



The Friends of
ST MARY'S CHURCH
Stoke by Nayland

Registered Charity Number 1070557

**Income and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2025**

and

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st March 2025**

Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2025

Registered Charity Number 1070557

Objects:

To cherish the history and beauty of St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland;
to assist in the maintenance of the fabric of the church and its churchyard;
to preserve and protect the church as a place of Christian worship.

Governing document:

Constitution dated 2nd July 1998

Trustees:

Mr Andrew Norman-Butler	Chairman
Mrs Linda Clapham	
Mrs Victoria Engleheart	
Mr Jeremy Evans	Vice Chairman
Mrs Emma Judd	
Mrs Anna Norman-Butler	Secretary
Professor Lucilla Poston	
Mrs Alexandra Sibun	Treasurer
Mr Henry Wilkes	
Mrs Wendy Woods	

Patrons:

Mrs Charles Brocklebank
Mrs Victoria Engleheart
Revd John Fowler
Mr Charles Torlesse

Principal address:

Lower House Farm
Higham Marsh
Stoke by Nayland
Colchester CO6 4SY

Independent examiner:

Mr Tony Bundy

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland

Trustees' annual report (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2025

Chairman's Report

During the year R.M. Wilks completed their skilled repairs to the south wall of St Mary's, the parapets and the chancel roof and the scaffolding was removed. This work was funded by the Restoration Fund set up by the Parochial Parish Council to finance the repairs and the Friends have so far donated £60,000 (in previous financial years) to the Fund.

For this financial year ending 31st March 2025, our income came to £7,549 which includes £900 from membership fees, £4,917 from donations, and the remaining amount from our investment holdings. At the end of our financial year, we had spent £5,179 of which £4,868 was on churchyard maintenance, compared with £2,000 in 2013. Our contractor has now started to charge VAT, and so sadly we agreed that, from April 2025, we will reduce the annual amount we pay to £3,000 plus VAT (£3,600 in total). This means that there is an annual shortfall of about £2,000 if we wish to keep the churchyard in good order.

At the end of the year our net asset balance was £36,146. The Friends have pledged a further £12,000 which will be called upon when the clerestory repair begins in late 2025. In addition, we have pledged £1,150 for urgent repairs to the organ which has been badly affected by water ingress from the roof. And there will be more to do including the church tower which is going to require substantial funding.

The scale and age of St. Mary's means that new needs are always arising, highlighting the ongoing importance of fundraising efforts and committed support from all who value our church's heritage. Every contribution, whether large or small, makes a tangible difference to the preservation of the church, whether focused on vital structural repairs or addressing more immediate concerns like the organ's condition or the upkeep of the churchyard.

As our core purpose is to raise funds for the ongoing care and repair of the church and churchyard, it's essential that our membership setup reflects the long-term financial needs of the charity and after much consideration we have made the following changes:

Reviewed our membership fees which will apply from 1st November 2025 and will be;

- £25 an individual, £40 for a family and all life members are encouraged to join the Friends on an annual membership basis
- Reduced our administrative costs, financial and time-related, by switching to digital communications

I am sure that you will understand and support our decision, and I would like to thank all of you who have already been in touch.

As usual I am very grateful to my co-trustees for their support and hard work.

Andrew Norman-Butler

Chairman of the Trustees

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland

Income and Expenditure

for the year ended 31st March 2025

Income	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total Funds 2024
Gifts, donations and other voluntary receipts:				
Subscriptions: Life		-	-	-
Annual	900	-	900	965
Donations	4,817	-	4,817	4,279
Donations for Churchyard Maintenance	-	100	100	-
Donations for the Restoration Fund	-	-	-	232
Gift Aid Recovery	-	-	-	929
Voluntary Income	-	-	-	6,770
Receipts from Investments:				
Dividend Income	1,032	-	1,032	981
Interest	700	-	700	2,418
Total Income	7,449	100	7,549	16,574
Expenditure			2025	2024
Payments directly for charitable purposes:				
Church yard maintenance	4,768	100	4,868	3,027
Grants for fabric repair & upkeep	-	-	-	62,040
Church yard path and lighting	-	-	-	-
Church organ	-	-	-	-
Total payments for charitable purposes	4,768	100	4,868	65,067
Cost of raising funds:	100	-	100	2,495
Administration expenses	211	-	211	183
Total Expenditure	5,079	100	5,179	67,745
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	2,370	-	2,370	(51,171)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	705	-	705	(282)
Net movement in funds	3,075	-	3,075	(51,453)
Total funds brought forward	33,071	-	33,071	84,524
Total funds carried forward at 31st March 2025	36,146	-	36,146	33,071

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

as at 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
Charity Funds		
Restricted Funds	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	<u>36,146</u>	<u>33,071</u>
Total Funds as at 31st March 2025	<u>36,146</u>	<u>33,071</u>
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Santander Business Current Account	3,737	2,068
COIF Deposit Account	14,839	14,138
COIF Investment Fund	252	257
M & G Charifund	17,318	16,608

The Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 2nd October 2025

And signed on their behalf by :

Andrew Norman-Butler, Chairman

Anna Norman-Butler, Secretary.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Friends of St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland
of the accounts set out on pages 3 and 4
for the year ended 31st March 2025

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act,
- and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed

Date: 3rd October 2025

Mr Tony Bundy