



**St Leodegar's Church**

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## Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St Leodegar's Church, Hunston, Chichester

For the year ending 31 December 2025



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## Administrative details

Address: St Leodegar's Church  
Church Lane  
Hunston  
Chichester  
PO20 1AJ

Website: [www.mundhamhunstonchurches.co.uk](http://www.mundhamhunstonchurches.co.uk)

Incumbent: The Reverend May Barker (Until 4 January 2026)  
The Rectory, Church Lane, Hunston, Chichester PO20 1AJ

Independent Barbara Darby FCA  
Examiner

Bankers: Barclays  
East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR

Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of Hunston  
Registered with the code 610066 with the Diocese of Chichester  
The charity is excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### Members of St Leodegar's Parochial Church Council

Joan Duberley (Church Warden)  
Barry Hutchinson (Church Warden)  
Mike Waite (Treasurer)  
Jo Hutchinson  
Terry Hoad  
Sue Waite  
Revd Anne Holderness (co-opted)  
Jo Williams (Electoral Roll Officer)  
Dianne Bon throne

**Benefice Safeguarding Officers:** Naomi Lott and Rachel Russell-Wells



## Trustees Annual Report

### Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary object of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the minister (Reverend May Barker until Jan 2026) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Leodegar's Church, together with St Stephen's Church, are members of the United Benefice of North Mundham and Hunston.

### Our benefice vision

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*Our vision is to bring hope, friendship and welcome by sharing the love of Jesus*

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We are a church that is committed to worshipping God in a way that is accessible and relevant to the people we serve, and to encourage a personal commitment of faith and continued growth in discipleship for all.

We are a church with people who are generous in the giving of their time, talents and money and who express God's love in love and service to others.

### Our Mission Action Plan is formed around the Diocesan strategy

- More open
- More converted to Jesus Christ
- More generous
- More engaged

## What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the Leadership Team (Churchwardens, Clergy) and the Parochial Church Councils have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The Parochial Church Councils has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016, fully recognising their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### Our objectives:

1. Work together as a united benefice. Our mission is to remain strong and continue to explore new ways of working to provide the opportunities for all to worship, to develop faith and to participate in the varied activity of church life.
2. Continue to follow the benefice vision of Meeting Together, Praying Together, and Sharing Good Practice and Supporting Each Other.
3. Continue to review and improve the pattern of services across the benefice and support the teams leading these and other events.
4. Meet together, offering worship and prayer and enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches.
5. Teach, baptise and nurture new and existing believers.
6. Put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament, assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of and trust in Jesus.
7. Support the youth work ministry through the assistance of a freelance local mission worker, Alistair Ghinn.
8. Continue to provide pastoral care for the congregations and people living in the parish.
9. Continue to make finance and income generation a high priority.
10. Maintain the fabric of both the church building and graveyards as historic centres of life in the village.



## What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

### 1 and 2. Working together as a United Benefice

Both the PCC of St Leodegar's and the PCC of St Stephen's have continued to work to bring villagers together no matter their age, wealth or background. We connect neighbours and bridge village boundaries every week in the many activities and groups we support.

- **Website** – We have one benefice website, and we are very grateful to Nigel Barker for facilitating this and keeping the website up to date.
- **Weekly e-Newsletter** – We have a Weekly Church News emailed out to 180 people on an email list from both churches and the community.
- **Facebook** – Both our Facebook pages are updated on a regular basis with photographs and events.

### 3. Review and improve the patterns of service

We have held joint services at St Stephen's Church, North Mundham: on March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> (which was also our APCM meeting), June 29<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and December 28<sup>th</sup>. On April 27<sup>th</sup> a joint service was held at Hunston.

A special Maundy Thursday evening service was held at St Leodegar's Church, with an Hour at the Cross on Good Friday and Holy Communion on Easter Day.

On Rogation Sunday on 25<sup>th</sup> May members of both congregations, plus dogs, did our usual walk between the two churches and on October 5<sup>th</sup> we held a joint service at North Mundham for Harvest, followed by a bring and share lunch in the church.

In October a 'peaceful and reflective' service was held to 'Remember Loved Ones' for anyone in the benefice to attend.

This year we held a joint Remembrance Service at St Stephen's Church with both churches taking part in the service as well as laying wreaths at the War Memorial.

This was followed by a Poppy Lunch at North Mundham Village Hall. On Remembrance Day villagers from Hunston attended a wreath laying ceremony at the memorials by Hunston lychgate.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm St Leodegar's Church held a Carol Service which was a joint collaboration with Hunston Community Club, which proved very successful with many locals attending. Several of the lesson readers were members of the 'HUB' village coffee morning and not regular church attendees.

#### 4. Attendance at worship

St Leodegar's Church offers 'welcome and friendship' to all.

Church attendance in 2025 was similar in congregation size from 2024 with the average weekly attendance totalling 15. The electoral roll shows 33 for 2025. There were three funerals and one baptism held during the year.

The figures for those attending church during 2025 at St Leodegar's Church are outlined in the following table:

	2023	2024	2025
Overall attendance	1080	856	836
Attendance excluding weddings and Funerals	887	750	768
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Morning Praise	160	189	183
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion	224	185	207
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Praise Together	135	181	142
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion	203	153	87
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion	30	26	49

We also welcomed people to celebrate at the milestones in their life, as well as celebrating at other major festivals and other opportunities for worship:

	2023	2024	2025
Weddings	2	0	1 (13 people)
Funerals	2	4	2 (55 people)
Baptisms	1	2	2 (84 people)
Mothering Sunday	16	0	0
Easter Day	19	5	18
Harvest Festival	10	0	0
Rogation	14	27	5
Remembering Loved Ones	10	16	19
Remembrance	47	0	2
Carol Service	43	59	48
Christmas Day Service	13	40	11

### 5. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

In 2025 there were two baptisms, one wedding and two funerals conducted in St Leodegar's Church. A greater number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, reading and leading the intercessions. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for people to be involved in ministry.

### 6. Putting faith into practice – prayer, scripture, music and sacrament

The involvement of the congregation is central to the life of the church and members of the congregation normally read the Old and New Testament lessons and say the prayers of intercession.

We thank the clergy (Revd May and Revd Anne) for all they have done to help make St. Leodegar's Church the vibrant and welcoming church community that it is.

### 7. Supporting youth work ministry

As a united benefice we encourage the young people in our parish to attend the Lighthouse and Solid Rock youth groups led by St Stephen's Church.

## **8. Pastoral Care to the congregation and in the community**

As a church we strived together to get involved with village events during the year. Revd May, Sue Waite and Joan Duberley are attached to the events committee, and helped at the summer fete.

### **Hunston Lunch Club**

We continued to serve the communities of North Mundham and Hunston with a two-course meal followed by tea or coffee, all this for £4.00 per person. We also ran a Raffle each month. The lunch club ran for 11 months of the year. There was no meeting in August.

At the two lunch clubs, we served 241 meals throughout the year of 2025, an average of 22 people. each meeting, slightly down on last year. We have the capacity to provide up to 40 lunches per meeting.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December we were able to give a free Christmas lunch to those that had attended more than 6 lunches throughout the year. 28 attended of which 8 paid £4. This was due to two generous donations we received from MARRA and the Gala. These will help to fund a free Christmas lunch for future years as well.

Thank you to all the members of our lunch club for supporting it. And a huge thank you to our leader Sue Waite and to our volunteer helpers - Sue Grace, Angela Stewart, Mike Waite, Jo Williams, Tristan Thwaites, Doris Leeder, and Lynne Mears.

## **9. Prioritising finance and income generation**

At the Hunston Summer Fete, Sue Waite ran a cake stall at the event and Joan Duberley ran a Tombola stall to raise much needed funds for the church. Two craft fairs were organised by Sue Waite, helped by Joan Duberley, which brought in some more much needed funds for the church. They also twice had a table at the local Car Boot Sale.

## **10. Maintaining the church building and graveyards**

Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and those in the village as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. The church is used regularly for worship and is central to the wider community. While the PCC does not own the church building it has responsibility for maintaining the facilities of the building and church graveyards for future generations.

Over the past year we have continued our ongoing work on aspects of the Quinquennial report and our thanks go to Nigel Barker and Mike Waite who were instrumental in undertaking the majority of the work. The church boundary wall however remains an ongoing issue due to lack of funds and the sheer time and effort

required in dealing with church architects and raising faculties. We thank our Buildings Committee (Revd May Barker, Nigel Barker, Joan Duberley and Mike Waite) for all their efforts so far in this significant task. St Leodegar's PCC collectively appreciate the importance of fund raising and pursuing of grants which are urgently required.

### **Volunteers**

The only paid member of our team was the Reverend May Barker. All other work is carried out by volunteers. Many members of the congregation gave their time voluntarily over the year and we would like to thank Anne Holderness for organising the servers, reading and prayer rotas, Jo Williams for her work on the electoral roll, all the people who assist with flowers at special events, Sue Waite for coffee and cakes after services, and Tony Jarman for the winter Sundays when he goes to the church early to put the heating on for us.

### **Sidesperson**

Ray Sharman

### **The Graveyard and Cleaning Teams**

Thanks to our treasurer Mike Waite who also arranged work parties at the churchyard assisted by Nigel Barker, Joan Duberley and Barry Hutchinson.

## **Plans for the future**

Revd May Barker moved to a new post in January 2026 and as a result the parish entered a period of interregnum. During this period the church wardens and PCC members plan to maintain as many of the current services as possible, while recognising that this may not always be possible.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

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

St Stephen's Church, together with St Leodegar's Church, is a member of the United Benefice of North Mundham and Hunston. The clergy work as a team across the benefice, but each Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets separately to consider the needs of each respective church and community.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (Clergy) Churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod and members of the Church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for

election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience wherever possible.

The PCC met six times during the year. In addition to the PCC there is a standing committee of church wardens and treasurer who together with the minister may meet take decisions between PCC meetings.

## Risk Management

The PCC has spent considerable time during the year on the development of policies and procedures to reduce the risk of harm to members of its community but has further work to do to develop a formal framework recognising the principal risks and uncertainties facing the charity.

# Statement of Financial Receipts and Payments

## St Leodegar's Financial Statements

### ❖ Financial Review – Incoming and outgoing resources

#### At end of year (EOY) 2025: (2024 value shown)

The net outcome for 2025 is +tve £3,888 surplus.

#### Receipts

Total receipts were:	£25,145	(£28,067)
Comprising		
Unrestricted:	£22,739	(£24,150)
Unrestricted Designated:	£1,896	(£3,910)
Restricted:	£510	(£7)

The main causes of reduced receipts were less Planned Giving and less collected at Church Services

#### Payments

Total expenditure was:	£21,257	(£31,471)
Comprising		
Unrestricted:	£20,849	(£26,657)
Unrestricted Designated:	£408	(£4,814)
Restricted:	£nil	(£nil)

The main cause of reduced payments was no repeat of costs associated with demolition of the cabin, previously totalling £10,655 in 2024.

#### Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

This year's Parish Share at £14,481 remains the largest single expenditure of the PCC. This was paid directly to the Diocese for our share of 'Ministry' costs covering housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy, Diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national Church funds, it is a significant drain on our resources.

#### Staff costs

The PCC did not employ any staff during 2025, there were however several unpaid volunteers.

The PCC also paid £244 to the Vicar in clergy expenses to cover a variety of costs, some specific to St Leodegar’s Church plus other shared overheads.

### Trustee payments and expenses

St Leodegar’s PCC share the cost of supporting the Incumbent with St Stephen’s PCC.

One fixed allowance payment of £30 was paid to a trustee for attending a funeral as Verger.

Apart from reimbursement of expenses for necessary Church and mission materials, there were no further payments to persons related to or connected to, the trustees.

### Repairs to the fabric of the church building

Church grounds – During 2025 Churchyard and car park mowing was carried out free of charge by an unpaid volunteer from Hunston village.

Volunteer working parties have undertaken minor works in the Churchyard plus cleaning, weeding and repair/replacement of minor internal fittings to both the Church and Rectory.

#### ❖ Other Charitable Giving

One food bank grant of £100 was made during 2025.

#### ❖ Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on Unrestricted funds of 6 months typical annual expenditure as contingency against unforeseen situations. Restricted funds are ‘set aside’ for spending on specific activities as defined by the donor(s).

Type of Fund	Amount Held At EOY	Proportion of 2025 Annual Expenditure @ £21,257
Unrestricted	£20,968	
Unrestricted Designated	£1,488	
sub-total	£22,456	106% or 12 months
Restricted – Pastoral Care	£697	
Restricted – Outreach (Messy Church)	£78	
Restricted – Restoration	£7,847	
Restricted – Churchyard Wall	£5,233	
sub-total	£13,855	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£36,311</b>	

The primary objective of St. Leodegar's PCC has been the promotion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has also sought opportunities to deliver public benefit for communities and individuals alike.

2025 started as a year of expansion where the PCC approved the adoption of Hunston Lunch Club. Rev. May Barker continued to lead the Joint Benefice comprising St Leodegar's (Hunston) and St Stephen's (North Mundham) active churches, plus the in-active St Giles church at Merston. However, at the end of 2025 (early Jan 2026) Rev May was transferred onward to another Church on Hayling Island, leaving our Joint Benefice in a state of 'interregnum' pending the recruitment of a new Priest.

## Recommendations

The focus should now be on planning for financial year 2027 and beyond, where

- a) The PCC should consider opportunities for maximizing income from fundraising.
- b) The now engrained culture of taut financial control should continue.
- c) The PCC will operate its 'Hunston Lunch Club' project for a further period of one year, at which point it should conduct a review.
- d) Achievement of financial viability beyond 2027 will depend heavily on successful delivery of the following targets for 2026.
  - a. Expenditure:
    - i. Containment of routine Unrestricted operating spend to a maximum of £22.7k, so as not to introduce a deficit on routine operating costs.
    - ii. Containment of Churchyard Wall restoration spend to within the ongoing annual cap advised by the Treasurer. This will be a 'live' moving target, subject to the success of fundraising and cost of works previously completed.
    - iii. The Treasurer's advised 'low risk' maximum cap on Churchyard Wall expenditure for 2026 is £12k (as at Feb 2026). **The Treasurer has identified a further £0.5k within existing Unrestricted reserves that might be made available at high risk to sustainability over the long 10-year term. The Treasurer's advised 'high risk' maximum cap on Churchyard Wall expenditure for 2026 is therefore £12.5k (at Feb 2025).**
  - b. Income Target: Hold Unrestricted income at the 2025 level of £22.7k.
- e) The PCC should seek to increase the number of active contributors of both time and money. The greatest focus should be on the dwindling

congregation, particularly on those prepared to give of their time by participating in fund raising and on any who are willing to make a regular financial contribution.

- f) Cost estimates for restoration of the Churchyard wall should be obtained soonest.

## Conclusions

- a) For financial year 2025, expenditure at £21.3k was less than income at £25.1k a 'surplus' of £3.8k, 18% (rounded).
- b) Despite ongoing financial pressures, the PCC made a grant to The Trussel Trust (food bank) of £100 and the Chichester Foodbank of £110, these was 'self-funded' by virtue of launching one-off appeals.
- c) 'Messy Church' for the local community has settled to become an annual event shared with North Mundham PCC, the Hunston PCC operating cost for 2025 was £nil, the value in Mission terms was substantial.
- d) The newly adopted Hunston Lunch Club has proved successful in Mission terms whilst being financially self-supporting.
- e) To achieve a financially neutral position for 2026 and beyond, Hunston PCC should understand the need to phase works on Churchyard Wall restoration over several years. Spreading the cost in this way will provide an opportunity for matching the annual cost of works to a pace within the limits of annual affordability.
- f) For 2026, the PCC has pledged £14.9k on Parish Share, this was 80% of the Diocese suggested value and in line with the PCC's previously announced aspiration.
- g) A new 3-year fixed price contract for electricity supply has commenced at highly competitive rates, this will be in place until October 2028.
- h) The small no. of 15-20 regular givers presents a medium term (5 years) risk to future funding. The PCC must take steps to manage the decline in numbers of contributing and active supporters of St Leodegar's church. Not only do these contribute financially, but they also give time as volunteers to ensure the success of fundraising activities.
- i) As time has passed, the PCC has become ever more reliant on three individuals who provide substantial funding and voluntary skilled labour, the total annual financial value being estimated at £9k. There is a risk of significant financial impact should any of these three no longer be able to support the PCC.

Dated: 21/04/2026

Mike Waite

Treasurer, Hunston PCC

Approved by Hunston Parochial Church Council and signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Mr Mike Waite

Chair of the PCC

Treasurer

Date

Date

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LEODEGAR, HUNSTON  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Version 0.1

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary		1		Unrestricted			Total 2025	Total 2024
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted				
<u>Receipts</u>		Note	Fund	Fund	Funds	£	£	
			£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>								
	Planned giving		12,217		0	12,217	13,255	
	Collections at Services		2,300			2,300	3,149	
	All other giving / receipts		849			849	1,188	
	Gift Aid recovered	4a	2,475			2,475	3,015	
	Grants		0			0	0	
	Public Appeal - Churchyard Walls (maintenance)	3			510	510	7	
			17,841	0	510	18,351	20,593	
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>								
	Fund Raising (Trading) - Craft Fair, Jumble Sale, Village Fete etc	5	968			968	1,096	
			968			968	1,096	
<b>Receipts from Church Activities</b>								
	Parochial Fees for weddings, funerals etc.		3,600			3,600	2,356	
	New Line - Hunston Lunch Club			1,896		1,896	0	
			3,600	1,896	0	5,496	2,356	
<b>Other Receipts</b>								
	Bank interest		330			330	111	
	Insurance Claim					0	3910	
			330	0	0	330	4,021	
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>22,730</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>25,145</b>	<b>28,067</b>	
<u>Payments</u>		Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024	
			£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Fund raising trading</b>								
	Trading expenses	5	574			574	285	
			574	0	0	574	285	
<b>Church activities</b>								
	Amalgamated line - All Grants Combined	9	210			210	600	
	Clergy Expenses		244			244	237	
	New Line - Hunston Lunch Club	2		408		408	0	
			454	408	0	862	837	
<b>Church Running Expenses (CRE)</b>								
	Parish Share (Diocesan parish contribution)	6	14,481			14,481	14,059	
	Church Upkeep		2,285			2,285	3,217	
	Churchyard Upkeep		0		0	0	5,841	
	Regular Church Services Support Costs	7	0			0	0	
	Church Administration		150			150	198	
	Banking Commission (SumUp)	10			0	0	0	
	Rectory Running Expenses	8	1,225			1,225	1,189	
	Discontinued line: Unrestricted Designated - Restoration & Cabin damage	2		0		0	4,814	
	Parochial Fees to Diocese		1,364			1,364	714	
			19,506	0	0	19,506	30,633	
<b>Upkeep of services</b>								
	Enablers - Hire Village Hall, Music Licences, RSCM Membership etc.		316			316	317	
			316	0	0	316	317	
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>20,849</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,257</b>	<b>31,471</b>	
Excess Receipts over Payments			1,890	1,488	510	3,888	-3,405	
Fund balances at 1 Jan 2025			1,907,8	0	1,334,5	3,242,3	3,582,8	
<b>Fund Balances at 31 Dec 2025</b>			<b>2,096,8</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,385,5</b>	<b>3,631,1</b>	<b>3,242,3</b>	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LEODEGAR, HUNSTON  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Version 0.1

Fund Balances at 31 Dec 2025		Totals
General Account	General Fund - Unrestricted	20968
General Account	General Fund - Restricted	775
General Account	Hunston Lunch Club - Unrestricted Designated	1488
Restoration Account	Restoration Fund - Restricted	13080
Restoration Account	Restoration Fund - Unrestricted Designated	0
Total Accounts Balance at Dec 24		<u>36311</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Bank Current Account	12254	8913
Bank Saver Account	25442	25111
<b>Debtors</b>		
Council Tax Refund (Rectory)	120	0
Gift Aid Recoverable	4b 1000	500
Outstanding bankings	12	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>38828</u>	<u>34524</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Year end creditors	1396	1601
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>1396</u>	<u>1601</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. Unrestricted Designated funds: The Legacy of Brenda Hill was fully spent in 2024, a new fund for newly adopted Hunston Lunch Club was created in 2025.
3. No restoration works underway by Dec 2025, pending outcome of Faculty discussions with Diocese.
- 4a. Gift Aid Recovered includes Planned Giving Scheme, Cash Giving and 'one off' Donations for Jan 2025 to Dec 2025.  
4b. Anticipated Gift Aid not yet claimed for 2025.
5. Fund Raising Activities for 2025 have included Craft Fairs, Table Top sales and Cake Stall at hunston Fete.
6. Payment of £14,881 toward Chichester Diocese Clergy and other Central Costs, this is the Hunston PCC share (excludes North Mundham PCC) of 'Parish Share' for the Joint Benefice. This reduced rate was pledged at an affordable level in recognition of anticipated repairs to Churchyard Wall.
7. There were no paid employees during 2025, only unpaid volunteers.
8. For 2025, the Rectory was occupied all year round, hence the Joint PCCs shared the costs of Water and Council Tax.
9. All Grants : The PCC made two grants to Foodbanks during 2025.
10. In 2021, the PCC invested in a SumUp contactless payment system to reduce COVID cash handling risks and to tap new sources of funding. This method of banking continued for 2025 despite attracting a range of small commission fees, typically 2%.

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf  
Mr Barry Hutchinson, Chair - Hunston PCC

*Barry Hutchinson* 21st April 2026

## Report of the Independent Examiner

### **Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Leodegar, Hunston**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 attached to this report.

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

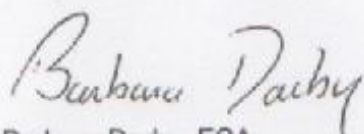
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **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:

- Accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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 and requirements that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Barbara Darby FCA  
Apartment 1 Summersdale Manor  
23 Lavant Road  
Chichester  
PO19 5RA

Date: 22/4/2026

# Safeguarding

During the past year, the previous SQP documentation for safeguarding practice has been replaced by the Parish Dashboard and Parish Hub.

The dashboard has seven focus areas with numerous targets for each. The dashboard has three levels that need to be completed and at the moment both churches within the Benefice are working on level two. The dashboard enables us to be very focused in our approach to safeguarding in the Benefice but also highlights the wide-ranging responsibilities of the Safeguarding Officers job.

The following summary sets out progress towards the dashboard mandatory requirements:

## **Policies and Action Plan**

We have adopted the Church of England 'promoting a safer church' safeguarding policy.

We have a safeguarding action plan for each church.

## **Safeguarding Procedures**

We have safeguarding procedures in place for those working with children and vulnerable adults.

## **Safeguarding Roles**

Our Parish safeguarding officers, Churchwardens and Lead recruiter are all aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

## **Training For Key Roles**

Parish safeguarding officers, Churchwardens, Lead recruiter and PCC members have all completed the required safeguarding training.

## **Displayed Information**

The Benefice safeguarding policy is displayed in both churches. The Safeguarding who's who and the promoting a safer church poster are in the porch of each church. The Benefice website has all the necessary safeguarding documentation available.

## **Reviews And Reports**

Safeguarding is always on the agenda on a PCC meeting. Reports of safeguarding progress is made at PCC meetings and a report is given at the APCM. The PCCs of both churches have approved the activities that take place under the 'umbrella' of the Church.

## **Church Activities**

This is the area we are now focusing on. It is a huge undertaking with EACH activity taking place in the parish, under the 'umbrella' of the church having eight areas that need to be completed.

## Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The Rural Dean, Rev Canon Paul Doick, welcomed everyone to St Paul's Church, Chichester, for the January meeting and the service began with Evening prayer.

The Rural Dean then summarised the Diocesan Synod meeting held in November at which the Budget was discussed and agreed. The finance team is budgeting for a £720k deficit.

The new Diocesan strategy beginning in 2025 in our Year of Faith was introduced. Beginning in Advent 2025 the vision will look through the lens of the four gospels focusing on the themes of Discipleship, Mission and Evangelism, Vocation and Prayer and Worship. This will focus on the coastal Deaneries, work with young people and equipping lay and ordained ministry. The Diocese will apply for significant funding.

As our Mission Action Plan only had three topics the directory was not necessary. A Family Social Worker was a good idea but parishes are struggling financially so the charity will be asked how best to move that forward. Synod then broke into discussion groups to find out what people wanted from the Deanery Synod. Feedback included better communication in the parishes, people with the same role getting together and a need to share all our information.

**In June** the Deanery Synod meeting was held in St Anne's, East Wittering and opened with a short introduction to the parish of East Wittering, Earnley and Almodington. St Anne's was the first church in the diocese to have solar panels.

The main part of the meeting was then given over to a presentation by the Rev Jo King, the Diocesan disability adviser, on Becoming More Welcoming. She started by asking us to think about the welcome to our services and how well our churches catered for people with disabilities. Church isn't complete until all disabled people are welcomed. Most important is giving disabled the chance to do things and use their skills. Rotas encourage people to take part. We all might be able bodied today but next week maybe not and it takes courage to admit our own failings and disabilities.

The Rural Dean then summarised the Diocesan Synod held in May. The motion was passed to request General Synod to change clergy pensions back to 2/3 stipend after 41 years of service. The Diocesan budget was passed. The 2024 deficit was reduced from the budgeted £1.5million to £441,000. Green shoots are starting to show – church congregations are growing.

Heart for the Homeless would like to work more closely with local churches and Liz, the new Outreach worker, would be getting in touch and visiting churches soon especially in Chichester.

**In September** the Deanery Finance Meeting was held. At the beginning the new Archdeacon, the Very Reverend Dr Tom Carpenter introduced himself and explained where an Archdeacon fits in between a bishop and the parish priest.

The Diocesan team, Melissa, from the new growth team and the finance director, Catherine Dawkins spoke about the more detailed Autumn deanery document. There were a few questions from those present.

The Rural Dean said we are trying to do God's will but parishes have been upset by the Church Commissioners. Catherine Dawkins replied saying that the Diocese does not always agree with the decisions of the Church Commissioners and always tries to keep Church House staff to a minimum with many staff working in more than one of the sections.

The staff of Church House were thanked for the presentations and all the work put into running the diocese. 2026 Diocese Estimated income was £17.551M and Estimated expenditure £17.867M leading to a deficit of £0.316M.

**In November** the Deanery Synod meeting was held at St. Pancras church. The main part of the meeting was an excellent presentation with slides from a representative of Children on the Edge, which is based in St. Pancras close to the church. This is a child rights organisation created to support the world's most marginalised children and was very informative.

**Joan Duberley**

Deanery Synod representative, Hunston

**Naomi Lott**

Deanery Synod representative, North Mundham