



# **APCM Report 2025**

## **Sunday 18th May 2025**

### **The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall**

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Priest in Charge: (Licensed to St.Mary's on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

Rev. Nikki Eastwood. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Distinctive Deacon:

Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

PCC Chair until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Vice Chair thereafter:

Janet Mountain. 49 Wilkinson Way, Strensall, York YO32 5ZA

Treasurer:

Pauline Chambers. 11 Netherwoods, Strensall, York YO32 5WE

Independent Examiner:

Kanako Whapples. 19 Heath Ride, Strensall, York YO32 5YW

Church Architect:

Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jane Atkinson. 1 Brunswick Close, Strensall, York YO32 5ZT

Parish Administrator (until 3 April 2025):

Victoria Haworth. c/o The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2024:

Gordon Moore	Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2024)
--------------	--

Janet Irish	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
Gordon Moore	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
Janet Mountain	Deanery Synod (Elected 2024 for 2 years)

Term ends in 2025

Pauline Pillai	(Elected 2022 for 3 years)
----------------	----------------------------

Wendy Robinson	(Elected 2023 for 2 years)
----------------	----------------------------

Peter Bayliss	(Elected 2024 for 1 year)
---------------	---------------------------

Term ends in 2026

Shirley Bamford	PCC Secretary (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
-----------------	--

Jane Atkinson	Parish Safeguarding Officer (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
---------------	--

Daniel Pillai	(Elected 2024 for 2 years)
---------------	----------------------------

Term ends in 2027

Jean Cooper	(Elected 2024 for 3 years)
-------------	----------------------------

Terry Atkinson	(Elected 2024 for 3 years)
----------------	----------------------------

Pauline Chambers	Treasurer (Elected 2024 for 3 years)
------------------	--------------------------------------

Alison Bayliss	Co-opted to PCC in 2024 for 1 year
----------------	------------------------------------

Rev Judith Palmer	Co-opted to PCC in 2024 for 1 year
-------------------	------------------------------------

Rev. Dot Hicks	Ex-officio member (Clerk in Holy Orders)
----------------	--

Rev Nikki Eastwood joined the PCC as Chair from 11th November 2025.

**Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3-year term.**

**Three councillors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.**

**Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.**

**Members are eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.**

**For re-election in 2025** Wendy Robinson, Pauline Pillai, Peter Bayliss

**For re-election in 2026** Daniel Pillai, Shirley Bamford, Jane Atkinson

**For re-election in 2027** Jean Cooper; Terry Atkinson, Pauline Chambers

It was agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a Minute Secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting. In 2024, Victoria attended, and minuted, all PCC meetings. Victoria has now stepped down as Parish Administrator.

### **Deanery Mission Partnership**

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes they are directly responsible for. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

### **PCC Meetings in 2024**

The full PCC met 8 times in 2024. This includes the first meeting of the new PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. All meetings were in person.

In 2024, the Standing Committee met twice.

There were two PCC groups that continued to meet regularly, these were the Environment Group and the Finance Group.

### **Background**

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Rev Nikki Eastwood, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### **Membership**

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, along with any other licensed clergy to St. Mary's and the Churchwarden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

### **Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, and PCC Vice Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Safeguarding Group meets regularly in order to support our safeguarding officer and to ensure we are up to date with current practices related to safeguarding.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

### **Electoral Roll and Church attendance**

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish OR

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, OR

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

### **St.Mary's Church Electoral Roll Report from Wendy Robinson, Electoral Roll Officer**

We remember the following members of St. Mary's Electoral Roll who have passed away since the APCM 2024 Anna Allan, Ruth Cockerill, Patricia Kirk, and Shelia Leah.

In 2025, we are required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the Roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the Roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2024 = 110

Number on the new Electoral Roll prepared for APCM 2025 = 76

---

**The following reports are presented to the APCM:**

#### **Statutory Reports**

- PCC Vice Chair
- Vicar
- Treasurer
- Independent Examiner
- Churchwarden
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

#### **Non Statutory Reports**

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Little Fishes
- ACTS 435
- Open the Book Assemblies

**PCC Chair Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

**The Vacancy**

Having entered a time of Vacancy in September 2023 the PCC continued to follow the various processes of appointing a new Priest in Charge for St Mary's. We were advised and supported in these matters by the Archdeacon and were successful in advertising and interviewing for the post in May 2024. As a result a candidate was selected and offered the post, however before a full appointment could be made there were a number of processes and Human Resource checks to be finalised. Until this was completed the PCC could not provide any information to the congregation, but all were asked to continue to pray that the will of God fulfilled. There was need for discernment and wisdom in all decision making, together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we moved into a very important phase.

In October we were able to confirm the appointment of Rev Nikki Eastwood who would be joining us from St Mary's Church in The Wirral in November and her Licensing Service was held on November 11th. This was a service of great joy and was supported by the Diocese and the local community. Welcome Nikki!

With her appointment Nikki also takes up the role of Dean for the Easingwold Deanery and we offer her our full support in this challenging role.

I can now stand down as Chairman of the PCC and give my heartfelt thanks to all members who have found this period challenging and rewarding. Thanks to all who has worked tirelessly to provide leadership and support during some demanding and sometimes stressful situations. I also thank Victoria who has, in her usual dedicated manner, supported the PCC alongside her other church commitments.

**Staffing**

We have received the resignation of Margaret Berg as Church Warden and would like to offer our thanks for Margaret's tireless work over the past few years. We pray she will be blessed in her service for God.

**Services and Ministries**

We continue to be grateful to Rev. Dot Hicks (Distinctive Deacon) and Rev. Judith Palmer (Additional Minister with Permission to Officiate) for their dedicated efforts to ensure services are provided and to Judy Smith (Eucharistic Minister) in her support of them. Many thanks also to all who support the services.

The PCC continue to be indebted to a team of visiting clergy who have supported and upheld the spiritual wellbeing of the church during this time. Thanks to our Churchwardens whose efforts have enabled the ongoing provision of services alongside organising marriages, funerals, and baptisms. We have said farewell to a number of our congregation this year and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

I would also like to thank those who have dedicated themselves to prayer throughout this year both through our dedicated prayer teams and in overseeing prayer requests.

In addition the congregation has supported our community projects which continue to be successful.

**Home Groups**

Our Home Groups continue to meet and successfully support many of our congregation through bible study, prayer and social conversation. Thanks to all those who lead and organise these.

**Children's Ministry**

Little Fishes continues to be well attended and supported by many families. Our Open the Book Team, together with the Methodist Church, continue in their ministry to local schools including Robert Wilkinson Academy.

**Events**

With the help and support of church members and members of the community we have organised some successful events not least of all an outstanding Light Trail which saw up to 450 people attending.

**Environment**

Our Environment Team has continued to look after a range of practical, ecological and environmental issues, with a number of these being both costly and challenging and thanks goes to all who have supported them.

**Finance**

Our Treasurer and her support team have met a great many challenges this year and have worked hard at looking at the various options that may help us meet this issue in the future. We were delighted to receive a legacy which will support us in looking at how we can improve access to the church. Grateful thanks go to them. (See Treasurer's Report)

*Report prepared by Janet Mountain, PCC Chair until November 2024,  
now PCC Vice Chair April 2024*

---

**Vicars Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

In January 2025 we adopted a verse for the year:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13*

It's been an important verse as we've planned services and activities to Live Christ's Story by being God's people in Strensall.

I was licensed 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Thank you all – and the community too for the welcome of that service. I have a dual role in both the parish and as Area Dean of Easingwold Deanery. We don't have a verse for the year in the deanery, but we do seek to live with hope, joy, peace and trust in the powerful plans of God.

We have had some good deanery synod events – including one on helping churches to move together towards net zero 2030.

We've been busy. We've had a good Christmas and Easter when we began to see people join us – perhaps after a time of being away. All are welcome – and we look forward to welcoming more. It was good too to bring back the shared communion cup on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who have volunteered and served through the vacancy and continued into my time here. A particular thank you to Victoria Haworth for faithful service in helping the church and ministry teams through many years.

I'm grateful for the strong community, school and Methodist links we have. There are many opportunities to strengthen those links and invite more people to join in with God's plan for us. We had a good Lent course based on Les Mis, and we look forward to an Alpha course and the Bishop of Selby leading a deanery confirmation course. There are many opportunities to invite people to hear more of the Christian story, and find their place in it. Let's use every opportunity this year to invite people to join in with what God is doing here. I look forward to continuing to get to know you and all those God brings to us.

May you and your families, friends and neighbourhoods know God's abounding grace and peace.

Rev Nikki Eastwood April 2025

---

**Financial Report for Year End 2024**  
**APCM 2025**  
**Sunday 19th May 2025**

The Finance documents are included over the next 5 pages. They are:

- St. Mary's Accounts 2024 (page 8/9)
- St. Mary's Current Bank Reconciliation 2024 (page 10)
- Treasurer's Report for APCM 18th May 2025 (page 11)
- Budget 2025 (page 12)

<b>ST MARYS CHURCH STRENSALL</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024</b>				
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.				
<b>Receipts and Payment Analysis</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Voluntary giving</b>				
Tax efficient planned giving (SOs)	36,106.08			36,106.08
Other Planned Giving (Envelopes)	0.00			0.00
Other Collections at Services (Cash)	6,089.05			6,089.05
Restricted Giving (C&YW)	0		396.00	396.00
Other non recurring donations	5,263.64			5,263.64
	<b>47,458.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>396.00</b>	<b>47,854.77</b>
<b>Income Tax Recovered on Gift aided donations</b>	<b>7,520.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,520.67</b>
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>				
Legacy	921.06		112,061.92	112,982.98
Recurring grants	730.00			730.00
Non-recurring grants	893.84			893.84
	<b>2,544.90</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>112,061.92</b>	<b>114,606.82</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds - receipts</b>				
Fund raising events	1,142.10			1,142.10
Little Fishes			666.86	666.86
	<b>1,142.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>666.86</b>	<b>1,808.96</b>
<b>Receipts from investments</b>				
Dividends and interest	193.30			193.30
	<b>193.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>193.30</b>
<b>Receipts from church activities</b>				
Fees retained by the PCC	15,394.72			15,394.72
Gross income from trading	5,031.70			5,031.70
	<b>20,426.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20,426.42</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>				
Insurance claims	0.00			0.00
Donations received	36.78	500.00		536.78
	<b>36.78</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>536.78</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>79,322.94</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>113,124.78</b>	<b>192,947.72</b>



St Mary's Church Strensall PCC			Restricted	Total
Bank Reconciliation			Fund	2024
Financial Year 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024			£	£
<b>RESOURCES EX</b>	<b>Current Account</b>	<b>£</b>		
<b>Costs of genera</b>				
Fund Raising C				537.39
Little Fishes	Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2024	16,719.08		616.78
			0.00	1,154.17
<b>Donations (gra</b>	Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2024 CCLA	19,627.87		
Donations to C	Opening bank balance @ 1st January 2024 Skipton	41,800		0.00
Donations to S				1,291.36
Funeral Collec	Total Income	185,134.30		0.00
			0.00	1,291.36
<b>Activities direct</b>	Total Expenditure	186,866.52		
Freewill Offeri	Closing Bank Balance per Cash Book	195,363.73		46,662.00
Working Costs				3,031.75
Mission & Eva	Closing Bank Balance per Statement @ 31/12/24	15,512.33		0.00
			0.00	49,693.75
<b>Church Running</b>	Closing Balance per CCLA digital portal 31.12.24	136,645.94		
Church Insura				2,186.62
Church cleanin	Closing Balance per Skipton statement 31.12.24	43,205.46		2,233.20
Church Admin				6,428.97
Church Mainti				1,078.12
Upkeep of Churchyard	Difference in Bank Balances	-		2,520.40
		14,447.31	0.00	14,447.31
<b>Upkeep of Services</b>				
Altar Requisites		3,566.95		3,566.95
Organist		100.00		100.00
		3,666.95	0.00	3,666.95
<b>Church Utility Bills</b>				
Electricity		1,280.85		1,280.85
Water		346.94		346.94
Gas		2,134.36		2,134.36
		3,762.15	0.00	3,762.15
<b>Cost of Trading</b>				
Stock Purchases		638.41	0.00	638.41
<b>Governance Costs (Deanery)</b>		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Major expenditure</b>				
Major repairs to church buildings		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		74,654.10	0.00	74,654.10
<b>Surplus of Income over expenditure</b>		4,668.84	500.00	113,124.78
				118,293.62
<b>Allocation of Funds</b>				INTEREST
Current Account at SANTANDER		15,512		
Deposit Account at SKIPTON		41,800		1,405
Deposit Account at CCLA		19,627	112,061	4,957
<b>Total Assets</b>		76,939	112,061	6,362

## Other bank accounts

### **CCLA accounts**

Reserve account for general expenditure

Balance @ 31/12/23	19,627.87
--------------------	-----------

Deposit from Halliwell legacy (restricted upkeep / maintenance of church)

16/4/24	99,999.00
---------	-----------

11/11/24	2,061.92
----------	----------

13/11/24	10,000.00
----------	-----------

Total Interest	4957.15
----------------	---------

(£1043 to Gen reserve; £3813 to legacy)

Balance @ 31/12/24

Reserve account for general expenditure	20,670.00
---	-----------

Legacy	115,975.00
--------	------------

Total @ 31/12/24.	136,645.00
-------------------	------------

### **Skipton Building Society**

Balance @ 31/12/23	41,800.00
--------------------	-----------

Interest	1405.46
----------	---------

Total @ 31/12/24.	43,205.46
-------------------	-----------

C & YW    17,974.73    Interest £583

Speare legacy    £24,504    Interest £817

2023 £6773.73 from Speare legacy to Gen.maintenance

2024    £10,675    from Speare legacy to Gen. maintenance

Both retained in Skipton account to accrue interest.

**Treasurer Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

At the beginning of January 2024, the balance in the Santander account was £16,719.08, and at the end of December 2024, was £15,512 with £136,645 in the CCLA account (of this £19,627+ interest) is contingency and £43,205 (inc Children and Youth work) in the Skipton Building Society (restricted) account. Both of the latter deposit accounts are receiving interest.

**Income**

28 people are giving regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which is also used for one-off gifts and 9 people are giving by Standing Order (S.O.). SumUp is used by a small number on a regular basis, in particular at Little Fishes. SumUp was popular at the Colour and Light party, a free event but where several people requested to donate. The "yellow" envelopes can be used for one-off Gift Aid donations or left blank if Gift aid is not appropriate. I would like to encourage everyone who can to use the PGS.

Please see me for more details or search [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Gift Aid and GADS is still to claim for 2023, and 2024 but the figure received will be greatly reduced compared with previous years as the PGS claims GA in the same month the donation is received.

During the year a restricted (*for upkeep of St Marys Church*) legacy of £112k and an unrestricted legacy of £920 were received and a grant of £700 was received from the Parish Council for upkeep of the churchyard. VAT of £893 was reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

Spearehead hall is well used for church and community events, bringing in a steady income stream and goodwill. Thanks to those who ably manage the bookings.

**Expenditure**

Main areas of expenditure are the Free will offering, energy bills, churchyard upkeep, wages, cleaning and insurance. The FWO, originally set at £40k in the budget for 2024, was raised to a total of £46,660, in recognition of a new incumbent starting in post and was fully paid up for 2024. A negative budget for 2025 was sent to the Diocese.

During the year, St Marys Church has financially supported Acts 435, the Salvation Army, Christian Aid, York Foodbank and NewLife Church, Kathmandu, Nepal. Charitable donations amounted to £1291.

*Regular expenditure continues to exceed regular income. The legacy for "upkeep and maintenance" of the church and Spearehead hall supports the shortfall.*

Thank you to everyone who has supported St Marys over the last year, in whatever way.

A special thank you to Denise Edmundson for her book-keeping.

P Chambers March 2025

---

### St. Mary's Church Strensall, Budget 2025

Expenditure				
	Budget 24	to 10/24	to 12.24	Budget 25.
Insurance	2112			2400
FWO	40,000	33,330	46,662	60,000
VH wages	6000			6,100 + N.I.
Vicar expenses	0			1000
Service exp inc CCLI	2000			2000
Utilities (exc cleaning)	8600			5000
Church/hall Repairs/maint	6000			4000
Churchyard maint	inc in above			1000
Funerals/ weddings	2000			2000
Mission giving	1500			1500
IT resources	500			600
Cleaning.	3400			3400
Miscellaneous	2000			2000
Total	74112	56006	67200	91000
Income				
Standing order (bank)	8000	4800		
Other giving (plate)	2500			2500
PGS regular giving	26000	24,662		32000
PGS Gift Aid reg	6000	5,737		7200
PGS one-off inc GA	2600	2,330		2800
GA envelopes	2000	0	0	0
SumUp giving	1000			1000
Donations/ legacy	1000	112,062	112,062	0
Gift Aid SO	2000	not claimed from 2022 /2023		
Gift Aid / GADS other	500	from SumUp / donations		
Hall income	7000			7000
Weddings / funerals	5000			5000
Fundraising	1500			1500
Miscellaneous	3500			3500
Total	68,600			68,300

**Independent Examiner Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

**Independent Examiner Report**  
APCM 2025  
Wednesday 7th May 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe  
Charity Number 1162095**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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 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.

Name: Kanako Whapples, AAT Level 3  
Relevant professional qualification: AAT Level 3 (near completion of Level 4)  
Address: 19 Heath Ride, Strensall, York, YO32 5YW  
Date: Friday 2nd May 2025

**Churchwarden Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

St. Mary's is now blessed with the arrival of Revd Nikki Eastwood who was licensed as Priest-In-Charge on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 by The Bishop of Selby, the Rt Revd Dr Flora Winfield and installed by the Archdeacon of York, the Venerable Sam Rushton. St. Mary's wholeheartedly welcomed Revd Nikki to our Parish and we eagerly look forward to a new chapter in the life of St Mary's here in Strensall.

The church is now open to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 09:00-16:00. Thanks go to Terry Atkinson who has stepped up to ensure the doors are opened and closed each day.

The annual inspections of the following were carried out with no issues to report:

1. Gas heating boiler
2. PAT inspections (Portable Appliances Test)
3. Church clock
4. 5-yearly electrical inspection of the main breaker box circuits (box in the Vestry)
5. Lightning conductor
6. Church organ
7. All fire extinguishers in the church and the hall.

Bookings for the use of the Spearehead Hall have continued to be a healthy source of revenue and thanks to Jean and Penny for managing all the related activities.

Poppies Cleaners continue to clean both the church building and the Spearehead Hall every 2 weeks on a Monday morning. Additional cleaning of the hall is currently being carried out on a Thursday morning on a trial basis during the intervening weeks due to the increased footfall in the hall.

Thanks go to the environment team and the churchyard maintenance team for their hard work keeping access open to the churchyard and graves, including the Commonwealth graves. The John Deere grass cutter broke down at the end of autumn 2024 but has been fully serviced in time for the grass growing season 2025. The acquisition of two additional powered grass cutters is expected to improve the 'look and feel' of the churchyard.

Our thanks go to Peter and Alison Bayliss for their tireless work on the development of a Rest Area and wild flower areas in the churchyard. The many previously planted daffodil bulbs are a wonderful and cheerful sight during early springtime.

Thanks go to Mike Cawthorn who continues to handle projection duties at our 11am services.

We continue to enjoy live music in church. Thanks go to Paul Blenkiron and Alison Bayliss for playing the organ at our services.

It is with sadness to learn that our Parish Administrator Victoria Hayworth will be stepping down from her job at the beginning of April 2025. St Mary's owes much to her dedicated attention to detail in preparing all our policy documentation together with the innumerable activities she has diligently carried out, many of which happen in the background with no fanfare. Her work will be missed very much but hopefully she will continue to be an active volunteer member of St Mary's church.

*Report compiled by :  
Gordon Moore - Churchwarden  
April 2025*

---

**PCC Secretary Report  
APCM 2025  
Sunday 18th May 2025**

**PCC Meetings and Organisation**

The PCC met 8 times in 2024. The Standing Committee met twice.

The PCC celebrated the receipt of a legacy, however recognised that there were still financial challenges ahead.

The following areas continue to be covered by the PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Fundraising

**Key Achievements in 2024**

Two Sunday services continued to be held with the Primary Communion Service at 9.30am and the Informal Service held at 11am. Additional Services were held as appropriate.

The PCC oversaw the vacancy period due to the resignation of the incumbent and were successful in advertising and appointing a new Priest in Charge (Rev. Nikki Eastwood) who was installed in November 2024. This marked the end of a challenging time, however the PCC looked forward to the future.

Other notable achievements are:

- The church continues links with York Foodbank and with various community groups, e.g. The Spearehead Café, Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy and with other churches in Strensall.
- St Mary's continues to hold Level 3 Status on the National Safeguarding Dashboard.
- The PCC considered a project to alter the porch and entrance of the church and this will continue in 2025.
- Support to Easingwold Deanery is ongoing.
- St. Mary's ran a programme of services and events for Christmas 2024.
- Fundraising events included the Carnival café, charity bag collections, Carols with the Salvation Army band. Over the year we raised much needed funds for St. Mary's, Christian Aid, Children's Society, Salvation Army and our friends in Nepal. We are thankful to our community who support us in achieving these aims
- Community events in 2024 included the very successful 'Light Party' and other children's activities including Holiday Club, Little Fishes and Open the Book assemblies.
- Home Groups are established, currently 3 meeting regularly.
- The PCC supports the work of Acts 435.
- During Harvest Festival, gifts were given to over 30 businesses to thank them for their service to the community, these were very well received.
- The PCC met a number of environmental challenges regarding the trees within the church grounds.

**Future Challenges 2025/6**

The PCC looks forward to working with our new incumbent to grow the vision of St Mary's and in see the mission of the church enlarged.

*Report prepared by Shirley Bamford (PCC Secretary)  
March 2025*

---