

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

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**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The Vicarage, The Close
Corseley Road,
Groombridge
TN3 9SE

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

PCC Powers Measure 1956 (as amended) and
The Church Representation Rules 2011

MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Vicar	The Rev Nicholas Henshall	Licensed on 23 February 2023
Associate Vicar	The Rev Trevor Harrison	Licensed on 21 February 2021
		<u>Current term of office</u>
Church Wardens (Elected annually)	Mary Symes Victoria Alexander	2025-26 2025-26
Deanery Synod Representatives (Three-year term)	Beverley Hollands Richard Diggory	2023-26 (Safeguarding Officer) 2023-26 (PCC Treasurer)
Elected Members (Three-year term)	Richard Saunders (Reader) Emma Lester Leanne Taylor Richard Hunt	2023-26 2024-27 (PCC Secretary) 2025-28 2025-28

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Sarah Crispin
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

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**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Thomas the Apostle, Groombridge Charity Number 1214294. presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

LOCATION

The Church of St Thomas the Apostle is situated in Corseley Road, Groombridge, East Sussex. It is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, The Close, Corseley Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SE.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Vicar, working with the churchwardens and the PCC, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish and beyond. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church of St Thomas the Apostle, Groombridge.

The full PCC met seven times during the year.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how the services can involve the many groups that live within the parish. The services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament, and prepare God's people for service in the church and community. To facilitate this work, it is important that the fabric of the church is maintained.

Public Benefit

In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The governing documents for the charity are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules 2011.

In previous years the PCC has been an "excepted charity", which meant that it had charitable status but was not required, for the time being, to register with the Charity Commission. However, because of the increase in the PCC's gross income in 2024, the exception no longer applied. Following its application to the Charity Commission, the PCC was registered as a charity in July 2025, with the Registered Charity Number 1214294.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by, and set out in, the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises ex-officio members (which includes clergy and churchwardens), elected members and co-opted members. The PCC organises elections annually before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies. The members of the PCC are the charity's trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting in 2025 was held on 14th May 2025.

The Standing Committee, comprising of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary, meets every other month.

The Ministry Team supports the Vicar in all aspects of worship and ministry at St Thomas' Church. It consists of three members of the clergy – the Vicar, the Associate Vicar, and the Rev Sue Diggory (a retired priest living in the parish, with permission to officiate) – and three licensed Lay Ministers.

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Deanery Synod – Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Policies

With regard to the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the members of the PCC confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

All our Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Fire policies are up to date and available on our website.

ACTIVITIES, CHANGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

Church Attendance

The average usual Sunday attendance during the year, as recorded in the Register of Services (including both 9.30 am and 4.30 pm services), was 98 (87 adults and 11 young people under 16 years old).

At the 2025 APCM held on 14th May 2025 it was recorded that there were 120 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll (2024: 108).

The full PCC met seven times during the year, in alternate months, with the Standing Committee meeting in the months in between.

Pastoral offices

During the year there were no baptisms (2024: 1); no weddings (2024: 1); 2 funerals in church (2024: 3); 2 funerals at a crematorium, cemetery, or other non-church location, 1 graveside burial, and 8 committals or burial of ashes (2024: 5). There were no confirmations (2024: 0).

The occasional offices (Baptisms, weddings and funerals) typically play an important part in the mission of the church. It is therefore surprising that there have been no baptisms in 2025. Whilst we can suggest some reasons, such as the increasingly low birth rate in East Sussex and West Kent (which is having a significant impact on school rolls), it is also the case that we do have positive relationships with a significant number of young families – especially through the monthly 4.30 pm service, Tiny Fishes, and the Pre School. This is an area that needs work.

On a more positive note, we do have three weddings this coming year,

Teams

Over the last 18 months it has been good to see the deepening of the way we work in overlapping teams – Standing Committee, PCC, Ministry Team, Vicar and Church Wardens, and indeed our musicians. It has been a real enrichment to welcome Victoria Alexander licensed as an Authorised Lay Minister by the Bishop of Chichester at a splendid service in Chichester Cathedral on 10th May 2025. Victoria brings rich experience of ministry and a wide range of gifts.

In terms of mission, governance, mutual accountability, and church and community flourishing, the greater depth of team working has both enabled individual ministries and built our sense of being the Body of Christ in this place.

At the same time, we have made a permanent change in relation to Pastoral Care. Ann Saunders had led this significant ministry, but it was time to draw this to a close, at least for a period. A huge thank you for everything that Ann and the team have done over the years.

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Going forward, Jane Garland now takes responsibility for the Home Communion rota, and the wider Ministry Team are continuing to develop our practice in Pastoral Care. Fr Nicholas would want to note here that the primary agents of pastoral care are the congregation, and above we seek to develop our capacity as a congregation to draw out people's gifts and enable all of us to have confidence in our care for one another and the wider network of our community.

Deepening our praying

2025 saw a sustained focus on developing our praying together. That of course includes our Sunday worship and the regular gatherings for Daily Prayer on Tuesday evening and Thursday morning. Important moments on this journey include:

- The Prayer Day on 11th October 2025
- The recent establishing of a regular church prayer meeting on the first Monday of each month
- The Advent and Lent Courses which saw levels of engagement with Scripture at greater depth.

Special services focused on a specific need or purpose, such as the annual Snowdrop Service, continue to attract significant numbers, and from a wide range of people from the village and beyond. As part of our Mission Action Plan (see further below) we will be exploring how we might develop a wider range of opportunities for people to gather for worship and prayer.

Part of the picture here – and again, this is for the Mission Action Planning process – we do have two active home groups. There have been various conversations about how we further develop home groups both to enable the deepening of our discipleship and in terms of how home groups might play a wider role.

Christmas, Holy Week and Easter

The Christmas services here at St Thomas' draw up to 10% of the population of the village. And it may be that we need to give more attention to how we create appropriate opportunities to engage people who have had a positive experience of the church's ministry and worship over Christmas. At the same time, we should note that we also saw significant engagement in Holy Week 2025, especially on Good Friday.

OUTREACH, MISSION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Outreach

As with pastoral care, the primary agents of our outreach as a church are the members of the congregation. As has been said many times, most people meet Christ through meeting Christians, and that is key to the growth of all church congregations – having the courage to reach out and invite someone to “come and see”. This is an important theme that will be developed in the St Thomas' Mission Action Plan.

Here at St Thomas' on a Thursday morning each week we do have a very simple form of outreach in what we call “Coffee, Cake and Chat” because that is exactly what it is. But it is also a real support network for those who come, and indeed an opportunity for deepening relationships. Everyone is warmly welcome. Also to note here the very successful Community Café at the Village Hall that St Thomas' ran in November, working hand in hand with the Men's Shed. Again, it was an opportunity to engage with a wide range of people.

St Thomas' CofE Voluntary Aided School

Our school is a significant part of our ministry as a church. This has multiple facets to it, and a range of people are involved in our school ministry. The Church provides three Foundation Governors (the Vicar, the Rev Sue Diggory, and Mary Symes). Although this role is focused specifically on school governance, it is also concerned with deepening the culture and ethos that is a core feature of a Church of England School. The Rev Sue Diggory chairs the Ethos Group working with the Head Teacher, Mary Symes (foundation governor), and Fr Nicholas in this important task. Moreover, Fr Nicholas and the Rev Sue Diggory regularly lead Collective Worship, both in school and for the school in church.

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At the beginning of 2026, Mrs Elizabeth (Beth) Derham became our new Head Teacher and is very eager to strengthen the relationship between the school and the church. We already have a robust pattern of school services in the church on major feasts and particular seasons, and we are currently planning how to deepen the impact and engagement of pupils in these celebrations.

Away-giving

Family Support Work (FSW) is one of St Thomas’ main apostolic ministries, supporting the charity both through fundraising and through the regular collection and donation of household items for FSW Food Bank in the basket at the back of the church.

Other charities we supported during the year were ShelterBox, British Red Cross, Christian Aid (Myanmar and Afghanistan appeals), Christians Against Poverty, The College of St Barnabas, and St Mungo’s.

Mission Action Planning

Every church is required to have a Mission Action Plan. Mission Action Planning is a process of seeking to discern prayerfully our mission priorities as a church and to focus on what actions we need to take in order to bring these priorities to fruition. It is a widely used structure, rooted in prayer and reflection.

In one sense we set out on this road with the Sowing the Seed Day in 2023, and the priorities established then have continued to shape the reflections of the PCC. On 26th February 2025 the PCC had a significant away day, led by Canon Kate Moore from Chelmsford Cathedral. This gave much food for thought and a sense of direction. The content of that shaped Fr Nicholas’s address at the Annual Meeting, and following a second away day on 3rd February 2026 has led to the development of the first stage of our action plan – identifying our three key priorities as a church, as follows: -

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Growing the church in depth and in numbers	Worship and Learning	Major capital projects

‘Major Capital projects’ includes: -

This coming year:

- Security – needs upgrading. It is proposed to install CCTV with light covering the outside porch and external wall, subject to PCC approval.
- Sound and Vision – upgrading our current AV system to better support the sound and vision needs of all those who attend services and activities in our church building.

Longer Term:

- Reordering the porch and installing glass doors to increase the openness of the building and the welcome

Going forward, these three priorities will shape the work of the PCC – an exciting task in which we encourage everyone to be involved as we discern the actions we need to take (and the resources that we need to develop) to make these priorities a reality. As part of this process, the PCC is also focused on developing a clear statement of our vision and values as a church.

The Mission Action Plan will provide a road map for the church and will be a major item at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2026.

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CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

At the annual meeting in 2025, Richard Hunt retired as Churchwarden and Mary Symes was re-elected Churchwarden for the year 2025/26. In addition, Victoria Alexander was proposed as Churchwarden and duly elected for the year 2025/26.

Faculties:

Three faculties were applied for and granted during 2025/26

- Application for the installation of a bench to commemorate the life of Jude McGill, granted on 24 January 2025.
- Application for the installation of a bench to commemorate the life of Keith Godsmark, granted on 6 March 2025.
- Application for the alteration of the kitchen and installation of a cooker in the kitchen under list B. Granted on 16 August 2025 – recorded in the log book by print out from online faculty system.

Works:

The following works, both inside and out, were completed.

- The installation of three key safes in following list A application in March 2025.
- The installation of a Belling cooker in the kitchen including alterations to the kitchen and electrical works to enable the installation.
- The upgrade of the boiler to include a Hive thermostat enabling the heating to be remotely operated.
- Reduction of the north hedge between the church and the vicarage.
- Trimming of the vicarage hedge.
- Removal of an overgrown Holly tree in the garden.
- Two of the large trees in the burial ground were trimmed and the crown lifted. A quote for similar work on a further two has been accepted.

Certificates:

The church received a visit from the Crowborough Fire Station who suggested an addition of an emergency light in the chancel which is to be completed.

Fire extinguishers were tested, the boiler certified and all electrical works. Risk assessments were reviewed and agreed by the PCC.

Inventory and Terrier

Reviewed and amended

In 2026 The Churchwardens have one project outstanding to complete from the 2023 Quinquennial, which is improvements to the stone work of the vestry

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding is high priority at St Thomas', and everything is up to date

In April we registered St Thomas the Apostle, New Groombridge, on the Parish Dashboard Scheme. A drop-in session with other Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) helped with the transition. We confirm that we have reached the levels required by the Diocese which will help make the job of a PSO even more efficient.. The PSO completes the dashboard, but all members of the PCC are able to access it.

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Beverley Hollands and Gerard Newman (organist and member of the congregation) completed a First Aid at Work course, joining the course offered by Men's Sheds.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

A Deanery Celebration was held on 21st January at St Mary's Church, Hartfield. There was a service, with Bishop Martin and Bishop Will, celebrating the history and Christian faith in our Deanery.

A Deanery Synod meeting was held on 12th March at All Saints, Crowborough. There was a presentation by Melissa Davies, Executive Project Manager, on the Diocesan Investment Programme.

A Deanery Synod Meeting was held on 24th June at St Dunstan's Mayfield. The subject was Encouraging Children and Young People in Faith. The speakers were Matt Marriott, who spoke about the Diocesan May Camp, Brendan Marlin, who spoke about Festival Church, and Michael Asquith, who spoke about Mission through Music.

The Annual Autumn Meeting was held on 15th October. The meeting was held jointly with Dallington and Uckfield deaneries to discuss Parish Share. The meeting was led by the Reverend Marc Lloyd (Assistant Archdeacon), Catherine Dawkins (Finance Director), and Bill Telford (Deputy Chair, Diocesan Board of Finance).

A Zoom meeting was held on 25th November to give a brief review of the previous meeting and to answer any questions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £93,582 (2024: £100,549) of which £79,431 was unrestricted voluntary donations (2024: £79,380). Restricted donations of £3,791 and a restricted grant of £250, were also received. Magazine income was £9,223, of which £5,488 was advertising income.

About 90% of planned giving comes by way of regular donations through the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a very efficient and cost-free system, and is particularly helpful in automatically claiming Gift Aid on eligible donations on a monthly basis.

£92,365 (2024: £86,464) was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the Vicar. The contribution from the deanery as a whole is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations. Each year the diocese calculates the Parish Ministry Cost (PMC) for each parish, which represents the cost to diocesan funds of that parish's ministry. Given the positive outturn in 2024, the PCC decided to make a supplementary contribution of £3,836 to the diocese, to bring its total contribution for 2024 into line with the PMC for that year.

The net result for the year was a surplus of receipts over payments of £1,217 on unrestricted funds, compared to a surplus of £14,086 in 2024.

The balances carried forward at 31st December 2025 on unrestricted funds totalled £52,099,584. The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds equivalent to at least three months unrestricted payments, to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. Currently this amounts to £23,000 (2024 £22,000). Surplus funds are held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

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In December the PCC reviewed its reserves policy and decided that a reserve of at least 3 months' unrestricted expenditure should continue to be maintained, but that the £24,791 of general funds currently earmarked as a Repair Fund could prudently be reduced to £20,000, thus making £4,791 of this reserve available for capital projects.

A regular review of the financial position is carried out and reported at each PCC meeting, and a strict annual budget is agreed and monitored to ensure adequate control.

STATEMENT OF THE PCC MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent and detection fraud and other irregularities.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Nicholas J Henshall
[Nicholas J Henshall \(Apr 27, 2026 17:12:37 GMT+1\)](#)

Rev Nicholas Henshall
Chairman

Date: Apr 27, 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages 10 to 14 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Sarah Crispin

Sarah Crispin (Apr 27, 2026 17:24:43 GMT+1)

Sarah Crispin

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Apr 27, 2026

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			2025 £	2024 £
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Income receipts						
Voluntary receipts	2(a)	79,431	-	3,521	82,952	100,149
Fundraising income	2(b)	6,561	-	523	7,084	9,440
Church activities	2(c)	6,513	-	-	6,513	11,306
Investment income	2(d)	1,077	-	-	1,077	1,333
Total receipts		<u>93,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,044</u>	<u>97,626</u>	<u>122,228</u>
Payments						
Church activities						
Parish share	3(b)	56,393	-	-	56,393	48,721
Clergy costs	3(a)	7,261	-	-	7,261	8,118
Church running expenses	3(b)	16,803	-	3,016	19,819	20,307
		<u>80,457</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,016</u>	<u>83,473</u>	<u>77,146</u>
Fundraising expenses	4	6,877	-	170	7,047	7,038
Mission giving and donations	5	5,032	-	3,916	8,948	4,020
Total payments		<u>92,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,102</u>	<u>99,467</u>	<u>88,204</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		1,217	-	(3,058)	(1,842)	34,024
Transfers between funds	6	1,275	-	(1,275)	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>2,492</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,333)</u>	<u>(1,842)</u>	<u>34,024</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		49,608	1,395	19,909	70,911	36,887
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>52,099</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>15,575</u>	<u>69,070</u>	<u>70,911</u>

The notes on pages 12 - 14 form part of these accounts.

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2025 £	2024 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	27,307	1,395	15,575	44,278	46,911
Notice deposits	24,792	-	-	24,792	24,000
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>52,099</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>15,575</u>	<u>69,070</u>	<u>70,911</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	2,650	-	-	2,650	934
Accrued income	165	-	-	165	330
	<u>2,815</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,815</u>	<u>1,264</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Agency Creditor	-	-	-	-	802
Parish share	-	-	-	-	3,836
Fee for Independent Examination	1,188	-	-	1,188	930
Accrued expenses	3,859	-	-	3,859	1,954
	<u>5,047</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,047</u>	<u>7,522</u>
Total	<u>5,047</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,047</u>	<u>7,522</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £	Current value £
Computers and IT	General	4,219	1,239
		<u>4,219</u>	<u>1,239</u>

Current values have been estimated by the trustees.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Nicholas J Henshall

Nicholas J Henshall (Apr 27, 2026 17:12:37 GMT+1)

The Rev Nicholas Henshall

Chairman

Date: Apr 27, 2026

Date: _____

The notes on pages 12 - 14 form part of these accounts.

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £		
2 a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	68,928	-	1,318	70,246	60,764
Collections at services	2,289	-	-	2,289	4,995
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,000
Other grants	-	-	250	250	10,511
Other donations	6,234	-	1,954	8,188	6,168
Gift aid recovered	1,979	-	-	1,979	7,711
	<u>79,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,521</u>	<u>82,952</u>	<u>100,149</u>
b) Fundraising income					
Parish magazine - advertising	5,868	-	-	5,868	6,052
Fundraising events	694	-	523	1,216	3,388
	<u>6,561</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>523</u>	<u>7,084</u>	<u>9,440</u>
c) Church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,776	-	-	1,776	7,040
Sales of parish magazine	3,808	-	-	3,808	3,087
Lettings for community use	533	-	-	533	-
Other income	136	-	-	136	496
Bible books	125	-	-	125	282
Youth groups	136	-	-	136	401
	<u>6,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,513</u>	<u>11,306</u>
d) Investment income					
Interest from cash deposits	1,077	-	-	1,077	1,333
	<u>1,077</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,077</u>	<u>1,333</u>

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
3 a) Clergy costs					
Running costs for clergy accommodation	3,434	-	-	3,434	3,986
Major repairs to clergy accommodation	-	-	-	-	93
Clergy expenses	3,827	-	-	3,827	4,039
	<u>7,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,261</u>	<u>8,118</u>
During the year the PCC did not employ any staff.					
Revd Nicholas Henshall (who is a clergy member of the PCC) receives a stipend from the Diocese; the cost of these stipends is not included in the above payroll cost however it should be noted that some of the Parish share is used to help pay the stipends. Rev Henshall was provided with accommodation (which is customary for clergy) and the cost of this accommodation is disclosed in the above note. Expenses incurred whilst serving as clergy are also disclosed in the above note.					
b) Church running costs					
Diocesan Parish contribution	56,393	-	-	56,393	48,721
Cost of services	639	-	-	639	687
Children and youth ministry	240	-	331	571	490
Upkeep of churchyard	260	-	1,250	1,510	1,844
Church running expenses	8,109	-	-	8,109	8,383
Other ministry expenses	1,971	-	-	1,971	1,307
Parish magazine	1,752	-	-	1,752	2,125
Other legal and professional fees	186	-	-	186	186
Independent examiner's fee	930	-	-	930	1,020
Routine church maintenance	2,053	-	-	2,053	2,327
Miscellaneous expenditure	663	-	1,435	2,098	1,938
	<u>73,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,016</u>	<u>76,212</u>	<u>69,028</u>
4 Fundraising expenses					
Magazine printing	6,554	-	-	6,554	6,995
Cost of fundraising events	323	-	170	493	43
	<u>6,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>7,047</u>	<u>7,038</u>
5 Mission giving and donations					
Overseas	-	-	-	-	2,330
UK	5,032	-	3,916	8,948	1,690
	<u>5,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,916</u>	<u>8,948</u>	<u>4,020</u>

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas The Apostle, Groombridge

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6 Movement on designated, restricted and endowment funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	49,607	93,582	(92,365)	1,275	52,099
Designated funds					
Michael Henley fund	1,395	-	-	-	1,395
	<u>1,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,395</u>
Restricted funds					
Charitable donations fund	873	2,476	(3,916)	-	(567)
Mission & Outreach Fund	8,611	-	(1,766)	-	6,845
Upkeep of churchyard fund	10,310	-	(1,250)	-	9,060
Miscellaneous Fund	115	1,568	(170)	(1,275)	237
	<u>19,909</u>	<u>4,044</u>	<u>(7,102)</u>	<u>(1,275)</u>	<u>15,575</u>
Total funds	<u>70,911</u>	<u>97,626</u>	<u>(99,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,070</u>

The General fund is available to the PCC for the day to day running of the church and parish.

The Michael Henley designated fund is available to the vicar to use at his discretion.

The Charitable donations restricted fund represents donations received towards named charities.

The Mission and Outreach Fund represents grants received to support and enhance the church's work in the local community.

The Upkeep of Church yard restricted fund represents grants received for the upkeep of the churchyard.

The Miscellaneous Fund represents donations received for agreed purposes specified by the donor(s).

The transfer to the General Fund related to organ & music costs in the year