



ST. MARGARET'S
R A I N H A M

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent

Revd Nathan Ward

St Margaret's Church Office

St Margaret's Church

High Street

Rainham ME8 7JH

Bank

National Westminster Bank plc

148 High Street

Chatham ME4 4DB

Independent Examiner

Natalie Harrison ACA FCCA CTA TEP

Beak Kemmenoe Chartered Accountants

1-3 Manor Road

Chatham ME4 6AE

Registered Charity No. 1134849

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Annual Report

Administrative information

The PCC present their report with Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The PCC have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in January 2015, together with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

St Margaret's Church is situated in the High Street, Rainham. It is part of the Diocese of Rochester, within the Church of England. It has a charitable status as a registered place of worship under Section 3 of the Charities Act 1993. Charity Number 1134849

Church address St Margaret's Church
High Street
Rainham
Kent ME8 7JH

01634 362023

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Incumbent Revd Nathan Ward *Chair*

Assistant Priest Revd Jonathan Jennings

Licensed Lay Minister

from APCM 2023 to 2025 Mrs Janet Garnons-Williams

Churchwardens

from APCM 2023 to 2024 Mrs Davina O'Brien
Mrs Linda Randall

from APCM 2023 to 2024 Mrs Linda Randall
Mr Simon Hall

Deanery Synod

from APCM 2023 to 2026 Mr Terry Whittaker
from APCM 2024 to 2026 Mrs Janet Garnons-Williams *Vice Chair*
Miss Lorna Dyer

Diocesan Synod

from July 2024 to July 2027 Mr Terry Whittaker *Licensed Lay Worker, and licensed funeral minister*

Elected to PCC

from APCM 2021 to 2024 Miss Hollie Allen
Mr Nigel Barfoot
Mr Owen Smith

from APCM 2022 to 2025 Mrs Heather Baker
Miss Lorna Dyer
Mrs Felicity Holton

	Mr David Ormiston Miss Charley Whittaker	
from APCM 2023 to 2026	Mr Nick Grief Mr Philip Holdcroft	
From APCM 2024 to 2027	Mrs Emi Inetianbor Mrs Jean Penney	
In attendance	Mr Sam Holden Mrs Davina O'Brien Mrs Jo Whittaker	<i>PCC Treasurer up to May 2024</i> <i>PCC Treasurer from May 2024</i> <i>PCC Secretary</i>

Bankers National Westminster Bank plc
148 High Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 4DB

Independent Examiner Natalie Harrison (ACA FCCA CTA TEP)
Beak Kemmenoe
Chartered Accounts
1-3 Manor Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 6AE

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to work in our Church and to become part of our Parish community. It maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within the Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, Scripture, music and sacrament.

In the planning of activities, the PCC has considered both the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- provision of pastoral care for those living in the Parish
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Margaret's and the Millennium Centre complex.

Public Benefit

St. Margaret's Church remains deeply committed to serving the needs of our community, enriching lives, and fostering a sense of belonging and support for all. Through our diverse range of programmes and services, we continue to impact the lives of individuals and families, promoting spiritual growth, social cohesion, and community well-being.

Our core offering of Sunday Services, held at 8 am and 10.30 am, provide a vital opportunity for worship for parishioners of all ages. Additionally, our 252 Kids Club, inspired by Luke 2:52, offers a nurturing environment for children on Sunday mornings, fostering their spiritual development and sense of belonging within the church community.

Recognising the importance of regular communion and fellowship, we host a mid-week communion service every Wednesday at 10.30 am, providing a sanctuary for contemplation and renewal amidst the busyness of modern life. Furthermore, our XP3 Youth program, held on Monday evenings, engages and supports young people, empowering them to explore their faith and navigate the challenges of adolescence.

In response to the growing needs of vulnerable individuals and families, our Just Say Hello Food Project has expanded its reach, offering vital sustenance and support to those facing food insecurity. Moreover, our Community Hub, operating every Tuesday, serves as a central resource hub, collaborating with key stakeholders such as Citizens Advice and the Department for Work and Pensions, Medway Adult Education and Public Health to provide holistic support and guidance to members of our community.

Our strong partnerships with local schools and Academy Trusts enable us to effectively support young people's educational and pastoral needs, fostering a nurturing environment for learning and growth. Additionally, our Eco Hub project has emerged as a beacon of environmental stewardship, inspiring and supporting grassroots initiatives throughout the county to address the urgent challenges of the climate emergency.

Furthermore, we recognise the importance of nurturing social and cultural bonds within our community. Through initiatives such as concerts, the inaugural Rainham Poetry Festival, and coffee mornings, we provide enriching experiences that promote social interaction, creativity, and well-being, particularly for the elderly members of our community.

In summary, St. Margaret's Church remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the public good, fostering spiritual growth, social cohesion, and community resilience. We are grateful for the continued support of our parishioners, volunteers, and partners as we strive to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Achievements and Performance

Below is a summarised table of 2023 objectives for 2024 and their status as of April 2025.

Pray More	
All church meetings to begin and end in prayer	Green
Have a short sermon series on prayer	Red

Ensure all areas of the church's life are prayed for by including daily prayer points in the Day-by-Day booklet.	Green
Increase the number of people leading Daily Prayer	Red
Encourage daily prayer throughout the congregation by signposting them to different resources both produced by St Margaret's and wider publications	Green
Small groups to include prayer both as an activity and teaching point	Green
Develop prayer stations within the church and offer ideas on 'ways to pray' that are promoted on the website, social media etc.	Green
Offer prayer ministry after service	Green
Signpost families to prayer resources they can use as a family	Red

Read More

Encourage people to use the physical bibles in church by directing them to it and providing them with the page number	Yellow
Continue to have a specific small group that focuses on studying the Bible for those who wish to delve deeper into the Biblical text	Green
Encourage the use of Bible reading notes so people can unpack their reading and consider how it might apply to their lives in a gentle way.	Green
Encourage listening to or reading the Bible daily through the Daily Prayers online at St Margaret's or other resource	Green
Encourage the congregation to join a Small Group through which the Bible will be used as a key resource and can be discussed within a group context	Green
Signpost families to resources for reading the Bible together as a family and specific resources for children and young people to read the Bible	Red
Continue giving new students at St Margaret's Junior School bibles	Green

Love More

Encourage meaningful conversations and dialogue between congregation members after the service outside of 'normal groupings', fostering community and fellowship and reducing potential divides	Green
Encourage members of the congregation to meet up outside of the church in public spaces to develop relationships	Red
Further develop the welcoming at all church services to ensure everyone is welcomed and engaged with suitable follow-up	Green
Provide opportunities within the church services for 'getting to know people' – e.g. testimony, this is where I work etc....	Red
Run the Everybody Welcome Course so that the congregation can understand the part they play in welcoming new people	Red
Pastoral group to develop ways of keeping in contact with those who are unwell or going through a major life event	Green

10.30am Service

Strengthen the Choir both in confidence and numbers	Yellow
Continue to develop the use of modern music within the service	Green
Involve more people within services to do readings, lead prayers, and assist at communion	Green
Develop service booklets and associated resources on the website that help explain the liturgy	Yellow
Increase the number of people run the sound and audio-visual system	Green
Continue to develop All Age format of services	Green
Review the relationship between 252 Kids and the weekly service and when children are in the service	Red
Provide opportunities within the service for 'getting to know people' – e.g. testimony, this is where I work etc....	Red

Children, Youth and Families

Safely recruit volunteers for 252 Kids, XP3 and Family Friendly Coffee morning	Green
Develop regular family-based activities throughout the year (e.g. Pancake Party, Christingle) in church	Green
Promote Acts of Worship within other Primary Schools in Parish	Green
Deliver a parenting for faith course	Red
Develop a strategic document that outlines the current status of children's, youth and family work, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats	Red
Present the document to PCC, who will consider resourcing the plan	Red

Putting Rainham First

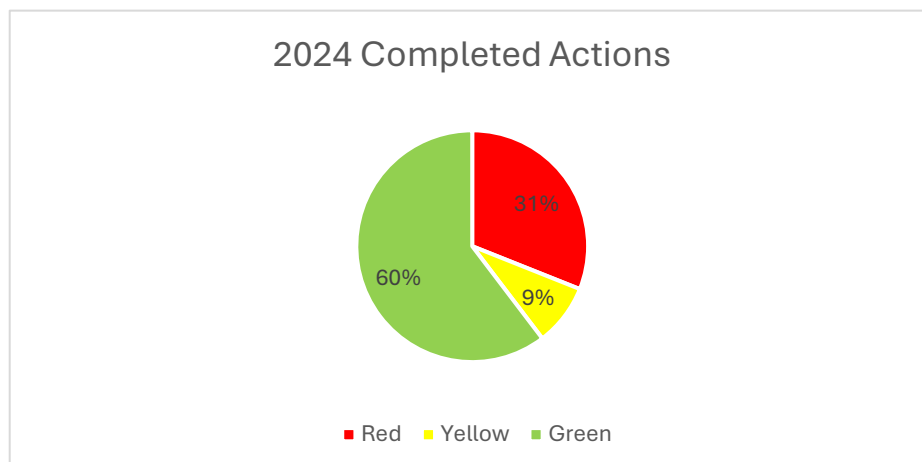
Complete a churchyard survey identifying spaces	Green
Complete the initial survey of the Eastern Crypt	Green
Finalise concept designs for the church, churchyard and Millennium Centre	Green
Update Statement of Significance and Statement of Need	Yellow
Gain initial approval from the DAC	Green
Consult with key stakeholders	Green
Complete funding feasibility study	Green
Complete case for support	Green

Improve the Church's Environmental Sustainability	
Increase membership of subcommittee	Green
Undertake self-assessment against published criteria for the Arocha Award and Green Flag Award as these will help direct us towards carbon net zero and environmental sustainability	Green
Present gap analysis to the Staff Team	Red
Develop an operational plan to close identified gaps	Red
Implement operational plan	Red
Apply for Awards	Red

Communication	
Ensure that the newsletter is produced accurately each week and contains all the key information that people need to know 'what is going on'	Green
Ensure the regular and timely publication of the Day by Day booklets	Green
Redevelop the church website	Green
Social Media - Develop a social media vision and strategy	Yellow

Develop Partnership with Tafara	
Work with St Philips/Matthias to develop a joint strategy on how we develop and promote our relationship	Yellow
Have three clergy meetings a year where clergy from St Margaret's and St Philips / Matthias meet virtually to discuss how the churches are and review how the partnership is developing	Red
Create a platform where prayer requests are cross-pollinated	Green
Explore an 'exchange' visit whilst considering the environmental impact	Green

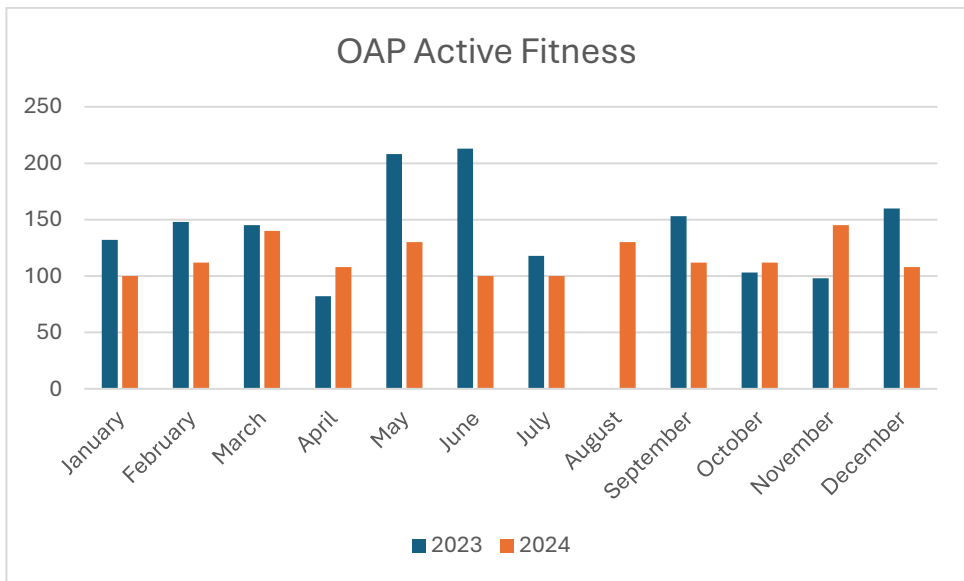
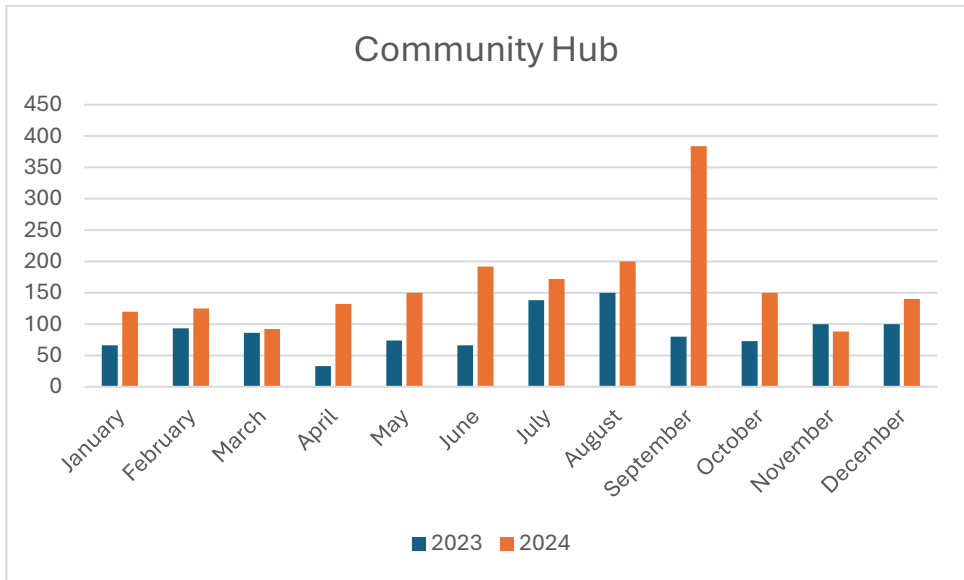
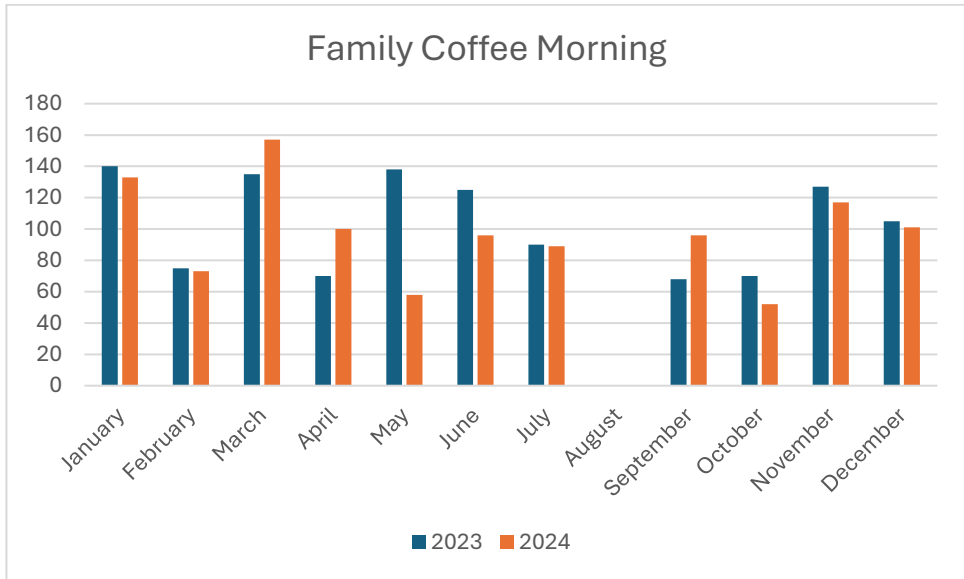
The chart below shows the percentage of outcomes achieved:

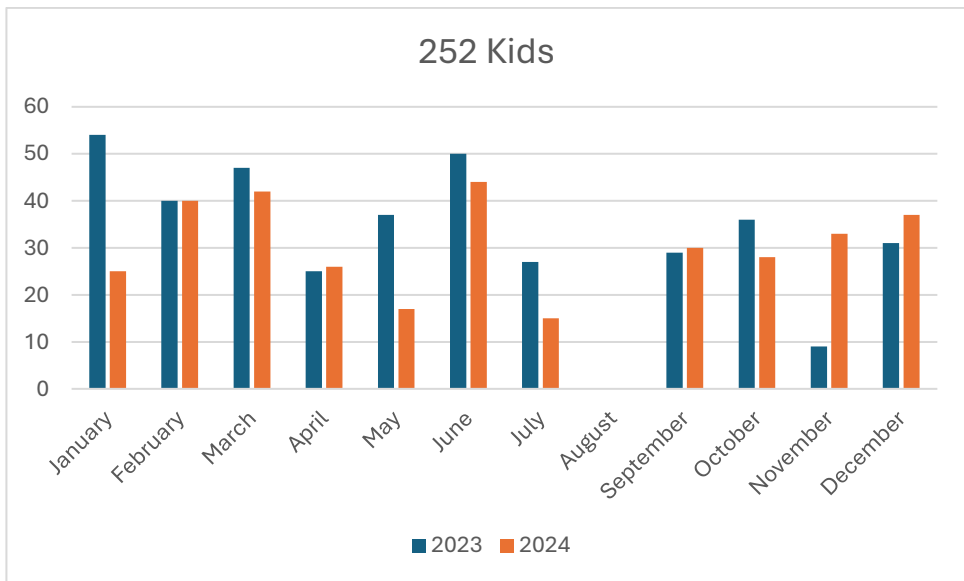
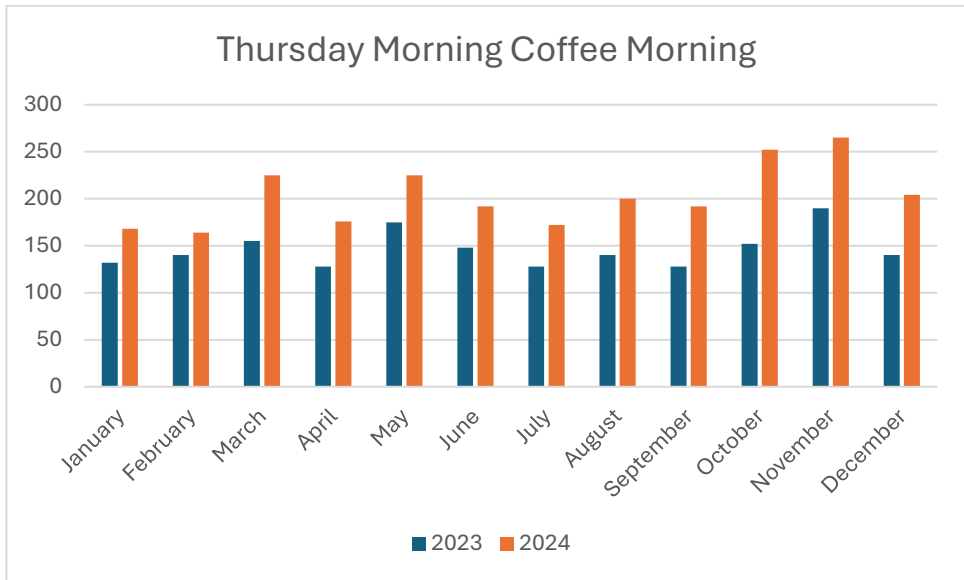
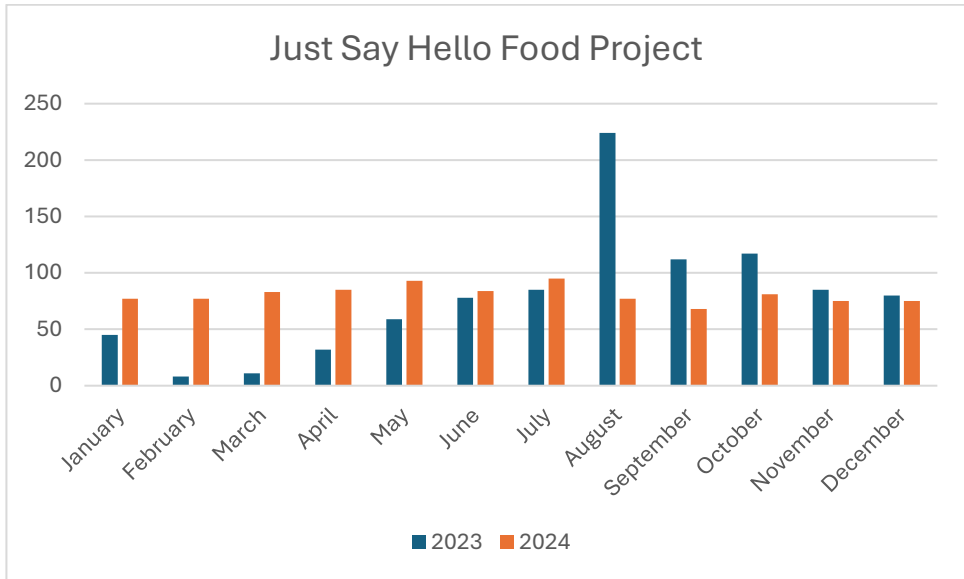


Below are details of services taken throughout the year including previous data for comparison. It should be noted that there was a memorial service held in church for Baby Loss Awareness Week in October.

Attendances	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Average weekly attendance during October	114 (1,880 online)	99 (1,190 online)	110 (1,098 online)	201 (18 online)
Easter Day	9 (2,568 online)	194 (610 online)	198 (4,266 online)	153 (18 online)
Christmas Day	98 (420 online)	199 (400 online)	216 (336 online)	92 (18 online)
Christmas Services	668	1082	1059	1705
Adult Baptisms	1	3	1	5
Child Baptisms	29	38	42	33
Confirmations	0	0	7	8
Marriages	10	15	4	7
Services of Thanksgiving for a Marriage	4	3	0	0
Funerals in Church	16		See below	See below
Funeral service in Church, burial in Churchyard		7	17	5
Funeral service in Church, burial in a cemetery		1	1	1
Funeral service in Church, committal at Crematoria		12	12	7
Funerals in Crematoria only	35	27	26	29
Interment of Ashes	17	20	20	27
Memorial Services in Church	Not recorded	2	2	3

In relation to community groups please see the graphs on the following pages:





When looking at annual ‘reach’ please see the table below to see how this is calculated.

	2023	2024
Weekly Groups	6839	8156
Average Weekly Attendance	5720	10452
Christmas Services	1059	1705
Facebook Reach	57,096	205,200
Total	70,714	225,513

Plans for 2025

Staffing	
Specific	<p>To mark appropriately the retirement of our Associate Minister, Jonathan Jennings and ensure that we are strategically resourced to cover the work that Jonathan does through staff team and others as well as responding to any new priorities.</p> <p>Plan for the safer recruitment of two sessional youth workers, the appointment of a full time children and families worker, an operations manager and a fundraiser (the latter two roles as recommended within the independent feasibility study)</p>
Measurable	<p>Services and activities undertaken by Jonathan continue to take place (December 2025)</p> <p>The additional roles are recruited (April 2026)</p>
Achievable	<p>Within the family of St Margaret’s and bringing in Ordained support from the Deanery/Diocese as required</p> <p>Appropriate candidates are identified and employed</p>
Relevant	<p>To deliver on our missional imperatives and continue to deliver services and offices as required</p>

Read More, Pray More, Love More	
Specific	<p>Deliver on the provision of Bible Study notes for any person wanting to be more structured in their reading of the Bible</p> <p>Restore our offering of delivering the Daily offices every day</p> <p>Consolidate Small Groups and continue delivery of church events designed to foster community</p>

	Continue and develop our relationships with Tafara and pray for them
Measurable	Small Group attendance levels, count of Bible Study notes used (December 2025) Evidence the delivery of Daily prayer each day other than Sunday (December 2025) Count of regular social community events (December 2025) Regular interaction with the clergy and people of Tafara, including organised prayer (December 2025)
Achievable	No external support required
Relevant	Reading the Bible, Praying and Loving others are all key marks of healthy faith so it is incumbent upon us as Church to enable and encourage in this regard

Putting Rainham First Project

Specific	Complete the Statement of Need and concept approval with DAC and consult with all interested parties Present detail plans to the Church at the APCM Complete all work necessary to submit a formal bid for support from the principal funder A specialist to report in order to progress with funded work to restore the Crypt Creation of a new Heritage Booklet Churchyard Mapping System and Archives to go live on the website. The Tufton family mobile heritage exhibition to be completed.
Measurable	Documents and exhibition produced, website updated, and key stakeholders consulted (April 2026)
Achievable	In addition to in-house resources, utilise contracted skills to accomplish tasks
Relevant	The local community grows through significant property development; the Church congregation is growing, and the local authority is under significant fiscal strain meaning that many non-essential services are being pared back This project needs to be delivered in order to ensure a sustainable future for our community and to address wellbeing issues within it
Time Bound	Meeting with DAC in March prior to APCM Consultation to begin at the April APCM, time deadlines for submission of structured information to our principal funder

Social media & Communications

Specific	Complete planning for our suite of communication media, gain Staff and PCC approval and implement Finish the restructuring of the St Margarets website
Measurable	Plan produced and agreed (April 2027)
Achievable	Liaise with independent expertise to provide knowledge and support.
Relevant	We have significant following on social media however are not in tune with normal use of the different elements of social media. We need to ensure that our offerings fit the user profile of the different Social Media products and that our posts are properly and professionally delivered.

Grant Making

There were no grants made in 2024.

Volunteers

Members of the PCC act in a voluntary capacity and rely heavily on the assistance of safer recruited volunteers outside of the PCC. People accessing our community groups has grown over the last year and we have seen an increase in people coming forward wanting to offer their services as volunteers. It is estimated that there were more than 16,120 volunteering hours in 2024, which equates to a financial value of £232,128 (last year was £172,728) based on £14.40/hour.

Church Electoral Roll

As at 31/12/2024, the total number of persons whose names were on the Roll was 174 (174 for 2022/23) of whom 120 persons live within the Parish and 54 outside the Parish.

Financial Review

Although donations continued to reduce, expenditure has been reduced too resulting in an overall deficit of £521 for the year.

At the end of 2023, PCC agreed to set up the trading company – Acts Six Ltd to manage the Millennium Centre business and events in church. A lease payment of £35,000 pa was agreed and Acts Six Ltd paid all the running costs of the Centre. On this basis the Millennium Centre made a profit of £23,233 in 2024 (this includes a depreciation charge of £11,767).

The result of this change meant total receipts on unrestricted funds of £163,660. Our Donations and Legacies income totalled £97,466 for 2024; this includes £11,887 recovered through Gift Aid.

£139,782 was spent from unrestricted funds on church activities during the year, including a contribution of £49,408 to the Diocesan Parish Share. The Parish Share payment was reduced by £5,200 as St Margaret’s church was owed money for staging the FUSE Youth events in 2023.

Net movement in unrestricted funds was an increase of £9,225 for the year and a deficit of £9,767 in the restricted funds. During the year the total fund balances decreased from £649,364 to £648,842.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to retain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to a minimum of three months planned regular expenditure based on the last reported 12 months. This policy was reviewed as part of the budgeting process for 2024. This minimum has been calculated as £25,000 based on actual costs. Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The actual balance of the free reserves at 31st December 2024 was £87,236.

Utility Costs Consideration

Throughout 2024 the wholesale energy prices fluctuated once more. We were able to source some fixed contracts at the end of 2023 to protect our finances from any future rises and this allowed us to budget effectively for 2024. However, the utility company SSE who provided the contracts, have not been able to produce bills for our gas usage even though enquiries and complaints have been made. An accrual cost has been included in the 2024 Financial Statements based on previous usage.

The church electricity contract is due to be transferred in March 2025 and the Finance Committee will continue to manage the utility contracts to get the best outcomes both financially and environmentally.

Going Concern Consideration

The Accounts are produced on a Going Concern basis.

We have continued to see general donations down across the board as our congregation battles with increased living costs and we have continued to manage our expenditure with regular reviews against budget.

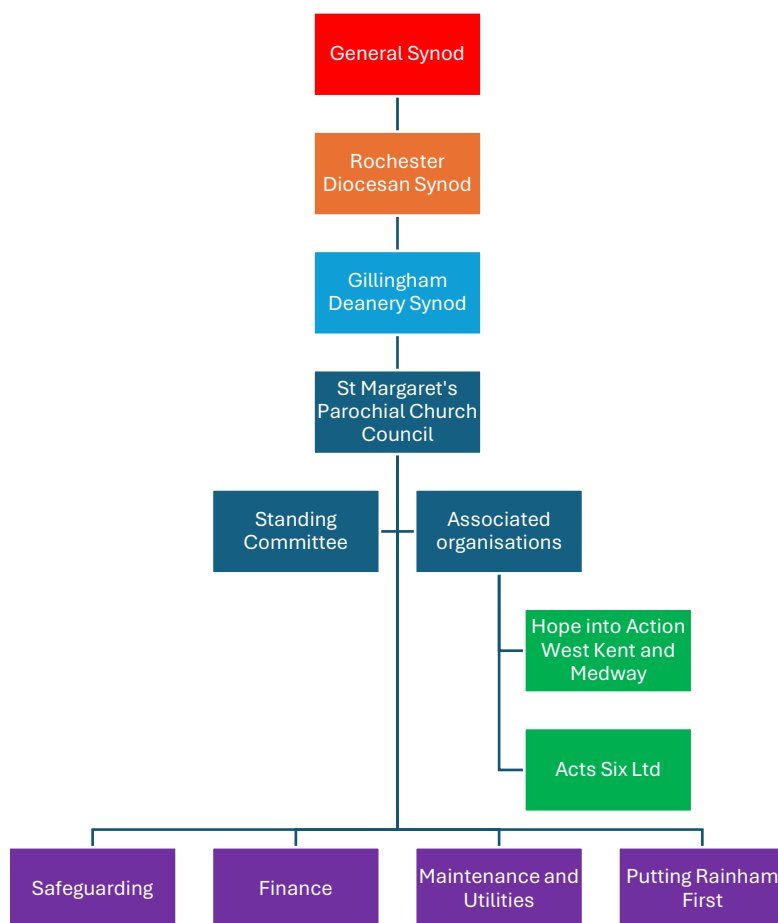
If we encounter a situation of very significant uncertainty, it should be noted that we have a contingency plan. Our Parish Share is a voluntary payment. St Margaret's has a proud history of paying its agreed share. Additionally, we have a significant asset in our Childscroft Road property, currently we receive monthly rental income for this property which we review annually to ensure the amount charged is correct. In worst case circumstances, we could sell the property and replenish our cash reserves. The current value of the property is approximately £450,000.

Therefore, we believe that the charity has the financial resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties that could cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for at least the next 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body, established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1134849).

Below is an organisational chart:



The Church Representation Rules¹ set out the appointment method for PCC members. There is also provision for co-option of members. The Incumbent licensed assistant clergy, Churchwardens, and elected members to the Deanery, Diocesan, and General Synod are all ex-officio members of the PCC. All those who attend our services as congregation members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and are eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/contents>

trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the method and principles of the Charity SORP 2013.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The full PCC met eleven times during the year.

Induction & Training of Trustees

All new trustees are inducted to the church PCC subject to the completion of a DBS check, undertaking appropriate safeguarding training and completing an HMRC Fit and Proper Persons declaration and a Trustee Eligibility Declaration. All trustees receive a copy of CC3 'What Trustees Need to Know and Do' guidance note from the Charity Commission. At the first meeting of a new PCC, all offices of the PCC are discussed, nominations provided, and after voting, positions declared.

Risk Management

The budget for 2024 was reviewed on a regular basis by the Finance Committee throughout the year and an update given to PCC at the PCC meetings. The budget for 2025 was reviewed extensively by the finance committee and was agreed to by the PCC.

Establishing Acts Six Ltd as the trading company of the PCC has provided some stability to the income and expenditure of the church.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

All trustees of the charity must:

- 1) Ensure compliance with the governing document and charity law.
- 2) Ensure that the PCC is and will remain solvent, by keeping up to date with the PCC's activities and financial position. Use charitable funds and assets wisely, and only to further the purposes and interests of the PCC. Avoid undertaking activities that might place the PCC's property, funds, assets or reputation at undue risk.
- 3) Exercise reasonable care and skill as trustees, using personal knowledge and experience to ensure that the PCC is well-run and efficient.

Committees

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish life. These include:

The Standing Committee - a statutory requirement and comprises the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer and at least two, but not more than four, elected members from the PCC. This Committee meets, when required, and brings recommendations to PCC meetings on various matters, including those referred to it by the PCC. It has power to take decisions on behalf of the PCC when required.

The Finance Committee – this was formed to support the Treasurer and has a specific focus on the strategic use and management of the financial resources of the Church.

The Maintenance and Utilities Committee – oversees the maintenance of the Church building and churchyard.

The Safeguarding Committee – to support the Parish Safeguarding Officer and undertake any non-confidential work that promotes a safer church.

Putting Rainham First – this committee was set up as an authorised sub-committee of the PCC to manage the project.

Other committees or task groups are formed and meet as required to consider various aspects of church life.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2024. In February, Greg Barry and Jane Winter from the Diocese attended to discuss issues of Safeguarding and Lay Training. This meeting addressed a motion from our own PCC challenging the academic nature of training requirements associated with the Safeguarding training. The June meeting dealt with structural matters of the Synod with the election of Lay Chair (Terry Whittaker), and the balance of the meeting involved a presentation by the Area Dean on the conflict in the Middle East with a particular focus on Gaza, The West Bank and Israel. Our October meeting welcomed Rev Mike Nelson as the new Area Dean following Rev Brian Senior's retirement, and introduced a new format for the forthcoming meetings with the intent for these to be more focused, bringing in experts to address relevant themes for the Churches within our Deanery.

Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod met three times in 2024. The February meeting focused on Bishop Jonathan's refreshed vision for the Diocese, with Change, Serve and Grow still being at the heart of this vision. In the June meeting there was further discussion about Diocesan Vision and its delivery, and some time was spent agreeing the Annual Report and Accounts. The final meeting in December was the first meeting of the newly appointed Synod, and dealt with the election of Officers, sought formal support for the finalised vision and strategy document and received a presentation by the Diocesan Board of Finance. This Synod meeting also received Nathan's motion, *"That this Synod resolves to pass a vote of no*

confidence in the Archbishops' Council's oversight of safeguarding and urges for the necessary reforms to restore trust, safeguard the vulnerable, and uphold the Church's moral and legal responsibilities". The motion was passed by Diocesan Synod with 51 in favour, 5 against and 9 abstentions.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Church

At the end of 2023, plans for a second toilet were agreed and work started in early 2024, this meant reconfiguring the office space to provide space for the facility. Tasks to achieve this included building storage & shelving for the church flowers, building the toilet room and refitting the office space.

During the year a number of maintenance tasks have been completed including clearing drains and gutters, relaying floor tiles, refurbishing noticeboards, replacing door locks, replacing valley roof tiles, tower rope rail maintenance, reconfiguring storage at the Epiphany Chapel, developing a PAT testing process and completing the testing of all electrical items used during the Christmas period, and tidying and re-stacking the mezzanine storage space.

The Quinquennial Report (2021) was reviewed regularly and the following tasks completed:

Crypt door strip back, repair, treat and repaint

Tower door clean, treat and stain

South porch doors strip, repair and paint

Replacement of weather strip on tower door

Regular maintenance and repairs took place on the church heating, lighting including the Emergency Lighting test, organ and lightning conductor.

Churchyard

The Churchyard Team continued to do an excellent job to maintain the graveyard and keep it tidy.

A survey of all gravestones was conducted and a report produced for PCC identifying a number of graves needing attention.

A biodiversity survey was conducted and an implementation report produced which will form part work going forward.

Clergy Housing

Redecoration of the hall and stairs was completed at the Vicarage.

No significant maintenance was carried out at the property in Childscroft Road. Regular maintenance such as the gas certification and boiler service were undertaken.

The Millennium Centre

The management of the Millennium Centre was taken over by Acts Six Ltd during 2024.

Safeguarding Report

At St. Margaret's Church, safeguarding remains a top priority as we strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of safeguarding practice and continue to invest in innovative tools and resources to support our efforts in this crucial area.

In line with this commitment, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has made significant investments in three pieces of software designed to enhance our safeguarding practices and procedures.

MyConcern: This comprehensive safeguarding software offers centralized, secure record-keeping and case management for all types of safeguarding concerns. It enables early intervention by identifying patterns and trends, informs decision-making processes, and facilitates the demonstration of impact. MyConcern provides leaders with a powerful tool to highlight the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements to inspectors and other stakeholders.

MySentry: Designed to support and guide users through each step of the recruitment process, MySentry ensures thorough safeguarding measures are in place. By following the Sentry workflow, users become 'unconsciously competent,' guided by comprehensive safeguarding knowledge and expertise. This system prioritizes the protection of children and young people, leaving nothing to chance.

MyVoice: Embedded on our website, MyVoice is an open-access reporting system that allows anyone to report a safeguarding concern securely. We believe that by providing accessible avenues for reporting safeguarding concerns, we can facilitate early intervention, foster an open culture of safeguarding within our organization, and ensure better support for those in need.

Our Safeguarding Committee, which reports to the PCC, assures that we follow policies and procedures set by the Church of England. We use the Safeguarding Dashboard, supported by Rochester Diocese, to measure performance, make sure that we comply with all mandatory requirements and achieve best practice in safeguarding standards. We remain dedicated to continuous improvement in safeguarding practices and are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our community.

In 2024, over 30 safeguarding concerns were logged on MyConcern. The majority of these related to people outside of the church. Each concern was managed with the utmost professionalism and in accordance with our safeguarding policies and procedures.

Through ongoing investments in technology, training, and resources, we strive to uphold our responsibility to safeguarding and create an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported.

Safeguarding is an important part of the life of St Margaret's, and this includes preventative work as well as reacting to any concerns. All staff and volunteers are safer recruited and have completed at least the basic National Safeguarding training.

If you feel that someone you know may be at risk of being hurt or if you want to discuss anything related to safeguarding in confidence, please contact:

*Linda Randall, Parish Safeguarding Officer
on 01634 362023 ext.4*

or safeguarding@rainhamchurch.co.uk

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call the emergency services on 999. Do not delay.



ST. MARGARET'S
RAINHAM

Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2024

Financial Statements

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 26-39.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view", and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention.

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM
Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Natalie Harrison ACA FCCA CTA TEP

..... 2025

Independent Examiner

Beak Kemmenoe Chartered Accountants

1-3 Manor Road

Chatham

Kent ME4 6AE

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM
Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies	95,466	—	2,000	—	97,466	141,457
Income from charitable activities	12,497	—	—	—	12,497	17,461
Other trading activities	35,000	—	—	—	35,000	47,155
Investments	19,863	1	22	—	19,886	19,099
Other income	834	—	—	—	834	55,801
Total Income	163,660	1	2,022	—	165,683	280,973
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	4,380	—	—	—	4,380	74,732
Expenditure on charitable activities	139,782	10,274	11,767	—	161,823	325,174
Total Expenditure	144,162	10,274	11,767	—	166,203	399,907
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	19,498	(10,273)	(9,745)	—	(520)	(118,933)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	11,599	-	-	—	11,599	151,080
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	(11,599)	—	(11,599)	(151,080)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	4
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(1)	—	—	—	(1)	—
Net movement in funds	31,096	(10,273)	(21,344)	—	(521)	(118,929)

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

Reconciliation of funds

Total funds brought forward	59,674	248,761	340,928	—	649,364	768,293
Total funds carried forward	90,770	238,488	319,584	-	648,842	649,364

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM
Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets		
Tangible	561,606	583,648
Total Fixed assets	561,606	583,648
Current assets		
Debtors & Prepayments	26,900	5,761
Cash at bank & in hand	109,089	129,682
Total Current assets	135,989	135,443
Liabilities		
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	48,753	69,728
Total Liabilities	48,753	69,728
Net Asset surplus(deficit)	648,842	649,364
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) to date	(521)	(206,421)
Starting balances	649,364	855,781
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(1)	4
Total Reserves	648,842	649,364
Represented by funds		
Unrestricted	90,770	59,674
Designated	238,488	248,761
Restricted	319,584	340,929
Endowment	—	—
Total	648,842	649,364

Approved by the PCC on 24 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by Revd Nathan Ward (PCC chairman)



Notes to the Financial Statements

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 PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions, together with 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

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

No cost information is available for the curates' houses, so they are included at a cost that was considered to be representative of the fair market value when they were valued at 31 December 2001 to comply with the Charities Act. The Millennium Centre is valued at historical cost. All of the PCC's properties are being depreciated over an expected useful life of 50 years with effect from 2002.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful economic lives. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end.

Short term deposits

These are cash held on deposit either with the CCLA or at the bank.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds 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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use on future projects, and which are therefore not included in its “free reserves” as disclosed in the trustees’ report.

Incoming Resources

- Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received.
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain, and the amounts are readily quantifiable.
- Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer.
- All incoming resources are accounted for gross.
- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.
- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.
- 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 uncollectible.

Resources expended

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.
- The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

2 Analysis of income and expenditure

Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Gift Aid Donations	46,866	-	-	-	46,866	49,922
Other Planned Giving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collections	553	-	-	-	553	941
Donations	16,160	-	2,000	-	18,160	27,089
Gift Aid Recovered (2a)	11,887	-	-	-	11,887	24,781
Legacies	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	28,724
Grants (2b)	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Total	95,466	-	2,000	-	97,466	141,457

Income from Church Activities

Income from Bazaar	-	-	-	-	-	1,085
Income from other activities	1,644	-	-	-	1,644	2,166
PCC Fees	10,853	-	-	-	10,853	14,210
DBF Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12,497	-	-	-	12,497	17,461

Other Trading Activities

Millennium Centre Lettings	-	-	-	-	-	47,155
Millennium Centre Lease	35,000	-	-	-	35,000	-
Total	35,000	-	-	-	35,000	47,155

Investments

Dividends & interest.	3,063	1	22	-	3,086	2,299
Rent – letting of Childscroft Rd	16,800	-	-	-	16,800	16,800
Total	19,863	1	22	-	19,886	19,099

Other Income

Events Income	834	-	-	-	834	16,873
Wall Donations	-	-	-	-	-	38,928
Total	834	-	-	-	834	55,801

TOTAL INCOME	163,660	1	2,022	-	165,683	280,973
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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

Analysis of income and expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on:

Raising funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Cost of fund-raising events	4,381	-	-	-	4,381	6,597
Millennium Centre running costs	-	-	-	-	-	68,135
Total	4,381	-	-	-	4,381	74,732

Church activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Missionary & charitable giving:						
Overseas missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tafara Link (Harare Diocese)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions & other church societies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Parish Share of diocesan costs (2c)	49,408	-	-	-	49,408	51,362
Salaries & wages of parish staff	21,603	-	-	-	21,603	42,318
Working expenses of clergy	340	-	-	-	340	968
Clergy housing expenses	4,926	-	-	-	4,926	3,651
Parish training & evangelism	2,827	-	-	-	2,827	5,927
Church insurance	5,539	-	-	-	5,539	3,900
Event Expenditure	787	-	-	-	787	15,817
Other church running expenses	7,524	-	-	-	7,524	11,488
Depreciation of properties & equipment	-	10,274	11,767	-	22,042	42,305
Church repairs & maintenance	5,486	-	-	-	5,486	4,296
Upkeep of services	9,685	-	-	-	9,685	8,459
Administration costs	7,116	-	-	-	7,116	9,495
Upkeep of churchyard	1,151	-	-	-	1,151	3,041
Church utility expense (2d)	16,410	-	-	-	16,410	12,014
Church fabric repairs	2,727	-	-	-	2,727	73,868
Heritage Project	4,253	-	-	-	4,253	32,343
Crypt	-	-	-	-	-	3,922
Total	139,783	10,274	11,767	-	161,823	325,174
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	144,163	10,274	11,767	-	166,204	399,907

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

3 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Fixed Assets – Tangible Assets (3a)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Designated Freehold Property - cost		277,500	-	-	277,500	277,500
Designated Freehold Property - accumulated depreciation	-	(41,870)	-	-	(41,870)	(31,979)
Investment assets	13	-	-	-	13	14
Designated furniture - cost	-	89,004	-	-	89,004	89,004
Designated furniture – accumulated depreciation	-	(59,943)	-	-	(59,943)	(59,943)
Designated office equipment – accumulated depreciation	-	(22,186)	-	-	(22,186)	(22,186)
Millennium Centre – Freehold property	-	33,762	601,604	-	635,366	635,366
Millennium Centre – accumulated depreciation	-	(33,762)	(282,516)	-	(316,278)	(304,128)
Total	13	242,505	319,088	-	561,606	583,648

Current assets – Cash at bank & in hand

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
CBF Account	52,097	-	-	-	52,097	55,034
Church Repair Fund – church	-	12	-	-	12	11
Church Repair Fund – 60 Childscroft Road	-	8	-	-	8	8
Heritage Fund CBF Account	-	-	22	-	22	-
Operating Account	17,400	-	(3,732)	-	13,668	24,099
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage Fund Account	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Millennium Centre Current Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tied Income Account	397	-	40,885	-	41,282	50,530
Millennium Centre Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	69,894	20	39,175	-	109,089	129,682

Current assets – Debtors

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Income Tax Recoverable	3,421	-	-	-	3,421	5,275
General Fund Prepayments	3,542	-	-	-	3,542	-
General Fund Accrued Income	13,937	-	-	-	13,937	-
Millennium Centre – Prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	486
Millennium Centre – Accrued Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts Receivable	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	-
Total	26,900	-	-	-	26,900	5,761

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

Statement of Assets & Liabilities (continued)

Liabilities – Agency Accounts

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Agency collections	-	-	38,679	-	38,679	45,916
Total	-	-	38,679	-	38,679	45,916

Liabilities – Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
General fund accruals	9,435	-	-	-	9,435	23,053
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors for goods & services	-	-	-	-	-	-
NatWest Business Card	81	-	-	-	81	-
MC – Accruals	558	-	-	-	558	758
MC – Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	-
MC – Creditors – Goods/services	-	-	-	-	-	-
MC Security deposits repayable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10,074	-	-	-	10,074	23,811
Grand Total	86,733	242,525	319,584	-	648,842	649,364

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

4 Fund Movement

	Opening Balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gain/Loss	Journal Entries	Closing Balance
Church Repair Fund (Designated)	612	1	—	—	—	—	613
Designated Fixed Assets (Designated)	247,765	—	9,891	-	—	—	237,874
Heritage Fund (4a) (Restricted)	11,599	2,022	—	(11,599)	—	—	2,022
St Margaret's Millennium Centre (Designated)	383	—	383	—	—	—	-
St Margaret's Millennium Centre (Restricted)	329,829	—	11,767	—	—	—	318,062
General Fund (Unrestricted)	59,674	163,660	144,162	11599	(14)	13	90,770
None (Agency)	(500)	-					(500)
Grand Total	649,364	165,683	166,204	—	(14)	13	648,842

5 Related Trusts and Charities

The PCC has connections with the following registered charities:

1. The Friends of St Margaret is a charity whose sole purpose is to raise funds for the upkeep of the church fabric.
2. The Rainham Church Estate Charity is a Vicar and Churchwardens' trust, the income from which is available for the maintenance of the church and the churchyard.
3. Acts Six Ltd which is the trading company of the PCC.
4. The Rochester Diocesan Society and Board of Finance Charity Number 249339.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM
Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024
6 Prior Period Comparative SOFA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies	141,957	—	(500)	—	141,457	248,303
Income from charitable activities	17,461	—	—	—	17,461	14,521
Other trading activities	47,155	—	—	—	47,155	66,570
Investments	19,099	—	—	—	19,099	8,680
Other income	55,801	—	—	—	55,801	5,473
Total Income	281,473	—	(500)	—	280,973	343,547
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	74,732	—	—	—	74,732	49,852
Expenditure on charitable activities	282,869	30,538	11,767	—	325,174	260,798
Total Expenditure	357,601	30,538	11,767	—	399,907	310,650
Gains / losses on investment assets	4	—	—	—	4	(338)
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(76,124)	(30,538)	(12,267)	—	(118,929)	32,559
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	6,057	142,283	2,740	—	151,080	1,703
Gross transfers between funds - out	(145,023)	(2,982)	(3,076)	—	(151,080)	(1,703)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(215,089)	108,763	(12,603)	—	(118,929)	32,559

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM

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

Reconciliation of funds

Total funds brought forward	274,764	139,998	353,532	—	768,293	735,734
Total funds carried forward	59,674	248,761	340,928	—	649,364	768,293

Detailed notes

2a. Donations

Included in the donations figure for 2024 is Gift Aid Recovered - £11,8779. This is a significant reduction from 2023, but the number in 2023 was inflated by a special gift.

2b. Grants received

A grant of £10,000 was received from the Church Estate Charity in 2024 to cover church maintenance, insurance and upkeep.

There was also a total of £18,981 received in grants from the following funders:

Aurelius Charitable Trust (Crypt)	£3500
Alpkit Foundation (Eco Hub)	£200
Groundwork (Community Hub)	£500
Kent Community Fund (KCF Eco)	£4817
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Putting Rainham First)	£9964

2c. Parish Share of Diocesan Costs

Diocesan Parish Share Contribution is reduced from 2023. This is due to the Diocese owing St Margaret's £5,200 in payment for the FUSE youth events held in 2023. The agreed offer was £54,608, but the actual payment totalled £49,408.

2d. Church Utility Expense

Church utilities costs include an accrual for £8,500 for expected billing from SSE. St Margaret's have been in a year-long engagement with SSE who have failed to produce bills for gas usage. A complaint was raised with them and a case opened with the ombudsman.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARGARET, RAINHAM
Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024

3a. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property Restricted £	Freehold Property Designated £	Fixtures Designated £	Office Equipment Designated £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 January 2024	601,604	277,500	122,766	25,191	1,027,061
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2024	270,748	31,979	118,513	22,186	443,426
Charge for the year	11,767	5,573	2,795	1,996	22,041
At 31 December 2024	282,515	37,552	121,308	24,182	465,467
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2024	319,089	239,948	1,548	1,009	561,594
At 31 December 2023	330,856	245,521	4,253	3,005	583,635

St Margaret’s Millennium Centre is a restricted freehold property, whilst the designated properties comprise the church house, located at 60 Childscroft Road.

The Millennium Centre is valued at historical cost. The church house is included at the valuation provided by the PCC of £60,000 for our previous 40% holding of the property plus our purchase of the remaining 60% from the Diocese for £217,500 in 2022.

This was considered to be representative of the fair market value when it was valued at 31 December 2001 to comply with the Charities Act.

Investment Assets

The church was donated 10 Centrica shares. The price per share at 31/12/2024 was £1.336, giving a total value of £13.36.

4a. Fund Movement

A transfer of £11,599.22 from the Heritage fund to the General Fund was posted at the beginning of 2024. This was to correct an oversight from 2023, when money was withdrawn from the Heritage bank accounts and used to pay for the wall repair. At that time, the underlying funds were not transferred, therefore showing £11,599.22 in the Heritage Fund but with a balance of £0 in the bank.