, as well as being the driving force behind our children's events. To share the burden a number of new people are leading services, who despite their nerves have done a sterling job.

We are also grateful to the array of volunteers who contribute to the smooth running of the church and the role we play in the wider community. This includes, the readers, prayer leaders (in church and beyond), the sides people, the freshman team - the after service "togetherring" is an ever important part of church life, our "dads army's" valuable maintenance work which is always done with a smile, the AV team (despite the diminishing number), the pastoral support team, those who organise the coffee morning and the Parochial Church Council for their Godly leadership during this challenging time.

David Lindsell's tenure as Co-Church Warden ends at the APC meeting in May. At this time nobody has been found to replace him, we continue to pray that someone will come forward.

DI: GH

St Simon & St Jude East Dean - Fabric Report

Grade 1 Listed Places of Worship are expensive to maintain but it is important that we constantly ensure that the fabric of our church is in good order.

Following the Quinquennial Report of 2024 we have embarked on a significant programme of repair and maintenance.

Major repairs have been undertaken to the boundary wall alongside repairs to the church stonework. One leaded light window was removed remade and refitted by highly skilled craftsmen. Repairs to the Chancel roof were also undertaken together with a major overall of all guttering and drainage. Final re-guttering and the completion of internal redecoration will take place in 2026.

This will mean that we shall have spent in excess of £34,000 to maintain the fabric at East Dean Church

PJH

4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)

St Mary the Virgin

Sadly, some loyal members and supporters of the church, passed away during the year and our prayers are with their families. Looking to the future, we were pleased to welcome new members who have joined the electoral role. Attendance at Sunday services has been maintained at an encouraging level. Our Carol Service was well supported by the local community, with 75 attending, the majority of whom remained after the service to enjoy mince pies and hot punch.

In late May we hosted a musical concert featuring the Renaissance Singers, open to all, it was a free performance. It was a most enjoyable event and all donations were directed to East Dean and Friston Church funds.

On account of our Rector David's extended leave of absence following his unfortunate and debilitating accident (which will have been addressed earlier in this Annual Report) it has been necessary to employ various measures in order to maintain regular services in the parish. We are very grateful to all those who have stepped forward to fill in the gaps including local clergy and lay preachers.

A special mention must be made of the time and tireless service provided by our associate minister Andrew Spear, who has provided backbone support across the benefice during the past year and beyond. As ever we are very grateful to the following: the Ministry team for their leadership, the efficient support of the Admin team, those who assist with sides duties, those who provide cakes and snacks for our coffee Sundays and those who assist in preparing serving hot drinks, our readers, the flower team whose members decorate the church so beautifully, the hard working gardening and maintenance team and our excellent organists, all of whom who have continued to give so freely and willingly of their time throughout the year. Thanks, are also due to those who work quietly behind the scenes providing support for the wardens in their duties.

It must be mentioned that we are currently down to one Warden, just completing his sixth term of office. Currently a lot of team support is being provided by former wardens and church members, but we are anxious to recruit a second warden, in accordance with Church guidelines. We will be delighted to hear from any member of the church family who would be willing to consider stepping forward to serve alongside our current warden.

St. Mary's Fabric report

The church building is, in general, in sound condition. The quinquennial report identified some work calling for attention during the first 24 months, significant items being refurbishment of the wooden floor tiles in the Selwyn Chapel and internal and external masonry repairs respectively. The masonry work was carried out in the Autumn, the flooring work was completed in January of this year. There are a number of smaller and routine items to be carried out over the five-year duration of the current report, but redecoration of the interior of the church building is now due and is a specific requirement of the report. Estimates are currently being updated for referral to the PCC.

5 Finance Review

1. Unrestricted & Designated Funds

It is pleasing to be able to report a satisfactory financial position with a surplus of £6,342. This is in part due to the receipt of a generous legacy of £5,000.

Our Income was in line with our Budget. Giving from cash offerings shows a disappointing decrease [£8,202 from £10,645] giving through the Parish Giving Scheme was maintained £52,658. There was a significant but expected decline on Parish Fees [£3,034 from £7,874] due to the large number of weddings held in 2024. The fall in interest rates has resulted in a decline in our Investment Income £10,040 from £13,565

Our Expenditure was in line with our Budget. The absence of our Rector has meant that we have had to pay for our visiting clergy [£1,759] however we anticipate that this cost can be recovered from the Diocese.

5 Finance Review (Cont'd)

2. Restricted Funds

The PCC holds funds that can only be used for specific purposes, these funds emanate principally from past legacies or monies donated for specific purposes.

There was a net outflow of funds of £28,000. This was due to major expenditure on our Churchyards £9,765; and at both churches as we continue to implement the recommendation's of the Quinquennial Report. See Reports on Fabric above.

The cost of our Administrator [£7,513] is also met from Restricted Funds.

3. Mission and Charitable Giving

Overseas we continued to support the ministry of Kip Chelashaw in Kenya at home we continued to support the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, Spinnaker Trust, & People Matter.

4. Parish Contribution

The Parish Contribution [PC], the annual amount we pay to the Diocese, represents our biggest expense. The payment covers the cost of the Rector's Stipend, Pension Contribution & Housing together with a significant contribution to Diocese and CofE central costs.

Historically we have paid the full amount of the PC requested. Not all parishes have the resources to pay their requested contribution in full. In 2024 we were again one of only six Parishes in the Deanery, out of a total of 19 who paid more than 80% of the request contribution.

The amount of the requested PC has increased inexorably year on year. It is the view of the PCC and indeed many others nationally, that the Church of England's financial model and organisational structure is unsustainable and places the Parish structure as we know it at risk.

In 2025 we paid a contribution of £58,000 which represented 88% of the requested contribution.

5. Budget 2026

Unrestricted Funds

On a day-to-day basis we plan to achieve a small surplus however continuing falls in interest rates will affect our Interest Income and we may need to consider alternate forms of investment. It will however be necessary to draw approximately £4,000 from our Unrestricted Reserves to cover the cost of works on the fabric at East Dean church. See also below.

Restricted Funds

Completion of the Quinquennial works at East Dean plus Internal Redecoration will mean that we shall exhaust the East Dean Fabric Fund.

At Friston ongoing cost of repairs resulting from the Quinquennial [circa £5,000] can be met from the Friston Fabric Fund. The PCC will need to consider redecoration at some point in the future and how that may be funded.

6 Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy was reviewed in February 2024. It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on general unrestricted funds equating to a minimum of two months' worth of unrestricted payments as a contingency. The policy is met.

The PCC invests surplus funds in either CBF Church of England Income shares or M&G Charifund Units. In 2025 the value of our investments increased by £4,443 to a total of £105,745.

7 Risk Management

The PCC regularly assess the likely risks associated with running Church activities. A formal Health & Safety & Risk Management policy was approved together with a review of the strategic risk register.

A policy review was undertaken during 2023 and on-going regular reviews of the risks facing the PCC remain essential so that action can be taken in a timely manner to address them.

8 Independent Examination

The P.C.C.'s Accountant is Mr C J Dadswell of Caladine Limited, Chartered Accountants of Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1BF who has carried out the Independent Examination.

On behalf of the members of the PCC of East Dean and Friston Churches.



David Linsell (Chairman)

Date: 9th March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of East Dean and Friston Churches

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of East Dean and Friston Churches ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



C J Dadswell FCA ACCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 16/03/2026

Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u> £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Offerings at services	8,102	100	8,202	10,645
Planned giving	52,658	-	52,658	52,331
Special collections	-	1,507	1,507	2,933
Gift aid recoveries	13,664	-	13,664	15,130
Donations and legacies	6,820	-	6,820	4,873
Parish fees	3,034	-	3,034	7,874
Parish magazine	6,433	-	6,433	8,317
Investment income	8,577	1,463	10,040	13,565
Other income	2,467	1,169	3,636	2,085
Total receipts	101,755	4,239	105,994	117,753
<u>Payments</u>				
Mission and charitable giving	2,625	1,381	4,006	6,433
Diocesan parish contribution	58,000	-	58,000	54,441
Rector, Rectory and Rector expenses	6,162	-	6,162	7,722
Assistant clergy costs	1,759	-	1,759	-
Upkeep of services	2,550	170	2,720	2,307
Light and heat	5,616	-	5,616	6,226
Church running	6,842	7,864	14,706	13,993
Organist fees	1,049	-	1,049	1,550
Equipment	102	-	102	151
Repairs and maintenance	448	22,627	23,075	18,033
Professional fees	120	758	878	2,297
Books	-	-	-	1,434
Outreach, website and teaching	1,552	-	1,552	956
Youth work	254	-	254	232
Independent Examination	1,167	-	1,167	1,986
Parish magazine cost	6,529	-	6,529	6,230
Miscellaneous	638	-	638	998
Total payments	95,413	32,800	128,213	124,989
Net receipts/(payments)	6,342	(28,561)	(22,219)	(7,236)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds at 1 January 2025	31,070	295,973	327,043	334,279
Cash funds at 31 December 2025	37,412	267,412	304,824	327,043

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Cash funds</u>	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-24
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	304,824	327,043
	<u>304,824</u>	<u>327,043</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>		
CCLA Income shares (General unrestricted)	34,851	36,302
M&G - Income shares (General unrestricted)	17,750	15,129
M&G - Income shares (Organ fund restricted)	3,645	3,107
Diocese - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	21,982	22,898
Diocese - Fixed interest (Churchyard fund restricted)	3,331	3,252
M&G - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	24,186	20,614
	<u>105,745</u>	<u>101,302</u>
<u>Other assets</u>		
Gift aid receivable	806	888
	<u>806</u>	<u>888</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accountancy and Independent Examination fee	936	900
	<u>936</u>	<u>900</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 9th March 2026 and signed on its behalf by

David George
Trustee

Mr Peter Hewitt
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

The Church operates a general fund for its regular activities. When monies are given for specific purposes, these are held in restricted funds. Designated funds are monies set aside from general funds for particular purposes set out by the trustees.

3 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Overseas</u>				
CMS	-	-	-	1,198
United for Mission	2,125	-	2,125	2,497
<u>Home</u>				
People Matter	-	189	189	391
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	500	601	1,101	1,676
Royal British Legion	-	201	201	138
Spinnaker Trust	-	389	389	533
TOTAL	2,625	1,380	4,005	6,433

4 Trustees

During the year the Rev. David Baker was reimbursed expenses of £678 (2024: £2,458).

5 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Gains / (Losses)	Balance c/fwd
Churchyard Fund	38,322	2,486	(17,835)	-	2,735	25,708
Fabric Fund Friston	5,522	100	(3,144)	-	-	2,478
Fabric Fund East Dean	12,279	-	(2,348)	-	-	9,931
Organ Fund	1,342	146	(228)	-	538	1,798
General	-	1,507	(1,381)	-	-	126
Gospel Ministry Fund	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
Mantle Legacy	285,379	-	(7,864)	-	-	277,515
TOTAL	345,844	4,239	(32,800)	-	3,273	320,556
<u>Represented by:</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents	295,973	4,239	(32,800)	-	-	267,412
Investments	49,871	-	-	-	3,273	53,144
	345,844	4,239	(32,800)	-	3,273	320,556

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

7 Unrestricted and Designated Funds

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Gains / (Losses)	Balance c/fwd
General Unrestricted Fund	65,883	95,322	(88,884)	-	1,170	73,491
Fabric Fund East Dean	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Parish Magazine	6,618	6,433	(6,529)	-	-	6,522
TOTAL	82,501	101,755	(95,413)	-	1,170	90,013

Represented by:

Cash and cash equivalents	31,070	101,755	(95,413)	-	-	37,412
Investments	51,431	-	-	-	1,170	52,601
	82,501	101,755	(95,413)	-	1,170	90,013