



The Church in the Woottons
Meeting of Parishioners
(MOP) &
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(APCM)
Agenda & Reports

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ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (AMP) AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AMP 2025
3. Election of Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the AMP 2025
3. Financial Statement for the year ending 31/12/25 and Treasurer's Report
4. Report on the Goods, Fabric and ornaments of the Church – Church Wardens
5. Electoral Roll and Secretary's Report
6. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
7. Election of Sides people
8. Election of independent examiner
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Mothers' Union
11. Drop in
12. Breakfast Church
13. Friendship Coffee Mornings
14. Home Study Groups
15. Chairman's Closing Remarks
16. Closing Prayer

THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)

And Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 10.30am at North Wootton Guide and Scout Headquarters

Followed by a Picnic Lunch at 12.30pm

Welcome, Introduction and Prayer

Nigel Day (ND) welcomed everyone to the meeting, which is being held during the vacancy in the Benefice. Appropriate notices were given by Jim Tripp as to fire exits and muster points. ND read the banns of marriage of a local couple due to marry at St Mary's in the near future and he said a prayer for all. A short service of hymns and praise followed and thanks and applause were given to David Hill for his contribution to our services with his organ and piano playing and his musicality.

Present:

Nigel Day, Margaret Ojelade, Jonathan Dossetor, (chair) Linda Ashby, Penny Dossetor, Oliver Jordan, Norma Jordan, Anne Barsby, Jim Tripp, Christine Spicer, Rozanne Marrow, Janet Keir, Mary Sackree, David Clarke, Angela Clarke, Judy Fuller, Glenis Lee, Julian Hallett, Roy Featherby, Gloria Pantling, Penny Angell, Vanessa Cull, Joan Woodard, Pauline Edwards, Callie McCrea, Vicki Fletcher, Liz Housden, Ann Wadsworth, Chris Nat, Keith Cakebread, Margaret Cakebread, Sandra Deeres, Sylvia Taylor, Jennifer Watts, Jenny Fysh, Caroline Holbrook, Margaret Albinson, Derek Wall, Michael and Moira Wesson

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (AMP) 2025

Jonathan Dossetor (JD) welcomed everyone to the formal meetings.

1. Apologies

Liz Sams, Marion and Andrew Peacock, Pat Bowles, Gill Daniels, Chris and Roger Symes, Alison Miller

Minutes of 2024 AMP and APCM

Michael Wesson proposed that the minutes be approved and Moira Wesson seconded this proposal. The Minutes were approved by a show of hands.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Angela Clarke and Jonathan Dossetor at St Mary's and Janet Keir and Julian Hallett at All Saints are wishing to continue to serve as Churchwardens and were duly elected on a show of hands.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025 (APCM)

17. Financial Statement for the year ending 31/12/24 and Treasurer's Report

David Clarke (DC) introduced the Financial Statement. He said that 2024 had been a difficult year, particularly as the parish is in an inter regnum period. The parish had been unable to pay its parish share of £70,000. The sum of £42,000 had been paid, leaving a shortfall of £29,000. The diocese is disappointed.

The parish had just met its commitment to pay £2000 to the charity Christians against Poverty.

Fundraising had been poor during 2024. The Christingle services had resulted in disappointing giving and Christmas giving had been significantly less than in 2023. (£60 as against £400).

Those who gave by weekly envelope giving sometimes did not make up 'missing' weeks. However, there is significant giving by direct debit and Gift Aid is also used extensively.

There are 82 regular donors, but 32 do not Gift Aid and this should perhaps be investigated discretely. The parish average gift is £9.73 /week whereas, apparently, the diocesan average is £15/week. Given that the Woottons and Castle Rising is one of the richest parishes in Norfolk, we are under considerable pressure from the Archdeacon and Rural Dean about paying our full parish share. However, we have lost members of the church, due to age and infirmity, but going forward we will carry out fund raising activities and encourage our church members to give to the church on a regular basis.

A small fund of £300 has been set up for each church to enable members to purchase essential small items for the general maintenance of the church building. Any donations for coffee will be added to these funds and the Flower Funds and Music Funds have been allocated to these funds for each church. The accounts are interest bearing.

Margaret Cakebread stated that she considered the parish share system to be unfair and she believed it should be changed. The Bishop of King's Lynn has stated that the Church Commissioners should support parishes more.

DC announced the following fund raising activities.

July 16th 2025 David Hill organ recital at St Mary's as part of
the King's Lynn Festival

September 26th 2025 Quiz Night at South Wootton Village
Hall with Quiz Master Jacque Green

October 11th 2025. Harvest Afternoon Tea at All Saints

October 17th 2025 Matthew Bason concert at St Mary's

Janet Keir stated that we had the opportunity to have a stall at the Woottons Picnic in the Park on June 7th 2025. This is an opportunity for us to reach out to members of the local community.

DC confirmed that the 2024 accounts had been reviewed by Derek Stringer, our local examiner, and he had approved the accounts.

Margaret Cakebread proposed a vote of thanks to our financial team of DC and Glenis Lee and this was endorsed by the meeting. The accounts were approved by the meeting on a show of hands.

18. Report on the Goods, Fabric and ornaments of the Church – Church Wardens

All Saints Church

Church warden Julian Hallett presented his written report, which had been circulated before the meeting.

St Mary's Church

JD presented his written report as Churchwarden of St Mary's Church - a copy of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Margaret Albinson reminded the meeting of the availability of CIL (the Community Infrastructure Levy). This is money available to the community over a 5 year period. Application should be made to the Parish Council for funds to deal with specific projects.

19. Electoral Roll and Secretary's Report

Margaret Ojelade reported that the electoral roll had just been updated, as required. There are now 114 on the electoral roll, of whom 98 live in the parish and 16 outside the parish.

There has been a slight reduction in the numbers on the electoral roll since the last tally.

20. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The current members of the PCC are happy to continue in post during the clergy inter regnum. JD proposed that Jennifer Watts, Liz Sams, Alison Miller, Judy Fuller, Mary Sackree, Glenis Lee, Moira Wesson, Jill Bennett and Nigel Day be elected as members of the PCC. Michael Wesson seconded the proposal and the motion was passed on a show of hands. In addition to those elected, the church wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and Clergy are members of the PCC, ex officio. The Deanery Synod Representatives are David Clarke and Margaret Ojelade

21. Election of Sidespeople

The following have volunteered to meet and greet members of the congregation as sidespeople.

St Mary's Church –

Glenis Lee, David Clarke, Penny Dossetor, Mary Sackree, Judy Fuller, Gloria Pantling, and Margaret Cakebread

All Saint's Church –

Liz Sams, Sandra Davies, Roger Symes, Margaret Cakebread, Alison Miller, Jennifer Watts, Pat Bowles and Caroline Holbrook

The names of the sides people were proposed by JD and approved by a show of hands.

22. Election of independent examiner

Derek Stringer is willing to serve another year. He was proposed by MO and seconded by Janet Keir and his appointment was approved by a show of hands.

23. Safeguarding Report

Angela Clarke outlined to the meeting the measures the parish is taking with respect to our safeguarding policies. It is a vitally important matter.

Our safeguarding policies are reviewed annually and the action plan is posted on notice boards in both churches. All members of the PCC have basic safeguarding training – either on line or in person at a local training session.

JD and Angela are the safeguarding officers for the parish. Any safeguarding concerns must be referred to them without delay.

A Parish Safeguarding Tool Kit will be developed according to a specification laid down by the diocese. This will cover a safeguarding pathway for children and for adults who require special care. We must all be aware of risks and be alert to signals which might suggest safeguarding issues.

Linda Ashby stated that she had attended a local training session which had been most helpful and indeed enjoyable – and she encouraged anyone interested to participate.

24. Mothers' Union

Angela Clarke stated that the Mothers' Union is doing well as a group of 20 regular members. Ann Wadsworth has recently retired as Leader after long service and she was warmly thanked by everyone.

The Committee will now run the group. There are occasional church services and the group supports the local Pandora (Domestic Violence) Charity and also support children whose parent is in prison. The group is the only Mothers' Union group in the Deanery so some members come from other churches. The membership fee is £38 per annum.

25. Drop in

Janet Keir spoke about the Drop In sessions at North Wootton Village Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10am. Since James Nash's retirement, these sessions are led by Alison Miller, Margaret Cakebread and Janet.

25 -30 visitors take part each week, enjoying tea and coffee and delicious cakes or scones in welcoming and friendly company. See Janet's written report for more detail.

26. Breakfast Church

Caroline Holbrook spoke about the success of Breakfast Church, held fortnightly at All Saint's at 9am on the Sundays when the parish holds its parish service at All Saints.

The team includes Janet Keir, Margaret Cakebread and Caroline. Janet sets up and prepares and Margaret and Caroline share in preparing a Bible Story and appropriate crafts. A continental style breakfast is on offer at no cost and there is fresh coffee and tea.

Up to 12 people attend regularly and there is a lovely family atmosphere, together with fun and laughter. There is a Breakfast Church WhatsApp group.

27. Friendship Coffee Mornings

Gloria Pantling confirmed that the Friendship Coffee Mornings continued to take place at 1030am on the second Thursday in the month. She thanked those who hosted the mornings and explained that lifts are available and non church members also enjoy the meetings and the friendship that comes from the mornings. The venues are advertised in the church magazine each month and all are welcome.

28. Home Study Groups

Nigel Day reported on the three Home Study Groups currently meeting through TCITW. See his written report.

The groups meet on Monday morning, hosted by MO, or Monday evening, hosted by Cathy Fielding or Tuesday afternoon, hosted by Keith and Margaret Cakebread. The Monday morning group are currently following a video course on St Paul's letter to the Romans. The Monday evening group is currently studying 'what we believe' with a scripture course on the Apostle's Creed. The Tuesday afternoon group is currently studying the Israelites in the Book of Exodus.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the leader of the group or Nigel. We believe that encouraging and maintaining our house groups is an important task.

David Clarke reminded members of the 1030am Holy Communion Service on Thursday mornings at St Mary's. This service is a happy and engaging experience for those who attend and thanks are due to Linda Ashby for her commitment to the service. Following the service, coffee is served and there is a sense of commitment and celebration.

29. Chairman's Report

JD thanked everyone in the parish for their contribution during the vacancy. It is important that everyone contributes, but he was grateful for those who cleaned the churches and arranged flowers on a regular basis.

He confirmed that the purchase of the new Rectory on Nursery Lane had been completed and was available for a new incumbent. JD had asked the Archdeacon for an update on the recruitment of our new incumbent, but he had been given no information at that time. The closing date for applications is 14th May 2025, and a provisional date for interviews is 18th June 2025.

The PCC is expected to meet next on 10th June 2025.

14 . Sermon, Prayers and Blessing

Moira Wesson read from the Gospel of St John Chapter 10. Margaret Ojelade (MO) gave a short reflection on the Gospel reading and thanked JD and Linda Ashby for their contribution to the parish during the vacancy.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2025

Name
Position
Date of submitting the Parish Finance Form
Contact (Phone or Email)

The Church in the Woottons PCC

Accounts

For Year Ending

2025

The agreed Parish Share Ask £72,595

Account	Type of Fund	Type of Account	Opening Balance at 1st January 2025	Income	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Expenditure	Closing Balance
General Account	Unrestricted	Bank Current Account	3,083.55	74,690.43	947.00	7,505.88	67,094.50	4,120.60
CAP Account	Restricted	Bank Current Account	243.02	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	343.02
All Saints Fund	Designated	Bank Current Account	300.00	373.56	0.00	0.00	93.48	580.08
St Mary's Fund	Designated	Bank Current Account	300.00	1,092.24	0.00	0.00	6.63	1,385.61
Deposit General	Unrestricted	Deposit Account	15,225.94	12,780.25	6,602.37	0.00	24,571.00	10,037.56
Deposit All Saints	Restricted	Deposit Account	5,000.00	0.00	903.51	947.00	0.00	4,956.51
Deposit St Mary's	Restricted	Deposit Account	1,658.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,658.23
Deanery Fund	Restricted	Deposit Account		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Account	Further details on this account, such details of restrictions (to appear in Financial Statements)
CAP Account	Restricted to Donations/Legacies / Grants made out to Christians against Poverty
All Saints Fund	Small purchase fund for All Saints at PCC discretion
St Mary's Fund	Small purchase fund for St Mary's at PCC discretion
Deposit General	General Deposits
Deposit All Saints	Holding restricted legacies/grants/ fund raising for All Saints use only
Deposit St Mary's	Holding restricted legacies/grants/ fund raising for St Mary's use only
Deanery Fund	Restricted holding funds on behalf of Lynn Deanery

Assets retained for Church use

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2025	Total 2024
Asset A					0.00	0.00
Asset B					0.00	0.00
Asset C					0.00	0.00
Asset D					0.00	0.00
Asset E					0.00	0.00
Notes regarding the PCC assets						

Liabilities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2025	Total 2024
Liability A					0.00	0.00
Liability B					0.00	0.00
Liability C					0.00	0.00
Liability D					0.00	0.00
Liability E					0.00	0.00
Notes regarding the PCC liabilities						

Please use this box if you wish to include any other notes to the accounts

Number of tax efficient planned givers	50
Number of other planned givers	32
Number of new legacies received	

The Church in the Woottons PCC

#N/A

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts:							
Collections at Services	3	17,622.36	-	-	-	17,622.36	14,326.50
Planned giving		-	-	-	-	-	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	30,514.08	1,465.80	2,100.00	-	34,079.88	27,177.06
Grant Income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies Received (Capital Value)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid recovered		12,525.50	-	-	-	12,525.50	12,336.25
		60,661.94	1,465.80	2,100.00	-	64,227.74	53,839.81
Activities for generating funds	3	12,150.71	-	-	-	12,150.71	8,456.21
Investment income		254.75	-	-	-	254.75	-
Church activities	3	6,649.00	-	-	-	6,649.00	4,574.00
Other income	3	7,754.28	-	-	-	7,754.28	6,915.76
Total receipts		87,470.68	1,465.80	2,100.00	-	91,036.48	73,785.78
Payments							
Church activities:							
Parish share		60,571.00	-	-	-	60,571.00	41,366.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	4	5,312.74	-	-	-	5,312.74	1,940.00
Church running expenses	4	12,468.33	-	-	-	12,468.33	12,847.22
Mission giving and donations	4	1,359.97	-	2,000.00	-	3,359.97	1,561.00
Building work and repairs	4	84.00	93.48	-	-	177.48	3,042.05
Administration Costs	4	4,583.73	-	-	-	4,583.73	-
Other expenditure	4	1,460.57	6.63	-	-	1,467.20	1,831.27
		85,840.34	100.11	2,000.00	-	87,940.45	62,587.54
Cost of generating funds	4	5,825.16	-	-	-	5,825.16	5,110.82
Total Payments		91,665.50	100.11	2,000.00	-	93,765.61	67,698.36
Excess of payments over receipts		- 4,194.82	1,365.69	100.00	-	- 2,729.13	6,087.42
Transfers between funds		43.49	-	43.49	-	0.00	8,840.00
		- 4,151.33	1,365.69	56.51	-	- 2,729.13	14,927.42
Total Reserves at 1 Jan		18,309.49	600.00	6,901.25	-	25,810.74	18,882.64
Total Reserves at 31 Dec		14,158.16	1,965.69	6,957.76	-	23,081.61	25,810.74

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds							
Bank Current Account	5	4,120.60	1,965.69	343.02	-	6,429.31	3,926.57
Bank Savings Account		-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposit Fund	6	10,037.56	-	6,614.74	-	16,652.30	21,884.17
		14,158.16	1,965.69	6,957.76	-	23,081.61	25,810.74

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Restricted					
CAP Account	243.02	2,100.00	2,000.00	-	343.02
Deposit All Saints	5,000.00	-	-	43.49	4,956.51
Deposit St Mary's	1,658.23	-	-	-	1,658.23
	6,901.25	2,100.00	2,000.00	- 43.49	6,957.76
Designated					
All Saints Fund	300.00	373.56	93.48	-	580.08
St Mary's Fund	300.00	1,092.24	6.63	-	1,385.61
	600.00	1,465.80	100.11	-	1,965.69

CAP Account - Restricted to Donations/Legacies / Grants made out to Christians against Poverty

All Saints Fund - Small purchase fund for All Saints at PCC discretion

St Mary's Fund - Small purchase fund for St Mary's at PCC discretion

Deposit All Saints - Holding restricted legacies/grants/ fund raising for All Saints use only

Deposit St Mary's - Holding restricted legacies/grants/ fund raising for St Mary's use only

3. Receipts

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES						
Sunday Collections	3,929.83	-	-	-	3,929.83	2,332.30
Sunday Collections - Gift Aided	13,692.53	-	-	-	13,692.53	11,994.20
	17,622.36	-	-	-	17,622.36	14,326.50

ALL OTHER GIVING/VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS						
Donations	4,838.22	35.80	-	-	4,874.02	1,381.06
Donations - Gift Aided	192.26	253.21	-	-	445.47	-
Wall Boxes	21.60	-	-	-	21.60	4.00
CIW Direct Debits	24,752.00	-	2,100.00	-	26,852.00	25,082.00
All Saints Direct Debits	50.00	-	-	-	50.00	-
St Mary's Direct Debits	660.00	-	-	-	660.00	710.00
Coffee	-	1,176.79	-	-	1,176.79	-
	30,514.08	1,465.80	2,100.00	-	34,079.88	27,177.06
ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS						
Magazine	4,911.00	-	-	-	4,911.00	5,275.00
Churches Together Bike Ride	277.88	-	-	-	277.88	266.59
Other Fundraising	3,016.50	-	-	-	3,016.50	-
Drop in	3,210.33	-	-	-	3,210.33	2,089.62
Lent Lunches	735.00	-	-	-	735.00	825.00
	12,150.71	-	-	-	12,150.71	8,456.21
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Use of Church building	70.00	-	-	-	70.00	260.00
Fees - Statutory	5,517.00	-	-	-	5,517.00	3,510.00
Fees - Additional	1,062.00	-	-	-	1,062.00	804.00
	6,649.00	-	-	-	6,649.00	4,574.00
INVESTMENT INCOME						
Deposit Acc interest	254.75	-	-	-	254.75	-
	254.75	-	-	-	254.75	-
OTHER INCOME						
Magazine Advertising Income	4,795.00	-	-	-	4,795.00	4,240.00
Other Income	2,068.51	-	-	-	2,068.51	2,130.28
SUM UP	890.77	-	-	-	890.77	545.48
	7,754.28	-	-	-	7,754.28	6,915.76
4. Payments						
	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
					2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
CLERGY AND STAFFING COSTS						
Administrator Parish/Benefice	5,312.74	-	-	-	5,312.74	1,940.00
	5,312.74	-	-	-	5,312.74	1,940.00
CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES						
Gas and Electricity Bill	2,761.38	-	-	-	2,761.38	5,014.32
Insurance	4,029.41	-	-	-	4,029.41	4,058.10
Service Costs	1,527.19	-	-	-	1,527.19	378.31
Maintenance	1,340.89	-	-	-	1,340.89	629.50
Water Bill	234.46	-	-	-	234.46	177.39
Village Hall Rental	2,575.00	-	-	-	2,575.00	2,589.60
	12,468.33	-	-	-	12,468.33	12,847.22
MISSION GIVING AND DONATIONS						
Charities - Home (UK)	1,229.97	-	2,000.00	-	3,229.97	1,241.00
Charities - Overseas	130.00	-	-	-	130.00	320.00
	1,359.97	-	2,000.00	-	3,359.97	1,561.00
BUILDING WORK AND REPAIRS						
Church - Major repairs and Redecorations	84.00	93.48	-	-	177.48	3,042.05
	84.00	93.48	-	-	177.48	3,042.05
COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS						
Fund raising	403.92	-	-	-	403.92	-
Magazine	5,270.00	-	-	-	5,270.00	4,989.00
Drop in	151.24	-	-	-	151.24	121.82
	5,825.16	-	-	-	5,825.16	5,110.82
ADMINISTRATION COSTS						
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	54.38
Printing	419.29	-	-	-	419.29	435.03
Stationery	408.60	-	-	-	408.60	274.31
Support Costs	2,563.80	-	-	-	2,563.80	3,544.00
Office Telephone/Broadband	1,192.04	-	-	-	1,192.04	1,521.63
	4,583.73	-	-	-	4,583.73	5,829.35
OTHER EXPENDITURE						
Mission and Evangelism Costs	137.00	-	-	-	137.00	317.23
Leaving Gifts Etc	-	-	-	-	-	1,230.00
Other Expenditure	1,323.57	6.63	-	-	1,330.20	284.04
	1,460.57	6.63	-	-	1,467.20	1,831.27
5. Bank Current Account						
	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
					2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Account	4,120.60	-	-	-	4,120.60	3,083.55
CAP Account	-	-	343.02	-	343.02	243.02
All Saints Fund	-	580.08	-	-	580.08	300.00
St Mary's Fund	-	1,385.61	-	-	1,385.61	300.00
	4,120.60	1,965.69	343.02	-	6,429.31	3,926.57
6. Deposit Fund						
	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
					2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit General	10,037.56	-	-	-	10,037.56	15,225.94
Deposit All Saints	-	-	4,956.51	-	4,956.51	5,000.00
Deposit St Mary's	-	-	1,658.23	-	1,658.23	1,658.23
	10,037.56	-	6,614.74	-	16,652.30	21,884.17

**THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS
ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT FOR 2025
AND THOUGHTS LOOKING FORWARD THROUGH 2026/27**

We started 2025 going into the unknown. The vacancy had just started and at that stage we didn't know how long it would last.

The 2024 figures had shown a drop in our income over the previous year and the amount we could pay to the Diocese dropped drastically to a low of £41 000 against an ask of £70 000, the lowest percentage for some years.

It was put to the PCC at an early stage in the year that we should attempt to improve on 2024. We needed to look at ways to build our income streams up and although difficult look at ways to reduce our expenditure. A resolution was passed in PCC to the effect an attempt would be made to pay a minimum to the Diocese of £50 000, a 25% increase on 2024.

The PCC discussed and agreed on trying to have some fundraising events. Members of the congregation were informed of the situation and as it became apparent that a new incumbent would hopefully be in place in the early Autumn , it was felt that we should do what we could to stabilise and if possible grow our finances to help give our new vicar a good base to build on.

During the year our income gradually grew. Giving grew by 19% and total income grew by 23%. We still managed to send £2 000 to Christians against Poverty. Many thanks to all who helped us achieve this.

In the end our total income was £91 000 against £74 000 in 2024 and our expenditure was £93 000 as against £67 000 in 2024 an increase of £26 000 but nearly all of this increase was due to the fact that we had to pay a full years wages for our administrator and

some billing for 2024 to the Minster who administer the payroll for us and finally an extra £20 000 Parish Share.

We managed to pay £60 500 against the minimum we said we were going to attempt of £50 000. This gave us a shortfall of £12 000 against the ask of £72 500. Again many thanks to everyone.

2025 results give us a good basis to build on and move forward.

Looking forward into 2026/27

We are looking forward into 2027 because often new ideas take time to implement and show possible results, at least we can show we have a forward plan.

The Parish Share ask for 2026 is £75 500 a 4% increase (inflation) a £3 000 increase on 2025, therefore if our income and expenditure remain at 2025 levels we will have an overall shortfall of £17 000.

How do we eliminate or at least reduce this deficit ?

Below is a list of suggestions to be considered by the PCC. If fully implemented we could get close to eliminating the deficit. As mentioned earlier some can be started quickly others may take time.

Working with our communities and new housing to grow our Congregation.

In 2026 we will see a full year of increased giving that started mid 2025

The Gift Aid claim in 2026 should be higher than last years

Approach those of our regular congregation, who feel able, to increase their giving by inflation 4%

Review all giving during a gift week.

Renew all standing orders and envelope pledges .

Well planned with the aim of helping to remove all misconceptions re gift aiding etc.

Work with the Diocesan generous giving team for advice. The week should include gifts of time and talents. There are people who may not be able to give more money but do have a talent or free time.

Promote giving at Baptisms and other special services . We have already had some success with this.

Write to everybody on the electoral roll who do not regularly attend church and ask if they wish to contribute. Maybe ask them to sign a regular standing order to help maintain our buildings. 60 people paying £10 per month gift aided would produce £9 000 per year. Money could be held in a PCC controlled friends fund.

There may be others in the community who may wish to do this.

As we re print service books we include messages as to where during the service a collection will be taken.

Fully implement the Gift Aid Claim on donations in Kind. This has started to happen with a little success.

Continually review our expenditure. Can we reduce it or at least hold close to current levels.

Encourage use of card machine and QR codes. Many people do not carry cash. Last year we took nearly £1000 on the St Mary's machine.

As funds allow and a solution to the technical problem is found, install a machine at All Saints.

Encourage fundraising the attracts and engages with the wider community can be both large or simple small events.

The above are not in any particular order but just as they came into mind.

If you have any ideas or suggestions or are unsure about our finances, please ask and we will try and help you.

Glenis Lee & David Clarke
Treasurers

ST MARY'S REPORTS TO APCM 26TH APRIL 2026

Vestry upgrade

A major change has been to upgrade the vestry to create an office for Catherine Knox, Parish Administrator, following the sale of the old Rectory. This entailed refurbishment and we are grateful to Peter Lee for the work he did on this.

Also, the communications had to be upgraded, and we thank David Clarke for the work involved in that, and of course equipment had to be moved from the Rectory, not least the large printer/copier. It is now working well.

Events during the year

During the year a number of special events have been held in the church. The most important of these was the installation of Peter Farquhar as our Priest-in-Charge on the 3rd September in a ceremony attended by Bishop Jane and Archdeacon Catherine. Also, we were pleased to act as hosts for the Deanery Synod meeting on the 18th November.

There were several other events which are listed below:-

- An organ recital by David Hill, as part of the Kings Lynn festival on 16th July
- A Matthew Bason concert on 17th October
- A performance from the Sinassi singers on 31st January

The main Remembrance Sunday observance was at North Wootton starting at the war memorial there, but there was also a short service of respect and recognition at the South Wootton war memorial in the churchyard of St Mary's in the afternoon.

The Churchyard

A number of improvements have happened to the churchyard, and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for the funding for this

- 1 Church wall. Pat Wakefield has undertaken a splendid repair of the ancient wall in keeping with its historic appearance. This is very painstaking work, and many will have seen Pat at work during the year.
- 2 Church Gates. Both the front and back gates have been renewed, and we thank Andrew Foreman for the splendid work he has done on this.
- 3 South Wootton in bloom. We congratulate South Wootton in bloom for achieving the best-in-class award in the Anglia in Bloom awards. We take this opportunity to thank all who look after our sensory garden so nicely, especially Karen and David Price.

Thursday morning communion

This service has continued throughout the year and the numbers attending has been increasing recently.

Window guards.

We are just completing the installation of window guards on the medieval windows to protect them from stones either from vandalism or from the grass strimming. These windows are very expensive to repair, and we anticipate our insurance will be reduced with these guards in place.

Schools in church.

During the year and especially in the lead up to Christmas, we were very pleased that the schools came into the Church for their services. On six occasions we welcomed the children and with the parents and grandparents attending, the church and balcony were completely full each time.

Village Carol service.

Mention must be made of the carol singing on the 20th December, which in a hopefully new tradition, we started at the church, processed to the Christmas tree on the common and finished up at the Swan Inn. A large number came to this event, possibly 200, and we feel this was an important outreach into our community.

Fire risk/Inspections

Lastly we are in the process of upgrading our fire policies and equipment. Some expense will be needed to purchase new hydrants in keeping with modern recommendations and there are some other changes we will need to make. We have had two inspections and quotes and expect to proceed with one of these in the near future.

Finally - we would like to thank all who help to keep our church looking so nice and help to provide the refreshments needed for the events we put on, who do the flower displays, and who help to keep the church open during the daylight hours.

**Jonathan Dossetor & Angela Clarke
Church Wardens**

ALL SAINTS: CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The year just ending has been one of positive change for TCITW. It started with the church in vacancy and ended with Rev Pete and his family well settled into the life of the church, Pete's incumbency having commenced in September 2025.

Last year's report gave All Saints' Sunday morning service attendance as being in the 40s. It is now in the 50s, sometimes more.

During the year, two fundraising events took place at All Saints. We held an afternoon tea on the Saturday of the harvest weekend, ably organised by Jennifer Watts. A most enjoyable occasion!

Secondly, Samantha Ashby's Springtime Singers put on a concert on a Saturday afternoon in the run up to Christmas. It was a pleasure to be entertained by such a keen and talented troupe of young people. The concert raised £400 for church funds.

King's Lynn Community Choir and the Sinassi Singers use the church for practices, bringing in a small amount of revenue. Recently a new group of worshippers gathered from different local churches have been meeting monthly on a Friday evening for times of praise and worship.

Christmas services and events were well attended, particularly the Christingle service which benefited from being held in school holiday time.

As to the fabric of the church, we are extremely grateful to Peter Lee who took it upon himself to construct and fit steel grilles in the tower to prevent birds from getting into the tower, nesting and depositing detritus. This problem was identified in our 2021 quinquennial inspection and would no doubt be followed up in our next inspection due in 2026. Peter has dealt with this quickly and economically for the benefit of the church, so many thanks to you, Peter.

Many of you will be aware that the boundary wall of the churchyard was damaged recently, presumably by a lorry or farm vehicle. We arranged for the Borough Council to deal with the repair of the wall. One can well imagine this happening again at some point, given the narrowness of the roads and the quantity and size of vehicles going to and from the farm.

Breakfast Church continues to meet between 9am and 10am on each Sunday morning when there is a service at All Saints and is well attended.

Our thanks go to all those members who take on responsibilities at All Saints and who help to make the ministry of the church run so smoothly. A special mention for Chris Symes who devotes so much of her time to the music both here and at St Mary's and has mastered the new piano so well.

We look forward to the new year.

**Janet Kier & Julian Hallett
Churchwardens**

ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Current PCC Members wishing to continue;

- David Clarke
- Nigel Day
- Judy Fuller
- Liz Housden
- Glenis Lee
- Liz Sams
- Jennifer Watts
- Moira Wesson
- Alison Miller
- Jill Bennett

Members wishing to be voted onto the PCC;

- Vanessa Cull
- Angela Clarke

ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS

Current Sides persons wishing to continue;

St Mary's Church –

Glenis Lee
David Clarke,
Penny Dossetor
Mary Sackree
Judy Fuller
Gloria Pantling
Margaret Cakebread

All Saint's Church –

Liz Sams
Sandra Davies
Margaret Cakebread
Alison Miller
Jennifer Watts, Pat Bowles
Caroline Holbrook

ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Derek Stringer is willing to serve another year

SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO THE APCM

The Diocese of Norwich has four safeguarding officers and extensive information on their website as well as online courses and two dashboards available to parishes; one is the checklist of recommended actions (Parish Dashboard) and the other is the Parish Person's dashboard where individuals are listed and what training they have done.

We try to meet the requirements of the first and hope to use the second this year but have had trouble accessing it to date.

A safeguarding plan was presented in 2025; below I summarise where we have got to on this:-

Safeguarding Action Plan 2025

1 Ensure that all PCC members complete the two basic safeguarding training courses before the APCM in 2026, namely:-
Basic Awareness and Foundation

The present situation is that all the PCC have completed these two courses; we are still completing this for drop-in and Breakfast church and those involved have booked in for the local face to face courses this year.

2 Put a safeguarding link on the church website

Work is ongoing on this website and we hope to put this link in when it is up and running.

3 Make the 'Responding to Safeguarding situations' handout generally available

We have put the handout on the notice boards in both churches.

4 Complete the parish dashboard on the Diocesan website as far as possible

As mentioned above, we do try to do this.

5 Present Action plan to the PCC

The Archbishop's council have commissioned an audit of safeguarding arrangements and progress in each and every church in the whole country. This will take 5 years and is being conducted by an independent company.

We will be asked to give them information in October/November this year. Auditors will look at

- Strengths and where practice can be improved
- Progress against the 5 national safeguarding standards
- Where practice has developed in line with reports and recommendations.
- Is training up to date and is safer recruitment in place

Jonathan Dossetor & Angela Clarke
Safeguarding Officers

Wednesday Morning Drop-In Report

Our Wednesday morning drop-in continues to provide a safe, welcoming social space for people in the local community. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet others, make friends, and enjoy time together in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The group is open to adults living with dementia and their carers, offering companionship, support, and meaningful social interaction. We meet each Wednesday from approximately 9:00am to 11:45am.

We are delighted to welcome an average of 18–25 people each week. Everyone enjoys our delicious home-baked cakes along with fresh coffee and tea, available for a small donation of £3.

There is always plenty to do, including jigsaws, card games, board games, and puzzles, which encourage conversation, laughter, and connection.

A special thank you goes to our fantastic volunteers who give their time so generously—baking, serving refreshments, welcoming guests, and taking the time to chat with everyone. Your kindness and dedication make this group such a warm and supportive place.

Thank you to everyone who helps and attends. Your presence makes the Wednesday morning drop-in such a valued part of our community.

Janet Keir