

The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Corby Glen



Annual Report and Financial Statements of Corby Glen Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Rural Dean:

The Revd Stephen Buckman

Priest in charge:

The Revd Helen Roulston (from 7 April 2026)

Churchwardens:

Mr Mick Franklin and Ms Sue Glover

Independent Examiner:

Anne Davies, MAAT, BSc

Glenhill, Corby Glen, NG33 4NY

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Evangelist,
Corby Glen, in the Diocese of Lincoln, is registered with the Charities Commission

Registered Charity: 1209424

Annual Report of Corby Glen Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John the Evangelist, Corby Glen, together with the incumbent or (in vacancy) the Rural Dean, has the responsibility for promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, spiritual, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

A key element of this mission is providing and maintaining a building for worship and for religious ceremonies such as marriages and funerals for the people of Corby Glen and beyond – the Grade 1 listed Church of St John the Evangelist with unique, internationally significant medieval wallpaintings – and maintaining the associated public churchyard for burials. Our Christian mission is also fulfilled through community outreach and services, working with local schools and other community groups

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, and support other churches across the benefice and deanery, through:

- Regular opportunities for worship and prayer;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Mission and outreach work; and
- Playing our part in the work of Beltisloe Local Mission Partnership, Beltisloe Deanery and Lincoln Diocese.

To support this, it is vital that we maintain and preserve the fabric of the church building, and update its facilities to meet 21st-century needs. To that end, since 2017 we have been working actively with the church architect Mark Goodwill-Hodgson, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and various external experts and consultants to plan for improved access and flexibility of use throughout the building, to install toilet and serving facilities, and to ensure a comfortable and welcoming environment for all.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

In February 2025, the parish entered a second year of vacancy. However, with the strong support of the Rural Dean, Revd Stephen Buckman, the deanery Curate, Revd Isaac Frisby, visiting priests with Permission to Officiate (PTO), and our two Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs), Sue Glover and Louise Small, the church was able to offer services of Holy Communion or Morning Worship every Sunday.

During this year, the ALMs were pleased to receive the help of primary-school teacher Sophie Warner and her young family, to make the Morning Worship services more welcoming and inclusive for all ages.

The Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion was usually led by the Rural Dean or Revd Peter Lister. We are grateful to them both for enabling this important, quietly reflective and prayerful said service for the whole benefice to continue during the long vacancy.

In February 2025, Mick Franklin and Louise Small were trained and licensed as Lay Ministers of Holy Communion, joining Sue Glover in this key role.

The church continues to be open daily for visitors and private prayer, an opportunity regularly used by individuals across the village, who comment on the sense of peace and welcome they feel as they enter the building.

For music, we have continued to welcome the organ playing of Vicky Buckman, with Martin Fuggle helping on occasion for pastoral and other services. When an organist is not available, we are able to play recorded accompaniments through the church's sound system, and in Services of the Word we have experimented with unaccompanied unison singing of Taizé chants or simple plainsong canticles led by Revd Isaac Frisby or the ALMs.

Margaret Lyon organises a rota of readers for the lectionary readings at Sunday services. Intercessions are usually led by an ALM.

Flowers beautify the church and enhance our worship in a visual way. Jill Walsingham organises a team of volunteer arrangers and others who wish to support them by donations for flowers, often in memory of loved ones.

[Mission, outreach and fundraising](#)

During Holy Week 2025, Revd Peter Lister led the Triduum, the solemn three-day service commemorating the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, at our church for the benefit of rural parishes across Beltisloe Local Mission Partnership. He also presided at our Easter Sunday and Christmas Day Family Holy Communion services (attended by 42 and 24 individuals respectively, including several children at each).

During Lent 2026, with the support of Revd Isaac Frisby, a fortnightly session of *Lectio Divina*, an ancient system of meditating on Scripture, was held in a private home, attracting participants from several villages.

Special services for the two schools in our village, Corby Glen Community Primary School and the Charles Read Academy, were led by the Rural Dean at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas, enabling us to continue this vital ministry to young people and their families. The church is always packed (well over 100 attendees) on these occasions, sometimes requiring two 'sittings' to accommodate all the students. A special mention must be made of the generosity of both schools at harvest time, which resulted in grocery donations weighing nearly 200kg for Bourne Food Bank.

Messy Church sessions were organised around the major church festivals, with families and friends enjoying themed stories, crafts, music, puppets, prayers and refreshments. Our

thanks go to Ann Warren and Louise Small and their team of volunteers for their continuing work in this area.

At the request of Corby Glen Parish Council, Mick Franklin (churchwarden) and Sue Glover (ALM) organised and led commemorations around the Beacon and War Memorial on the village green for the 70th anniversary of end of World War II (both VE Day and VJ Day), and (with the support of Royal Navy veteran Adam Clink) Remembrance Sunday. These occasions are always well supported by the wider community.

Services for Corby Glen Sheep Fair Sunday and a celebration of the Harvest (key occasions in our rural setting) were organised by the ALMs; the Harvest Festival collection of £67 was donated by the PCC to Bourne Food Bank.

Efforts are being made to encourage new people – churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike – to join our activities whenever possible.

For example, on Sheep Fair Sunday, 5 October 2025, a Cake Stall organised by such a group raised £488 for church funds. A proposed fundraising Harvest Supper sadly had to be cancelled because of the closeness of Sheep Fair celebrations. A revised timing for the Harvest Festival and Supper will therefore be considered for 2026.

A highlight of the year for many of us was the lay-led Village Carol Service, which involved groups from across the community in organising very effective publicity, decorating the church with Advent greenery, supporting the singing, reading the lessons, and providing delicious refreshments afterwards. The church was packed, and the offering resulted in a £500 donation to the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal.

Foodbank contributions continue to be left in the church porch and are taken to the Trussell Trust depot in Bourne.

We have an active team of bell-ringers working out of St John's as well as three other local towers. Though few in number – a core of five members – we have advertised and encouraged new people to join us and learn to ring. This has brought along six new people who are currently exploring the considerable challenges involved; we are giving them time and tuition in the hope that they will become permanent members of our group and enable us to ring for services and other village events.

We are currently planning a village fête in the grounds of the Old Rectory to take place in July 2026 with the hope of repeating the success of our previous venture a couple of years ago. Already several individuals from the new estates in Corby Glen have asked if they might be part of the organising team.

As is common in rural parishes, many church members also have roles in other village activities and organisations, such as managing the Church Street Rooms, community choirs, local history society, publishing a monthly magazine for local villages, running websites for community groups, art club, flower arranging... This embeddedness exemplifies a key element of our faith in action.

Church Fabric

A lot of practical work goes on behind the scenes to maintain and enhance our beautiful and historic church building for the benefit of all. This continues the long tradition of church buildings evolving over the centuries to meet the needs of succeeding generations. We would like to thank all who have generously given their time and expertise as well as making financial donations.

During 2025, besides the annual checks on the roof alarm, sound system, PAT testing, and organ tuning, the following work was completed:

- The churchyard gates, lamp-post and boiler shed were professionally repainted and renovated in the autumn of 2025.
- The church roof lead has been repaired recently; several troublesome leaks should now be cured.
- Some repairs to worn-out wiring and the fan heaters have had to be made.

Development Project

Since 2017 the PCC has been actively working with the church architect, Mark Goodwill-Hodgson, on plans for the redevelopment of the church building to make it fit for purpose for the 21st century.

The first part of the plan – the replacement of a failing 50-year-old boiler with a modern, efficient boiler system that has the potential to be converted to burn bio-fuel, plus necessary infrastructure for water, power and broadband – came to fruition in 2023 when the old boiler broke down completely. In 2024 and 2025 the new boiler has enabled the church to continue to be heated using a conservation grade regime (background 10°C, raised gently to 14–16°C for events) using 28% less oil per year (and a parallel reduction in costs), and resulting in a 29% reduction in net CO₂ emissions from 2023 to 2024 and 2025 as calculated by the CofE energy footprint tool.

Further extensive consultations with the church architect, the DAC, external experts and heritage bodies are continuing with the aim to install toilet facilities and a server, update the power and lighting systems, improve access for all and open up the body of the Church.

Thanks to a substantial legacy from a late and much missed parishioner and a generous contribution towards the cost of installing a toilet from the local Methodist Church when it closed, we will be able to move forward with the development plan in the knowledge that, once approved, we are in a financial position to complete the implementation.

Statistics and the church electoral roll

The usual Sunday attendance in 2025 was 12 adults and 1 child. The average weekly attendance in October 2025 was 28, including 6 children, and the worshipping community 102 across all ages.

2025 saw one baptism, one wedding and seven funerals conducted at Corby Glen Church.

There were 52 on the church electoral roll when it was renewed in early 2025. In 2026 the number still stands at 52.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC are part of Beltisloe Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with Lincoln Diocese as a whole. Deanery Synod meetings are held in Corby Glen Church because of its central geographic location – an example of its growing role as a hub church for the wider area.

During 2025, *all* the rural churches in Beltisloe Local Mission Partnership (LMP) entered vacancy, resulting in a near-impossible workload for the Rural Dean as the only stipendiary minister for 30+ villages as well as his own, growing parish, the market town of Bourne. This situation is slowly being resolved by the Deanery and Diocese, with four parishes in the south of the deanery coming under the Oversight Ministry of a neighbouring Society priest within Beltisloe Deanery; in 2026 they will become part of the Diocese's Richborough LMP.

In the spring of 2025, Lincoln Diocese gave Corby Glen Group (six parishes) and Ringstone-in-Aveland Group (five parishes) the go-ahead to advertise for a new incumbent. The post is to be held initially in plurality. The first round of advertising unfortunately failed to attract a suitable candidate, but the second round, from September with interviews in November, resulted in an appointment being made. Revd Helen Roulston will be licensed to the post on 7 April 2026 at a joint service at St John the Baptist Church, Morton, the hub church for the Ringstone Group. We are looking forward to working with Revd Helen and our sister churches in the two benefices.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements from the independent examiner detail the PCC's income vs. expenditure over the course of 2025. Key points to note:

- Compared with 2024, planned giving and collections at services are down substantially – the PCC will need to consider a giving campaign (the previous one was back in 2018).
- Gift aid for 2025 is yet to be recovered from HMRC, via the Small Donations Scheme and for the tax-efficient planned giving.
- The income from investments has increased substantially, both unrestricted and restricted, helping to make up most of the shortfall from other income sources.
- The largest regular expenditure for the PCC is the Covenant Pledge towards the cost of stipendiary ministry in Lincoln Diocese. In 2025, the PCC contributed a Covenant Pledge of £20,000. The total planned pledge for 2026 is £18,000.
- Church running costs are down slightly compared with 2024.

Legacies

In late 2025 the PCC received the final legacy payment from the estate of Mrs Stella Surkitt, whose will stipulated that two-ninths of the legacy was for the Fabric Fund, two-ninths for the Churchyard Fund, and five-ninths unrestricted, for the General Fund.

In January 2025, money from this legacy was invested with CCLA through the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund (for the General Fund) and their Investment Fund units (for the Churchyard Fund). A further tranche has been added to the General Fund deposit fund (March 2026). Money for the Churchyard Fund paid for the renovation of the church gate, lamp-post and boiler shed. Fabric Fund money is earmarked for the Development Project, and is held in readiness to be used whenever the faculty is granted. The Covenant Pledge for

2025 and 2026 is being funded from the unrestricted part of the legacy; the PCC sees locally based stipendiary ministry as essential to fulfil the mission of the Church and therefore makes it a priority.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on the General (unrestricted) Fund which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments (approximately £16,000 in 2026) in case of emergency. The reserves are comfortably in excess of that.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The benefice shares a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Faith Ross. The Diocese of Lincoln's safeguarding webpages (www.lincoln.anglican.org/parish-support/safeguarding/) contain vital links and information including contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

All PCC members (and others) are encouraged and supported to undertake the online CofE safeguarding training courses "Basic Awareness", "Foundations" and "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse". In addition, the churchwardens and ALMs have completed the "Leadership" course run by the Safeguarding Team at Lincoln Diocese.

All ALMs have up-to-date Enhanced Criminal Record Certificates organised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. The Parish Safeguarding Officer organises DBS checks for volunteers with Messy Church.

Safeguarding matters are always on the agenda for PCC meetings and the APCM. Thankfully, there have been no significant safeguarding issues within the parish since the last APCM.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met seven times during 2025.

Administrative Information

The Church of St John the Evangelist is located at Church Street, Corby Glen, NG33 4NJ. The correspondence address is: 1 Ferndale Close, Corby Glen, NG33 4NZ.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022). The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Evangelist, Corby Glen, in the Diocese of Lincoln, is registered with the Charities Commission (Registered Charity: 1209424).

The Ministry Team and Church Officers

Rural Dean	The Revd Stephen Buckman
Priest in charge	The Revd Helen Roulston (from 7 April 2026)
Authorised Lay Ministers	Ms Sue Glover (reauthorised November 2024) Mrs Louise Small (authorised November 2024)
Churchwardens	Mr Mick Franklin Ms Sue Glover
Hon. PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Woodman
Hon. Joint Treasurers	Mrs Jan Larter (died in post, 4 February 2026) Mrs Elizabeth Parsons Mrs Sally Franklin (from 24 February 2026)
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Phillipa Lane

Corby Glen Parochial Church Council

This section lists the PCC members who served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved. The Rural Dean, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives are ex-officio members of the PCC.

Rural Dean	The Revd Stephen Buckman BA (Hons)
Churchwardens	Mr Michael Franklin Ms Sue Glover
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mrs Phillipa Lane Ms Sue Glover
Elected PCC Members	Mr Vincent Hedley Lewis Mr David Hinsley (to 12 May 2025; did not seek re-election) Mrs Jan Larter (died 4 February 2026) Mrs Margaret Lyon Mrs Elizabeth Parsons Mr Jon Wakerley Mrs Sophie Warner (from 12 May 2025) Mr Nigel Warren Mrs Sue Woodman
Co-opted PCC Members	Mrs Louise Small (from 16 September 2025) Mrs Sally Franklin (from 24 February 2026)

Finance

Independent Examiner	Anne Davies, MAAT, BSc
Bank account	Santander, 09-01-55, 04126709 Account name: Corby Glen Parochial Church Council

The financial statements and independent examiner's report for 2025 are reproduced on the following pages.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St
John The Evangelist, Corby Glen, In the Diocese of Lincoln**

Registered Charity: 1209424

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Examined by:

Anne Davies. MAAT, BSc

Glenhill, Corby Glen, NG33 4NY

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John The Evangelist, Corby Glen, In
the Diocese of Lincoln
Registered Charity: 1209424
Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025**

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St. John's Church, Corby Glen

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 & 2 is in respect of an examination carried out under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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

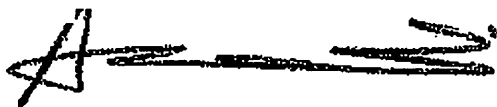
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- 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.



Anne Davies. MAAT, BSc
Glenhill, 4 Mussons Close
Corby Glen
Grantham
NG33 4NY

Date **11th April 2026**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John The Evangelist, Corby Glen, In the
Diocese of Lincoln
Registered Charity: 1209424
Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025**

	2025		2024	
INCOME	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Tax efficient planned giving	£ 4,012	£ -	£ 9,383	£ -
Other planned giving	£ 1,416	£ -	£ 3,750	£ -
Collections at services	£ 545	£ -	£ 1,489	£ -
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals	£ 3,840	£ -	£ 2,510	£ -
Gift Aid recovered	£ -	£ -	£ 1,362	£ -
Legacies received	£ 31,119	£ 24,858	£ 80,727	£ 64,582
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,133
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>				
Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<u>Income from Investments</u>				
Dividends, interest, income from property	£ 3,239	£ 3,245	£ -	£ 2,117
<u>Church activities</u>				
Fees retained by PCC	£ 3,376	£ -	£ 3,263	£ -
Trading activities (gross proceeds)	£ 98	£ -	£ 188	£ -
<u>Other incoming resources</u>				
Other receipts / income not already listed	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total income / receipts	£ 47,645	£ 28,103	£ 102,672	£ 67,832
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Costs of generating funds</u>				
Costs of fundraising activities	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<u>Church activities</u>				
Mission giving and donations	£ 787	£ -	£ 500	£ -
Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 20,000	-	£ 18,000	-
Salaries,wages and honoraria	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Clergy and staff expenses	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<u>Church expenses</u>				
Mission and evangelism costs	£ 121	£ -	£ 1,001	£ 1,216
Church running expenses (including Governance)	£ 8,544	£ 446	£ 9,365	£ 719
Church utility bills	£ 2,297	£ -	£ 2,335	£ -
Costs of trading	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<u>Major capital expenditure</u>				
Major repairs to church building	£ -	£ 7,033	£ -	£ 15,982
Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<u>Other expenditure</u>				
Other payment / expenditure not already listed	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total expenditure / payments	£ 31,749	£ 7,479	£ 31,201	£ 17,917
Net Surplus for the year	£36,520		£121,386	

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John The Evangelist, Corby Glen, In the Diocese of Lincoln
Registered Charity: 1209424
Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income and Expenditure Account		
Balance brought forward	271,590	150,204
Net movement on income and expenditure account	36,520	121,386
Balance carried forward	308,110	271,590

Balance on Fund Accounts:

General	106,650	140,755
Development	5,200	5,200
Churchyard	108,902	49,516
Fabric	85,258	74,377
Sunday school	1,533	1,175
Bell tower	567	567
Total Funds	308,110	271,591

Represented by:

Santander Current account	138,475	252,031
CCLA - Corby Glen Church fabric Fund	950	950
CCLA - Corby Glen Sunday School (Holman) Fund	350	350
CCLA - Corby Glen Churchyard (Musson) Fund	487	487
CCLA - Corby Glen Churchyard (Surkitt) Fund	50,000	-
CCLA - Corby Glen General (Surkitt) Fund	100,000	-
M&G - Corby Church Fabric (Holman) Trust	17,300	17,300
M&G - Corby Sunday School (Holman) Bequest	350	350
Sum Up Account	122	122
Cash in hand	76	-
	308,110	271,590

Notes to the accounts

Details of investments and deposits held by	No of	Capital	Market	Market
1 LDTBF Limited.	Shares	invested	value @	value @
		£	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
		£	£	£
Corby Glen Church Fabric fund	2091	18,250	40,056	37,494
Corby Glen Sunday School fund	453	700	4,373	8,627
Corby Glen Churchyard fund	2326.79	50,487	51,811	4,000
Corby Glen General fund - deposit fund only	n/a	100,000	100,000	-
		169,437	196,240	50,121

Unrealised gain on cost 26,803

Approved by the PCC on 19 April 2026

Signed E. Parsons

Elizabeth Parsons, Joint Treasurer

Signed S. J. Franklin

Sally Franklin, Joint Treasurer

Signed Michael Franklin

Michael Franklin - PCC Chair / Churchwarden