St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Borden



PARISH PROFILE

September 2026

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1. Introduction – Our Vision

We want to reimagine and transform the community inside and outside of the church

Our aim is to be the church in the community and to welcome the community into the church. Thank you for your interest in our parish and for taking time to read our profile. The PCC has consulted with the congregation and wider community to discern the person we feel would best serve the parish. It has been a blessing to realise all the good things God is doing in the parish, and a challenge to see in what areas we must grow. We pray that as you read this profile, God will show you if this is the place He is calling you to. We anticipate the future with hope and excitement as we await the person to respond to God's call.

Our challenges

- To create a healthy environment for church growth.
- To encourage personal Christian growth; having a person's gifts and talents identified, nurtured and supported.
- For the church to recognize and appreciate differences between its members, yet be unified around the cross.
- To become a place where all feel welcomed, included and valued.
- To re-establish a children's and youth ministry, and build upon the links with Borden Church of England Primary School, and the Borden Pre-School nursery.
- Youth outreach could potentially be dovetailed by establishing links to the large local secondary school within the parish.
- To explore ways to reach out to all people across the parish.
- We would like to build upon our strong choral music tradition.
- To establish financial security and Christ-centred giving.

In our parish there is a desire that

- Our church will be built on a foundation of prayer
- Our church will bring new people of all ages into a relationship with God.
- People will receive encouragement to recognize and develop their skills and talents in the service of God.

Our church as a building and a body is special because

- We support an Anglo-Catholic tradition of worship.
- We are a single parish benefice with a thriving church school.
- Our congregation is made up of a variety of ages and backgrounds.
- People from the community support the church.

We are looking to welcome a priest who

- **Is a team leader** - someone who is able to empower, build teams, train leaders, and facilitate new initiatives.
- **Has a flexible approach to leading worship** - someone who understands, respects, and can facilitate the different styles of worship within the parishes.
- **Is a strong communicator** - someone who communicates well with the wider community, can set and communicate the vision for our church, and impart spiritual truths through inspirational preaching.
- **Pastoral skills** - someone who is accessible to all ages and backgrounds.

2. The Parish and its needs

Location: The church is in the village of Borden in the Sittingbourne & Sheppey Deanery which forms part of the Diocese of Canterbury. The parish currently has a population of 6000; this is currently increasing with the building of 700 new houses on nearby fields. There is the prospect of a further 150 houses to be built on current agricultural land. The parish is semi-rural, and whilst the focus of outreach and events tends to be on the village, there are three large established housing estates (Maylam Gardens, the New Zealand and Australian estate, and Berkeley Court), along with the new Wises Lane development, and potential Manor Farm estate. There are also many residential roads within the parish for which no targeted outreach has been undertaken.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to encourage outreach and a willingness to engage with the wider community.

Borden Church of England Primary School is within the parish. The church has close involvement with the school. The school also attends the church for seasonal services and special occasions.

There is currently a need for the church to provide a member for the school's Board of Governors; **identifying and supporting this role should be considered a priority by the new minister, who could also become an ex-officio governor.**

Also within the parish is The Westlands School, which is a large, popular secondary school. There is currently no formal link with the school.

The PCC hopes that the suitable candidate will show willingness and initiative in forging links with the school. This could be related to the development of a youth ministry.

The parish is also home to two residential care homes. Planning permission is currently being sought for a third.

There is an expectation that the new minister will resume, and develop, regular communion services and pastoral visits to these homes.

There are four public houses in the parish; The Maypole is opposite the church and is supportive of the church and its activities.

It is felt that good links should be forged with all the public houses in the parish to demonstrate the link between church and community.

Also, within the parish there is a restaurant with function facilities, several small plant nurseries, small businesses, and a large agricultural and farming community.

Borden is ideally situated in a semi-rural location; whilst being 2 miles from Sittingbourne town centre which offers a cinema and entertainment complex, a leisure centre with swimming pool, shops, a library, post office, police station, a mainline railway station, a variety of restaurants, public houses, and some small, volunteer led local museums. There is a local hospital. The town has many good schools, including two single-sex, grammar schools.

Transport links

- Borden is one mile from the A249 which provides a direct link to both the M2 and the M20.
- London is one hour away by train or road. The train service provides regular services to St. Pancras International (with Eurostar access to Europe), London Victoria, and other London Terminals.

- Bluewater Shopping Centre is a 30-minute drive away, and also accessible by public transport.
- Canterbury, Rochester are within easy reach by road and rail. The county town of Maidstone is easily accessible by road. The coastal towns of Whitstable, Margate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate are easily accessible by road or rail.
- The Dover cross-Channel ferry service, and the Eurotunnel car service provide access to France and are less than one hour by road.

3. Safeguarding

A Parish Safeguarding Officer has been appointed by the PCC, and a safeguarding policy in place. The Parish is signed up to the Safeguarding Dashboard.

The new minister will be expected to fully support the PSO in the positive promotion of safeguarding within the church and across the parish.

4. Finance

Please see Appendix 4

5. Our Patron – The Society for the Maintenance of the Faith (SMF)

"The object of the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith, founded in 1873, is 'to promote and maintain catholic teaching and practice within the Church of England'.

The Society seeks to fulfill this object principally through acquiring and exercising patronage (the right to present priests to the relevant bishop for appointment as rector or vicar). It is currently the patron of 97 benefices (sole patron of 38 and joint patron of another 59)." smftrust.org.uk

St Peter and St Paul, Borden was acquired by the SMF in 1921 and is our sole patron.

6. Our worship and our daily life

Our worship is rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and we are keen to preserve this distinctive feature of our church. We are keen to explore ways to encourage new members to join the Christian family through our worship, which could include the reintroduction of a family service. The robed choir is an integral part of our Sunday Morning worship, as well as during special times throughout the year. The Sunday services and Thursday morning services have been maintained during the interregnum. Our Licensed Lay Minister provides worship leadership through Morning Prayer when clergy are not available to officiate, as well as preaching, funeral ministry and pastoral support.

A week in Borden		
Sunday	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharistic service
	9.15 a.m.	Eucharist incorporating 2 Bible readings, responsorial Psalm and Gospel reading. The hymns are choir-led and we have the service of a regular organist.
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist or Morning Prayer
	10.45 a.m.	Fun in the Forge Coffee Morning *or* seasonal Bible Study in The Forge.

Highlights of our worshipping year

- Easter
- Patronal festival
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance
- Carols by Candlelight

We expect the new minister to keenly support candidates for confirmation.

Annual visits to Walsingham have been important to the spiritual and worship development of many of the congregation, and it would be anticipated that these pilgrimages be supported.

Choral evensong was once an integral part of our worship and it is anticipated that the reintroduction of this service be explored and supported.

Bell ringing and Clock Tower

We have been granted a faculty to rehang the church bells. Our grand 1802 Mears octave has a unique heritage but without a rehang and new apparatus it will eventually fall into a condition of disuse. Progress relies now on fund raising and applying for grants.

The current band of ringers is small but dedicated and seeks more ringers to ensure regular ringing. The bells are currently considered to be challenging and a rehang should make it easier to encourage more ringers.

The clock has undergone extensive restoration and a service of dedication was held on 28th September 2025.

Communication

Our main vehicles for communication are via our Church magazine, and our Facebook page **Ss Peter and Paul Borden Church,** and our weekly bulletin available on Sundays.

The magazine is published 10 times a year with a circulation of 300.

The suitable candidate should be willing to encourage the exploration of all means of effectively communicating the activities of the church, along with the Good News, to the wider community.

Flower arranging

A committed team enhance our worship and beautify the church thorough the provision of stunning and acclaimed arrangements throughout the year, and on special occasions such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas and weddings.

Eco Church

We take pride in our beautiful grounds and church. **Sustainability and becoming more eco-friendly is an area we wish to develop within the community.**

7. Parish Personnel

PCC: There are currently 9 members. This includes two church wardens, three Deanery Synod representatives, a treasurer and a secretary.

Associate Minister (SSM): There is currently a Self-Supporting Associate Minister in the Parish who leads services, takes occasional offices, undertakes confirmation prep and discipleship training in the parish as well as other clerical responsibilities.

Lay Readers: There is one Reader, and one Reader Emeritus. A successful applicant will be expected to provide support and guidance to this ministry.

Sacristan: The many duties include the administration of weddings and funerals, organising the cleaning rota, flower arranging, and the laundering of church linen, amongst many other duties.

Servers: We currently have three dedicated and experienced servers. **It is anticipated that the successful candidate will support the existing servers in their role, and encourage new ones to take up this important and rewarding service.**

8. What happens next?

We hope you will have a clearer sense about the place of Borden, the people and the worship within it. Many people from the Diocese have recognized Borden's form of worship, and are keen to preserve its status as an Anglo-Catholic place of worship. There is a feeling amongst the PCC and congregation that under the right leadership, the church will not only grow but flourish. There is a wealth of experience, and talents waiting to be offered, discovered, and developed with the right encouragement, support, and oversight. If you feel God has blessed you with the desire and the ability to shepherd his flock at St. Peter & St Paul, Borden and the wider community through challenging, yet interesting and rewarding times, then please apply. Likewise, we are keen to support your ministry amongst us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Appendix 1: The Church building



Our church is a flint covered structure which has provided a place of worship on the site for 800 years. It has two aisles, a nave and two chancels. There is a clergy vestry, and a choir vestry which has a sink unit in it.

It has a square tower, which dates from 1160, and contains bells and a working clock. Within the church LED lighting has recently been upgraded to provide low cost, sympathetic lighting.

There is a medieval wall painting depicting St Christopher carrying the Christ child, which has undergone preservation work.; additionally, there are many stained-glass windows of note, including the installation in 2021 of our 150-year-old window above the altar (previously removed in 1940 for safekeeping).

Seating is provided by pews. The Lady Chapel provides a place for quiet reflection and is where the Thursday morning services are conducted.

The organ has been refitted and a good example of a Hunter organ dating from 1908.

The church is set on a corner plot in a dominant position at the top of the main street (The Street) which leads through the village. It is an integral part of Borden's identity. Within its grounds are many evocative tombstones in varying states of uprightness and condition. There are two plots for cremates remains. There are two War Graves, and a war memorial. The grounds are tended to by council contractors and a small but willing band of volunteers made up of church-goers and parishioners who appreciate the value of the church in their community.

The suitable candidate will ideally share the PCC vision to create a welcoming and vibrant space for meeting and worship.

Appendix 2: The Vicarage





Built in the 1950's, this detached five bedroomed house is located diagonally opposite the church.

It has a private study, downstairs toilet, and utility room, as well as a spacious kitchen, separate dining room, and lounge. It has replacement windows.





There is ample parking for four cars, and is situated on a good-sized corner plot.







There are extensive gardens to the front of the property, which is mainly lawned. Established shrubs provide privacy, and are a haven for wildlife.

To the rear, there is an enclosed, private garden with a patio area, lawn, shrubs, and side access to the garage.

It is within walking distance of a café and plant nursery, as well as the local pub which has a small shop within, as well as the primary school and pre-school nursery.

The Vicarage will provide comfortable and spacious accommodation for the successful candidate.







Appendix 3: The Forge



This is a beautifully converted former smithy owned by the charitable foundation The Barrow Trust. It now acts as a small meeting room for up to thirty people. As well as an open plan space with preserved original features, it has a disable toilet facility and kitchenette area. There is a small office which contains the church photocopier. It plays a major part in the church's life and provides a bridge between the church and the community. PCC meetings are held here and it is used for a regular coffee morning as well as our seasonal Bible studies. The room can be hired by members of the public for a reasonable hourly rate.

The trustees are members of the church and there is a legal lease arrangement between the Trust and the church**; it is anticipated that the successful candidate will be willing to become a trustee.**

Appendix 4: Ministry through Occasional Offices, Weekly Attendance Figures and Electoral Role

It is anticipated that the suitable candidate will use the occasional offices, as well as the weekly services, as an opportunity for further outreach, including the development of a ministerial team to support this work.

Ministry through occasional offices			
	Weddings	**Funerals**	**Baptisms**
2023	**4**	**4**	**14**
2024	**5**	**5**	**12**
2025	**1**	**6**	**4**
2026 (to end of May)	**1**	**4**	**7**

Average Weekly Attendances (8 am & 9.30 am services – excluding event attendance) (total annual figure in brackets)		
	8 am	**9.30am**
2023	11 (581)	27 (1401)
2024	13(653)	23 (1200)
2025	15 (651)	36 (1536)
2026 (to end of May)	15 (306)	26 (519)

Electoral Role	
2023	87
2024	87
2025	72
2026	76

Appendix 5: Other groups connected with the church

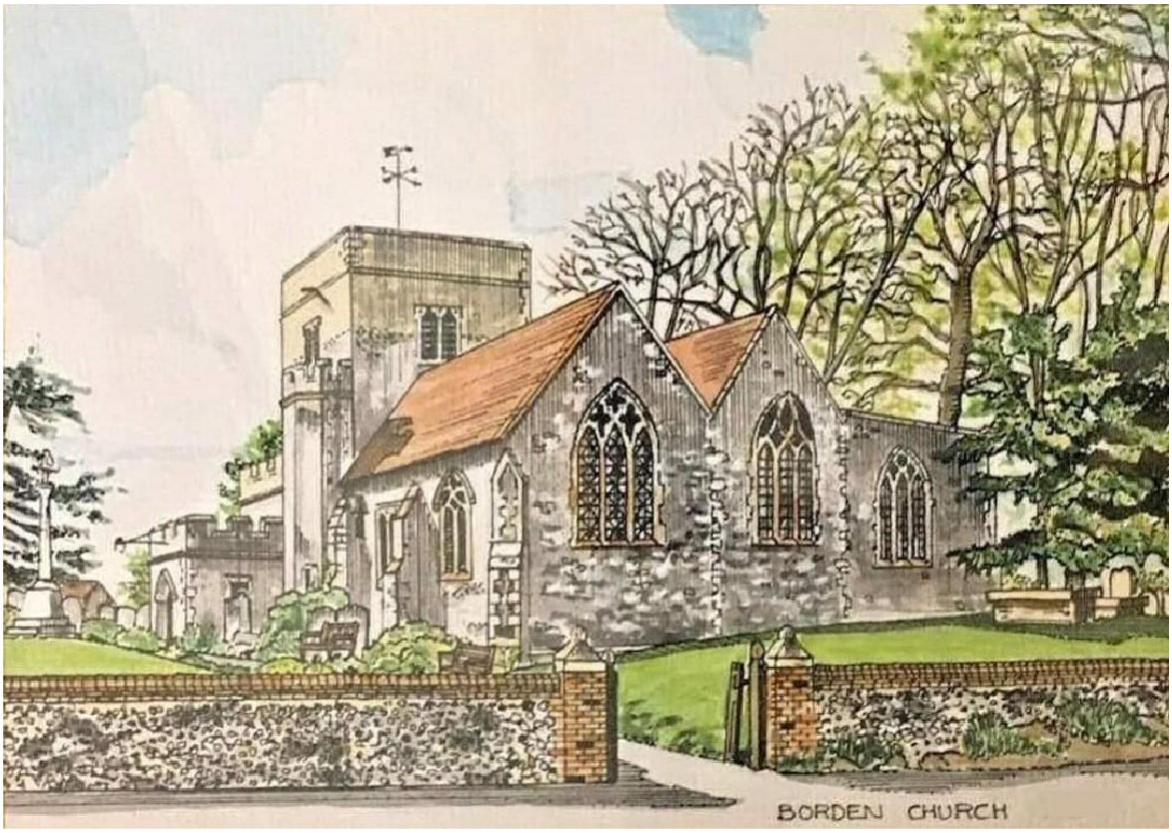
- **Society for the Maintenance of the Faith – www.smftrust.org.uk**
- **The Friends of Borden Church:** The Friends provide invaluable fund raising support and community participation. **www.friendsofbordenchurch.co.uk**
- **Facebook: SSPeterandPaulBorden –** with nearly 600 members, this page keeps the community informed
- **Borden WI: anne.dormedy@googlemail.com**
- **Borden Heritage Group: www.bordenheritage.co.uk**
- **Village Fete**
- **Borden Parish Hall: www.bordenparishhall.co.uk**
- **Borden Parish Council: www.bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk**
- **Swale Borough Council: www.swale.gov.uk**
- **Borden United Charities: bordenunitedcharities@gmail.com**
- **The Barrow Trust: thewilliambarrowscharity.org.uk**

Appendix 6: Annual Report & Finance Report

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Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⇒ CHANGING LIVES

Ss Peter and Paul BORDEN CHURCH



Supporting the people of Borden for the past 800 years
Please support your local Church

ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING MARCH 2026

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This Annual Report 2026 was compiled by Kathy Collins. It would not have been possible to produce this Report without the following contributors, Fr Jane Barker, Jill Petts, Janet Beal, Bernie Lyons, Shirley Jarrett, Doreen Masters, Vivien Smith, Andrew Cesana, Ursula Nunn, Doreen Masters, Val Skinner and Martin Thomas
Thank you everybody for your support, Kathy Collins.

Annual Report

Year Ending March 2026

Section One

1.1 The Benefice

The Church of Ss Peter and Paul, Borden, is located in the borough of Swale and is within the Church of England Deanery of Sittingbourne and is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church o England. During the interregnum correspondence address: c/o 4 Coppins Lane, Borden, ME9 8JG

1.2 The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body, (PCC Powers Measure 1956. Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity excepted from Registration with the Charity Commission. It has responsibility for discussion of all appropriate matters and for representation to Deanery Synod. Its powers and duties also include responsibility for the financial affairs of the Parish including the care, maintenance, preservation, and insurance of the fabric of the church and its goods and ornaments and fabric of the Forge. The PCC is a registered charity (No 249972) the members of the PCC are its trustees.

1.3 PCC and Deanery Synod Membership

PCC Chairman ~ Incumbent

Borden Church is presently in Interregnum.
The acting Chairman is presently Kathy Collins

Ex-officio Members

Reader	Mrs Jill Petts
Asst Minister	Fr Jane Barker
Church Wardens	Mrs Kathy Collins
	Miss Bernie Lyons
Treasurer	Mrs Kathy Collins

Elected Representatives on the Deanery Synod

	Mrs Jill Petts
	Arne Holman-Baker
	1 vacancy exists

Elected Members	Mrs Denise Mayne
	Mrs Eileen Harrison
	Miss Janet Beal
	Mr Arne Holman-Baker
	Mr Paul Aspin
	Mr Peter Bimson
	Miss Christine Warren
	1 vacancy exist

1.4 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

1.5 Safeguarding

1.5.1

Safeguarding Report
to the Ss Peter & Paul, Borden APCM,
presented by Jill Petts,
Parish Safeguarding Officer 19 May 2026.

Introduction

Presented with this report is a report from the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard (DSD).

This report, and the DSD report, is to show progress made from the previous report and in compliance with the House of Bishops guidelines.

The church remains committed to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We follow the Church of England's policy, Promoting a Safer Church.

Safeguarding Overview

The Safeguarding Notice is displayed in church. However, to confirm, all concerns of a safeguarding event should be reported within 24 hours of it first coming to light to:

Jill Petts is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) contactable on 07570 078115 (not 24 hours).

Paul Brightwell, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) 07398 009951 (24 hours).

Key Activities and Compliance

Training: Seven members of the PCC completed the mandatory training (Foundation and Basic Levels).

Policy Review: The policy was approved at the previous APCM and is attached for review and approval at this meeting.

Incidents and Casework: Two incidents were reported to the DSO but were not felt to be church safeguarding matters and

appropriate signposting was given. There was one further casework event (now closed) within the diocese, which the PSO has been made aware of.

Improvements and actions:

Whilst good progress has been made with regards to raising awareness of safeguarding principles within the church community, there is still simple but essential work to be undertaken around adopting a Safeguarding Action Plan, ensuring all church 'officers' have the right levels of safeguarding training and awareness, and the adoption of a clear reporting line (see above – Safeguarding Overview). A plan of action will be presented to the PCC at the next meeting.

Conclusion and Approval:

The PCC remains committed to ensuring that our church is a safe place for all. We will continue to work closely with the Diocese to maintain best practice in safeguarding.

1.5.2

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church – see appendix

1.5.3

Safeguarding Action Plan

See appendix

1.6 Committees

During the interregnum, the Church is currently organised with informal Teams, rather than Committees, who perform many, if not most of the tasks that need to be completed. There are teams in place for Ministry, Housekeeping, the Maintenance Working Team (affectionately known as the Garden Party), and the Flower Team who arrange the wonderful displays in church, that are so much admired, by everybody.

1.7 Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by Law. It has the power to transmit the business of the PCC between Council meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also oversees the general financial dimension of the work of Ss Peter and Paul.

1.8 Areas of expertise and interest

Participation in Worship
Welcome and general Sunday Organisation
Care of the building and grounds
Finance
Events Coordination
Pastoral Care

1.9. Objectives and Activities

During the current Interregnum, the PCC of Ss Peter and Paul, has endeavoured to work co-operatively to promote the mission of the church within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Borden. The PCC also has responsibilities the fabric of the church building and all the items contained within it.

Section Two

2.1 Achievement and Performance

Ss Peter and Paul Church Borden is presently in the second year of Interregnum. Over the past year, with the main support of Fr Jane Barker, Jill Petts and visiting Clergy, it has been possible to offer Mass, or morning Prayer, every week.

When a Priest has not been available on a Sunday, Jill Petts and Janet Beal (until her well deserved retirement) have offered Morning Prayer. Morning Prayer on a Thursday continues with Jill Petts and Janet Beal.

During an Interregnum, I feel that is a fairly major achievement and a great performance. Thank you so much to all Ministers, Ordained and Lay, who have made this possible.

The Borden Church Electoral Roll
Currently stands at 76 people.

The Widows Mite Fund currently has **70** Supporters.
This is a hugely important fund. We need as many people as possible to support this fund, by donating, eg £2, £5 or £? per month, ***IF the church is to remain sustainable for the future****, in its present form.*

The important point about this fund; is not really about the 'amount that people donate' (although that helps!), this fund can only work, based on the 'number of people who support; donate to the fund;' a small amount donated each month, is more sustainable for everybody in the long run. With changing patterns of Worship, this fund offers the opportunity to try to maintain a Christian Place of Worship within the Village of Borden.

If you are able to help, our details are as follows.
Account Name: Borden PCC
Bank: Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-99-50
Account no: 54143768
Thank you for your consideration.

The work of The Friends is also hugely important
Borden Church is a Medieval Ancient Building and requires regular and expensive maintenance. We are very grateful and thankful to The Friends for their extensive Fund Raising to pay for these repairs. Without the support of The Friends, some of these repairs could be very difficult indeed. Thank you x

The Shining Stars after School Club was a successful initiative, running for a short while; set up by Fr Jane and Bernie Lyons, with the support of the school, offering a small group a period of Bible Study and fun after school in The Forge. It is hoped that it will be possible to continue with this group in the future.

However you support Borden Church; thank you.

2.2 Review of the Year

Borden Church is in a second year of Interregnum.

Borden Church celebrated iro 200 services during 2025, including Mass, Seasonal Services, and Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Notable Events

Lent and Easter 2025

We were blessed during the season of Lent, to have a number of visiting Priests to Borden while Fr Jane was on placement in Tunstall. Fr Jane returned to Borden, in readiness for many of the Easter Services. Our Easter Sunday Service was well supported and we were very grateful to Valerie H-F who very kindly donated Easter Eggs for everybody.

Remembering VE Day May 1945

Our VE Day Remembrance began 4th May with Mass, celebrated by Fr Jane, our service ended with everyone singing, loudly, I vow to thee my Country. Later in the week, it seemed as though the whole Village wanted to remember VE Day on 8th May 2025. The day started with a Morning Service of Remembrance attended by the Children, Teachers and Parents from the Village School. In the afternoon a special Tea Party was held in The Forge, organised by the Parish Council to raise

funds for The Armed Forces Charity, SAFA. There was a VE Day Service in the evening, followed by Prayers and a Sing-Song with The Maypole Minstrels on The Playstool, followed by the Lighting the Village Beacon, while everyone tucked into Fish and Chips. As part of this amazing day, Vivien was 'up the Tower,' belting out The White Cliffs of Dover on the Church Ellacombe! I hope you managed to be there.

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas is usually a busy period for Borden Church and so it was again in 2025. Carols by Candlelight was very well supported. Our celebrant on this occasion was Jill Petts and our Service began with the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City,' beautifully sung by Ksenia Jones. What then followed was a selection of popular Carols and readings. The Choir sang two solo pieces, and although the Choir is few in number, it was just beautiful. We are very grateful to the Choir, Shirley, Eileen, Denise, Dorothy, Arne and Kathy.

Christingle and Nativity

Our Christingle Service started at 10.00am in the morning in The Forge, with a talented group assembling 150 Christingles! The ever popular Christingle and Nativity Service, led by Jill Petts, was held on Christmas Eve afternoon and was attended by over 100 parents and Children. Every child and most of the parents was given a Christingle to take home. The collection from this service was donated to The Children's Society. (We are also grateful to Mary Whitehead, who collects The Children Society boxes).

Midnight Mass and Christmas Day

It takes a special kind of stamina to work full time all day; then celebrate Midnight Mass, followed later that same day, by the Christmas Morning Service. Thank you Fr Jane. Kathy Collins.

2.3 The Choir

Since there are just four of us in the Choir it would be lovely to have more Members to sing Soprano on a Sunday and at Weddings etc. I am very grateful to Denise, Dorothy and Eileen and long may they continue singing with us. Shirley Jarrett

2.4 Thursday Morning Prayer *and Fun in the Forge*

We continue to have regular attendance at our Thursday meeting, which, through the winter has taken place in the Forge, for the comfort of the elderly members who feel the cold.

When the weather has become a bit warmer (probably after Ascension Day), our service will again take place in church and we will then walk over to the Forge for our coffee, cake, and games.

We usually have about 6 people attending Morning Prayer, and are then joined by about another 6 for coffee, cake and games. I am especially grateful to Bernie for her help in always erecting the tables for us beforehand, and to Christine who always organises the tea, coffee and washing up. As well as this, they both add to the general atmosphere of hilarity and fun throughout the second half of the morning, as, indeed, does everyone who comes. Janet Beal

2.5 Bible Study

Throughout Advent and Lent, Games time was replaced with Bible Study. This was well attended (usually about 8-10 people). It was led by Jill, Father Jane, Christine and myself. The different leaders give variety of emphasis to the Bible readings.

We have had some lively and thought provoking discussions. I'm hoping this weekly meeting will continue to flourish and to grow. All are welcome. Janet Beal

2.6 Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine is still going strong in its original format. Delivered to over 200 people in the Parish, regular contributors include The Ministry Team, Borden Primary School the WI, The Heritage Group, the Friends of Borden Church, along with items of interest. We also have 8 advertisers which helps with the printing costs.

We have managed to keep the price of the magazine the same for many years thanks to a great team of volunteers who deliver the magazine by hand. In this digital age it is a welcome change when the magazine, usually 32 pages, packed with information about church news, fetes, celebrations and forthcoming events around the parish, lands on the door mat.

2.7. Quinquennial Repairs

The Quinquennial was carried out on 3rd May 2024 by John Bailey. The 'In depth' report has been shared with the PCC.

Breakdown of repairs that have been completed in 2025/2026:

Dormer Window repairs have been completed and the glass repaired.

Tower hatch has been replaced and is waterproof.

Church Roof Repairs completed.

Porch Roof Repairs completed.

Requires attention

Pigeon infestation – this has been investigated and a quote has been prepared.

It was agreed that an annual inspection of the Church roof should be made at least twice a year.

Requires Urgent attention:

Belfry Crack this will need to be investigated in the coming months. Bernie Lyons

2.8. Maintenance Working Parties

The Churchyard is taking shape again this year, with trees being cut back and trimmed, making the pathways more accessible, Thank you Robert Hardy and his trusted gardeners. The Team have already started dealing with clearing away and tiding up areas within the Churchyard. The boarders and pathways are lovingly and carefully trimmed and tidied, a lot of hard work goes into keeping it all well-kept and many visitors have commented how beautiful it all looks. All credit goes to Sue Taylor whom we cannot thank enough for all her wonderful hard work.

The Ashes Plot area is being strimmed as often as possible but at times it is difficult to cut without disturbing the many flowers, this will be carried out if possible once a month. In the coming months we will be taking out the Box hedge which sad to say has seen better days and the soil left for a period of time and replaced with possibly lavender. The headstones in the Churchyard are going to have a makeover this will encompass removing the ivy from several of the stones located at the far side (School Lane)

Blendwood continue to do a great job cutting and trimming the grass. Thank you goes to Steve.

We are always grateful and thankful that our lovely 'Flower Ladies' Ursula Nunn, Jacky Dale, Frances Platten, Nicola Robson, Sharon Eaves and Jane Cantor, who always keep our wonderful Church looking amazing and ensuring that the Church looks beautiful all year round.

It is always a pleasure to thank the fantastic Cleaning Rota Team who keep the Church looking spic and span and looking marvellous and cared for, thank you so much Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you to each one of you who give up your time unselfishly to look after and care for St Peter and St Paul this beautiful Church in the heart of Borden. Bernie Lyons

2.9 Fund Raising

Our main Fund Raising Event of the year continues to be the Christmas Fayre and Raffle. We continue to be very grateful to Fr Christmas and all his helpers, who work very hard to assemble the Grotto on the day. Children visit free and every child is given a small free gift. Without the great folk who set up and run the stalls, there would be no Christmas Fayre; thank you so much everybody. Special thanks to Melanie who made and donated the stunning Christmas cake, it was a very lucky person who won that cake!

The ever popular Kent Police Male Voice Choir very kindly performed another concert for Borden, it was such good fun and everybody enjoyed it so much, and we also raised some money for Church Funds. Thank you KPMVC x

The most significant Fund Raising has been The Widows Mite Fund. Please see section 4.3 for more information.

2.10 The Forge

The Forge is a small venue in the village that can hold about 26 people seated and approximately 35 with standing room.

The usage of the hall has increased in the last couple of years and we now have a pleasing mix of regular users plus a few casual lets for children's parties and gatherings.

The regular users;

Village Tea and Cake Meet

The Maypole Minstrels – Choir rehearsals

Two Quilting Groups

Mother and Baby Group

Art Club

Meditation Group

Women's Circle Group.

It is great to see such diverse users in the Forge and there is still capacity for more. Val Skinner

2.11 Borden Bells and Clock Tower

We have continued to struggle to provide regular service ringing and often relied on support from neighbouring towers to ensure that special occasions, such as Easter, were marked with bells. We are hopeful that this situation will improve soon, however, as we have welcomed two enthusiastic newcomers, Lisa and Bee. They are learning quickly and should be ringing unaided before long. Their progress will bring our regular band to six. We would still very much welcome more ringers.

The number of weddings has declined, and with it the demand for wedding bells. Our thanks go to Calum, whose excellent teaching remains invaluable. Teaching is essential to the life of any active tower, and we are fortunate indeed to have someone so capable. Thanks are also due to Lee, who continues to carry out sterling work in the belfry, keeping the ringing apparatus in good order with timely adjustments and repairs.

The plan to rehang the bells remains very much a plan. Unfortunately, our fundraising efforts so far have been ill-fated, leaving us rather deflated. The bells must be rehung, it is a question of when, not if, and we know that grant funding would be available. Even so, it is important that we develop some solid fundraising schemes of our own. Forming a small team, dare one say a committee, may be the best way to regain momentum. Sponsorship of individual bells, with dedication plaques, is one idea that has proved successful elsewhere.

The clock, wonderful but notoriously temperamental, has undergone a considerable and costly programme of work. It is now back in place and working, and we hope it will continue to behave itself for many years to come.

Flags come and go. Until Fr. Robert arrived in Borden, we flew only the St George's flag. Fr. Robert brought with him a splendid

selection of Union flags for his first major occasion, Remembrance Sunday, and we requisitioned a few of them for the tower, flying them on various special days. They do not withstand the weather for long, and we have already replaced them a couple of times. Our St George's flag, however, has been flying for decades. Once of excellent quality, it is now torn and knotted. Strictly speaking, a flag should not be flown unless it is in good condition, and we will no doubt need to replace it sooner rather than later. Yet a few of us hold the romantic notion that our old St George's is a rather fitting symbol for our times and our village - weathered, worn and battered, but still flying and refusing to give up. Vivien Smith

2.12 Friends of Borden Church

The Friends of Borden Church are a fundraising charity now in its 24 year specifically set up to raise funds to maintain Borden Church. This is achieved but organising various events throughout the year including Music at the Manor, an outdoor music event in the Summer, Dance Nights in the Parish Hall in the Autumn. Quiz Nights and Race Nights and the annual Jumble sale. The money raised goes solely to the upkeep and Maintenance of the church.

The Friends also run a membership scheme which includes four quarterly prize draws and the income from this allows us to fund the events. We work closely with the PCC, endeavouring to finance as much as we can.

In these difficult times, fundraising is not an easy task as spare cash is scarce but we endeavour to provide a little enjoyment in people's lives whilst putting cash in the pot to fulfil our charitable duty to the church. Val Skinner

2.13 The Flower Ladies

Borden Church Flowers Report 2025/6 Ursula Nunn

Our Flower Arranging Team are now recovering from EASTER and the enormous amount of work involved in creating the various arrangements required for this Festival. In fact Easter is the most Time – consuming of all the Festivals with arrangements created for Maundy Thursday and the Altar of Repose swiftly removed on Good Friday morning to create the Bare and desolate Church for Good Friday. Then – on Saturday we are busy again, replacing what we have removed to its Easter positions and adding decorations with Three more Pedestal arrangements and other delights.

The other significant Festivals of the Church's year are busy but not quite like Easter.

Last year we had only ONE wedding which was lovely but we do enjoy arranging flowers for such Special Events.2026 brings us FOUR Weddings and a Renewal of Marriage Vows so we shall enjoy doing these extra Floral delights for the participants of course, but to delight our congregation on the Sunday mornings as well.

Sadly 2025 and 2026 also brought Funerals as we all remember and we again tried to make sure that the Church looked at its best in the hope that those attending felt that we had made an effort for their special Service.

We do enjoy what we do and we appreciate the comments from the congregation; we are also very grateful for the generous donations we receive towards the Flowers.

A very BIG Thank – you from the Flower Arranging Team.
Jacky Dale, Frances Platten, Nicola Robson, Sharon Eaves, Jane Cantor and Ursula Nunn

2.14 Baptisms

I have been asked to let people know what I do regarding baptisms.

When I receive the initial contact I take a few details and then check with Fr Jane to see if the date requested is available. I then send the parents a form which they need to complete and return to me a fortnight before the baptism. This form is then sent to Fr Jane and Ursula.

On the day itself my husband John and I set up everything in church in readiness for the service and then act as Sidesmen.

At the end of the service the parents are given a card which gives details of the baptism and also a small candle which is a replica of the Paschal candle in church. Fr Jane always suggests that the parents light the candle on the anniversary of the baptism. The Godparents are also given a card which states that they are Godparents of the named child.

It was always necessary for people standing as Godparents to have been baptised themselves.

Now we often find that would be Godparents are not baptised. However we are able to let them be sponsors of the child. Instead of being given a card which states that they are Godparents of a child I have been able to source sponsor cards which we can give them instead.

We don't have as many baptism requests as we used to have. In fact in 2025 we only baptised 5 children. However we have eight baptisms booked for this year so far.

On the first anniversary of a child's baptism I send an anniversary card to the child as a way to keep in touch with the family and a reminder that we are always here for them. Doreen Masters.

2.14 Organist and Church Organ

In response to your email, I have not got very much to say except to say that the organ is in tip top shape thanks to the regular maintenance visits by Manders Paul Derrett wrote an article for the Parish Magazine in December stating the qualities of the instrument.

Alessandro Bianchi came for his annual recital last September a few days before his recital at Westminster Abbey and we will welcome him again on Thursday 19th November just after his recital at St Paul's Cathedral. Andrew Cesana

Section Three

3.1 Incumbent Report (we are presently without an Incumbent)

We are now in our second year of interregnum, and this past year has not been without its challenges. There are many people, quietly behind the scenes, working very hard to maintain 'business as usual' at Borden (see 2.8 Maintenance Working Parties). We are also supported by a hugely flexible Clergy.

The Ministry Team meet to plan the Celebrant Rota, to try to ensure that Mass is available every Sunday at 8.00am or 9.30am or preferably both! During the Interregnum, the Ministry Team has been an important source of guidance and planning within the Church. The Ministry Team is composed of Fr Jane Barker, Jill Petts, Janet Beal (until her retirement), Bernie Lyons and Kathy Collins.

Fr Jane is licensed to Borden and Milton Regis; this means that Fr Jane needs to split her time between both Churches. Fr Jane will frequently celebrate Mass at Borden at 8.00am and then dash to Milton for 10.00am Mass. We are very fortunate and grateful that Fr Jane has been available this past year, and able to cover as many services as she has done; also including

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Without the support of Fr Jane this past year, it may not have been possible to offer the level of Pastoral Care that has taken place. Fr Jane has also been a frequent visitor to the Borden Village Primary School and Pre-School, where Fr Jane has been able to offer Ministry and Pastoral care to pupils and teachers alike. Thank you Fr Jane.

However, when Fr Jane is not available, we have been very fortunate to have a 'guest' Priest to offer cover. We are very grateful to Rev Richard Braddy, Rev Nick Carpenter, Rev David Ridley & Rev Sharran Ireland. Thank you everybody.

When it has not been possible to offer Mass, we offer Morning Prayer instead; this has mostly been covered by Jill Petts, for which we are very grateful. Thank you Jill x

On a less happy note, we have had to say goodbye to some very dear friends this past year. Fr Colin Johnson, who had been a treasured friend to Borden over many years suddenly passed away in October 2025. We also said goodbye to Rev Peter Jacobs, who very kindly helped at a couple of our services in 2025. And from our precious congregation we also remember with much love and affection, Terry Desmond, Robert Nunn, Bill Whitehead and Ann Coker. All beloved and much missed members of our Church Community.

After 21 years as a Reader, with 10 years of that at Borden, Janet Beal retired from Reader Ministry and became Reader Emeritus. Janet will still lead Bible Studies, lead intercessions and still run the very important Coffee Morning. On a personal note, I always love Janet's intercessions, because I know that Janet will always speak about nature and her garden. Wishing Janet a very well earned retirement, and thank you x

Kathy Collins x

3.2 Curate Report

I continue to serve the two parishes presiding at Mass both the 8.00am and 9.30 service and the 10.00am Holy Communion at HTMR.

Occasional offices have kept me busy with funerals, numerous baptisms and a wedding at Borden, Interment of ashes.

I go into Borden primary school once a month for Collective Worship. The school came into church at seven times in the last year.

I regularly pop in for a pastoral visit to Borden pre-school, and the children came into church once again for their Christmas nativity service.

I have also been supporting many of the congregation and parishioners pastorally, whilst my curacy training has ended, CMD (Continual Ministerial development) will begin shortly.

So far this year I have many, many Baptisms in my diary, three weddings, a renewal of wedding vows. I will also continue to preside at Mass whilst continuing to support our church and community at Borden.

Following the signing off, of my curacy by Bishop Rose in the November of 2024, I attended a candidate's panel to change my status from Assistant Curate to that of Incumbent status.

The panel approved my selection to Incumbency, although until my license changes when I start my first Incumbency post I remain the Assistant Curate for Borden and Milton Regis.

In the meantime, It's a time of waiting.

Thank you those who continue to support my ministry.

God Bless. Fr Jane.

3.3 Vergers Report

The duties of a Parish Verger are varied and to an extent depend on the Service or Event which is taking place.

There will be a lot of ‘’moving this and that’’ There will be a bit of assisting people to where they should be sitting, and in the case of Weddings especially there can be a lot of where on earth can we put YET ANOTHER PRAM/PUSHCHAIR and not cause a ‘JAM; when the Bride comes in or when everyone is trying to get out.

2025 only gave us ONE wedding bur the number of Funerals which bring with them some difficult issues – Funeral Bearers who loose their footing when coming into the Church and threaten to demolish the Font Cover for one.

Oh, and I nearly forgot one special talent which Vergers need- the ability to COUNT THE CONGREGATION so we can put the numbers in the Service Register. We have a “Verger in training “at Borden who possesses this particular ability and does not need the ‘Clickers’ as I do!!

Ursula Nunn’

Section Four

4.1 Churchwarden Report

Some repairs from the Quinquennial have been completed, Dormer Window has now been repaired and the second Dormer Window has been cleaned.

Work repairs on the church entrance lower and upper roofs. Lower roof replacing missing lead flashings and over wooden strut using new code 4 lead dress to suit repair some repointing plus cleaning the roof of moss and rubbish. These checks on the roof will happen twice yearly.

Clock repairs and maintenance have been carried out and it is truly wonderful hearing the clock chime again. Thank you to Viv Smith for getting this sorted.

Statistics For Mission Return these were sent Online to Canterbury in January. The Electoral role will be submitted in April and the Energy footprint submitted in June.

The Church now has the Payaz card reader and this is now up and running and will be placed in the Vestry for safe keeping. WIFI is still proving difficult within the Church

The Fire Extinguishers have all been replaced on 10th March and the Chubb contract for the Church and The Forge has been renewed for the next 5 years at a cost of £396 per year which includes all maintenance of the extinguishers.

PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) will be carried out in May by RJA Electrical Services Ltd at the cost of £69.

Police Surgeries: We are delighted that we now have PC Ryan Atherton to look after Borden Parish. We welcomed PC Atherton and PC Boosey to the first Police Surgery which was on Friday 27th March at The Forge. Police Surgeries are booked for 26th April and 24th May and these will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and Notice Boards.

Bernie Lyons

4.2 Treasurer Report

Thank you everybody who continues to financially help to support Borden Church. Thank you everybody who donates via the planned giving scheme and thank you to the many who regularly donate a small sum each month via the WMF; they may be small amounts, but when you add them all together, it really adds up! Thank you to all those who help with fund raising, especially at the Christmas Fayre and thank you all those who support the dreaded Christmas Grand Draw!

However, the current financial situation at Ss Peter and Paul Borden Church may be best described as challenging. I would imagine that all churches are struggling to pay the rising costs, against a backdrop of reducing income. Although our financial situation continues to be difficult, it would be much worse without the additional income from the WMF.

The Parish Share for 2025 was £48,610.70, of which Borden Church paid £10,000.00. (Update to payment of the Parish Share 2025. Mid January 2026 we did send £20,000.00 to the Diocese).

The major expenses incurred over the past year has been maintenance to the church building, namely repairs to the roof, the dormer window, the clock and the clock face, and improvements to church lighting. The total cost of these repairs was £17,358.20. We are very grateful to The Friends who picked up these costs for us.

I am very thankful to Martin Thomas & Co who has kindly audited our Accounts again this year. I am very grateful for the oversight of Martin Thomas to Audit our Accounts and keeping Borden in good order. Thank you for your support.

Kathy Collins.

4.3 Widows Mite Fund Report 2026 – *open letter*

Dear Widows Mite Fund Supporter,

Thank you for all your support again this past year 2025, to help to protect our Church and our History and our Traditions, for this tiny Christian Community here in Borden today, and for future generations to come.

I am sure that most people are aware that patterns of Worship have changed dramatically in our lifetimes. When we think about Church, we should be thinking about Worship and Thanksgiving and Pastoral Care within our Community. But when faced with rising fuel costs, and rising insurance costs, and rising just about everything else, it is very hard, not to be distracted from the really important issues of Prayer and Spirituality within our Village.

Borden is presently without a full-time Incumbent. All the tasks within the Church are fulfilled by unpaid volunteers; including our Asst Minister Fr Jane and our Lay Minister Jill Petts and an army of people working behind the scenes to keep everything going. Borden Church is a very busy Church.

Borden Church is presently able to offer Church Services and support Special Events; like the VE Day Celebrations on 8th May, a Wonderful Day of Music, Fish 'n' Chips, and lighting the Beacon on the Playstool. Another important annual event is the Christmas Fayre, where every child has the opportunity to visit Santa and receive a small free gift. Again all run by volunteers.

Everybody at Borden tries very hard to fulfill our financial obligations, but each year the costs increase and the number of people in church to pay those costs, does not increase. That is why the wider support from within the Village is so very critical. And that is why the PCC and Churchwardens at Borden are so very grateful for your support.

Thank you so much, Kathy Collins

Section Five

5.1 Fabric Report

The Church is checked each month to ensure that everything in the Church is of good working order. The lightning Rod is due its inspection in the coming months. The Lighting in the Church was completed in May of last year and LED bulbs which are low cost and longer life. Fire Extinguishers have been replaced and the contract with Chubb renewed PAT testing will be carried out in April. Bernie Lyons

5.2 Churchyard

The care of the Churchyard has been noticed by many people and thanks go to all the hardworking men and women who look after it. The grass cutting is cut every month by Blenwood who have the contract from Swale Borough Council, we are very fortunate to still have Steve as our grass cutting man who does take care of everything. As mentioned earlier lots of cutting and trimming of trees have already begun this year and will continue throughout the year.

The repair to the Churchyard wall has been completed on the East side of the Church and it is with deep gratitude we owe our thanks to Rob Chandler who took great care and effort to ensure every piece went back to its rightful place. There are other areas of the wall that need repairing and Rob will continue this in the coming months.

I am delighted to report that the 6 compost bins have now been emptied thanks to Bob and his son.

5.3 Fabric of the Church

Repairs have been carried out from the Quinquennial Report they are the Dormer Window, the Church roofs as mentioned in the Church Wardens report have all been repaired and cleared of rubbish. In the coming months there will be a check on the drainage and downpipes to ensure that they are clear from blockages.

The leak at the back of the Church near the Vestry we believe has now been resolved, it seems that there was water trapped under the existing section and that it has now dried out. As mentioned, the Quinquennial Report there are still more repairs to deal with and these will be discussed soon in order of priority.
Bernie Lyons

Section Six

Additional Reports

6.1 Sittingbourne Deanery Synod

Sittingbourne & Sheppey Deanery Synod - Report for the APCM compiled by Jill Petts

Deanery Synod

The Sittingbourne & Sheppey Deanery Synod represents all the Anglican churches in the deanery. It is composed of clergy and lay members. It is chaired by an Area Dean (clergy) (currently vacant, and the Deanery Lay Chair.

Borden Church has three representatives. They are currently Jill Petts, Eileen Harrison, and Arne Holman Baker. All three positions are due for election in 2026.

The purpose of the Deanery Synod is to act as an intermediary between the PCCs and the Deanery Synod. The deanery can then raise issues with the Diocesan Synod. It goes beyond this, as it forges links and aims to share areas of expertise between churches in the deanery.

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings in the past year; 19 June 2025, 15 September and 12 November 2025. The meetings have generally been occupied with the reorganisation and the appointment of clergy to the deanery. Archdeacon Estella Last has provided support and guidance to churches, including our own, since her appointment.

The next Deanery Synod meeting is on 4th June 2026, 7pm for 7.30pm, at St Bartholomew's Church, Bobbing. This will be chaired by Archdeacon Estella Last. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Elaine Appleton, the current lay chair, will be standing down at this meeting and nominations will be invited for anyone wishing to take on this role (who must be a member of the Deanery Synod).

Deanery Ministry & Mission Committee (DMMC)

This is a standing committee of the Deanery Synod comprising of a representative from each church, or benefice. Its purpose is to provide a focus for any pastoral reorganisation within the deanery as well as focussing on outreach and growth. It reports to the Deanery Synod. The current representative is Jill Petts.

The DMMC has met on four occasions since the last APCM; 11 June 2025, 17 September 2025, 20 October 2025 and 11 March 2025. The focus has been on the pastoral reorganisation within the deanery.

Nominations for election to the Deanery Synod

Anyone interested in being a member of the Deanery Synod is encouraged to submit a nomination form (with a proposer and a seconder). Membership of the synod also entitles the holder to a place on the PCC. It is therefore expected that the person is of good character and must complete the Basic and Foundation modules of the Church of England Safeguarding Training.

6.2 Server's Report

The Altar Servers at Borden Church perform an important to support the Priest with items needed before, during and after the service. This role has been even more important during the Interregnum, to quietly assist visiting clergy when needed. We are very grateful for the work of all of our Servers.

Section Seven

7.1 Financial Report

SS Peter and Paul Borden Parochial Church Council
Notes to Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st December 2025

7.1.1 Statement of Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church Groups that owe an affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

The General Fund is used for the day to day running of the Church and is not subject to any special restrictions apart from the special collections for charities.

Other Funds may be subject to restrictions for particular purposes and these are indicated by R (Restricted). They may also include monies designated by the PCC - shown D (designated).

All the funds of the PCC are held in accounts at CAF Bank and various funds at the Central Board of Finance (CBF). Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably made.

7.1.2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not recognised or valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwarden on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made and any other amounts owing to the PCC.

The Parochial Church Council has an ongoing commitment for the rent payable for the lease of the Forge at a rate £7,000 per annum.

7.1.3 Parish Share

The total Parish Share for 2025 was £48,610.70

Parish Share paid £10,000.00

Parish Share arrears £38,610.70

The total Parish Share for 2026 is £49,218.34

Parish Share paid £20,000.00

Parish Share to be paid £29,218.34

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Auditors Report

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Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

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Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

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Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Funds and Balances Held

Accounts Page 5

Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Funds and Balances Held

Appendix

1.5.2 Safeguarding Policy

The Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Borden

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 22 May 2025.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.

- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Jill Petts as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwardens, Kathy Collins and Bernie Lyons.

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This report was approved by the PCC via email

Signed on their behalf by Kathy Collins, Churchwarden

Date 14th May 2026
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1.5.3 Safeguarding Action Plan

Introduction

The Church of England's safeguarding policy statement, Promoting a Safer Church, says:

"All Church bodies should ensure that they have a 'Promoting a Safer Church' action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly."

To help parishes prioritise their safeguarding work, a Safeguarding Dashboard can produce three levels of Action Plan:

* Level 1 - Safer foundations
* Level 2 - Safer foundations and activities
* Level 3 - Safer foundations, activities and practices

The PCC is asked to discuss and approve this Level 1 Action Plan.

Most Level 1 actions must be completed before the Safeguarding Dashboard can produce a Level 2 Action Plan. This can usually be achieved within a few weeks.

Only a Level 3 Action Plan shows all the mandatory requirements with which the parish must comply. It is therefore important that the Dashboard advances to Level 3 as quickly as possible.

Overall Progress 45% progress has been made towards the mandatory requirements of the Church of England.

A final note from the Treasurer, Kathy Collins.

A personal view

A lot of people are under the impression that the Church has loads of money and that Borden Church is in receipt of some external financial support to pay the bills. ***I wish that was true.***

Borden Church is entirely self-supporting, supported mostly by a very generous and very elderly congregation. ***What most people do not realise when they come into church in the winter, is that the elderly ladies sat in church, have in fact personally paid the heating bill for everybody else.***

Everybody who works at Borden Church is an unpaid volunteer.

So what can we do? The traditional methods of Fund Raising are disappearing fast and we need to come up with another plan, if we are to save Borden Church as a Place of Worship for the future.

We have a cunning plan for survival but we need your help.

We need to ask as many people as possible to donate a ***small*** sum of money each month to Borden Church. I hear you say, '£2 won't make any difference!' it will. If enough people support this, it will make a difference. We presently have 70 people supporting our 'Widows Mite Fund' but we need many more, ***are you able to help?***

If you have read this far, God Bless you; are you willing to go a little further and support The Borden Church Widows Mite Fund?

Please make your very important donation to:

Bank:	Lloyds Bank
Account Name:	Borden Parochial Church Council
Sort:	30-99-50
Account Number:	54143768

And thank you …

BORDEN SS PETER & PAUL
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	2025	2024
Pledged Giving non WMF	£8,886.00	£10,541.00
Pledged Giving WMF	£12,298.00	£12,455.00
Deposit interest	£26.07	£13.30
Open Plate Collections	£0.00	£2,614.00
Fees for Weddings & Funerals Bank	£1,020.00	£3,341.00
Fees for Weddings & Funerals collection recs	£0.00	£2,333.00
Fund Raising via Bank	£0.00	£549.40
Fund Raising Collection recs	£0.00	£1,611.00
Donations non WMF 1	£0.00	£1,345.00
Donations non WMF 2	£0.00	£0.00
Donations WMF	£0.00	£1,653.00
Heat, Cleaning & Light (refund)	£1,339.52	£0.00
Lloyds Transfer (see breakdown) ***	£19,783.00	£0.00
Magazine Subs	£36.00	£54.00
Magazine collection recs	£0.00	£350.00
Magazine Advertising	£0.00	£50.00
Legacies, Special Appeals & Walsingham 1	£43,516.48	£18,000.00
Legacies, Special Appeals & Walsingham 2	£0.00	£1,457.50
Sundry Income (Grants GWF)	£7,000.00	£13,067.16
Sundry Income (Forge Lettings)	£440.00	£595.00
Sundry Income (Grants Friends)	£459.60	£0.00
Loan	£0.00	£3,000.00
Minor Repairs	£0.00	£0.00
Lloyds Transfer (see breakdown)	£0.00	£5,400.00
	£94,804.67	£78,429.36

PAYMENTS	**2025**	**2024**
Clergy Expenses	£1,173.95	£5,390.46
Light and Heat	£5,347.09	£6,479.34
Insurance	£4,063.37	£3,921.23
Service Expenses	£6,295.84	£6,665.48
Minor Repairs, Organ and Choir	£23,119.00	£2,244.60
Parish Share	£10,000.00	£27,398.00
Office Administration	£7,466.28	£7,421.62
Fund Raising	£0.00	£0.00
Charitable Giving Childrens Society	£0.00	£335.00
Sundry Expenses (inc Walsingham)	£8,897.27	£11,210.77
Loan repayment P240019	£5,000.00	£3,000.00
Loan repayment P240024	£20,000.00	£10,000.00
	£91,362.80	£84,066.50
Excess of Expenses over income	£3,441.87	-£5,637.14

Approved by the PCC .....

Notes

RECEIPTS	£94,804.67	£78,429.36
Pledged Giving WMF	£12,298.00	£12,455.00
Donations WMF	£0.00	£1,653.00
WMF Receipts	£12,298.00	£14,108.00
non WMF Receipts	£82,506.67	£64,321.36
Total all income	£94,804.67	£78,429.36

Notes

*** Lloyds records £19,783.00 - see analysis for breakdown