



# **The Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham**

**Parochial Church Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



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# **The Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham**

## **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11:30am**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening prayer
2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024
3. Election of churchwardens

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## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11:30am**

### **Agenda**

1. Approval of minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024
2. Matters arising

### **Reports**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 3. Electoral Roll report                | (Electoral Roll Officer)      |
| 4. Annual report of PCC                 | (Secretary)                   |
| 5. Presentation of financial statements | (Treasurer)                   |
| 6. Fabric report                        | (Chair Fabric Team)           |
| 7. Churchwardens' report                | (Churchwardens)               |
| 8. Safeguarding report                  | (Parish Safeguarding Officer) |
| 9. Tower Captain's report               | (Tower Captain)               |
| 10. Eco Church report                   | (Eco Church co-ordinator)     |
| 11. Deanery Synod report                | (Deanery Synod member)        |

### **Elections and Appointments**

12. Election of members of the PCC (6)
13. Appointment of Sidespeople
14. Appointment of auditor to the PCC
15. Interregnum
16. Any other business
17. Closing prayers



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**held in St Peter's Church, East Bridgford**

The meeting was chaired by Revd Ruth Colby, Rector.  
14 people, including church officers, attended the meeting.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Secretary presented written minutes.  
The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.  
*Proposed by: Hilary Linnington                      Seconded by: Iain Munroe*

**Election of Churchwardens**

**Beryl Cottrill** was nominated (*Peter Golightly*) and seconded (*Bill Case*) as Churchwarden for St Peter's, East Bridgford.  
There was no nomination for a second Churchwarden at St Peter's, East Bridgford  
There were no nominations for Churchwardens at St Helen's, Kneeton.  
There were no nominations for Churchwardens at St Augustine's, Flintham.  
Lynne Black (St Peter's) and Patsy Rayner (St Helen's) are standing down as Churchwardens. They were thanked for their service to their respective churches.  
  
The meeting closed at 7:10pm.

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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**held in St Peter's Church, East Bridgford**

The meeting was chaired by Revd Ruth Colby, Rector.

**Apologies for Absence**

In line with adopted practice, apologies were not recorded for this meeting due to the large number of potential attendees. 14 people, including church officers, attended the meeting.

**1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Secretary presented written minutes.  
The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.  
*Proposed by: Hilary Povey                      Seconded by: Iain Munro*

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Electoral Roll**

It was reported that the Electoral Roll for the parish, now covering the three churches, stands at 105, the same as the August 2023 number.  
Beryl Cottrill was thanked for her work on the Electoral Roll over the last year. Beryl is supported by Patsy Rayner (Kneeton) and Iain Munroe (Flintham).

**4. Report on the Activities of the PCC**

The Secretary, Peter Golightly, presented a report on the activities of the Parochial Church Council during the previous 12 months.  
A few items were highlighted. There were no subsequent questions or discussion.  
Thanks were expressed to the Secretary for his continuing support to the PCC.

## 5. Presentation of Financial Statements

The Treasurer, Bill Case, gave a clear, concise and detailed report of the financial affairs of the Parish, supported by meticulously prepared accounts, for the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

It was proposed (*by Peter Golightly*) and seconded (*by Joanne Enstone*) that the accounts are accepted. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer asked that his thanks be expressed to Jane Brooks for her help during throughout the year. He also thanked Robert McConnell for examining the accounts.

The Treasurer was thanked, not only for all the hard work involved in the preparation of the complex accounts, but also for his diligence in administering the financial affairs of the Parish during the past 12 months.

The Treasurer highlighted:

- The accounts are presented for a full 12 month period, whereas the previous accounts were only for six months due to the parish re-organisation.
- There was a £43K loss over the year, mainly through St Peter's. This is a significant increase over the previous year. This pattern anticipated to continue in the foreseeable future.
- £5,555 has been written off the accounts due to original supplier for chairs at St Peter's going into liquidation.
- £75K investments have been sold covering the loss on chairs and investment in the AV system.

In response to a question Rev Colby indicated that there is an expectation that Parish Share will be paid in full to support the costs of parish ministry, accommodation and diocesan support. This position is reviewed annually by PCC. The higher costs of maintain a listed building are not taken into account in the allocation. It was suggested that diocese is informed of our long-term challenging situation, though many other parishes are in a much worse financial position than ours.

## 6. Fundraising campaigns

The Treasurer gave a summary of the interim outcome of the funding campaigns held in the three communities of the parish during April, although the final situation will only be known when the final pledges and Gift Aid are accounted for.

For St Peter's there were 23 responses from existing givers (29%) with 13 increasing contributions and 10 remaining the same. There are 16 new givers generating £3,178. The overall net increase for 2024 will be £6,926 which will increase for the full year on 2025. The increase is disappointing relative to the ongoing annual deficit.

For St Helen's nine existing regular givers totalling £2,600 per year, an increase of £400. Three new regular givers total £550 per year. The overall net increase for 2024 will be £1,175.

For St Augustine's there are two one-off donations of £4,500 and four new regular givers totalling £276 per year.

The need for more regular giving campaigns was agreed with personal approaches to current givers and a focus on increasing congregation numbers and church engagement.

## 7. Fabric report

The Secretary presented a written report on fabric issues across the three churches in the parish. Routine maintenance has been undertaken in all three churches.

Two major projects have been undertaken at St Peter's

- Installation of a complete AV system, including projection and streaming facilities, have been installed and is being used regularly for some services.
- Replacement of pews at the rear of the Nave with upholstered chairs has been delayed to the original chair supplier going into administration with the potential loss, pending insolvency proceedings, of the £5.5K paid. An alternative supplier had been commissioned.

## **8. Churchwardens' report**

A written report was presented by the Churchwarden at St Peter's Church, Beryl Cottrill. There are currently no churchwardens in place at St Helen's and St Augustine's churches and, therefore, no report from those churches. Special thanks were expressed to Pam Shaw who is moving away from the parish after giving many years' service to St Peter's, including as Deputy Churchwarden/verger. The need to replace her was emphasised.

In response to a question Rev Colby indicated that, ideally, each church should have at least one Churchwarden, and ideally two. In addition, an assistant or deputy Churchwarden would be useful, especially in planning for Churchwarden succession. Joanne Enstone indicated she would be prepared to act as Deputy Churchwarden at St Peter's, PCC approval dependant.

## **9. Safeguarding report**

A written report on safeguarding issues was presented by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Peter Golightly. He reported that no safeguarding issues within the remit of the PSO had occurred during the last 12 months.

The PCC has approved a revised Safeguarding Policy.

A summary of the current status of DBS checks and safeguarding training for church officers, PCC members and church activity leaders was given, as was the development of the parish safeguarding Dashboard and Hub for monitoring safeguarding commitments and safe recruitment.

Rev Ruth indicated that Safeguarding Sunday will be repeated in the autumn.

Peter Golightly also works closely with Mandy Beeby, the PSO for Car Colston and Screveton parish.

The meeting thanked Peter for the considerable work undertaken on safeguarding across the parish.

## **10. Tower Captain's report**

A written report on the activities of bellringers at St Peter's was presented by the Tower Captain, Anne Moore. The need to attract new members of the bellringing team was highlighted.

## **11. ECO Church report**

A written report on the ECO Church status of St Peter's was presented by Hilary Linnington. It was reported that the church has been awarded the A Rocha ECO Church Bronze award and is making good progress towards the Silver award.

The report also highlighted the environmental and biodiversity work being undertaken in the churchyard.

St Helen's and St Augustine's churches have yet to start their ECO church journey.

Thanks were expressed to Hilary and David Linnington for their commitment and work in this area.

## **12. Deanery Synod report**

A written report of Deanery Synod activities and meetings was presented to the meeting. The purpose of Deanery Synod was summarised.

The Deanery Synod representatives, Jane Brooks and Hilary Linnington, were thanked for their representation on synod on behalf of the PCC.

## **13. Annual Report from the Rector**

The Revd Ruth Colby summarised the main points from her written report.

The meeting thanked Ruth for her ongoing ministry.

Thanks were also expressed to Nikki Rollason for taking on the role of editor of the East Bridgford magazine, and to Anna Chambers and David Ogden for their commitment to the AV system at St Peter's..

#### 14. Election of Members of Deanery Synod

No elections were necessary this year. Hilary Linnington and Jane Brooks will continue to serve their current term of office.

#### 15. Election of Members of Parochial Church Council

With the previously agreed phased arrangements for returning to a normal pattern of three vacancies every years there are six vacancies on PCC due to either terms of office ending for existing members or previously unfilled vacancies. Of these three are for St Peter's, one for St Helen's and two for St Augustine's.

Accordingly, the following were elected without a vote to serve as Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the Parochial Church Council :

1. **Lynne Black** (*proposed by Peter Golightly seconded by Beryl Cottrill*) for 3 years
2. **Joanne Enstone** (*proposed by Peter Golightly; seconded by Bill Case*) for 3 years
3. **Christopher Henwood** (*proposed by Peter Golightly; seconded by Beryl Cottrill*) for 2 years

This therefore leaves the following vacancies to be carried over to forthcoming years:

St Peter's 1, St Helen's 1, St Augustine's 2.

The Chair thanked PCC members for the work they have done in the last 12 months to support the church and its ministry

#### 16. Appointment of Sidespersons

The appointment of Sidespersons was delegated to the PCC to address.

#### 17. Appointment of Examiner to the Council

**Robert McConnell** was proposed (*by Bill Case*) and seconded (*by Peter Golightly*) to serve as Examiner to the Council for the forthcoming year. This proposal was carried unanimously.

#### 18. Any Other Business

No other business was put forward.

There being no further business, the meeting ended with prayer at 8:45pm

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**CHAIRMAN:**

**Date:**

**CHURCHWARDENS:**

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# Report on the Activities of the Parochial Church Council

2024-2025

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met on four occasions for regular, scheduled meetings with an additional two special meetings during the last twelve months – four via Zoom and two face-to-face. The average attendance for full meetings was 69%. A representative from the Methodist Church has been in attendance at two meetings and Sarah Hobbs at two meetings. The Standing Committee has not been convened during the period. Agendas for PCC meetings have become aligned to the mission action plan for the parish and the Fosse Group.

**Services:** PCC has discussed and approved regular and festival services across the parish.

**Rector's reports:** Revd Ruth has continued to give a regular briefing to PCC members on matters relating to development of worship, ministry, communications, pan-Fosse Group initiatives etc.

**Children and families:** PCC received updates on church activities aimed at children, which has included Messy Church and the new Youth Group.

PCC have received reports of the ongoing work of Sarah Hobbs, the Children's, Young People and Families' Worker, who is partly funded by the parish. The post is shared and jointly funded with the Methodist churches in East Bridgford and Bingham. PCC has increased the use of Sarah following withdrawal of St Mary's, Bingham from the scheme.

**Church-school links:** Revd Ruth has reported on her engagement with St. Peter's Academy through leading assemblies and providing pastoral support to school staff. School services have been held in church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and for a number of 'Experience' events during the year.

PCC approved the purchase of a youth bible for Year 6 children leaving St Peter's Academy last September and the purchase of a bible story book for children in Reception class.

PCC has approved the appointment of two new Foundation Governors to serve on the Local Governing Body of East Bridgford St Peter's Academy. These appointment are pending ratification by the Diocesan Board of Education and then the Aspire Trust Board.

**Safeguarding:** The Parish Safeguarding Office (PSO)/DBS Administrator continues to monitor safeguarding provision in the parish and to ensure DBS checks are in place for those required to have one. Safeguarding is a standing item at PCC meetings and is required to be reported at the APCM, for which a separate report is presented. PCC approved a revised Safeguarding Policy. PCC also approved the appointment of an Assistant PSO to provide additional support to the safeguarding team.

**Growing Disciples:** Following the introduction of the new diocesan plan for growing disciples, based on seven priority areas, a steering group was established across the Fosse Group to consider how the church can be changed to increase the scope of its offering and activities to increase the appeal of the church to those not currently engaged with the church. PCC received a strategy document from the Group with proposals for the two parishes. These were presented at a special meeting for the two PCCs and subsequently approved, with amendments, by our PCC.

**Finance:** PCC has received regular reports from the Treasurer on the financial status of, and on all financial issues affecting, the Church. The Treasurer has advised PCC on projected financial trends, cash flow, investments and challenges facing the church in the future.

- New Giving Programmes for East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham were completed in late May 2024, with interim outcomes reported at last year's APCM. The final results are considered to be disappointing. (*see Treasurer's report*). PCC agreed to hold more regular campaigns, to target new houses, to produce a church welcome pack for new residents and to establish a Fundraising Group.
- Bill Case continued to act as Treasurer for the parish, with day-to-day responsibilities for St Peter's and St Helen's Churches. Jane Brooks continued to manage the day-to-day financial business of St Augustine's Church.
- PCC has approved the sale of some investments to cover expenditure for St Peter's.
- The Treasurer has reported on the financial position of St Peter's with a predicted deficit for 2024 of at least £40,000. Ongoing significant expenditure on current and future capital projects and increases in employment costs will put significant extra pressure on the need to increase funding through the future planned giving campaigns and ad hoc fundraising events.

- The Council has again discussed proposals for the payment of the annual Parish Share from the three churches. PCC members have continued to express concerns over the amount allocated to the parish relative to its annual financial deficit and to that requested from other parishes. PCC agreed to pay the amounts requested for 2025 – East Bridgford £59,678 (+4%), Kneeton £3,586 (+3.5%) and Flintham £2,289 (-33%). These figures could nearly double over the next 10 years.
- Fundraising events put in place by PCC included a Christmas raffle and Christmas tree festival, all at St Peter's (PCC thanked Christopher Henwood for his work on these events). and the Bluebell Walk at Flintham in April. A PCC Fundraising Group has been established, which non PCC members are welcome to join, which is planning a number of events over the next 12 months.
- The provision of the contactless donations device at St Peter's has been very successful, with significant sums raised for general funds, and for specific events such as the Christmas tree festival and Christingle services.

**Fabric:** PCC has received regular reports from the Churchwarden at St Peter's and church representatives for Kneeton and Flintham, on the condition of and repairs to the fabric of the churches, the substance of which is covered in the Fabric Report.

The Fabric Committee, a subcommittee of the PCC, facilitates the maintenance and development of the fabric of the church. Several projects and issues have been addressed by PCC. *See the Fabric Report for more detail.*

An appropriate memorial for the late Michael Clarke is being explored in conjunction with Michael's family.

**Eco church:** PCC received updates on the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon strategy with the 2030 target of being net zero carbon. St Peter's achieved the A Rocha Eco Silver Award in October. St Helen's and St Augustine's churches are to start the process for achieving the A Rocha Eco Bronze award. PCC expressed thanks to Hilary and David Linnington for their work in this area. *For further details see the Eco Church Report.*

**East Bridgford Rectory:** A planning application for a new Rectory adjacent to the current building (which diocese proposed to sell as a private dwelling) was rejected by the local authority. It is now planned just to renovate the current house, with some minor building work, instead,. No timescales have been indicated to PCC.

**Choir Director:** PCC has overseen the recruitment of a new Choir Director, Philip Miles, who succeeded Ian Watts in January. He is covering two choir practices and a choral Evensong each month, and other occasional other services when available.

**East Bridgford village show:** PCC approved the provision of a gazebo stand at the village show which provided a focus for visitors to find out more about the activities of the church. The addition of cake sales was reported to be very successful. It was noted that more support running the stand during the day is required in future years.

**Deanery Synod:** Reports from Deanery Synod meetings have been reported to PCC by the two Deanery Synod representatives and the Rector. *See separate report on Deanery Synod.*

**Ecumenical links:** PCC has maintained links with the Methodist Church supported by the Methodist Minister, Revd Tim Morris. The strong link through Messy Church has continued (*see under 'Children and families'*).

**Eucharistic Assistants:** PCC has approved two new Eucharistic Assistants to help serving the sacraments at communion services. Hilary Linnington and Jennie Bambury have subsequently been approved by Diocese,

Many other issues have been considered and approved by the Council over the last 12 months. Most of these related to the day-to-day running and maintenance of the Church and its activities.

*Peter Golightly*  
*Secretary to the Parochial Church Council*  
*May 2025*

**St PETER'S CHURCH EAST BRIDGFORD  
St HELEN'S CHURCH KNEETON  
St AUGUSTINE'S FLINTHAM**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**of the**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Bankers**

NatWest  
Barclays  
Lloyds

**Independent Examiner**

Mr Robert McConnell  
24 Edwald Road  
Edwalton  
Nottingham  
NG12 4AQ

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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- 4 Balance Sheet
- 5 Notes to the Accounts

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT to the**  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the 12 months to 31st December 2024 , which are set out on pages 3 to 13 , is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ( ' the Regulations ' ) and s.144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ( ' the Act ' ) .

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of accounts , you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 144 (2) of the Act do not apply . It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations .

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under of the Act .

That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records . It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosure in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters . The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit , and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts .

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination , no matter has come to my attention :

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act ; and
  - to prepare financial statements , which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
2. to which , in my opinion , attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached .

Mr R McConnell

2025

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

These Financial Statements are the consolidated results of three Churches, St Peter's East Bridgford, St Helen's Kneeton and St Augustine's Flintham, for the year 2024. Each Church continues to account separately for its own income and expenditure, and there remain some small differences in accounting treatment, but nothing of a material nature.

The excess of costs over income for the year is shown on page 3, £45,309 compared to £43,778 in 2023. Each Church is experiencing similar circumstances, costs are rising with inflation, and regular income is either static or falling. Kneeton and Flintham have, however benefited from generous legacies and donations resulting in breakeven at Kneeton and a small surplus at Flintham.

East Bridgford continues to cause some concern from a financial point of view, the deficit this year is £50,180 up from £43,614 in 2023, both figures are before gains/losses on investments.

During a sort out , I came across the accounts for 2005, ie 20 years ago, and thought it useful to compare the then and now. It was pleasing to note that costs , including Parish Share when adjusted for inflation, compared very well with the current level of expenditure, excluding "new" costs of admin salaries and Youth Worker. The problem lies with Planned Giving. In 2005 the total raised was £45,175, adjusting for inflation this would rise to £78,423. In 2024 we received £34,964 (lower than 2005) a difference of £43,459.

We ran Promises Programmes in each Church during the year. East Bridgford raised in total £9,470 including £3,340 in one-off donations, and added 17 new donors. Kneeton raised £1,174 with 4 new donors. Flintham raised £5,675 in total, including £4,760 in one-donations and added 5 new donors. Our thanks go to all involved, and in particular those existing donors who increased their regular amounts and, of course, the new donors.

Once again it has been necessary to sell CCLA units to cover negative cash flow , the value to our investments is shown Note 13 page 13 .During the twelve months values have risen which has off set, to some extent, the depletion in our reserves.

I would like to acknowledge the continuing support given by all our regular donors to each of our Churches , these dependable funds together with the Gift Aid tax credits form the basis for all our activities and ambitions , thank you .

W F Case

2025

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	56,038	4,735	60,773	51,605
Other voluntary resources	2b	0	10,126	10,126	0
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	28,865	3,492	32,357	42,537
Investment Income	2d	9,578	2,681	12,259	13,311
		94,481	21,034	115,515	107,453
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Grants	3a	12,156	1,798	13,954	15,272
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	113,688	18,045	131,733	124,184
Fund raising and publicity	3c	1,058	0	1,058	0
Church management and administration	3d	14,079	0	14,079	11,775
		140,981	19,843	160,824	151,231
<b>NET INCOME RESOURCES / ( RESOURCES EXPENDED )</b>		-46,500	1,191	-45,309	-43,778
<b>INVESTMENT GAINS and LOSSES</b>					
Realised		762	0	762	1,759
Unrealised		12,690	1,556	14,246	42,822
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		-33,048	2,747	-30,301	803
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD as at 1st JANUARY 2024</b>		451,648	104,006	555,654	554,851
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD as at 31 DECEMBER 2024</b>		418,600	106,753	525,353	555,654

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**as at 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Notes

			2024		2023
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	5	28,539		32,507	
Investments	13	479,649	508,188	503,938	536,445
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	7	10,066		7,245	
Short term deposits		7,722		7,319	
Cash at bank		19,109		11,324	
Cash in hand		0		0	
		36,897		25,888	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	19,732		6,679	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			17,165		19,209
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			525,353		555,654

<b>FUNDS</b>	6				
Unrestricted		233,278		266,326	
Development reserve		185,322	418,600	185,322	451,648
Restricted			106,753		104,006
			525,353		555,654

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf by

Reverend Ruth Colby

(Chairman)

(Churchwarden)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005 .

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention except for the valuation of investments assets , which are shown at market value . The financial statements include all transactions , assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law . They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members .

**Funds**

Endowment funds are funds , the capital of which must be maintained , only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established .

Restricted funds represent a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest , and b) donations or grants received for a specific objective or invited by the PCC for a specific objective . The fund may only be expended on the specific objective for which they were given . Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund .

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes .

**Incoming resources**

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections and donations are recognised when received

Planned giving received under Gift Aid is recognised only when received

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the income is recognised

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement , the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain .

All incoming resources are accounted for gross , except where it is more appropriate to credit the income to a cost heading , and then note that cost as "net"

Dividends are accounted for when received , interest is accrued

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of the investments at 31 December .

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD ,KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Resources used**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over , or when awarded , if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC .

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due . Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds . All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred .

**Fixed assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993 .

Movable church furnishings held by the Priest in Charge and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal , are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated . They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time ) . For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts . Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis .

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated as follows

Church equipment	25% straight line basis
Churchyard equipment	25% straight line basis
Church furniture	25% straight line basis

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December .

**Current assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees or other income are shown as debtors , less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable .

Short term deposits are held with CBF Church of England Funds and the bank .

**Reserves policy**

In view of the scale of the excess of costs over income in each of the last few years ,it is the policy of the PCC to hold in reserve the equivalent of the next 24 months forecast of negative cash flow .

It should be noted that the major elements of our Unrestricted reserves comprise the Development reserve , which is ring-fenced , and the increase in value of our CCLA investments over cost . Stock Market investment values are subject to influences we cannot control, and can fall as well as rise .

The PCC have ambitious plans to revisit the building project , the need for which was identified some years ago . This project, and others will require all of our funds and possibly more.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**of EAST BRIDGFORD, KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

..  
**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**2. INCOMING RESOURCES**

**2a) Incoming resources from donors**

Planned giving:

Gift Aid donations

Income tax recoverable

Other planned giving

Collections

Sundry donations

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
31,464	2,350	33,814	34,346
10,452	587	11,039	8,548
1,405		1,405	1,334
43,321	2,937	46,258	44,228
5,885	1,798	7,683	6,687
6,832	0	6,832	690
56,038	4,735	60,773	51,605

**2b) Other voluntary resources**

Grants

Legacies and exceptional income

0	0	0	0
0	10,126	10,126	0
0	10,126	10,126	0

**2c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading**

Village magazine

Fees

Floodlighting , light and heating

Other income

18,636		18,636	19,140
2,596		2,596	12,286
660		660	1,065
6,973	3,492	10,465	10,046
28,865	3,492	32,357	42,537

**2d) Investment Income**

Dividends (gross)

Interest (gross)

9,035	1,860	10,895	12,232
543	821	1,364	1,079
9,578	2,681	12,259	13,311

**TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES**

94,481	21,034	115,515	107,453
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**of EAST BRIDGFORD , KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**3. RESOURCES EXPENDED**

**3a) Grants**

Missionary and charitable giving  
Church overseas missionary societies  
Relief and development agencies  
Home missions and other Church societies  
Secular charities

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
11,854	989	12,843	12,042
302	809	1,111	3,230
12,156	1,798	13,954	15,272

**3b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church**

Ministry  
Parish share  
Clergy expenses  
Church running expenses  
Church maintenance (note 9)  
Village magazine expenses  
Upkeep of the Churchyard  
Organist  
Choir and organ maintenance  
Chairs  
Upkeep of services  
Depreciation

62,268		62,268	60,565
166		166	63
12,609		12,609	12,906
4,904	12,035	16,939	14,637
12,094		12,094	11,922
600	5,836	6,436	6,118
3,565		3,565	4,942
4,365	174	4,539	749
0		0	5,555
1,978		1,978	1,973
11,139		11,139	4,754
113,688	18,045	131,733	124,184

**3c) Costs of generating funds**

Funding campaigns  
Annual funding costs

1,058		1,058	0
0		0	0
1,058	0	1,058	0

**3d) Church management and administration**

Administration costs  
Stationery , postage etc  
Photocopier

12,680		12,680	10,413
570		570	637
829		829	725
14,079	0	14,079	11,775

**TOTAL RESOURCES USED**

140,981	19,843	160,824	151,231
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
of EAST BRIDGFORD , KNEETON and FLINTHAM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**4a) STAFF COSTS**

The total staff costs for the 12 months were £11,653 (2023 £13,958 ) . During the year the PCC employed an Administrator and an Organist , both part-time . No payments were large enough to attract social security costs .

**b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS**

No payments were made to any PCC member or persons closely connected to them or related parties .

**5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Church Furniture	Church Equipment	Churchyard Equipment	TOTAL 2024
<b>Cost</b>	£	£	£	£
at 1 January 2024	6,856	48,626	1,000	56,482
Additions during the year	7,171			7,171
Disposals				0
at 31 December 2024	14,027	48,626	1,000	63,653
<b>Depreciation</b>				
at 1 January 2024	6,856	17,119	0	23,975
Disposals				0
Charge for the year	1,792	9,097	250	11,139
at 31 December 2024	8,648	26,216	250	35,114
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
at 1 January 2024	0	31,507	1,000	32,507
at 31 December 2024	5,379	22,410	750	28,539

**6. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS**

Within unrestricted funds an amount of £ 185,322 ( £ 185,322 ) has been ring-fenced as a Development Reserve for St Peter's . The amount represents a donation of £ 200,000 made in 2010 ,less costs and fees incurred to date .

	Unrestricted funds General reserves	Development reserve	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	248,314	185,322	74,552	508,188
Current assets	28,904		7,993	36,897
Current account	-24,208		24,208	0
	253,010	185,322	106,753	545,085
less Creditors	-19,732		0	-19,732
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	233,278	185,322	106,753	525,353

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD , KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**7. DEBTORS and PREPAYMENTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	6,631	3,404
Sundry debtors and prepayments	3,435	3,841
	<u>10,066</u>	<u>7,245</u>

**8. CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Mower reserve		
Training fund (designated fund)	486	486
Redecoration reserve	1,329	1,329
Disasters and appeals reserve (note 12)	0	0
Magazine advertising and subscriptions prepaid	3,265	2,028
Peter's Club ,Choir and Bell Ringers reserves	554	354
Sundry creditors and accruals	3,878	1,694
Southwell Dbf	10,220	788
	<u>19,732</u>	<u>6,679</u>

**9. CHURCH MAINTENANCE OUT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Clock and bells maintenance	896	
Church cleaning	576	648
Audio system	190	143
Alarm system	1,369	1,412
Electrical, heating and fire inspection	711	2,306
Building repairs, gutters , roof	4,324	2,553
Porch decoration	2,244	
Organ restoration		272
Architects fee's	1,725	2,361
	<u>12,035</u>	<u>9,695</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**9a. CHURCH MAINTENANCE OUT OF GENERAL FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Electrical, heating and fire inspection	154	486
Bells and Clock		1,815
Lightening conductor inspection		240
Archicitect fee	586	
Buildings	1,494	890
Alarm systems	2,331	641
Quinquennial survey		870
Other small works	339	
	<u>4,904</u>	<u>4,942</u>

**10. GRANTS**

**Missionary and Charitable giving from collections and Fund Raising**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Home Missions and other Church Societies</b>		
The Children's Society/Christingle	989	688
	<u>989</u>	<u>688</u>

**Secular Charities**

British Legion Poppy Appeal	599	566
MENCAP	210	
Action for Children		100
1st East Bridgford Guides		656
1st Shelford and East Bridgford Scouts		656
Macular Society		470
Scripture Union		470
	<u>809</u>	<u>2,918</u>

<b>TOTAL GRANTS FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>1,798</u>	<u>3,606</u>
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD , KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**11. GRANTS**

**Missionary and charitable giving**

	2024	2023
	£	£

**Overseas Missionary Societies**

**Christian Relief and Development Agencies**

**Home Missions and other Church Societies**

The Children's Society/Christingle	75	
St Peter's School - Bibles	729	854
Youth worker scheme	10,500	10,500
Christian Aid	250	

**Secular Charities**

Newark Emmaus Trust	81	251
British Legion Poppy Appeal	20	61
A Rocha UK	125	
The Frairy	250	
Newark Food Bank	126	

<b>TOTAL GRANTS FROM UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	12,156	11,666
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**12. DISASTERS and APPEALS RESERVE**

	2024	2023
	£	£

Balances at 1st January 2024	0	0
Provided during the year	0	0
Applied during the year	0	0

Balance at 31st December 2024	0	0
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of EAST BRIDGFORD , KNEETON and FLINTHAM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**13.INVESTMENTS  
GENERAL FUND**

	Number of shares	Year of acquisition	Cost	Unit Price 2024	Market Value	
					Year end 2023	Year end 2024
C of E Investment Fund Income	13,167.76	1978 to 2004	1,023,644	2,312.27	336,897	304,475
C of E Investment Fund Accum	914.69		0	6,276.22	54,620	57,408
C of E Investment Fixed Interest	6,059.91		10,000	149.12	8,772	9,037
					400,289	370,920

M&G Charifund Accumulation	104.52	1994	6,500	32,699.01	31,353	34,177
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**FABRIC FUND**

C of E Investment Fund Income	2,396.65	1962 to 1995	19,506	2,312.27	54,178	55,416
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**ENDOWMENT FUND**

C of E Investment Fund Income	611.52	1972 to 1997	3,770	2,312.27	13,824	14,139
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**CHANCEL FUND**

Chancel Fund Capital Endow't	580.00				4,295	4,997
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Note    Market value at 31st December 2024    £ 17,296

£    **503,938**    **479,649**



# **Fabric Report – 2024/25**

## **1. Introduction**

In accordance with the requirements of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991, the Churchwardens are required, at least once a year, to report to the PCC on the 'fabric of the church and all articles appertaining to the Church'. The PCC has partly delegated the responsibility for the detailed consideration of matters relating to the fabric and furnishings of our churches to the Fabric Committee, whilst retaining the legal rights of the Churchwardens. The following report is a summary of the main issues discussed by the committee and the PCC during the year. A report from any meetings and from other communications with Churchwardens is submitted to each meeting of the PCC for approval or noting as appropriate.

## **2. Membership**

The membership of the Fabric Committee for 2024/25:

Revd Ruth Colby, Lynne Black, Beryl Cottrill, Peter Golightly (Chair); Christopher Henwood, Hilary Linnington, Iain Munroe, Tony Rayner.

All business during the year was dealt with by correspondence (e-mail) and in PCC meetings due to the nature of the projects and issues.

## **3. St Peter's Church, East Bridgford**

### **3.1. Pew replacement**

40 upholstered stacking chairs were supplied by Alpha Furnishings in July 2024, together with 40 collapsible stacking chairs following the collapse into administration of the original supplier, Rosehill Furnishings. At the same time 10 pews at the rear of the Nave were removed and sold to private individuals after diocesan approval for disposal., with repairs to the wooden floor where the pews had been removed provided by Steve Maynard, Site Manager at St Peter's Academy.

The flexible area created has been well received and used for a variety of activities, with plans for increasing its use in the future.

### **3.2. Nave-Chancel handrail**

Following Faculty approval, two oak handrails have been installed on the steps between the Nave and Chancel to access to and from the Chancel. The rails are on metals supports incorporating the keys of St Peter's. The handrails could not be made to be removable due to stability and safety of fixing points to the stone floor slabs.

### **3.3. Churchyard handrail**

Two options for providing a non-slip surface to the current sloping grass path down the rear churchyard have proved to be too expensive relative to the risks and amount of use. The options were a bonded gravel surface and handrails on one side of the slope. This project has been put on hold pending further discussions with the church architect and diocesan churchyard advisor.

### **3.4. Porch and Nave renovations**

Repainting of the porch where unstable rendering was removed last year will be undertaken in the summer of 2025.

### **3.5. Nave floor repairs**

Eight damaged floor flagstones and a cast iron grating in the Nave have been replaced to remove trip hazards and damage to adjoining areas. During installation of the original five stones, it was found that three others were beyond restoration and were therefore also replaced. The work required the use of a church registered stonemason.

### **3.6. Quinquennial inspection (QI)**

The next Quinquennial inspection of St Peter's Church is scheduled to take place in June 2025. Although regular repairs and maintenance are undertaken as issues are identified, The five-yearly QI will inevitably identify issues with the fabric of a 1,000-year old church that will require attention.

### **3.7. Ongoing and future projects**

Other projects currently under consideration and investigation are:

- Resolution of damp in the robing vestry following repairs to external downpipes.
- Restoration of a further 10 gravestones (dependant on funding).
- Development of a children's area in church which will require some re-ordering and diocesan approval.
- Further development of plans for a church extension with increased toilets, a larger kitchen and a parish office. This project is on hold until future funding is able to be determined.

## **4. St Helen's Church, Kneeton *(from Tony Rayner)***

### **4.1. Lightning protection system**

The lightning protection system was inspected and tested (June 2024).

### **4.2. Repairs to the Vestry**

The vestry roof was re-ridged and the coping stones pointed to stop an ingress of water.(July 2024)

### **4.3. Repairs to the Chancel**

A lump of render fell out of an area above the altar window in August 2024. The repairs required the re-setting & repointing of 2 coping stones on the roof and repairing, refilling, re - plastering and repainting of the interior area affected.

### **4.4. Mould on the South Wall of the Nave**

The nave and chancel of the church were redecorated in May 2021 with Classidur paint which should not support the growth of mould. However, in January 2025, a large area of the south wall of the nave became covered with mould, despite the church always having adequate ventilation (as prescribed and tested for by the church architect). The church architect has recommended the wall be washed down by a fungicidal liquid and the wall be repainted. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out in May 2025

## **5. St Augustine's Church, Flintham *(from Iain Munro)***

### **5.1. Leadworks to Chancel Roof etc.**

Patch repairs were carried out to lead splits to the Chancel roof ridge. Other repairs were also made to the tower rainwater goods:

- A hopper on the tower was rehung
- New ears were welded to an existing lead downpipe on the tower and rehung

### **5.2. Organ**

Allen Organs replaced a backup battery, reset the organ and set up the pistons. They also checked the whole organ.

### **5.3. Roof Alarm**

The annual service was carried out in February by E Bound and the call centre subscription paid. A further visit was required in August to replace a sensor and tampers.

## **6. All churches**

In all three churches ongoing minor maintenance and repairs has taken place. In addition, PAT testing of electrical items, fire extinguisher inspection and service, boiler, alarm and clock servicing, and churchyard maintenance has taken place.

A contract for twice yearly gutter clearing for the three churches has been put in place which will help to reduce block gutters and subsequent water ingress and damp issues arising.

## **7. Conclusion**

This report would not be complete without thanking the members of the Fabric Committee for their support. We also record a big thank you to all those volunteers who help to keep the churches and churchyards looking clean and tidy, with special thanks to the continued diligence of the Churchyard Working Party at St Peter's.

*Peter Golightly – Chair Fabric Committee*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

**Period covered: May 2024 to April 2025**

### **St Peter's, East Bridgford**

The churchwardens' report on the fabric of the church is now part of the separate Fabric Team Report.

It has been good to see our local community using our church. St Peter's Academy has held various services across the year, and they were enthusiastic participants in the 'Experience' Days offered by Rev Ruth, our Methodist colleagues, our youth worker and volunteers from our congregation. The latest one was 'Experience Advent'. The Scouts held a Christmas service, and our Christingle services were once again packed. In the period January 2024 to December 2024 there were 2 weddings, 6 funerals and 7 children were baptised. It is good to see services at special times of year so well attended and thanks must go to the choir who prepare and lead us in services throughout the year and in particular at the Christmas and Easter carol services. Thank you, too, to the bellringers who ring before services each month, as well as on special occasions.

We continue to maintain links with our Methodist friends, running joint services and sending representatives to participate in each other's services. We had adjacent pitches at the village show and were delighted at the popularity of our cake stall, which helped increase our visibility and encouraged conversation.

The arrival of new seats for the newly created space at the back of church has been met with much approval and has been a positive encouragement for fellowship. The space was ideal for two Saturday coffee mornings held over the winter, but these met with limited success. We need to make these occasions more widely known and advertised if they are to attract more people into our building.

Since the last report the AV system has been well used each month and has enhanced a number of different types of service. Thanks must go to David Ogden who has been instrumental in programming it for the Pancakes and Praise service and helping volunteers get to grips with it. Indeed thanks must go to the whole Pancakes and Praise team who are now able to deliver a lay-led service, which will be of such importance as we go into the interregnum.

Once again, in September, we assisted the annual Ride and Stride by providing refreshments for participants and thanks again go to one of our congregation who helped raise funds for St Peter's by visiting a number of churches in the scheme.

This year St Peter's has built on its success in widening our awareness of our environment and our use of energy. We have now been given the Silver Award in the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. Thanks go to Hilary Linnington for her hard work in getting us to this level.

More thanks must go to a number of other individuals and groups for their contribution in the upkeep of the church and its enhancement. We are very grateful to all the readers, welcomers and providers of refreshments who help ensure the smooth running of services, and it is pleasing to welcome new people to these groups. Thank you to the flower arrangers who continue to do so much to make the church feel a welcoming space. Thank you to Peter

Golightly and the Fabric team for continuing to keep a watchful eye on the condition of the church building and in progressing new fabric-related issues. Finally thank you to the Churchyard Working party for their monthly tidying, chopping, weeding and so much more.

The Health and Safety Risk Assessment document, kept in the kitchen, is available for consultation by all users of the building. It is good to note that during the last 12 months no accident has been reported. The inventory of the church has been checked and items in the inventory have been accounted for.

### **St Helen's, Kneeton and St Augustine's, Flintham**

There being no Churchwardens currently in post at St Helen's, Kneeton and St Augustine's, Flintham, there are no Churchwardens' reports for these churches.

# Annual Safeguarding Report

## covering period May 2024 to May 2025

Safeguarding is a critically important area of church life – it is vital that we do all we can to ensure a safe environment for everyone in our care, and that we maintain a culture of informed vigilance - so that people clearly know what to do and where to go if they have any concerns.

Our safeguarding responsibilities are undertaken by the two Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) for the Fosse Group, Peter Golightly, acting primarily for the Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham, and Mandy Beeby, acting primarily for the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton. They will be supported by Rebecca Stewart, Assistant PSO who will have a focus on church families. The PSOs work collaboratively together and with Revd Ruth.

**Policies and practice** The clergy and PCCs of the Fosse Group continue to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every agenda of the PCC meetings.

Our Safeguarding policy was updated and approved in September 2024 by the PCC. It is in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meets statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to our particular context. The next review will be in September 2025.

**Safer recruitment/DBS:** The online system for DBS clearance is now well established. It can be reported that our PCC now has DBS approval for all its members except one, which is pending. The requirement is for all PCC members to have an enhanced DBS check as we directly commission activities for children. Enhanced checks are also required, and are currently in place, for our clergy, churchwardens, tower captain, junior bell-ringing group leaders and PSO. Volunteers supporting Messy Church and the new Youth Group have had DBS checks through the Methodist Church.

**Training:** In April 2021, the Church of England published a new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework. The focus of this framework is on developing a positive culture of safeguarding within the church, rather than simply focusing on process.

We would encourage all those who worship in our parishes, whether or not you hold an office or responsibility, to undertake the Basic Awareness online module, which is free, as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and duty. Those with a further degree of responsibility, such as PCC members, are also expected to complete the "Foundation" module, and those in formal or lay ministry, PSOs, Churchwardens and those with specific responsibility for activities involving children or vulnerable adults must complete the more intensive "Leadership" level. Training must be renewed every 3 years. The current status of training in our PCC is:

- Safeguarding – Basic Awareness (C0): 100% compliance with training.
- Safeguarding – Foundation (C1): 95% compliance with training.
- Safeguarding – Leadership: 100% compliance with training.

This is a remarkable achievement, and I would like to thank all those who have given their time and commitment to undertake the required training.

In addition our PSO has also undertaken Safer Recruitment and Grooming Awareness training and has attended the three Diocesan safeguarding briefing meetings in the last year.

Details of all training events and dates can be found on the Diocesan website <https://southwell.anglican.org/resources/resources-safeguarding/training/>.

**National safeguarding standards:** The Church of England has been in the process of developing a set of National Safeguarding Standards since 2020 in response to historical safeguarding issues, which have been highlighted recently through the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Standards are essential for the Church to understand the quality and, most importantly, the impact of its safeguarding activity. In addition, the Standards provide a simple construct which integrates the complexity of all safeguarding activity in the Church. All such activities, at all levels across the Church, will relate to at least one Standard. The five Standards are:

- Culture, Leadership and Capacity
- Prevention
- Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk
- Victims and Survivors
- Learning, Supervision and Support

National roll-out of the standards will be over the next 5 years but with an expectation that the standards will start to be embedded in churches and parishes gradually from now. There will be an audit in 2026 to assess evidence of progress. The standards set out the direction of travel and will enable church bodies to identify both their strengths and areas for development, which will in turn inform their strategic planning in respect of safeguarding.

**Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub:** The Dashboard is an online tool which allows PSOs to complete an audit of safeguarding policy and practice in the parish. Audits have been undertaken by the PSO and subsequent action plans shared with the PCC. The parish has maintained its status within the highest level of safeguarding good practice (level 3) achieved last year and will continue to work to meet every standard included at that level.

The Church of England has introduced a new Safeguarding Hub facility which is optional for use in parishes. The Hub has a staged suite of tools to help a parish with safeguarding:

- Stage 1 - Keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- Stage 2 - Create role descriptions and person specifications.
- Stage 3- Track the safer recruitment of new volunteers.

Our parish is amongst the first to use the Hub. Stage 1 has been fully implemented during the year and Stage 2 is well underway.

**Networking:** The Diocesan Safeguarding team hold regular PSO network Zoom meetings which enable the PSO to meet up and share issues with PSOs from other parishes. These meetings are extremely helpful and are providing good opportunities to share issues with those in both similar and contrasting settings, as well as being able to ask questions from the Diocesan Safeguarding team. A day conference for PSOs is to be held in June 2025.

**Parish developments:** Plans are progressing to have a range of safeguarding resources and information in church including a safeguarding noticeboard in each church dedicated to displaying relevant information and posters, although appropriate space is difficult at St Helen's.

A service was held at St Peter's on Safeguarding Sunday highlighting the importance of all aspects of safeguarding in the life and work of the church and its parishioners.

**Safeguarding concerns and incidents:** No safeguarding concerns have been raised during the year. However, we need to maintain our vigilance to ensure the protection and well-being of everyone in our communities.

*Peter Golightly*

*Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Administrator*

*May 2025*

## **Tower Captain's Report – 2025**

St Peter's bells continue to be in good condition and have needed no attention over the past year apart from replacing one rope and repairing another. Another service is due soon.

The bells are easy to access – not many steps! – and to ring, helped by the short draft between the ringing chamber and the bells. Over the year we've had a steady trickle of visiting bands who report having had an enjoyable ring. We've also hosted well attended monthly 8 bell practices for Bingham district, an opportunity for people learning to make the transition from 6 to 8 bells and for experienced ringers to ring more challenging methods.

On the day of the show last year Matthew Dawson, who learned to ring in our tower, got together a team of local ringers to ring a full peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major, lasting 2 hours 50 minutes.

Other visitors have included the cubs and groups from St Peter's Academy. They were very excited to ring the handbells, chime the tower bells and climb the ladder to look at the bells. Questions about the size of the bells, how old they are, why they are rung, why the 6<sup>th</sup> bell is called the pancake bell etc. evoked lively discussions.

With the help of ringers from other towers we have been able to ring for 2 weddings and for Margaret Foss's memorial service.

This is all very positive, but on the negative side we continue to be very short of ringers. We have only 6 regular ringers, with occasional help from some of the Car Colston ringers. Thanks to ringers from other towers, we have had some enjoyable and useful practices on Monday evening expertly led by Peter Hollier, but, not infrequently, these have had to be cancelled. On Sundays we have often been able to ring only 3 or 4 bells. Given that all our regular ringers are on the elderly side the future of ringing at St Peter's gives cause for concern.

I am grateful to all the ringers for their commitment and to the PCC and Rev Ruth for their continuing support.

*Ann Moore – Tower Captain  
St Peter's Church*

## **ECO Church Report**

St. Peter's gained their A Rocha ECO Church Bronze award in January 2024 and their Silver award on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

We are continuing to have the middle third of the churchyard only mown once a year at the end of the summer, to encourage biodiversity. We also continued not using weedkillers in the churchyard itself, which has been the policy for many years and only using them on the gravel path around the church building and Garden of Remembrance.

The Bug Hotel, which was installed last year, has been well 'furnished' through the year with extra pine cones, hollow stems, logs and twigs etc. The sedum roof is starting to take hold. Sadly, so far, there have not been any hedgehog residents in the bottom part of the hotel.

Disappointingly the bird boxes have not materialised.

ECO articles have been put in the Fosse Group News every month and we are carrying on encouraging use of Fairtrade and environmentally friendly goods in church and at home.

A Rocha have amended their ECO Church criteria and whilst we retain our Bronze and Silver status an initial look at the Gold award appears to make our progress to this level even more difficult. Nevertheless, we will persevere in the hope that our new incumbent will provide the support and encouragement that Reverend Ruth has given us.

*Hilary Linnington – ECO Church Co-ordinator*

## **East Bingham Deanery Synod**

### **Annual Report 2024**

The East Bingham Standing Committee meets before each Deanery Synod to discuss the agenda and plans across the deanery. The standing committee elected at the start of the triennium remains in place

Standing Committee aims to meet regularly for prayer and reflection, and the Mustard Seed prayer group has been praying for the deanery throughout the year. Coordinated by Lesley, everyone is encouraged to join in these monthly prayer meetings, and to send in any prayer requests to the administrator Portia Newling to share with the group.

At Deanery Synod we have been working through the focal points of the Growing Disciples vision in discussion groups, as well as regular business.

We have circulated reports from Ian Boothroyd, a representative in General Synod, and he has regularly joined us to answer questions and give us a taste of the atmosphere at General Synod.

In addition to Deanery Synod business, we have also held a thank you meal for readers and retired clergy supporting ministry in the deanery. We held an open Chapter on the topic of Chaplaincy, with David McCoulough. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell spoke in the most recent of our series on Reflections on faith and Ministry, where we have also heard about the journey to faith of Bishop Paul and Dean Nicola. We also gathered for a roadshow 'Encouraging Generosity' which prepared us for the coming trajectories for parish share.