

# St Gabriel's Church Kings Hill Annual Report 2025



**ST GABRIELS CHURCH****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT ACTUAL 2025 and BUDGET 2026**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025 Year To December</b>	<b>2026 Year To December</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Offertory Collections	10,077	10,075
Regular Giving including Regular Online	20,793	21,415
General Donations and Other Income	3,078	1,906
Gift Aid Receipts	5,000	7,354
Loan Interest	4,025	4,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>42,973</b>	<b>44,750</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

<b>Worship and Ministerial Expenses</b>		
Hall Rentals and Service Costs	6,701	4,200
Vicarage Council Tax, Water and redecoration	5,359	15,000
Ministers Travel and Expenses	1,391	1,800
Other Ministerial Expenses	199	500
<b>Total Worship and Ministerial Expenses</b>	<b>13,650</b>	<b>21,500</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Parish Share	8,000	11,000
Licences, Subs and Donations	2,532	1,610
Insurance	504	460
Office Costs	592	1,455
Admin wages and NI	3,674	8,100
Equipment	265	2,800
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>15,567</b>	<b>25,425</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>29,217</b>	<b>46,925</b>

Transfer to Away Giving Reserve at 5%	2,205	2,250
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<b>Excess/(Deficit) After Away Giving/Transfers</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>- 4,425</b>
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Brought Forward General Fund Balance	86,843	91,268
<b>Carried Forward General Fund Balance</b>	<b>98,394</b>	<b>86,843</b>

**Other Funds Closing Balances**

Food Bank Restricted Fund	10,394	6,244
Building Restricted Fund	48,629	24,879
Operational Reserve Designated Fund	10,000	10,000

<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>167,417</b>	<b>127,966</b>
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## St Gabriel's Kings Hill Overview of 2025

The Trustees, led by Rev Mark Montgomery met regularly during 2025 to work on church strategy, policies and finance. We undertook a skills audit for the trustees and leadership team, looking at the skill sets we needed to improve our leadership teams. We also started the process of renewing the Bishops Mission Order for St Gabriels Church, and at the end of December we welcomed two new trustees. Andrew Naganga who has a finance background and Archdeacon Nick Cornell who has taken on the role of Chairman now Mark has moved on filling the vacancy created by Rev. Mark's departure.

Rev Mark continued to lead the church and preached on many different subjects.

From January – April Rev Mark led us in scripture from the New Testament. May - June we studied the book of Acts. Over summer – we reflected on summer related activities including walking in the countryside; visiting friends; going to the beach and sitting in the sun. October and November we studied Matthew. We celebrated safeguarding Sunday in November. During December he looked at an invitation to Hope, Love, Joy and Peace finishing the year with the only invitation.

We were able to celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> year of St Gabriels on Kings Hill with a celebration service including bring and share lunch, which was supported by many of our congregation and even some old friends joined us.

We welcomed several new families over the year which has led us to see our children's groups grow and thrive.

Mark had the privilege again this year to lead the community in the annual Remembrance Day service and laying of wreaths, which was supported by the uniformed organisation's on Kings Hill and the local community with 6-700 people attending.

During the year our treasurer Asura Pipiriene stepped down and we take this opportunity to say thank you to her for all the work she did on our accounts. Keith Berry took over in the interim to finalise our 2025 accounts and we were pleased to welcome Jenni Brown as our new treasurer in Jan 2026.

As 2025 closed and 2026 started Rev Mark moved on to Paddock wood. We did share in a celebration service to thank him for all he did at St Gabriel's.

We also heard the news that the original plot of land earmarked for a church building was no longer an option for St Gabriels Church Building, Please see below an extract from the letter sent to all church members in early Feb 2026.

"I know how much prayer, hope, and practical effort has gone into the vision for a church building at the heart of Kings Hill. Mark, members of the diocese, and many of you have invested significant energy in the process of securing land and raising funds. With real disappointment I need to share that the planned site can no longer go ahead as originally intended. Several factors — including the significant rise in building costs following COVID and the war in the Ukraine, changes in local land-use priorities, and the expiry of planning permission at Christmas — mean that the location we had originally secured is

no longer an option. I know that this news will feel disappointing personally for you and as a community just as it does for us as a diocese.”

The life of St Gabriel’s continued to be vibrant as we seek to be a church which is;

A family of all ages at the heart of Kings Hill, committed to being shaped by the Word and Spirit of God” striving to worship weekly, pray daily, commit financially and share the love of Christ in the world, we seek to serve and bring together all ages of our community through and because of the love of Jesus.” Doing this through our core church principals of: -

## **Proclaiming-Worshipping-Growing-Connecting and Caring.**

### **Finance**

### **Safeguarding Report April 25 – March 26**

In April 25 we adopted the Church of England safeguarding policy” promoting a safer church “.

It was voted and agreed that Karen Webber would be reappointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Safer Recruiter for St Gabriels Church.

During the year we were notified of a few possible Safeguarding issues and these were mainly from food bank enquiries. These were actioned and dealt with and are now closed.

We continue to use our Safer Recruitment Policy when appointing new volunteers to support us as a church.

This year we have appointed 1 new Sunday school helper, 2 new trustees and 1 new messy church helper.

As part of the PSO role we make sure everyone is up to date with their Safeguarding training and DBS checks are renewed when due. Alongside this, safeguarding is on the agenda at all MLT meetings and any issues are confidentially brought to the leadership’s team’s attention.

At our last MLT meeting we looked at our annual Safeguarding Audit and we are in the process of updating the elements that need review.

Please remember that safeguarding is not just about the Parish Safeguarding Officer making sure training is up to date, but it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that both young and old and everyone in between are kept safe and any concerns are passed on to the right people.

## **Home Groups**

Our two home groups continued through 2025 as vibrant places of sharing, revelation, and the application of scripture. Both met on Wednesdays, the morning group twice-monthly and the evening group weekly, either online or onsite. We have explored a variety of topics over the year, most notably studies in Joshua and Hebrews, plus videos on Justice and Deuteronomy, amongst others. Each have proved wonderful occasions in which to share the life of Jesus together.

Don't miss out on our equally exciting home groups - '*Confident Faith*' and '*The Chosen*' - meeting now!

## **Messy Church**

We held 4 Messy Churches in 2025; Lent (which was cancelled due to low numbers), Easter, Harvest and Christmas and our numbers ranged from 30 to 120 at Christmas where we run two sessions. Those families that attend enjoyed a selection of craft activities all relating to the specific season followed by a short family friendly service, with refreshments available for all. At Christmas we also had our annual Scratch nativity and Christingle as part of the messy Christmas which is always fun and enjoyed by all.

## **Youth and Children's work**

### **Sunday Groups**

During 2025 we saw our children's groups grow and were able to split into three groups. Creche for those under 3 with toys at the back of Church,

Seed and Grow for our rising 3's – 7yrs

Jesus and Me (JAM) for those 8 – 12yrs and Tween and Toast for those over 12, who met together due to the amount of space we have.

We had a great group of 6 leaders and 3 x helpers. The groups have enjoyed learning about Jesus's Disciples, Joseph, Paul and the Colours of Christmas to name a few, we used the Trueways kids 'resources with Bible stories, crafts, songs and videos to help the children and young people learn in a fun way.

We thank all our leaders and helpers for the support they give.

### **Youth Groups**

Our Youth Group had between 4-6 young people and they met once a month during 2025. They finished a Scripture Union series called Rooted and after this moved onto looking at the Youth Alfa course. Unfortunately this has not been finished as many of our young people had other commitments on a Sunday or sadly moved away.

We thank all our youth group Leaders for the support they have given to this group though small it was a lovely group of young people who we do miss seeing each month.

## **Girls Brigade**

Girls Brigade continues to have a good number of girls attending each week (25) with a variety of ages from 6 – 18yrs old.

The girls have enjoyed a full year of activities using our core badge system. This year we have included GB Heritage learning about GB in the past and what we want in the future to looking at Autumn themes and Spring Themes, all including discussions, crafts and games, plus the odd cooking evening along the way. Then in the summer we try to do some different activities which have included enjoying trips to the park, Mini Golf, walks to the chip shop, pamper evenings and much more. All our staff have DBS Checks and have completed both the Church and GB safeguarding modules.

We are still looking for leaders and if we don't find some in the next few months, I don't know what will happen to GB in September.

## **Community Activities**

We continue to run several outreach projects for our local community these include: -

### **Food Bank - Alan**

The Food Bank continued to service the Community during 2025 providing food and hygiene products to 671 Adults and 498 Children. 68% of the parcels were provided to Kings Hill residents with 17% being provided to Leybourne Chase. The remaining 15% was provided equally between West Malling and Mereworth.

The Food Bank staffing has been supported by helpers from the local community, Duke of Edinburgh Candidates and their family members as well as volunteers from St.Gabriel's Girls Brigade.

During 2025 we produced remote Fire evacuation Procedures adding this to the New Starter briefings.

We reviewed the operation to ensure we reduced as far as practical, potential Manual handling issues.

We relayed the pick face to be heavy to light ensuring heavier products are picked first reducing damage to the lighter items and risk of bags splitting.

To support this we purchased supermarket trolleys which has reduced the risk of lifting, carrying strain as well as speeding up the pick rate.

The numbers of people and families we support has continued to increase with 19 adults and families being supported in December. At the same time as we have been supporting more adults and families the level of food and monetary donations has reduced which has meant that over the last 5 months we have had to draw heavily on our reserve funds.

Going forward Fundraising and increasing food contributions will be a major focus.

The food Bank is staffed by local volunteers, any contributions to the Food Bank are used directly to support people in our own community, unlike the Trussell Trust and Fairshare who levy salaries or charge for the food.

The help and community support that St.Gabriel's provides is recognised in the community as evidenced by the Community Award (KALK) given to Karen Webber for her contribution to the Community of Kings Hill by the unanimous vote of the Parish Council.

## **The Hub Community Café**

We continue to meet at the Kings Hill Cricket Pavilion on the 1st and 3rd Thursday morning of each month.

We offer a warm welcome to anyone who is looking for a chat or just a change of scene, a great coffee and maybe a cheese scone or a sweet treat for a small donation.

## **Little Angels**

Rev Mark and Jane continued to run Little Angels on alternate weeks to the Hub getting around 15-17 children attending. Many were childminders bringing their children, but we did see a few mums come and join us for coffee and a chat. Sadly, we held our last session at the beginning of Jan while we rethink how we run this group as it was starting to outgrow the space, we had available.

## **Knit and Natter**

Our Knit and Natter group meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Kings Hill Cricket Club. They manage their own rota for bringing cake and serving teas and coffees. This works well and was helped by the setting up of a WhatsApp group of regular attendees.

In 2025 the group worked on:

- Large and small knitted squares for Candy's Hugs, a project to provide vibrantly coloured soft blankets for women with cancer.
- Hats and Scarves for care leavers for a campaign run by Woolly Hugs.
- Little blankets and toys sent to the charity Knit for Peace for children.

Members can also work on their own projects and/or contribute to various charity projects. New ideas are always welcome. We are currently averaging 10 members at each meeting with 15 regular attendees.

## **The Women's Group at St Gabriels**

Our successful Women's Group continued to be led by Kirsty Montgomery until the end of 2025, when the departure of our Vicar Mark Montgomery and his family meant that a new group leader was needed. Women's Group meetings in 2025 included Afternoon Tea, Curry Night, Easter Craftmaking, Christmas Craft, Supper at the Spitfire, a Belgian Beer night, a Games Night and a Cookery Demonstration of scone making.

Rosie Douglas is the new leader and we aim to continue meeting regularly throughout the coming year, enjoying a variety of topics.

## **The Men's Group at St Gabriels**

The Men's group continued to meet during 2025 with different events. In Early Feb - curry at Turmeric Square , Late Feb - Real ale evening, courtesy of Musket Brewery at the Cricket Club , March - meal at the North Pole, Red Hill, June - BBQ at Mark Green's house , August - Turkish meal at Havet, Tonbridge , December - curry at Turmeric Square, to bid farewell to Mark. They will continue to meet during 2026 - do look out for information on our newsletter.

## **Partnerships**

St Gabriels continues to have good links with many community organisations. These being the **Kings Hill Parish Council**, working with them particularly to deliver the Remembrance Day services and the **Kings Hill Management Company** for the support of the Food Bank.

Rev Mark also built strong partnerships with the sports community, as Chaplain of the **Cricket Club** alongside negotiating the use of the Cricket Pavilion for our outreach activities. He also worked with the **Kings Hill Football Club** Business Partnership and this gave the opportunity to network with other businesses on Kings Hill.

## **Schools are also an important partnership**

During 2025 Rev Mark continued to build those relationships with all three local schools, visiting to take special assemblies for Easter and Christmas. He also attended occasionally to take some lessons. We were able to use some of the school facilities for St Gabriels activities such as Ash Wednesday service, and some Messy Churches.

We continue to nurture these partnerships as we move forward into the interregnum.