

ST DENYS' CHURCH SLEAFORD

Registered Charity Number 1127600

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Incumbent:

The Rev'd. Philip A Johnson

**Independent Examiner:
Mrs K Botley FCCA
Duncan & Toplis
Chartered Accountants
18 Northgate
Sleaford**

**Bank:
HSBC Bank Plc
88 Westgate
Grantham**

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Denys
Registered Charity number 1127600

Report for 2025

Parochial name	St Denys, Sleaford
Ecclesiastical Parish	Sleaford
Location of Church	Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7SH
Grid Reference	TF 069459

Number on Electoral Roll reported in April 2025: 67 (April 2024: 104)

Number of Usual Sunday Attenders:

	2025	2024
Young People under 16	2	2
Adults over 16	53	55
(YouTube Channel views	21	19)
Total	55	57

Background: The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical, pursuant to the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The presentation of this Report and of the Accounts seeks to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission. The PCC also has the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Parish Centre, held by Lincoln Diocesan Trust & Board of Finance Limited on behalf of the PCC.

Membership: Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. As such, they are charity trustees.

The following people served as members of the PCC from the APCM held on 11 May 2025.

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: Revd. Philip A. Johnson, MA, FIBMS

Churchwardens: Mr. T. Richard Clash
Mrs. Sarah Stentiford

Deputy Churchwardens: Mr. Philip J. Starks
Mr. Douglas F. Agnew

Director of Music: Mr. Lee Mitton-Rooke

Deanery Synod Representatives:

(third year of a 3 year term): Mrs. Brenda Hitchcock

Elected members (maximum of twelve): Mr. Douglas F. Agnew
Mr. Keith Bailey

Elected members (cont'd):

Mr. Douglas C. Hoare
Mrs. Pamela Jakeway
Mr. Edward Jarvis (until 11 May 2025)

Mr. David J. Marriage
Mr. Rotimi Okusanya (from 11 May 2025)
Mrs. Minyon Prescott
Ms. Angela Rankin (until 11 May 2025)
Mr. Terence E. Regan
Mrs. Beryl Risdell
Mrs. Alison Snookes

Members co-opted by the PCC: None

PCC Officers

Chairman:	Revd. Philip A. Johnson, MA, FIBMS
Hon Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs. Angela Clash *
Hon Secretary:	Mr. Douglas F. Agnew
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs. Brenda R. Hitchcock
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. Angela Clash *
* (non-member of the PCC)	

Church Ministry and Local Ministry Team

The PCC continues to be appreciative of the contribution made to the worship and ministry at St Denys by the retired clergy, the Revd. Canons John Wickstead and Graham Hedger, and the Revds. David Boutle and David Woods. At the end of 2025 the Authorised Lay Ministry Team was comprised of Mrs. Beryl Risdell and Mr. Terence E. Regan. The Bishop of Grantham led our Holy Week and Easter services.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report	2025	2024
Electors at start of year	67	104
Electors added to Roll	(0)	(0)
Electors removed from Roll at own request	(0)	(0)
Deaths	(0)	(2)
Electors at end of year	67	102

N.B: The Electoral Role must be completely revised every six years. A complete revision was required in 2025. The current numbers reflect congregants who died, those who have relocated, etc.

The Principal Matters dealt with/ Policy Decisions made by the PCC during 2025

Maintaining St Denys and the Parish Hall were topics of significant discussion throughout the year. The roof of the Church is an ongoing problem requiring periodic repairs, and options for upgrading the heating system are being examined. The heating system in the Yarborough Room of the Parish Hall was upgraded.

The financial situation of St Denys was also a major topic of discussion. All members were encouraged to increase their donations if possible. In addition, donation postcards with a QR code were developed, and a PGS donation terminal installed. Performance Rights and the fees charged for the use of the Church were reviewed, and increased subject to further review.

Time to Change Together (TTCT) and the structure and responsibilities it entails continued to be a major consideration. St Denys has been designated a Type 1 church, defined as "A large, flourishing, confident church, strategically located to serve a significant population and act as a resource/hub for a wider catchment area within the Local Mission Partnership (LMP)."

With the TTCT program and his additional responsibility as Rural Dean, Fr. Philip's role entails more administrative responsibilities over an area much greater than this parish.

Use of the Church by Schools and others for community events in 2025

St Denys continued to welcome groups and events connected with the Church. A number of events took place, including concerts by the Sleaford Choral Society, the Sleaford Concert Band, and the Royal Air Force Band. There were also a number of services, including for Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday, and for William Alvey School, St Botolph's School, St George's Academy, Carre's Grammar School and the Kesteven & Sleaford High School. The Church was also a large part of The Sleaford Town Council's Christmas Fair.

Church Buildings, Contents and the Churchyard

Church Terrier:

No items have been added or removed during 2025

Inventory:

Nothing has been added.

Church building

During 2025 the following items were considered, researched, or actioned.

The Lady Chapel: During January a new carpet was laid and the mid-week Holy Communion returned to this area.

Kneelers: The old fabric covering many of the kneelers within the nave was removed. All kneelers were stained.

Market Place: New parking arrangements were introduced in the Market Place allowing Blue Badge holders to park on selected days of the week and church services.

Electrics: A full electrical inspection was carried out during March.

Gutters: All cleared during April.

Church clock: Repaired and serviced in July.

Church roof: Work has been carried out on various roofs during August. This is an ongoing situation.

Parish Centre: The old gas heaters in the Yarborough Room were replaced with a radiator system which included an additional boiler in the kitchen.

Bells: The bells are serviced by members of the bell ringing group.

Various: Throughout the year many maintenance jobs have been carried out.

Sleaford Town Council continue to manage the churchyard and many thanks must go to the small band of council staff who perform their duties with care.

Churchwarden's thank you

During the year the Churchwardens aim is to make the building fit for purpose and have given unswerving support when there are concerts and various community activities. This support includes providing refreshments during any day-long activities, such as Sleaford Town Council's Christmas Fair.

It goes without saying the Churchwardens are grateful to everyone who spend their time and skills in maintaining the church/parish and it is very much hoped these will continue during 2026. Thank you in anticipation!

Music

2025 was a year of variety for the music department at St Denys, with lots of things going on for us to get involved in and for us to continue to enhance the worship in this place.

We held two fundraising concerts in 2025; sadly the October concert by Mirabilé was postponed by their committee due to fewer than expected sales being made. The two organ recitals raised about £400 for the organ fund and we also received a couple of donations towards the project. We are waiting for a more detailed quote from the organ builder in order for the team to then put together more bids for funding from larger pots of money.

The Choir's repertoire for services remains in constant change with lots of favourites making a reappearance in 2025, alongside some newer items for us to learn. Beethoven's 'Die Ehre Gottes aus der Natur', Attwood's 'Turn thy face from my sins', Williams' 'O Sacrum Convivium', MacDonald's 'This Joyful Eastertide', Moore's 'Jesus, Lord we look to thee', Shephard's 'And didst thou travel light', MacDonald's 'The wounds of Christ' and Ogden's 'Rain down justice' all gave us something different to work on and were mostly well received. It is always a challenge to learn new music, especially now we have removed our Friday evening rehearsals, but the Choir do a great job and I'm always extremely proud of their commitment and resilience when things get tough.

The Choir very much enjoyed their trip to Lincoln Cathedral in March 2025; being able to sing Evensong in our home cathedral with the Youth Choir from the cathedral was an

amazing experience and we were so glad to be able to take our music there. I really hope we have the chance to do something again in the future as the chance to sing in a cathedral is something that all choir members should aim for.

There were two very large services for the Choir this last year; Elodie's Baptism on Easter 2 and the Christmas Carol Service were both exceptionally good with a large choir being able to sing some large scale works which were very well received by the congregations at these services. The Christmas Carol Service was definitely the best in my time and I hope that 2026 lives up to the expectation we have now set!

The Choir held its first 2 Deanery Evensongs in 2025 with further services planned for 2026. The first was held at St Denys for the Patronal Festival, and the second was held at St Andrew Horbling. We also were invited to sing at the Carol Service at St Botolph, Quarrington, and some of the singers from those churches joined us which was lovely to be able to facilitate.

The Christingle Service on the Market Place was well received by those who were able to join in; the location of the stage made this more challenging than we anticipated, but I hope that next year's service will be better supported now that we know how the Market Place will be laid out. The Choir from the William Alvey School did a great job in supporting the music for this service and we look forward to further collaborations in the future.

As ever, I'm extremely grateful to the members of the choir for their commitment to the music at St Denys. They are volunteers who give freely of their time and skill, and we are lucky to have them. I'm also grateful for the support of the PCC, the Churchwardens and Rev'd Philip for their support; they give me the freedom to do my job to the best of my ability whilst being a great help when discussing ideas for the future. We are always on the lookout for new members, so please do spread the word about who we are and what we do!

Financial Activities

Sleaford Parish Church Reserves Policy

Following the review by the Finance Committee on 28th November 2022 the policy remains as follows:

It is the policy of St Denys 's Parochial Church Council to hold in reserves the equivalent of 12 months running costs from the General Purposes Fund (£95,000) and a further £50,000 from the Fabric Fund for Insurance and Emergency repairs.

Collections have fallen slightly again but donations have risen from the previous year mainly from use of the QR code and PGS machine although there have been problems with that and a bid for an upgraded machine was not successful. One regular contribution is also received via PGS and there have been no additions or losses to our planned giving scheme.

Gift Aid contributions increased by £1,200 and additional tax recovery was received from that and also via the PGS donations. Postcards containing the QR code, picture and appeal were purchased and placed in all the pews and welcome table in an effort to increase income which is currently insufficient to meet all running costs.

The PCC pledged share of £30,000 was paid in full but partly from reserves due to larger repair commitments.

The HSBC internet banking has been working well and since the closure of the local branch the arrangements for cash and cheques at the post office also has been working well.

One legacy of £1,051.16 was received during the year. With the reopening of the Market Place, fees have increased as there were three weddings, but funerals have not returned to previous levels.

Solar Panel income of £5,255 was received for the power generated for the national grid, an increase of £678 on the previous year

There has been good use of the Parish Centre. Refund of the overpayments due to the faulty meter of £3,580 were finally received in May. Major work to the Centre was carried out with the replacement of two gas heaters in the main hall with an additional boiler in the kitchen to feed five radiators; some electrical renewal and provision of fire safety locks; and, a security lock to the office door. The total cost of this work was £7,345. A change of cleaning company took place at the end of July.

Fund raising activities increased during the year along with opening the church for refreshments during town events in the Market Place. A Pimms Event, some parish lunches and a Quiz night resulted in an increase of £1,400 on 2024. A total of 377 copies of an original Christmas card painted and produced by Minyon Prescott were sold at £1 each.

The Parish Administrator and the Director of Music have continued in post and received salary increases from 1st January 2025. The payroll continues to be managed by the company that took over in 2024, together with the workplace pension put in place from 1st April 2017, of which there is currently one member.

The PCC investment and Trust Fund income increased during the year as the CBF General Deposit Account terms were changed from interest accruing to the account to it being paid out quarterly to assist with pledge commitments etc. The value of the 12 Trust Funds held showed a total loss of £18,227 as at 31st December 2025

Further repairs to the Church Roof used up the remaining restricted fabric fund held in the HSBC deposit account.

During the year two Counters each week have continued counting and banking the church collections. All funeral fee bills are paid to the Diocese who then remit them direct to our account for distribution as necessary by the Treasurer. We continue to collect wedding fees and account to the Diocese monthly. Retired Clergy and Readers claim their fees direct from the Diocese.

The following groups, which are connected with the church, held funds at the 31st December 2025.

	2025	2024
Choir/Music	£10,468	£10,066
Bellringers	£2,799	£2,607

On Behalf of the PCC


.....Fr Philip Johnson (Chairman)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST DENYS NEW SLEAFORD

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity no 1127600

Set out on pages

NINE AND TEN

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

17/3/2026

Name:

KAY BOTLEY

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA

Address:

18 NORTHGATE

SLEAFORD

LINCOLNSHIRE NG34 7BJ



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St Denys' Sleaford PCC

1127600

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Legacies	48,490	-	-	48,490	177,912
Grants	-	-	-	-	2,082
Income from charitable activities	2,336	-	-	2,336	1,534
Other trading activities	10,515	-	-	10,515	7,402
Church room	14,703	-	-	14,703	9,739
Investments	12,219	6,878	-	19,097	18,440
Other income	5,795	26	-	5,821	10,791
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	94,058	6,904	-	100,962	227,901
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Disposal of investment fund	-	-	-	-	147,432
Sub total	-	-	-	-	147,432
Total receipts	94,058	6,904	-	100,962	375,333
A3 Payments					
Costs of generating funds	50,658	40	-	50,698	41,762
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	40,449	8,128	-	48,577	42,068
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Administration costs	7,413	-	-	7,413	24,856
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Church room costs	19,677	-	-	19,677	13,889
Sub total	118,197	8,168	-	126,365	122,575
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Re-investment of investment fund	-	-	-	-	147,638
Sub total	-	-	-	-	147,638
Total payments	118,197	8,168	-	126,365	270,213
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 24,139	- 1,264	-	- 25,403	105,120
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	146,946	13,880	-	160,826	55,706
Cash funds this year end	122,807	12,616	-	135,423	160,826

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Current Account	1,187	1,507	-
	HSBC Deposit Account	16,673	-	-
	CBF General Deposit	104,654	1,005	-
	CBF Fabric Deposit	293	10,104	-
	Total cash funds	122,807	12,616	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

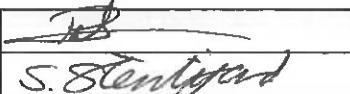
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Investments - Value shown in cost column	Restricted	248,894	-
	Investments - Value shown in cost column	Unrestricted	187,379	-
	Investments - Value shown in cost column	Endowment	92,254	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	PA Stentiford	27-iv-26
	S. STENTIFORD	27-4-26