



The Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham

Parochial Church Council

Annual Parish Meeting Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 24th May 2026



Contents

Agenda	1
Minutes of APM and APCM 2025	3
Report on PCC Proceedings	7
Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts	9
Fabric Report	25
Churchwardens' Report	27
Safeguarding Report	29
Tower Captain's Report	31
Deanery Synod Report	32

The Parish of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Sunday, 24th May 2026 at 10:45am

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, 11th May 2025
3. Election of churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday, 24th May 2026 at 10:45am

Agenda

Approval of minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 11th May 2025
Matters arising

Reports

Electoral Roll report	(Electoral Roll Officer)
Annual report of PCC	(Secretary)
Presentation of financial statements	(Treasurer)
Fabric report	(Chair Fabric Team)
Churchwardens' report	(Churchwardens)
Safeguarding report	(Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Tower Captain's report	(Tower Captain)
Deanery Synod report	(Deanery Synod member)

Elections and Appointments

Election of members of the PCC (8)
Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (2)
Appointment of Sidespeople
Appointment of auditor to the PCC

Interregnum

Any other business

Closing prayer

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2025
held in St Peter's Church, East Bridgford

The meeting was chaired by Peter Golightly, Vice Chair
9 people, including church officers, attended the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2024

The Secretary presented written minutes.

The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Beryl Cottrill

Seconded by: Joanne Enstone

Election of Churchwardens

Beryl Cottrill was nominated (*Peter Golightly*) and seconded (*David Ogden*) 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.

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2025
held in St Peter's Church, East Bridgford

The meeting was chaired by Peter Golightly, Vice Chair.

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 20th May 2024

The Secretary presented written minutes.

The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting pending one spelling correction..

Proposed by: Hilary Povey

Seconded by: Beryl Cottrill

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 122, compared to 105 in May 2024 – a 16% increase. This comprises 91 in East Bridgford, 16 in Kneeton and 15 in Flintham. This follows the six yearly (sexennial) complete renewal of the Electoral Roll which took place in the preceding two months.

Beryl Cottrill was thanked for her work on the Electoral Roll over the last year and to the team which facilitated the renewal process across the three villages. Beryl is supported by Tony Rayner (Kneeton) and Iain Munro (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. In response to a question it was confirmed that no Christmas raffle had taken place in 2025. 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 1st January to 31st December 2024.

It was proposed (*by Joanne Enstone*) and seconded (*by Iain Munro*) 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:

- Kneeton and Flintham churches have done reasonably well financially over the last 12 months.
- There was a £43K loss over the year, mainly through St Peter's, which is similar to 2023. This pattern is anticipated to continue in the foreseeable future.
- Nealy £6,000 has been contributed through fundraising events.
- Approximately 50% of the £400,000 balance at St Peter's is in restricted funds.

Comments were made relating to the need develop the church to give a more progressive outlook and increase the perceived value in the community. Personal engagement with village residents would be a positive way to increase awareness. Publicity and engagement with the new houses when occupied will be important.

6. 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 completed at St Peter's Church:

- Replacement of pews at the rear of the Nave with upholstered chairs was completed during the year following delays due to the original chair supplier going into administration. This has created an increasingly used flexible space for worship, fellowship, and other church activities.
- Provision of a handrail to increase safety on the Chancel steps.

7. 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.

Thanks were expressed to all who contribute to church activities and services, and church maintenance.

It was reported that the church inventory for St Peter's has been updated and all items accounted for.

8. 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 ongoing

development of the parish safeguarding Dashboard and Hub for monitoring safeguarding commitments and safe recruitment.

The five new national safeguarding standards were summarised. The first audit of compliance [progress will be held in January 2026, with a national target of complete compliance in 2027.

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

9. Tower Captain's report

A written report on the 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.

She reported that the bells are in good condition and rung regularly by the local team and frequently by visiting groups, including a recent full peel last nearly three hours.

10. 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 Silver award in October 2024.

The report also highlighted the environmental and biodiversity work being undertaken in the churchyard. The middle part of the churchyard is only mowed once a year to encourage wildlife.

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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 two 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. **Peter Golightly** (*proposed by Bill Case; seconded by Sara James*) for 3 years
2. **Hilary Povey** (*proposed by Christopher Henwood; seconded by Liz Reed*) for 3 years
3. **David Ogden** (*proposed by Christopher Henwood; seconded by Joanne Enstone*) for 2 years to fill a St Augustine's' vacancy until such time as the position is required by St Augustine's or a vacancy is available at St. Peter's.

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

St Peter's 0, St Helen's 0, 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

14. Appointment of Sidespersons

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

15. 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.

16. Interregnum

The Chair summarised the issues related to the interregnum now active across the Fosse Group following the departure of the Rector, Rev Ruth Colby, on 30th April. The main components of the reappointment process are:

- The formal start of the vacancy is from 30th July.
- An informal joint PCC briefing with the Archdeacon could be held at the end of May at the earliest.
- A Parish Profile, either for each single parish or for the whole benefice, will be produced within 6 months.
- PCC will appointment representatives for the interview panel.
- PCCs and Patrons will have a veto on the panel.
- Who is presented to the panel for shortlisting and interview is down to the Bishop. Applications go to Bishop for scrutiny.
- The Diocesan timescales will only be known after the meeting with the Archdeacon with a hope that the process will start as soon as possible

Realistically, a replacement for Ruth is unlikely to be in post until early next year at the earliest, assuming an appointment is made at the first recruitment attempt.

A lot of rural vacancies currently exist across the Diocese – four in this Deanery alone.

The issue of a replacement or refurbished Rectory is still to be resolved.

A question was raised and answered about the use of Rev Alan Haydock during the interregnum period.

Reported that Diocese will only pay for cover for one communion service in the benefice each Sunday.

17. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting ended with prayer at 1:10pm.

CHAIRMAN:

Date:

CHURCHWARDENS:

Report on the Activities of the Parochial Church Council

2025-2026

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met on six occasions for regular scheduled meetings with an additional two special meetings during the last twelve months. The average attendance for full meetings was 69%. Archdeacon Phill Williams and Sarah Hobbs each attended one meeting, The Standing Committee has not been convened during the period.

Lynne Black resigned from PCC in June after serving many years as both elected member and Churchwarden.

Interregnum: The current interregnum started at the end of April 2025 with the retired of the Revd Ruth Colby. Much of the activity of PCC since then has been focussed on issues related to the interregnum, including the recruitment of a replacement for Ruth. During the summer and early autumn work was undertaken with the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton to produce a Benefice Profile, which is the main resource for recruitment and promoting the Fosse Group Benefice and its churches and communities. Hilary Povey and David Ogden were nominated by PCC to act as profile representatives from our parish.

Two special meetings with Diocesan representatives and the two PCCs in the Fosse Group have been held. The first, led by Associate Archdeacon Richard Kellett, set the scene for the vision and process for the recruitment and determined what the Benefice was looking for in a new Rector. The second 'Section 11' meeting of the two PCCs in late October, led by the Area Dean, formally signed off the Benefice Profile, approved the two representatives elected by each PCC to serve on the interview panel, and determined the role of Patrons and the advertising strategy.

PCC have been updated following the unsuccessful rounds of advertising in January and April.

The Churchwarden has reported on the difficulties of finding ordained ministers to cover all services in the parish and the decreasing availability of organists for routine services. The large amount of work falling onto Beryl Cottrill and Sherry Rudman during the interregnum has been noted and thanked by PCC.

Following the refusal of planning permission for a new Rectory in East Bridgford, PCC were presented with plans for revamping the exiting building. This work is now complete ready for a new incumbent.

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

Children and families: PCC received updates on church activities aimed at children, which has included Messy Church in East Bridgford and Flintham, 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.

Church-school links: Hilary Povey has reported on her work with St. Peter's Academy including a number of very successful 'Experience' events during the year. However, these require more support from church members to continue successfully in the future, especially during the interregnum. School services have been held in church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter

PCC continue to support 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.

Hilary Povey and Sarah Hobbs were nominated by PCC, and approved by Diocese and the Aspire Trust Board, as Foundation Governors at East Bridgford St Peter's Academy.

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 received, with regret, the resignation of the recently appointed Assistant PSO. A replacement is being sought to provide additional support to the safeguarding team.

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.

- A new giving programme is being planned by PCC. This will be an incremental process over the next year. The programme has started with the provision of a banner in church indicating the funding needs of the church. This has been followed by a Giving service in April aimed at regular worshippers and a Giving form to encourage regular giving. The programme will expand to the wider community with a full campaign.
- 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 2025 of at least £60,000. Although high cost capital projects have been put on hold, ongoing expenditure on maintenance 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. A long-term action plan for addressing the funding shortfall at St Peter's has been approved but will be challenging to meet in full.
- PCC are seeking more volunteers from the community to assist with church activities to help reduce the financial outlay for outsourced support.
- PCC were pleased to receive a legacy from the estate of the late Patrick Mackie.
- 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 and 2026. Parish Share could nearly double over the next 10 years, which PCC consider unsustainable.
- PCC have received regular reports from its Fundraising Committee, which consists of both PCC members and several non-PCC volunteers. This group meets at least monthly and has planned a programme of fundraising activities for the year, with the aim of having at least one event each month, both in church and at other venues where appropriate. In the last 12 months events have included a cake stall at the village show, an art exhibition, a cheese and wine evening, a concert with Rachel Hill, and a 'Daffodil tea' in the Scout's HQ. A number of events are planned for the rest of 2026 and into 2027. These events have raised over £6,000.
- PCC noted that the annual Bluebell Walk at Flintham Hall and an organ concert in St Augustine's Church have been successful events in Flintham.
- An additional online payment device has been provided for St. Peter's.

Fabric: PCC has received regular reports from the Churchwarden and Fabric Team Chair 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.

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 2024, the requirements for which have been maintained over the last year. The progression to meeting the standard required for a gold award will start in due course, although will be challenging for a building like St. Peter's Church. 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.

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

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

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 2026

**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 2025

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 2025**

CONTENTS

Page

- 1 Report of the Examiner
- 2 Treasurer's Report
- 3 Statement of Financial Activities
- 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 2025 , 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

2026

**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 2025. 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, £67,506 compared to £45,309 in 2024. Each Church is experiencing similar circumstances, costs are rising with inflation, and regular income is either static or falling. Kneeton incurred a deficit of £1,507 in a fairly typical year but is well placed with total reserves of £41,653. It is a similar situation at Flintham, with a surplus in the year and reserves of £27,761.00

East Bridgford continues to cause some concern from a financial point of view, the deficit this year is £70,757 up from £50,180 in 2024, both figures are before gains/losses on investments.

The difference between the years can be explained, 2024 benefited from £5,091 in legacies, whereas 2025 has incurred repair costs of sum £18,000 higher than the previous year. This outlines an underlying trend of around a £40,000 deficit each year, which is a major concern. The PCC ever mindful of the situation, is examining all areas of costs and seeking savings without undermining the fundamental purpose of the Church. Various fund raising activities have already been organised and a very full programme is planned for 2026. A major Giving Campaign started in March, and we have high expectations that this will be successful.

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 fallen which has only added to our problems.

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, and further thanks to our fund raising members for all their efforts to add much needed income.

W F Case

2026

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

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	45,901	4,772	50,673	60,773
Other voluntary resources	2b	0	0	0	10,126
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	34,656	5,895	40,551	32,357
Investment Income	2d	8,537	2,667	11,204	12,259
		89,094	13,334	102,428	115,515
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Grants	3a	11,775	1,597	13,372	13,954
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	113,165	29,016	142,181	131,733
Fund raising and publicity	3c	0	0	0	1,058
Church management and administration	3d	14,381	0	14,381	14,079
		139,321	30,613	169,934	160,824
NET INCOME RESOURCES / (RESOURCES EXPENDED)		-50,227	-17,279	-67,506	-45,309
INVESTMENT GAINS and LOSSES					
Realised		-1,409	0	-1,409	762
Unrealised		-2,924	-2,781	-5,705	14,246
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-54,560	-20,060	-74,620	-30,301
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD as at 1st JANUARY 2025		418,600	106,753	525,353	555,654
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD as at 31 DECEMBER 2025		364,040	86,693	450,733	525,353

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

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes		2025		2024
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	17,441		28,539	
Investments	13	408,248	425,689	479,649	508,188
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments	7	15,126		10,066	
Short term deposits		8,261		7,722	
Cash at bank		20,111		19,109	
Cash in hand		30		0	
		43,528		36,897	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	18,484		19,732	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			25,044		17,165
NET ASSETS			450,733		525,353

FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted		178,718		233,278	
Development reserve		185,322	364,040	185,322	418,600
Restricted			86,693		106,753
			450,733		525,353

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

2026 and signed on its behalf by

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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 2025**

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 all reserves as a precaution against continuing deficits in the future..

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 .

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

..
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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 2025
28,482	2,540	31,022
8,462	635	9,097
1,276		1,276
38,220	3,175	41,395
4,121	1,597	5,718
3,560	0	3,560
45,901	4,772	50,673

Total 2024
33,814
11,039
1,405
46,258
7,683
6,832
60,773

2b) Other voluntary resources

Grants

Legacies and exceptional income

0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0

0
10,126
10,126

2c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading

Village magazine

Fees

Floodlighting , light and heating

Other income

20,370		20,370
3,687		3,687
825		825
9,774	5,895	15,669
34,656	5,895	40,551

18,636
2,596
660
10,465
32,357

2d) Investment Income

Dividends (gross)

Interest (gross)

7,882	1,933	9,815
655	734	1,389
8,537	2,667	11,204

10,895
1,364
12,259

TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES

89,094	13,334	102,428
--------	--------	---------

115,515

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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 2025
11,540	869	12,409
235	728	963
11,775	1,597	13,372

Total 2024
12,843
1,111
13,954

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
Upkeep of services
Depreciation

65,534		65,534
66		66
12,241		12,241
1,610	25,154	26,764
12,217		12,217
525	3,676	4,201
2,435		2,435
3,568	186	3,754
3,814		3,814
11,155		11,155
113,165	29,016	142,181

62,268
166
12,609
16,939
12,094
6,436
3,565
4,539
1,978
11,139
131,733

3c) Costs of generating funds

Funding campaigns
Annual funding costs

0	0
0	0
0	0

1,058
0
1,058

3d) Church management and administration

Administration costs
Stationery , postage etc
Photocopier

13,243	13,243
555	555
583	583
14,381	0
14,381	

12,680
570
829
14,079

TOTAL RESOURCES USED

139,321	30,613	169,934
---------	--------	---------

160,824

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

4a) STAFF COSTS

The total staff costs for the 12 months were £12,409 (2024 £11,653) . During the year the PCC employed an Administrator , part-time . Recent changes in National Insurance regulations has resulted in £841 paid in Employer contributions.

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 2025
Cost	£	£	£	£
at 1 January 2025	14,027	48,626	1,000	63,653
Additions during the year		57		57
Disposals				0
at 31 December 2025	14,027	48,683	1,000	63,710
Depreciation				
at 1 January 2025	8,648	26,216	250	35,114
Disposals				0
Charge for the year	1,792	9,113	250	11,155
at 31 December 2025	10,440	35,329	500	46,269
Net Book Value				
at 1 January 2025	5,379	22,410	750	28,539
at 31 December 2025	3,587	13,354	500	17,441

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 2025
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	167,883	185,322	72,484	425,689
Current assets	31,239		12,289	43,528
Current account	-1,920		1,920	0
	197,202	185,322	86,693	469,217
less Creditors	-18,484		0	-18,484
FUND BALANCE	178,718	185,322	86,693	450,733

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

7. DEBTORS and PREPAYMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	8,330	6,631
Sundry debtors and prepayments	4,891	3,435
VAT recoverable on repairs	1,905	
	<u>15,126</u>	<u>10,066</u>

8. CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
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	3,855	3,265
Peter's Club ,Choir and Bell Ringers reserves	664	554
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,360	3,878
Southwell Dbf	10,790	10,220
	<u>18,484</u>	<u>19,732</u>

9. CHURCH MAINTENANCE OUT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Clock and bells maintenance	978	896
Church cleaning	428	576
Audio system	149	190
Alarm system	1,435	1,369
Electrical, heating and fire inspection	1,054	711
Building repairs	14,876	4,324
Porch decoration		2,244
Hand rails	2,579	
Architect fees	2,695	1,725
Trees	960	
	<u>25,154</u>	<u>12,035</u>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

9a. CHURCH MAINTENANCE OUT OF GENERAL FUNDS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Electrical, heating and fire inspection	340	154
Boiler repairs/service	174	
Architect fees		586
Buildings		1,494
Alarm systems	1,096	2,331
Other small works		339
	<u>1,610</u>	<u>4,904</u>

10. GRANTS

Missionary and Charitable giving from collections and Fund Raising

	2025	2024
	£	£
Home Missions and other Church Societies		
The Children's Society/Christingle	869	989
	<u>869</u>	<u>989</u>

Secular Charities

British Legion Poppy Appeal	493	599
MENCAP		210
Alzheimer's	235	
	<u>728</u>	<u>809</u>

TOTAL GRANTS FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>1,597</u>	<u>1,798</u>
---	--------------	--------------

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

11. GRANTS

Missionary and charitable giving

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
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	915	729
Youth worker scheme	10,500	10,500
Christian Aid		250
Action for Children	125	
Secular Charities		
Newark Emmaus Trust	235	81
British Legion Poppy Appeal		20
A Rocha UK		125
The Friary		250
Newark Food Bank		126
TOTAL GRANTS FROM UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>11,775</u>	<u>12,156</u>

12. DISASTERS and APPEALS RESERVE

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
Balances at 1st January 2025	0	0
Provided during the year	0	0
Applied during the year	0	0
Balance at 31st December 2025	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

**13.INVESTMENTS
GENERAL FUND**

	Number of shares	Year of acquisition	Cost	Unit Price 2025	Market Value	
					Year end 2024	Year end 2025
C of E Investment Fund Income	10,502.02	1978 to 2004	74,984	2,219.83	304,475	233,128
C of E Investment Fund Accum	914.69		0	6,202.96	57,408	56,738
C of E Investment Fixed Interest	6,059.91		10,000	152.77	9,037	9,258
					370,920	299,124

M&G Charifund Accumulation	89.93	1994	5,593	407.41	34,177	36,640
----------------------------	-------	------	-------	--------	--------	--------

FABRIC FUND

C of E Investment Fund Income	2,396.65	1962 to 1995	19,506	2,219.83	55,416	53,202
-------------------------------	----------	-----------------	--------	----------	--------	--------

ENDOWMENT FUND

C of E Investment Fund Income	611.52	1972 to 1997	3,770	2,219.83	14,139	13,574
-------------------------------	--------	-----------------	-------	----------	--------	--------

CHANCEL FUND

Chancel Fund Capital Endow't	580.00				4,997	5,708
------------------------------	--------	--	--	--	-------	-------

Note Market value at 31st December 2025 £ 16,604 (2024 £17,296)

£ **479,649** **408,248**

Fabric Report – 2025/26

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. However, during the interregnum over the last 12 months all fabric issues have been addressed through the full PCC.

2. Membership

The membership of the Fabric Committee for 2025/26:

Beryl Cottrill, Peter Golightly; Christopher Henwood, Hilary Linnington, David Ogden, Alan Stevenson, Iain Munroe, Tony Rayner.

However, all business during the year was dealt with by e-mail and in PCC meetings due to the nature of the projects and issues.

3. St Peter's Church, East Bridgford

3.1. Chancel wall and roof

In August a significant fall of rendering from the apex of the Chancel wall occurred, with debris falling onto the altar and surrounding area. This required the altar and surrounding area to be cordoned off because of the continuing risks. An inspection by the church architect revealed that the area of the wall at risk was more extensive than first envisaged, requiring removal of all rendering from the apex and adjoining area and subsequent restoration. Further investigation revealed that the problem may, in part, have been due to water ingress from displaced tiles on the Chancel roof.

Subsequently, emergency diocesan approval was secured to undertake appropriate repairs, both internal and external. This involved erection of extensive scaffolding, both inside and outside the church, restoration of roof tiles and re-mortaring adjoining stonework, removal of all upper Chancel wall rendering, re-mortaring the exposed stonework and then painting the exposed stonework to match the remaining render. Painting rather than re-rendering was approved due to inaccessibility of the Chancel wall behind roof rafters. The work was completed in mid-December in time for the Christmas period at a cost of nearly £9,000, of which 50% has been recovered through insurance.

3.2. Children's area

PCC have approved plans to create a dedicated area for children in the Baptistry area. This will entail re-siting of historical pictures and artefacts, and provision of appropriate display boards in the Baptistry for children's activities.

3.3. Radio microphones

PCC have approved the replacement of the current radio microphones due to ongoing problems with the existing microphones.

3.4. Robing vestry damp

The damp issue in the robing vestry has largely resolved due to a period of drying out of the vestry wall following water ingress from a damaged drainpipe. The situation continues to be monitored.

3.5. Kirk Hill trees

At the request of the local highways agency (VIA) the lifting of the crown of beech trees overhanging Kneeton Road was undertaken urgently by Summers Tree & Garden Services (Lowdham) in October. The trees were reported to be causing safety issues for double decker school buses.

3.6. Quinquennial inspection (QI)

The next Quinquennial inspection of St Peter's Church took place in June 2025. The inspection found no major items requiring urgent or medium-term attention. Only minor items were found to require immediate attention, all of which have been or are being addressed.

3.7. Ongoing and future projects

Other projects currently under consideration and investigation are:

- Restoration of a further 10 gravestones (dependant on funding).
- 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 and a new Rector is in place.

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

4.1 Lightning protection system

- a. The lightning protection system was inspected and tested in June 2025.

4.2. Organ

Tuning & maintenance of the organ took place in May 2025

4.3. Fire extinguishers

Testing & maintenance of fire extinguishers took place in February 2026.

4.4. Mould on the South wall of the Nave

No action has been taken regarding the mould on the South wall of the Nave. The spread & severity of the mould has remained largely unchanged for the past 12 months.

4.5. Quinquennial inspection (QI)

St Helen's is to have its QI on 26th May; an assessment of the mould will be one aspect of the inspection by the church architect.

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

5.1. Downpipe and gutter repairs

Two cast iron pipes on the south side of the nave and one on the south side of the chancel have been replaced. The gutter on the north side of the chancel has been repaired and the gutters on both the north and south sides repainted. All the downpipes and hoppers on the north and south sides of the chancel and the nave, which were not replaced, were repainted. The gutters and drains were cleared of debris at the same time.

5.2. 5-year Electrical Installation Survey

This was done in July 2025. There were no problems and a Certificate was issued.

5.3. PAT Testing

Testing of electrical equipment was done in April 2025 in all 3 parish churches. A copy of the report for Flintham has not been received and therefore there is no evidence of this in the log book.

5.4. Fire Extinguisher Inspection (Lindum Fire Services) undertaken in March 2026.

5.5. Roof Alarm

Annual services were carried out in May 2025 and May 2026 by E Bound and the call centre subscriptions paid.

NB a lightning conductor survey and a boiler service (Heating and Ventilator Services, Nottingham) are due.

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.

7. Conclusion

This report would not be complete without thanking the members of the PCC and a number of volunteers 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

Churchwardens' Report

Period covered: May 2025 to April 2026

St Peter's, East Bridgford

It has now been over a year since we entered a period of interregnum. The shortage of available ministers has meant cutting back on the number of Sunday services. Consequently, we have had to adjust our pattern of worship, the churchwardens or representatives of the five churches in the benefice having met to arrive at a compromise. At St Peter's there are now two Sunday communion services, one Evensong and one lay-led Pancakes and Praise service each month. There is more availability of ministers on weekdays so we are fortunate in being able to maintain the BCP Wednesday communion service.

The task of finding ministers is not straightforward – they are mainly retired clergy and are very much in demand by a number of parishes in a similar position. Our thanks must go to our administrator, Sherry Rudman, for her relentless determination to find clergy throughout the year. Likewise, without a regular organist, Sherry has managed to find someone to play for most of our services, though this is a small, shrinking pool of musicians. We are now having to look at alternative ways to produce organ music as it looks like there will be even fewer organists available in the near future.

Once we know who is coming to lead our worship, or play the organ, it is the churchwarden's job to liaise with them beforehand, which has been a pleasure on every occasion. All have, without fail, been keen to help make sure our worship continues in its usual manner, adapting to special occasions which they may not be familiar with. We are very grateful to them all.

Since the last APCM, other services have maintained their familiar pattern. St Peter's Academy has held a number of its own services in church and the Scouts held their Christmas service. Our two Christingle services were once again well attended, as were the Carol service and the Easter Day service. There have been 3 baptisms – all from the same family. One wedding and one marriage blessing have been celebrated, and there have been 7 funeral or memorial services.

The life of the church cannot continue without its volunteers and there are several individuals or teams who continue to play a significant part. Thanks must go to those who set up the altar before communion services and to the welcomers (sidespeople) – enabling the churchwarden to ensure visiting ministers and organists are familiar with where everything is and have all they need. Thank you too to the readers, members of the choir, chalice assistants and refreshment providers at our services, and to the bellringers and flower-arrangers – all helping enhance our worship experience. Thank you to the Pancakes and Praise team, not only for their monthly services but also for maintaining the Experience events for our local school, St Peter's Academy.

Thank you to the coffee morning team. After a hesitant start in early 2025, this monthly social event, with its lovely, welcoming atmosphere, has proved popular with church-goers and non-church-goers alike. We have a number of talented bakers in our midst and we are grateful to them for their contributions not only to the coffee mornings but also to our stall at the annual village show. The fund-raising team is another hard-working group of volunteers and they have organised a variety of events. Our flexible space at the back of church has come into its own on these occasions. The team has raised much-needed funds for our church. Thank you.

Looking after the condition of the church building and its churchyard are the Fabric team and the Churchyard working party. As all gardeners will understand, there is a constant need for maintenance in the churchyard. Whilst we pay an outside company to do the mowing, all the remaining tasks are carried out, once a month, by a band of volunteers – cutting back hedges, weeding footpaths, monitoring for fallen branches or dead trees or more invasive plants, chopping up wood. Thank you to all these volunteers.

It is worth mentioning that all of us can help look after the church, if only by alerting the churchwarden to anything that might be of concern. This makes it possible to set in motion any necessary action, as has been the case with noticing the presence of Japanese knotweed in the churchyard – a fast-growing invasive plant – and also the prompt reporting of the fall of a significant amount of plaster at the east end of the church. Thank you, everyone, for your care for our church community, our church building and its churchyard.

*Beryl Cottrill,
Churchwarden*

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 2025 to May 2026

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. The PSOs work collaboratively together and with the Rector when in post. An Assistant PSO was appointed in early 2025 but resigned before fully taking up the role, for which a replacement will be sought.

Policies and practice The 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 2025 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. Next review September 2026.

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, churchwarden, tower captain, junior bell-ringing group leaders and PSO. Volunteers supporting Messy Church and the Youth Group have had DBS checks through the Methodist Church.

Training: The Church of England 's Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework (2001) focusses 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): 85% compliance with training.
- Safeguarding – Leadership (C2): 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 has current accreditation for Safer Recruitment and Grooming Awareness 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 were highlighted last year through the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Standards are essential for the Church to understand the quality and 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 continue over the next 3 years but with an expectation they are gradually being embedded in churches and parishes now. An audit in January 2026 demonstrated significant progress within the Diocese. The standards set out the direction of travel and will enable church bodies to identify both their strengths and areas for development the priorities for strategic planning in respect of safeguarding. Parishes are expected to fully meet all the standards during 2027. This will be challenging for our parish during an interregnum due to limited capacity, although our current practices are fully aligned with the standards.

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) 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 was amongst the first to use the Hub. Stages 1 has been fully implemented, Stage 2 partially implemented and the adoption of Stage 3 is planned.

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 as well as being able to ask questions from the Diocesan Safeguarding team. A day conference for PSOs is to be held in June 2026.

Parish developments: Plans are progressing to have an expanded 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. A safeguarding prayer has been introduced for services at St Peter's.

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 2026

Tower Captain's Report – 2025-26

St Peter's bells continue to be in good condition. They were serviced last June by Tom Blyth, and since then have needed no further attention apart from a repair on two of the ropes.

The bells are an easy and enjoyable ring and have continued to attract visiting ringers. This month a group from the Open University Guild rang a quarter peal. On Palm Sunday we were visited by a group who regularly ring together on the weekends the clocks change. We've also hosted well attended two 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.

We now have two new learners who will soon be able to ring competently without support. We look forward to them joining us on Sundays, when we are often able to ring only four or five bells.

We are grateful to Steve Green from Bingham and Peter Hollier, both qualified trainers, for giving up their time to teach them.

We now have a total of eight ringers, but many of us are on the elderly side, and we still need to recruit more if ringing is to continue at St Peter's.

I am grateful to all the ringers for their commitment and to the PCC for its continuing support, particularly Beryl Cottrill with whom we liaise in the absence of a vicar, Bill Case who keeps our finances in order and Peter Golightly who makes sure we keep our DBS checks and our Safeguarding training up to date.

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

East Bingham Deanery Synod

Annual Report 2025

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, joined by Charles Bignall.

At Deanery Synod we have focussed on Faith and Finance, encouraged by our Lay Chair Lesley Haig. Area Dean Stephen led us in considering Nurturing Prayer, sharing insights from his work at the Minster. We also considered how we support our leaders, both lay and ordained, particularly as we approach once more a season of vacancies.

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.

We were able to slightly increase our giving for Deanery Share to £566,676 which is 92% of the total we were asked to raise.

Our thank you meal for readers and retired clergy supporting ministry in the deanery was once again a success. Our parishes in vacancy are blessed by their support. This year we have said goodbye to Revds Ruth Colby, David Rowe and Jon Wright leaving the Fosse Group, Bingham and Wiverton to join Tollerton and Plumtree in vacancy.

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.

As part of our successful series of events Journey of Faith, Bishop Andy joined us to share his experiences. We also welcomed a party from the Minster choir to lead us in sung evensong and gathered in the Minster for the Darkness to Light Advent Procession.

We thanks our two Deanery Synod representatives, Hilary Linnington and Jane Brookes, for their contribution over the last 12 months.