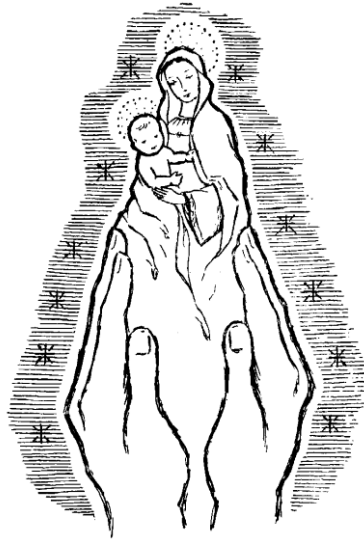


St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 30 April 2026

at 19:30

St Mary's Community Hall

St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston

Election of Churchwardens: 30 April 2026

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (8 May 2025)
3. Election / Appointment of Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 30 April 2026

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting (8 May 2025)
3. Election of up to TWO representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod for up to THREE years
4. Election of up to THREE members to serve on the PCC for up to THREE years.
5. Electoral Roll report (Janet Martin). The revised roll can be consulted on the noticeboard in Church.
6. Annual Report for 2025 on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally (Mary Dicken)
7. The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2025 independently examined. (Susan Chase). Gift Aid Report (Marian Watson)
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church (Kathryn Waite)
10. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (David Bard)
11. Safeguarding Report (Barbara Hylton)
12. Vicar's Report
13. Any other matters of parochial or general Church interest
 - Bereavement Café (Kathryn Waite)
 - Bellringers (Samantha Gorman)
 - Church Office (Joanna Johnson)
 - Community Hall Report (Suella Hunting)
 - Craft Group (Tina Casey)
 - Diocesan Synod (Jeannie Green)
 - Flower Arranging Report (Barbara Hylton)
 - Friday Home Group (Petra Shakeshaft)
 - Magazine Report (Petra Shakeshaft)
 - Monday Home Group (Andrew/Joanne Beale)
 - Monday House Group on Zoom (Rosie Whitmell)
 - Mothers' Union Report (Janet Martin)
 - Night Prayer (Dianne Conway)
 - Open Door Music Group (Clare Hulme)
 - Refresh (Rebecca Herrick)
 - Soup and Sandwiches and Tea and Friendship (Mary Richmond)
 - SYG (Alistair Montgomery)
 - Tuesday Stay and Play (Anne Martin)
 - World-wide Mission Committee Report (Susan Lowdell)

Minutes of the meetings in 2025

Election of Churchwardens

This took place on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 19:30 in Church with the vicar, The Reverend Kathryn Waite in the chair.

She read a passage from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 2.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Paul Cain, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, Mary Dicken, Clare Glendinning, Jean Green, The Revd Gordon Harper, The Revd Ian Henderson, Suella Hunting, Rebecca Herrick, Alexander Henderson, Clare Hulme, Stephen Hulme, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Susan Lowdell, The Revd William Lyon Tupman, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Jane Moloney, Anand Pillai, Marcela Rosas, Corinne Roughley, Stephen Roughley, Paul Shakeshaft, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft and Hilary Streeter.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from Sebastian Aplin, Amanda Cain, John Crompton, Peter Green, Judith Harper, Joanna Johnson, Canon John Pinder, Wendy Redgewell, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond and Marian Watson

2 Minutes of the last meeting (25 April 2024)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of Janet Martin seconded by David Bard.

3 Election of Churchwardens

Corinne Roughley was nominated by Marian Watson and seconded by Rebecca Herrick
Sebastian Aplin was nominated by Petra Shakeshaft and seconded by Robert Richmond

There being no other nominations the chairman declared that they were duly appointed.
She thanked Corinne Roughley for all she had contributed during the past year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This took place on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 19:30 in Church with the vicar, The Reverend Kathryn Waite in the chair.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Paul Cain, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, Mary Dicken, Clare Glendinning, Jean Green, The Revd Gordon Harper, The Revd Ian Henderson, Suella Hunting, Rebecca Herrick, Alexander Henderson, Clare Hulme, Stephen Hulme, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Susan Lowdell, The Revd William Lyon Tupman, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Jane Moloney, Anand Pillai, Marcela Rosas, Corinne Roughley, Stephen Roughley, Paul Shakeshaft, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft and Hilary Streeter.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from Sebastian Aplin, Amanda Cain, John Crompton, Peter Green, Judith Harper, Joanna Johnson, Canon John Pinder, Wendy Redgewell, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, and Marian Watson.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (25 April 2024)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of David Bard seconded by Anand Pillai

3 Election of up to three members of the PCC to serve for three years and one to serve for one year.

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Sarah Bard	Rebecca Herrick	Mary Richmond
Mary Dicken	John Crompton	Kieran Cooper
Hilary Streeter.	Marian Watson	Mary Dicken
Clare Hulme	Rosina Whitmell	Paul Cain

As there were no other nominations, they were duly declared elected by the chairman, Sarah Bard to serve for one year and the others to serve for three years.

4 Electoral Roll

Janet Martin presented the revised Electoral Roll, with eighty-nine names on it, three being non-resident. Thanks were expressed to Janet for all her hard work. It was proposed by Corinne Roughley and seconded by Stephen Roughley that the Roll be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour. Francesca Rosa was added to the roll.

6 Annual Report for 2024

The report was received, with thanks being expressed to the secretary and treasurer. The report was accepted on the proposition of Janet Martin, seconded by David Bard, all voting in favour.

7 The Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2024

Alexander Henderson reported. He noted that much of the work on the Church would be impossible without Ward's Charity. The chairman expressed the gratitude of the congregation to Ally for all his work over the years. Sue Chase will replace him.

Sue Lowdell proposed and Tina Casey seconded that the accounts be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

Marian Watson's report Gift Aid for 2024 was received. Marian was thanked for all she had done.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed by Corinne Roughley and seconded by Barbara Hylton that Thomas Quinn be appointed as independent examiner and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

9 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The vicar reported the death of Brian Page who is much missed as chairman of the Fabric Committee. Hence the architect Ashley Courtney will be doing more.

10 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

David Bard and Clare Glendinning reported on Deanery Synod proceedings during the year.

11 Vicar's Report

It has been a difficult year for the church of England. Further work on the prayers for living in love and faith has largely stalled whilst further theological work takes place. We

have been wracked with more safeguarding scandals leading to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In our Diocese we were not able to appoint a new Bishop of Ely. The nomination committee will meet in the autumn with interviews following on. We pray that we will have a new bishop by this time next year.

In the meantime, life in the parish life goes on and there is much to celebrate:

The ministry team here has grown and I am very grateful to them all for their support and contributions; our curates Rev Will Lyon Tupman, who was joined last July by Rev Ian Henderson; to our retired priests Gordon Harper and John Pinder who help out at different services, to Sally our ALM, Becca who is now almost two years into her ordination training and Joanne who is approaching half way point of her training to be a licensed lay minister. Will is due to move on to a new post later this year.

Refresh, Soup and Sandwiches, Tea and Friendship, and the jumble sales all continue to be extremely popular.

Our small groups are flourishing with a new one emerging from a daytime Lent group. Our Sunday night youth work continues to grow with our new YouthInc youth worker Hannah Elphick joining in September. SYG of course also continues too.

School links have grown over the last year with regular assemblies being taken at both Bellbird and Icknield, visits from different classes from both schools to the church have taken place to enhance the children's learning, and services at Christmas and Easter for the schools have been held in the church.

This year the Brownies had a sleepover which was very successful. I got to enjoy their camp fire in the churchyard (fire pit) and eat smores.

There was a wonderful baptism service last year with 6 children and young people baptised followed by six children receiving their first communion. We are looking forward to the confirmation service in a few weeks time with 7 confirmation candidates from our parishes.

Simone and Jennifer stepped down as safeguarding officers and I have had to act as Parish Safeguarding Office in the interim, however I am pleased to say that Barbara Hylton was appointed our new Parish Safeguarding Officer at our last PCC meeting, and she is currently completing all the necessary training which will take a month or two. Following this she will be formally appointed in a service. We are extremely grateful to Jo Johnson for becoming our DBS administrator, which has been a huge help, most people's DBS checks are now up to date.

Thank you to Jo for all that she does to help everything run smoothly. A huge thank you to everyone for all you do – so many people do so much to keep this church functioning,

Sadly, in Babraham there are still no church wardens and with only three people on the PCC, the running of the church in its current form is not sustainable in the long term. This will necessitate serious discussions within the congregation and the wider community about the way forward. One option would be to form a joint parish with St Mary's Sawston with a single PCC, who would be in charge of the governance of the church. Advice from the Diocese regarding the way forward is continuing to be sought.

12 Matters of Parochial and General Church Interest

1) Other reports

These were received from:

Diocesan Synod
Church Office

Jeannie Green
Joanna Johnson

Community Hall report	Suella Hunting
Craft Group	Christine Casey
Flower Arranging	Barbara Hylton
Magazine Committee	Dianne Conway
Monday House Group	Andrew/ Joanne Beale
Monday House Group on Zoom	Rosina Whitmell
Mothers' Union	Janet Martin
Night Prayer	Dianne Conway
Refresh	Rebecca Herrick
Safeguarding	Kathryn Waite
Soup & Sandwiches and Tea & Friendship	Mary Richmond
SYG	Alistair Montgomery
World-wide Mission Committee	Susan Lowdell

Mary Dicken expressed the thanks of everyone to the vicar for all that she does.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:21 with the Grace.

Mary Dicken, Secretary to the PCC

Electoral Roll Report for the APCM 30 April 2026

Revised Electoral Roll 2026

The Church Electoral Roll has been revised in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and now includes eighty-eight members. A copy of the revised roll without addresses is attached.

The following names have been added or removed from the roll:

Added:

Alice Couzens
David Crompton
James Johnson

Removed:

Max Ashley - deceased
John Darling - deceased
Avril Eyres-Harvey – no longer resident in the parish
John Harvey - deceased
Dorothy Mary Wilson – deceased

Janet Martin, Electoral Roll Officer

**St Mary the Virgin, Sawston
Revised Electoral Roll 2026**

Sebastian	Aplin	Eric	Jacobs
Andrew	Arthur	Josephine Edwina	John
Jean Lesley Ross	Ashley	James	Johnson
David Roy	Bard	Joanna	Johnson
Sarah Judith Yarrow	Bard	Daniel MacDonald	Lewis
Joanne	Beale	Enid May	Lewis
Andrew	Beale	Anne	Little
Antonio Raphael Bruno	Blair	Judith Margaret	Lovell
Derrick Augustus	Blair	Susan Mary	Lowdell
Adriana Sandra	Bruno	Ellen Catherine	MacDonald
Caroline Ann	Burgess	Roger	Mansfield
Stephen	Burgess	Samantha	Marsh
Holly	Burgess	Janet Mary	Martin
Paul	Cain	Janet May	Marven
Amanda	Cain	Shirley	Matthews
Christine Elizabeth	Casey	Anne Jane	Moloney
Sarah	Caswell	Rachel	Norridge
Dianne Mary	Conway	Cynthia	Okpokiri
Kieran	Cooper	Margaret Amy	Palmer
Alice	Cozens	Elizabeth Ann	Parker
David William Thomasson	Crompton	Ann Patricia	Peacock
Jennifer	Crompton	Jacqueline	Pickett
John David	Crompton	Anand Mark	Pillai
Isobel	Darling	Wendy	Redgewell
Margaret Vera	Davis	Mary Christina	Richmond
Janet Margaret	De Luca	Robert Geoffrey	Richmond
Yvonne	Denny	Francesca	Rosa
Mary Christine	Dicken	Ana Marcela	Rosas
Victoria	Ejike	Corinne	Roughley
Alan Richard	Farrington	Stephen David	Roughley
Julian	Few	Paul John	Shakeshaft
Simone	Few	Agnes	Stamper
Pauline Betty	Finbow	Avis Dulcie	Stinson
Mun Kwun	Flint	Geraldine Ann	Stott
Clare	Glendinning	Hilary Barbara	Streeter
Victory	Godson	Dorothy	Ward
Goodness	Godson	Marian	Watson
Jeannie M	Green	Hayley Lynn	Webb
Peter John	Green	Paul Edwin	Whitmell
George	Haddad	Rosina	Whitmell
Judith	Harper		
Rebecca Ruth	Herrick		
Christopher	Hooper		
Clare	Hulme		
Stephen	Hulme		
Suella Mary	Hunting		
Barbara	Hylton		
Les	Hylton		

2025 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Sawston, Cambridge

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Kathryn Waite to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Sawston. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade 1 listed building, and of the burial ground. The Parish Council undertakes responsibility for the churchyard. The Community Hall Committee is responsible for maintaining the Community Hall in Church Lane and reports to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Mary's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for those living in Sawston
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services remained the same, with a Eucharist and Open Door with children's provision on most Sundays and an all-together Communion service once a month and on some other occasions. We are fortunate to have the help of The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft and of Canon John Pinder and The Reverend Gordon Harper. Fr Will Lyon Tupman left us in August on his appointment as Team Vicar in the benefice of Cottesloe in the diocese of Oxford. The Reverend Ian Henderson was priested in June. Rebecca Herrick has continued her ordination training and Joanne Beale has continued her training as an LLM.

At the close of 2025 there were 89 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 3 of whom are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance in person in Church, counted in October, was 72 adults and 15 children. 5 people worshipped at home. There were 111 communicants at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community had c.1200 worshippers. There were 94 communicants at Easter.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We held 13 baptisms and 7 people were confirmed. We held 9 funeral services in Church and 7 services at crematoria this year. There were 7 interments of ashes.

We have been grateful for the contribution made by musicians at Open Door and organists including Kieran Cooper, Craig Henderson and John Bryden.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC represent the parish on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church. The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day was held at Balsham.

The Church Building, Grounds and the Community Hall

Normal routine maintenance was carried out under a contract with White Roofing. The work on the Pugin brasses is still outstanding at a cost of about £24 000. New soakaways were constructed in the churchyard to the south of the church to take the water well away from the building. The replastering of the interior of the Church will take place in 2026. The church architect carried out the quinquennial inspection and his report is now being considered. It was agreed to proceed with a full pointing of the exterior of the Church on the north side

The Church hosted a number of musical events and welcomed audiences who were not necessarily regular worshippers.

The mowing of the burial ground was carried out by Kester Lilley with some help from working parties.

The Community Hall continued to host a wide range of community activities and some fund-raising Church functions were held. Jumble Sales remain very popular.

The church office continued to operate under the very efficient management of Joanna Johnson, the Parish Administrator, who makes a huge contribution to the smooth running of the parish. She is also the DBS administrator.

Pastoral Care

Regular contact with all members of the Church family has been maintained by the vicar and her team. The vicar's ministry to the bereaved is an important aspect of her work and a Bereavement Café was set up to help cater for the needs of the bereaved. Visits to the primary schools and visits from the schools to the Church building also took place. Soup and Sandwiches and Tea and Friendship remained very well-supported with increasing numbers leading to a necessarily greater output in soup-production. The Craft Group and Refresh also flourished. The Church took on responsibility for Stay and Play (formerly the Toy Library) which meets weekly at the Community Hall. The Mothers' Union Branch meets monthly.

Work with Children and Young People

Junior Church has continued during the Open Door Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month during term time. The sessions were led mainly by Corinne, who put the sessions together, and was helped by a number of people. We urgently require at least one or two more

people to help lead these sessions. Teaching and discipling the children in our congregation is one of the PCC's priorities.

Our Sunday evening youth group for children and young people in school years 5-8 (ages 10-13) continues to run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5.30pm in the hall. There are normally around 6-8 young people including several from Babraham. We play games (Uno, Dobble and Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza are favorites), read the Bible, watch film clips, do crafts and eat a lot of pizza! Also, at the later time of 7.15pm on the same evening, 5 or 6 older teenagers in year 9+ meet to do some Bible study and discuss faith and life issues. All these sessions were led by Will, until he left in October, Ian, Kathryn and Hannah Elphick, our wonderful YouthInc Youth worker, whose hard work and energy is much appreciated.

In October, 8 young people went by minibus to Ely Cathedral for a joint youth event with other young people from across the Diocese. There were lots of activities in the Lady Chapel, including bracelet making and Lego which were much enjoyed, pizza and doughnuts, and the evening finished with compline by candlelight in the Cathedral itself. Several young people had never been to the Cathedral and seeing their faces was wonderful as they took in the building. There has been a further trip to the Cathedral for a follow-up event in February and we hope that the group will continue to attend these events in the future.

In the Autumn, four of our children were prepared to receive their first communions by Ian and myself. Regular sessions took place on Sunday afternoons for the children. Their admission to communion took place at services in December and January 2026. Two of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Dagmar at the service at St Mary's in June following preparation.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support a number of charities engaged in mission and several fund-raising events have been held. We have maintained our support of the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Premananda, the Children's Society, Christian Aid, the Mission to Seafarers and Save the Children, along with USPG, the East Anglian Air Ambulance Amos Trust and Emmaus, Cambridge.

We are a collection point for the JHC Food Bank.

We had a water station at the Fun Run and a Light Station on October 31.

We co-operated with The Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday. The Deputy Lieutenant, Jennifer Crompton of Sawston Hall, was present.

Our parish magazine, published quarterly, is free of charge and keeps our parishioners informed of all the important matters affecting our Church and includes articles which help to develop our knowledge of and trust in Jesus. We also contribute to *Sawston Scene*, the village magazine.

Ecumenical Relationships

The vicar and the Reverend Phil Nevard of Sawston Free Church have co-operated on a number of projects. Fr John of Our Lady of Lourdes joins in when he can and all three ministers officiated at the Remembrance Day service.

Financial Review

(See appendix for financial statement)

2025 saw changes for the PCC both in their finances and in the way those finances were administered. Following the resignation of the incumbent Treasurer the decision to co-opt and employ a professional accountant to take on the role was made. This led to a renewal of

financial procedures and reporting that will be taken forward and will ensure tight controls and timely reporting.

St Mary's continues to benefit from the support of Ward's Charity which has provided grants to cover church running costs, maintenance, essential building works and overheads. £93,534 was awarded this year.

The payment of Ministry Share is not covered by Ward's Charity and the PCC relies on voluntary giving, bank interest and the rental of the Church Hall to cover this cost. This year income was just short of reaching this target - £63,577 income, £64,298 Ministry Share. However, it is known that there is income from the performance of Occasional Offices during 2024 and 2025 still to be received that would have more than covered this shortfall.

The cost of Church Activities (excluding Ministry Share and Major Repairs) amounted to £48,863, a fall of 22% from 2024 (£63,123).

Major repairs that took place this year were the Boundary Wall and the repairing and improving of the drainage system.

The final tranche of depreciation on the AV system was allocated this year (£4,105) so the full cost of £32,403 has now been allocated to the accounts.

In all there were net expenses of **£16,749** in Unrestricted Funds and net expenses of **£1,629** in Restricted Funds, taking **£18,378** out of Reserves. (In 2024 there was a surplus of £4,371 to add to Reserves).

Total Reserves now stand at **£30,332 Unrestricted** and **£48,443 Restricted**; a total of **£78,775**

Ward's Charity

Under the terms of the Articles of Association of Ward's Charity, its aim is to provide funding to be applied to General Purposes of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Sawston, Cambridgeshire. The trustees, who include the vicar and churchwardens ex officio, have explained in a letter to PCC members their views on which expenditure should be covered. This includes current expenditure, capital projects, supporting the expansion of the Church's work within Sawston and acquiring accommodation for a curate/parish worker. It does not include meeting the Parish Share at present. Each year the PCC will outline to the trustees the likely areas of expenditure to be undertaken in that year so that the trustees can ensure they have the necessary funds available.

In 2025 the trustees covered standard items such as the CCLI licence, organ tuning and payment to an organist, water rates, the independent examiner fees, insurance, Gas and Electricity, repairs to the Church, photocopier expenses, telephone costs, Church consumables and the salary of the administrator. This help totalled £93 534.

Volunteers

We should like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and supportive community. This includes virtually all Church members, so we cannot mention individuals, but the contribution made by everyone is much appreciated. The Safer Recruitment process is enabling us to keep a closer contact with all volunteers and to support them in their ministries.

Church Members

We were saddened by the death of Brian Page, formerly organist and choir master and latterly chairman of the Fabric Committee, who had given generously to the church with his skills in music and architecture. We celebrated the ninetieth birthdays of Eric Jacobs and Janet Marven, the eightieth of Jane Moloney and the diamond wedding of Enid and Daniel Lewis and the golden wedding of Judith and Gordon Harper

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the associate priest, licensed curate(s), the churchwardens and the elected representatives to the Diocesan and Deanery Synods and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met five times in 2024 with an average attendance of 82%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, detailed below, are all responsible to the PCC and their minutes are circulated to all PCC members.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee, which the PCC is required to appoint. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also oversees the financial affairs of the PCC.

Fabric Committee

This is responsible for ensuring the good repair and maintenance of the church, churchyard and the burial ground.

World-wide Mission Committee

This maintains contact with missionary societies and co-ordinates giving to groups outside the parish and ensures information about their activities is readily available. It arranges events to raise funds and as social occasions.

Community Hall Committee

This oversees the Community Hall, dealing with bookings and day-to-day administration.

Magazine Committee

This is responsible for producing and distributing a quarterly magazine, published on the first Sundays in March, June, September and December. Petra Shakeshaft has undertaken the editorship of the magazine and this committee is no longer functional.

Administrative information

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated in Church Lane. It is in the Deanery of Granta and the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England

All correspondence should be sent to: The New Vicarage
Church Lane
Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3JR

The PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Bankers	Barclays, Saffron Walden, Essex Lloyds, Cattle Market, Cambridge
Independent Examiner	Thomas Quinn, High Street, Sawston
Architect	Ashley Courtney, Roseford Road, Cambridge

PCC members who served during 2025 are:

Vicar	The Reverend Kathryn Waite (chairman)
Associate Priest	The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft
Licensed Curates	Fr Will Lyon Tupman (to August) The Reverend Ian Henderson
Churchwardens	Corinne Roughley (vice-chairman) Sebastian Aplin (from May)
Diocesan Synod Representative	Jeannie Green
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Bard and Clare Glendinning

Elected members were: Sarah Bard (from May), Andrew Beale, Dianne Conway (to May), Mary Dicken, Clare Hulme (from May), Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Susan Lowdell, Anand Pillai, Hilary Streeter and Marian Watson (from November).

The PCC appointed Alexander Henderson as treasurer, Mary Dicken as secretary, Janet Martin as Electoral Roll Officer and Marian Watson as Gift Aid Officer. Alexander Henderson resigned as treasurer and was thanked for his services. His replacement is Sue Chase who is not a member of the PCC.

The PCC appointed Barbara Hylton as Safeguarding Officer and she has implemented all necessary processes and we are very grateful to her for this work. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Compiled by Mary Dicken, Corinne Roughley, Kathryn Waite and Sue Chase to reflect the position on 31 December 2025.

Approved by the PCC on 19 March 2026.

Signed on their behalf by Kathryn Waite, Chairman.

Gift Aid Report

Thank you to everyone who continues to support St Mary's financially. These donations are usually done by signing up to the Parish Giving scheme which allows you to give monthly, quarterly and annually and if you are able to claim Gift Aid this is done at the time of your donation and paid directly into the bank. It also gives you the opportunity to donate anonymously. The forms for this are available from the wooden table to the left of the Church door as you come in, or for up to date information please take a look at their website www.parishgiving.org.uk or telephone 0333 002 1260.

On payments made by Standing Order via Barclays Bank, Gift Aid is claimed quarterly through Ely. We do still have a few people using the Planned Giving (i.e. weekly envelopes) and other donations during the course of the year. Can I please ask if you like to do it this way to make

sure that you complete a Gift Aid Form if you are a UK taxpayer so that we are able to claim the Gift Aid back.

All cash donations through the collection bags or basket at the services and wall safe are eligible for Gift Aid through the GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme).

As of December 2025:

20 people donate through the Parish Giving Scheme: 15 of which are Gift Aided

10 donations are received via Standing Order: 8 of which are Gift Aided

5 people donate using weekly envelopes: 4 of which are Gift Aided

Parish Giving Scheme donations for 2025 totalled £25,446.40 which includes Gift Aid of £4,635.23.

Gift Aid returns are claimed quarterly throughout the year.

The total tax reclaimed over the four quarters of 2025 is as follows:

Q1 (01.01.25-05.04.25)	£560.50 including
GASDS	£145.75
Q2 (06.04.25-30.06.25)	£832.50 including
GASDS	£375.50
Q3 (01.07.25-30.09.25)	£1024.45 including
GASDS	£232.50
Q4 (01.10.25-31.12.25)	£807.87 including
GASDS	£356.12

It is the responsibility of those signing Gift Aid Declarations to inform the Gift Aid/Recording Officer in writing, as soon as possible if your circumstance change and you can no longer Gift Aid, in order that records are amended and kept as up to date as possible. The GA/Recording Officer should also be notified of any change of name/address. For those donating by the Parish Giving Scheme please contact them directly.

Marian Watson, Gift Aid/Recording Officer
February 2026

Fabric Committee Report 2025

There has continued to be a significant amount of work during the course of the year. Drainage work in the churchyard was completed in the early part of the year. This involved digging new soakaways to improve the drainage on the south side of the church and required an archaeologist to supervise the work. Repairs to the Ferdinand Huddleston memorial behind the south aisle altar were also carried out

Repairs to the boundary wall adjacent to the road alongside the burial ground were carried out during the summer completing work on the wall that had been commenced a few years ago.

The Parish Council continued to organise the grass cutting of the churchyard. St Mary's is grateful for their continued support in the upkeep of the churchyard. The burial ground grass cutting was undertaken by Kester Lilley, paid for by the Vindis family and St Mary's with additional tidying and cutting done by our volunteers. The November Churchyard working party was very successful with a number of Beaver Scouts and their families coming along to help.

The interior replastering has been planned with quotes for the electrical work that will take place at the same time as the replastering. The heaters will also need to be removed and then replaced once the replastering has been completed. Work is expected to start after Easter 2026.

Remedial work to some defective plaster on the north side of the church externally was undertaken and two trial areas of repointing were also carried out. The PCC has agreed that

much of the north side of the church (lower walls) will be repointed with a full point and applications for planning permission and faculty approval will be submitted in the next few months.

A drain survey was carried out demonstrating that one of the drainage pipes is broken close to the church gate post. It is hoped that repairs to the drain might take place at the same time as the interior replastering work. Once the drain has been repaired the Parish Council is looking to do some further repairs on the boundary wall adjacent to the road.

Just before Christmas a significant amount of water came though the choir vestry ceiling. Thankfully no one was hurt and the ceiling did not collapse . This was caused by a build-up of sludge in the heating system which led to a blockage in the pipe work, causing steam to build up in the void above the choir vestry ceiling. The offending sludge was cleared from the system and the heating continues to function. A heating adviser has visited the church and has advised the PCC to prepare an interim plan for when the boiler becomes defunct. The plan may include the installation of infra-red heating at first and possibly a heat source pump later. Further work by the PCC on the heating will be taking place.

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out in the summer by our architect with a number of recommendations for repairs, some of which are included in the current planned works. Risk assessments, fire extinguisher servicing and a tree survey of the burial ground have also been carried out ensuring we keep the church and its environs as safe as possible for the congregation and visitors. We are very grateful to Ward's Charity without which most of the work on the fabric of the church would not be able to take place.

Kathryn Waite
March 2026

Granta Deanery Synod Report 2025

Introduction

Granta Deanery Synod meetings during 2025 were held on 1 April, 1 July and 6 November at St. Mary's, Linton; St. John's, Pampisford and St. Mary's & St. Andrew's, Whittlesford.

Mission and ministry

Youth ministry (YouthInc)

Youth ministry continued to be a focus for the Deanery during 2025, building on commitments made in the previous Synod year. Parishes were encouraged to engage with YouthInc communications and fundraising, and to consider how Deanery-wide support can best strengthen local youth work and links with families.

Science chaplaincy and local engagement

The Deanery continued to explore the development of a chaplaincy to the local science and research communities. Work in this area has been shaped by relationships already established with local campuses, and by a desire to offer a hospitable, outward-facing ministry that is appropriate in a multi-faith and multi-background context. The establishment of a voluntary chaplaincy post, 2 days a week, based at St. Peter's Church, and the Babraham Research Campus has now been approved and advertised.

Diocesan Synod

At the July meeting, concern was expressed by the Diocesan Synod representatives concerning a report of £600,000 deficit in the Diocesan budget and the suggestions of abolishing the 2.5% Ministry Share discount for payment by direct debit and the introduction of more and larger multi-parish benefices. This was followed by a slide presentation promoting four proposed projects including the creation of 'hubs' to promote new worshipping communities and the appointment of pioneer ministers in new housing developments, at a cost of £1M to be funded from Diocesan reserves. Concern was also expressed as to the extent to which the financial situation and the proposed projects would limit Diocesan support for Deanery initiatives.

It was agreed to write to the Bishop's Council to express Granta Deanery's concern regarding the financial situation and the proposed spending projects.

Peter Leech attended the November meeting to respond to the questions raised and to explain the proposed initiatives in greater detail. He stated that the Diocese, having reviewed the Deanery Development Plans recognised four priorities:

1. The Growing Younger Project Plan (the Hubs),
2. Growing New Worshipping Communities within areas of new housing (The new Developments Pioneer Minister),
3. Strengthening Multi-Parish Benefices (Administrative Provision for Multi-Parish Benefices)
4. Giving (Stewardship).

These four priorities arose out of a series of consultations. He accepted that it was a huge consideration to use £1M of reserves to fund them.

Peter encouraged parishes to think what 'assets' (volunteers, ministers, existing schemes etc) each has prior to any financial need, and then to seek support from the Diocese. There were many requests, and the aim was to provide sustainable funding, rather than time-limited short projects. There then followed a discussion during which Deanery members put further questions to Peter.

At the end of this session Michael Wilcockson thanked Peter on behalf of the Synod for attending.

Finance and stewardship

Finance updates during 2025 recorded the Deanery's three funds (Deanery Development Fund, Parish Grant Fund and Parish Loan Fund) and progress in paying Ministry Share. The protected reserves figure reported during the year was £25,000.

There was a discussion on whether any refund due from the Diocese for meeting the Ministry Share in full should be retained by the Deanery to fund Deanery projects or returned to the parishes. It was agreed to retain the present system of returning the refund to parishes *pro rata*.

Ministry Share: In the October update, all apart from two parishes were on target. The Deanery was subsequently able to meet its 2025 annual share in full. The 2026 Ministry Share would be capped at a 4% increase on 2025, with parish-level details to follow.

Conclusion

The Deanery Synod continues to provide a forum for clergy and lay representatives from across the Deanery to pray, reflect on Scripture, share information from Diocesan and General Synod, and to coordinate mission initiatives and shared resourcing. Parishes are encouraged to keep their Synod representatives informed of local priorities and to ensure that deanery communications reach PCCs in good time.

David Bard, Deanery Representative

Safeguarding Report

Following my appointment as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for St. Mary's in March 2025, I subsequently completed the mandatory training required for the role in addition to completing the Safer Recruitment Process. I was commissioned as PSO to St. Mary's on Safeguarding Sunday in November 2025. The fact that Safeguarding Sunday is celebrated at both St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Babraham demonstrates Safeguarding is taken seriously and ongoing in ensuring we provide a safe, caring and supportive environment for all who work, volunteer, and attend our church(s) and the activities both provide.

There is a designated SAFEGUARDING notice board in church, containing a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, posters, information, and contact details for anyone with concerns or simply feels the need to talk and/or seek advice. Similar information is also displayed in the Community Hall.

A 'summary' Safeguarding report is submitted to the Standing Committee and a more detailed report is submitted to each PCC meeting. Safeguarding is a standard PCC agenda item and provides an opportunity for members to be brought up to date with safeguarding training and DBS matters in addition to looking at areas which as a PCC are brought to attention by the Parish Dashboard. The Parish Dashboard is a very useful tool in giving an overview as to where the parish sits in terms of DBS checks, safeguarding training, and guidance on how as collectively we can create a safe and caring environment for all. Currently St. Mary's sits at Level 3 with 88% of mandatory requirements being met.

Safeguarding is a gospel imperative and should become naturally embedded in our systems and thought-processes. It is not a one person's responsibility but a collective responsibility. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or indeed wish to discuss Safeguarding, please do come and talk to Kathryn, Ian, Petra, or myself, contact details are on the board.

Barbara Hylton
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Bereavement Cafe

During the course of the year several of these events have been held in the Community Hall. The aim of the cafe is to provide people with a safe space where they can share their experiences and feelings with others who have been bereaved whether recently or longer ago over a cuppa. Members of the ministry team are present to help facilitate the conversations and provide support. Between 6-15 people have attended each session which have generally been well received. Many thanks to our wonderful helpers who had served tea, coffee and cake to the attendees.

Kathryn

St Mary's Society of Change Ringers, Sawston

The last submitted report from the Society was in 2023. Since September 2023, both Phil and myself have taken some time away from the society and its activities to concentrate on family life. In our absence, practices have stopped running at Sawston but have continued at Pampisford twice a month where ringing is organised by Clive Jones. We have however, organised ringing at Sawston for special events such as the King's Coronation, Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday services as well as liaising with visiting bands. The bells themselves continue to be challenging to ring for even the most experienced ringers. Given the age of the fixtures and fittings, they would benefit greatly from a complete overhaul and rehang.

Samantha Gorman

Church Office Report

The office is open most mornings, Monday to Friday. Total weekly hours of administration are twelve on a flexible basis. And it is a privilege to support you.

Routine tasks undertaken include:

- Communications via social media (including our website <https://www.stmaryssawston.org.uk/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssawston> with push to wider village pages, and A Church Near You <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2851/>), poster campaigns, the weekly newsletter and e-mail;
- Preparation of printed materials, including service sheets, posters and fliers, and reporting against our CCLI licence;
- Preparation of the church rotas including readers, sides-persons and intercessors. Thank you to all those who volunteer;
- Administration of shared documents and diaries;
- Administrative support to the PCC, church groups and events as required;
- DBS administration. Thank you for your patience with the process.

Particular areas of focus this year have been on:

- DBS administration and undertaking references; We moved from APCS to UCheck as a service provider. DBS administration then focused on Stay & Play, renewals, and other new starters.
- Website development; We have evolved the website to have dedicated seasonal pages (Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter) to streamline information availability over these periods. We have also added some key sermons to the webpage to give a flavour of our service styles. The recent series of talks on Hebrews are available in full.
- PCC documentation; We have started to collate meeting minutes centrally at the office to facilitate sharing between sub-committees and PCC members.

There are number of opportunities for further development and efficiency:

- The website technology is now very dated and limits what we can do with the website. For example we cannot change the front page dropdown menus, neither could we post a

recorded item. If this is an area, we want to continue to develop it would be worth considering an upgrade.

- We utilise to a limited extent, Life Events Diary, the free to use database, but we have not yet utilised iKnowChurch. There are facilities within iKnowChurch that would potentially benefit volunteer groups. It is difficult to remain knowledgeable of the database functionality without more frequent use, which limits office agility in Life Events Diary.
- A number of utility accounts seem to be in the name and contact details of volunteers who have stepped down. Some accounts route through the office e-mail but the office has no reference or recall to them. We could have a methodical review of accounts.
- Finally, teams and committees have evolved considerably over the past year, and continue to do so. It is a real privilege to work with so many and varied people. It would be valuable to me to review communication flows between groups and the office to ensure you are getting maximum benefit from office support.

Joanna Johnson, March 2026

Community Hall Report April 2025 – April 2026

I am pleased to say that the Hall continues to be well used - by both the Community (13 regular weekly bookings) and by St Mary's (9 bookings each month - Craft Group, Soup & Sandwiches, the new Stay & Play (was Toy Library), Tea & Friendship & Youth Group). In addition we have many one-off bookings – for fund-raising events, jumble sales, children's parties etc. The Church Office and small Meeting Room are also part of the Hall with the latter being used for various Committee meetings.

However we have had personnel changes recently - we were delighted when Stephen Roughley joined the Committee in 2025 but sad when John Poulter stepped down from the Committee in January 2026 after many years of solid contributions. However the good news is that John has kindly offered to continue looking after the Hall hedge and do other jobs for as long as he is able. We are so very grateful for all his practical help.

Our major change is that Jeanette Harvey is about to retire from the post of Booking Secretary, after nearly 13 years dedicated service and a huge contribution to the success of the Hall. Her cheerful approach and reliable attention to detail will be hard to follow but we are delighted to report that (as I write) we are in the process of appointing a new Booking Secretary and hope that she will be able to start after Easter.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance has continued as necessary with occasional problems being dealt with by Committee volunteers (and spouses!).

As said, we are especially grateful to John Poulter for his continued dedication to keeping the hedge and flowerbed looking so good, to Elliot Harvey for finding time to mow the grass (amongst all his other activities) and to Stephen Farrow for his continued hard work as our cleaner.

During the year we have kept on top of minor repairs but had major expenditure (£2,000) for the new tarmac on part of the carpark. We have also agreed to have the toilets for ladies and disabled redecorated. At present the condition of the Hall floor is stable so the idea of having it sanded and resealed is on hold.

Accounts

The Hall accounts are in the Appendix. Our profit for 2025 was £6,300 (cf £10,776 in 2024, £11,578 in 2023 and £7,540.59 in 2022). This is the amount that historically would be transferred to the PCC as the excess over our base level of £9,000.

Most Regular User hire fees were increased by £5 per session in September 2025 – the last previous increase having been in 2022. Church Groups do not pay for their use of the Hall though some give a donation to the Church.

Costs have increased so we must be mindful of keeping in step with other local hire premises and getting the balance right.

Bookings

There have been changes amongst our Regular Users but bookings continue to be healthy. As always, we try to maintain a mixed balance of activities amongst our Users and are happy to reduce fees to help starter groups. During the year Sawston Toy Library has turned into Stay & Play. Sadly, we lost Sawston Scouts after many years but all agreed that they are better suited to their new hire premises (SVC). Adrenaline Martial Arts stopped in the Autumn and Baby Massage will stop soon – both due to changes in the lives of the leaders of these groups. We have been pleased to welcome Rewilding Yoga as well as various U3A classes. Tai Chi has a new leader and a new private Youth Group has started. Enquiries are ongoing re regular bookings from several other potential users.

We continue to vary our fees depending on the group – e.g. charities vs business and of course we try to help fledging groups get established and to help others when we can. We see this as part of St Mary's ministry to our local community.

Committee

Once again thanks are due to the Hall Committee members for the hard work they put into ensuring the smooth running of the Hall. We have spent hours revising Risk Assessments, Booking Forms, Safeguarding Documents etc with as much good humour as possible. Very special thanks to Jeanette, our wonderfully helpful Bookings Secretary and to George, our very efficient Treasurer. It is their hard work that keeps the systems working!

We are a small but happy team who run the Hall for St Mary's but, AS ALWAYS, should be delighted to hear from anyone else who is willing to get involved. There are always small DIY jobs needed since we aim to do many things ourselves (in order to keep costs down) and should welcome more helpers.

We are also always willing to consider new ideas to help us run the Hall successfully - this is St Mary's outreach in the widest sense. Thank you for your support.

Sue Hunting, 8 March 2026

St Mary's Community Hall Management Committee:

Jeanette Harvey (Booking Secretary), George Haddad (Treasurer), Katy Holloway, Suella Hunting (Chairman), Jane Moloney, Stephen Roughley, Hilary Streeter (Minutes Secretary), Rev'd Kathryn Waite

St. Mary's Church Craft Group Report for the Annual PCC meeting

May 2025 - April 2026

The Craft Group has had another very pleasing year - one or two members are not able to attend due to health issues, but there have also been some new members who have joined during the year. On average there are between sixteen and twenty-two regular attenders and there is always a warm welcome to any new people - or even just the occasional visitor. There are twenty-six members in total registered with the group. This coming summer the group will have been running for ten years.

The group continues to be run with the same routine where attendees make a voluntary contribution of £1.00 at each meeting. This payment funds the refreshments on offer at every meeting. Any surplus money, which accumulates over the year, is given to a worthy cause such as Refresh at St. Mary's and also goes towards paying for a speaker/demonstration at our December meeting.

The group members continue to occasionally donate craft items which are sold on the Craft Stall held regularly at the Mission Committee coffee mornings in St. Mary's Church. At the coffee morning held last December. The wonderful amount of £113.00 was raised by the craft stall for the chosen charity for that quarter. My grateful thanks to all the members of the group who continue to donate items for the coffee mornings.

As I had a large supply of items in stock we have also been able to make a donation of knitted or crochet children's clothes to be sent out to the Ukraine - my thanks to Janet Marven for passing these on via her son to an organisation that will be travelling out there with - hopefully - a large amount of much needed items.

It has also been possible, once again, to donate Baby Blankets and Matinee jackets to the Besom charity. This is a local organisation which operates in Sawston and surrounding villages by supporting young mums and their new-born babies, where help is needed.

Last December we were very pleased to welcome a talk from our new member, Emma, who gave us a very interesting insight into the Alpacas that she has on their farmland in Babraham. There are four Alpacas and from their coats being sheared, Emma is able to "card" the wool into a usable thread to then be used or sold as knitting wool. We were able to have a demonstration of this "carding" process and anybody who wanted to was able to try their hand at doing this - including the six-year-old granddaughter of one of our members who was visiting at that time. Emma was actually wearing the first jumper that she knitted from her "home grown wool".

I continue to receive donations of unwanted craft materials which I take along to the meetings so that any member who can make use of them has the opportunity to do so. I do not expect members to pay for these items, but frequently they are more than happy to make a small donation and the money is added to the funds to be used in whatever way is needed. I am more than happy to share these donated items and do occasionally get a request from someone who is not a member of the group - which I am happy to provide as there is more than enough to go round!

My thanks once again to Geraldine who organised another craft activity for the members during the months of October and November, making a Christmas decoration. Geraldine is happy to provide materials for a small donation if any member has not got what is needed.

I am also extremely grateful to Jane Moloney, with help also from Jo Johnson, for their

assistance in putting out tables and chairs ready for the meeting each month - and a double "thank you" to Jane who also comes back at the end of each meeting to put them all away again.

New members or just the occasional visitor will always be most welcome and I look forward to another year of meetings.

Tina Casey
Craft Group Leader

Diocesan Synod report

This year's report is based on two Diocesan Synod meetings (18th June and 11th October 2025). The third, on 14th March 2026, falls after the deadline for this copy.

June: The main business of the June meeting was a Mission Priorities update, involving a comprehensive presentation, full of flowcharts and bullet points, dealing mainly with two priorities identified as (i) Investing in 'Growing Younger' - a catchy title! - and (ii) strengthening multi parish benefices. There are 303 parishes in the diocese of which 207 are multi benefices. The presentation was 44 pages long!

October: This meeting dealt with the budget for 2026 - 2028, and, among other items, an informal discussion regarding LLF (Living in Love and Faith).

a). Key finance details for the **budget** were presented and approved. The Finance Team was thanked for its work over the last 12 months in preparing what had been a complex budget. Much to my surprise, apparently Ely Diocese is assessed as one of the top three wealthiest dioceses in the Church of England and it does not qualify for Low Income Communities (LinC) Funding.

b). Regarding **LLF**, Synod Members were asked to respond to a series of questions where answers and results were collated in live time via electronic devices. This was to provide informal feedback to national level on draft proposals for LLF which would be considered by the House of Bishops and then debated at General Synod in February 2026. What happened there is another story! Suffice to say that Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) which are now in use as part of regular Church of England services cannot (yet) be used in 'bespoke' or standalone services for same-sex couples. A new Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Working Group is to be set up, among other things, to explore the approval process for bespoke services under canon law. Needless-to-say, this is all very sensitive and painful for many people and views are wide ranging.

Also: The October meeting fell shortly after the announcement of Dame Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury. The following proposal was made:

PROPOSAL: To offer support and prayers from the Diocesan Synod of Ely to The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE in her role as Archbishop of Canterbury.

The proposal was approved with 65 members voting in favour, 3 voting against, with one abstention.

Other agenda items:

Bishop Dagmar's reports
Finance (always!)
Safeguarding

Net zero carbon project

Education

Clergy and Ministerial wellbeing

'Teach-ins for information' (i) How decisions get taken
(ii) How clergy vacancies are filled

Post script: In January the new Bishop of Ely was announced, the Right Reverend Sarah Elizabeth Clark, currently Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow and acting Bishop of Durham. Shortly after this announcement we learnt that Bishop Dagmar is soon to be 'translated' to Edinburgh. (Don't you just love the Church of England's terminology!)

Whilst we warmly welcome Bishop Sarah, Bishop Dagmar will be greatly missed. She has been a tower of strength with her leadership both as Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon and as acting Bishop of Ely. We thank her and wish her every blessing in her new role.

Jeannie Green

Flower Arrangers Report

There are currently 14 members of the flower team. Agnes Stamper, a long-standing member of the flower team, who for many years alongside Dorothy Butler created some lovely floral arrangements for the porch, decided it was time for her to put down her secateurs. Thank you, Agnes, for all you brought to the team, your ideas, your thoughts, your friendship and encouragement, we are very grateful for all you have done over the years. Sadly, Doris Baxter and Anne Wood both died last year. Doris was another longstanding member of the flower team and was well known to many of our church family. We are very grateful for all both Doris and Anne contributed to the floral arrangements in church and both will be missed by the team. Last year was another busy year for the team. 80 daffodil posies were put together for Mothering Sunday. Floral arrangements were done at Easter, Pentecost, Patronal, Harvest, Advent and Christmas. VE Day was also marked with floral tributes. The Easter Garden was created by a flower team member together with two of our much younger flower members on the Chapel Altar. This made the garden much more prominent not just by the new location but also the continuous and wonderful display of spring flowers. Thank you all.

Thanks, should also be extended to members of the team who also arrange High Altar flowers. I think it is important to acknowledge at this point, that all the flowers seen in church are given by the ladies who arrange them. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and generous flower team!

As a team we continue to meet on a regular basis, and remain committed to sourcing new ways and ideas to provide more sustainable floral arrangements.

Although our meetings usually take place in church, the week before Christmas, we left our secateurs at home and took ourselves to Victor Victoria for a pre-Christmas coffee. We were delighted that despite a very hectic period, Kathryn and Ian joined us. On behalf of the team 'Thank you both' for joining us.

We are indeed very fortunate to have a team of willing, generous, and committed flower arrangers. As the year progresses, we pray that God's presence will continue to guide, inspire and support us as a team.

Barbara Hylton
April 2026

Friday House Group

The Friday house group meets twice a month, usually at Petra and Paul's house from 10.00 – 11.30ish, depending on how good the conversation is! We always start with coffee/tea and cake. This group began last year as a Lent group and has continued ever since.

Rather than following a pre-prepared study course, we have been looking at the gospel readings for the up-coming Sundays. Our discussions have been rich and thought-provoking, often revealing the absolute relevance of scripture in our lives and in the world today.

During Lent, we meet weekly and are following the Church of England Lent course, which is focussed on life-giving habits in worship, prayer, scripture and Eucharist. We are a very friendly and warm group and are happy to welcome new members – please speak to Petra.

Petra

Magazine

The magazine has continued to be produced under Petra's 'temporary' editorship – now three issues in - with Rachel doing the vital proof-reading that makes it readable and improves the overall appearance. Her ability to spot even the tiniest glitch is phenomenal!

The master document is now formatted in Microsoft Word, as Publisher is no longer supported. This makes the magazine more manageable to produce, as articles can pretty much be dropped in between the advertisements and 'fixed' information. It has been good to have some articles from congregation members, as well as all the updates from various church groups – more are always welcome. Following suggestions from the congregation, there are now, in addition, family-friendly puzzles, a seasonal recipe and a colouring page on the back. Thank you to all those of you who contribute regularly and those who have produced thoughtful informative articles for inclusion.

The magazine is largely funded by the advertisers, so our thanks must also go to them. We have had a couple of new ones and hope for one or two more in the coming year.

The June – August magazine will be my last one as editor as Paul and I have plans, which will mean we are not going to be around very much over the next year or so. The magazine is – as the title, 'Communicate' suggests – a good means of communication, not just within the church, but the wider community and gives a good representation of the kind of church community we are. If you feel you could take this on, please do have a word with me. It may be the job can be broken down and shared. It probably takes me around 8-10 hours over a week or so, once every three months.

Petra

Beale Homegroup APCM Report 2026

The Beale homegroup has continued to meet regularly on Mondays throughout 25-26. We've studied a variety of things this year. We kicked off the year with a set of studies about the Nicene Creed for its 1700th year, which was a fascinating insight into the history of the church and the core of our faith. We followed that with a set of studies about the twelve Disciples, each week looking in depth at one (or more) of Jesus's closest associates. While we found that we really know very little about some of the disciples, we discovered that each has a particular character or characteristic that we as Christians today can learn from. After Advent, we've

started focusing on the Gospel of John, specifically the second half in the lead up to the Passion. We've been amazed, and often confused, about the detail and complexity in the book and we are continuously learning. We've supported each other throughout the year in person but also via our Whatsapp group.

Excitingly, this year also saw our first Homegroup away day, which we did in May at Ferrar House (inspired by the PCC away day at the same location). It was a wonderful day of fellowship, rest and fun which included a Bible knowledge treasure hunt, art, and Morning and Evening Prayer in the chapel.

We look forward to the rest of 2026 and hope to plan a summer BBQ amongst other things.

Andrew Beale

Monday House Group

Monday House Group meets every Monday evening at 8pm on Zoom. This year we have had 8 regular attendees, including myself. We have approx. one hour of bible study followed by a prayer and music video relevant to the bible passage being studied.

Since the last APCM we have worked through the following study books:

- The Twelve Disciples Lifebuilder Study
- Heroes of Faith Lifebuilder Study
- Waiting for the Light- Advent Course
- Our Spiritual Gifts Lifebuilder Study
- Jesus's final week- used as a Lent Course

Rosie Whitmell

Sawston Branch of The Mothers' Union

In 2026, we celebrate 150 years since Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union with the aim of supporting families and the Church. Across the world MU members find friendship through shared faith and purpose. Our Branch of 21 members similarly meets most months for prayer, friendship and talks on subjects relating to the MU aims. In 2025 this included: sessions on prayer and reflection on world peace, faith in rupture and depictions of motherhood. We have also held talks on St Ethelreda and Julian of Norwich, helped organise the Sawston World Day of Prayer service and held an afternoon tea.

Our members continue to support the Church by organising jumble sales, providing refreshments at services, providing cards and posies on Mothering Sunday, and sending cards on baptism anniversaries.

We held our AGM on 3 February 2026 and agreed donations to the work of The Mothers' Union including the worldwide fund including action to improve literacy and help end domestic abuse and gender-based violence, and Away From It All Holidays to help families in crisis.

New members are welcome to join us.

Janet Martin, Branch Lead

Night Prayer 2025

Night Prayer has continued throughout 2025. It takes place on Zoom at 8.30pm on a Wednesday Evening. It is a 30–40-minute time of prayer at the end of the day. We use a variety of styles of prayer including Compline, an order of night prayer of the Church of England, Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer used to meditate on scripture, Examen, where we reflect on our day or the past week and look to see where God was at work in our lives, imaginative prayer, where we use our senses to enter into a Bible story, and Taizé and Northumbrian styles of prayer.

Currently three people take turns to lead the prayer time. Although only a few people attend, we all appreciate the quiet time with God. We very much hope that more folk will join us. Click on the Zoom link on the weekly notices if you would like to share in this special time with God.

Dianne Conway

Open Door Music Group

The Open Door Music Group brings together musicians and singers from our congregation to lead the Open Door sung worship. We have 7 regular contributors, as well as a couple of people who are happy to step in as needed.

Over the last year, we have moved to a more structured approach, with standing rehearsals on the 2nd and 4th Sundays to help us prepare for the next services. I have taken on the coordination of the band to give us a single point of contact – and am grateful to Adam Herrick who has continued to carefully arrange, print, and organise new music. We currently have 85 songs in our repertoire, and are fortunate to have a mix of instruments that allow us to span both traditional and modern hymns.

We will sadly say goodbye to a long-standing member this year as Becca Herrick prepares to start her curacy – where we wish her all the best. At the same time we are excited to be welcoming some new musicians to the group. As always, if you have any interest in joining, please feel free to speak to one of us after the Open Door service.

Beyond Sunday services, many of our musicians played for the *Whispers of Spring* concert in February 2026. This was very well-received and we are considering whether to do something similar again in the coming year.

Clare Hulme

Refresh – Report to the APCM

Refresh is our group for parents and carers and their preschool babies and children. We run every Monday morning, 9.30 – 11.30am (during term-time) in St Mary's, and the group continues to thrive with 20-25 "families" – parents/carers and their little ones - attending each week. We offer free play with many different toys, as well as Playdoh and a themed craft. We continue to try to be a place of refreshment to the parents and carers who join us, offering a cuppa, cake and a listening ear.

Each week we pause mid-session for our well-loved story and song time. Stories are always Bible based and are themed at certain times of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter). We have a lot of fun singing the songs together, and it's such a joy to see the children joining in enthusiastically with songs like "Jesus' love is very wonderful" and "Our God is a great big God" alongside traditional nursery rhymes.

We continue to run a clothes recycling bank at Refresh, where people can bring good condition clothes for under-fours along, and take away any that would be useful to them. We hope this will go some way to helping parents, as well as doing something to help our planet.

As this will be my last Refresh report to the APCM, I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who have been a part of Refresh over the years – from the first planning meeting in the vicarage lounge (including a 10-day old baby!) to the thriving group it is today – many have served, moved furniture, chatted, baked cakes, prepared crafts, told stories and tidied. On behalf of all the parents and carers we have met over the years, thank you so much! Particular thanks go to our current team of superstar helpers – Mary R, Jose, Barbara, Anna, Ellen, Jo J and Sandra - as well as to Ian and Kathryn for their help and support. We are always in need of more help, so if you would be interested in volunteering, please do speak to Kathryn.

We are often told what a blessing Refresh is to those who come, and to the children who love to be here. Many long-lasting friendships have been built between those who have attended our group regularly. It has been a huge privilege to be involved in Refresh over the last 12 years, and amazing to see God at work through this group in our community. I pray that this important ministry may continue to serve the community of Sawston and beyond for many years to come and leave it in the very capable hands of our wonderful team of helpers!

Rebecca Herrick
February 2026

Soup & Sandwiches and Tea & Friendship - March 2026

The past year has been a busy one for the Tea and Friendship / Soup and Sandwiches team.

Soup and Sandwiches takes place on the second Thursday of each month and regularly attracts between 40 and 60 guests, excluding helpers. It is attended not only by members of our own congregations but also by members of the local community as a whole. There is always a good buzz of conversation and a cheerful, friendly atmosphere.

Tea and Friendship takes place on the first Thursday of each month. This attracts between 12 and 20 guests, excluding helpers. As with Soup and Sandwiches, we are pleased to welcome members of our congregations and non-church-goers alike. We serve drinks and biscuits, have a chat, and play games. Many thanks to Eric Jacobs and David Wilkinson who organise games of playing card Bingo and giant dominoes.

We are grateful to receive sponsorship from the Co-op in the form of £15 worth of vouchers per month. In February, Tea and Friendship had a visit from Tami Evans, Community Relations Officer from the Co-op. Tami talked about the history of the Co-op and organised a game of "Co-op history Bingo" which we all enjoyed. Tami will visit Soup and Sandwiches in March.

Another visitor to Tea and Friendship, in October 2025, was Sue Snape who volunteers at Sawston Library where she helps people with on-line tasks such as applying for bus passes. Sue talked to the group about the sort of valuable assistance she is able to offer.

The highlight of our year was in December when children from the Bellbird School visited our "Christmas Special" sessions to sing Christmas carols and songs. Our guests really enjoy what has now become an annual event and we are so pleased to have this link with the Bellbird. Thank you to those of you who came along as extra helpers for our Christmas Specials.

In August 2025, we had our 18 monthly food safety visit from South Cambridgeshire District Council and were pleased to be awarded a 5 star certificate. Thanks are due to the Hall Committee who help to ensure that the kitchen meets the required standards. In March 2025, two of the helpers who regularly cook at home renewed their Food Hygiene Level 2 certificates.

Our activities are not intended to be fundraisers but our guests give voluntary donations and are very generous. After taking modest expenses, we make donations from Soup and Sandwiches to St Mary's, St Peter's and, every third month, to the John Huntingdon's Charity. In the year from the beginning of March 2025 until the end of February 2026, donations were made as follows:

St Mary's	£435.77
St Peter's	£437.88
John Huntingdon's Charity	£204.55

In addition, Tea and Friendship donated £100 to the Bellbird School and £100 to Mission.

A huge thank you to our volunteers who work so hard and thoughtfully to make these activities a success. We currently have 12 confirmed volunteers although not all are present at every session. Some of our volunteers work hard at home preparing food in advance, doing laundry and washing up. Others help with setting up and putting away furniture. Thank you to those people who responded to our request for more people to make soup in advance. If anybody else feels that they can help in this way, please do get in touch.

Many thanks to the Clergy for their support, to Jo Johnson for managing our publicity, and to our congregations for their support and prayers.

Mary Richmond, for the Soup and Sandwiches / Tea and Friendship Team



Sawston
Youth Group Ltd

Sawston Youth Group currently has 41 young people on role, with 26 staff with varying roles and involvement within the group; for example, staff who support our Monday activity meeting nights, staff who just support our Thursday Band nights and then staff who support in the background and/or on residential/camps.

On our Monday meeting nights, we have done a varied programme since this time last year. During the summer term the younger sections (Explorers and Juniors) enjoyed field games, walks, laser tag, and took part in our own mini carnival-themed night. The older sections (Seniors and Amicus) took trips to Royston Heath for games, for example scavenger monopoly. They went to crazy golf and Assault courses. All sections over the summer took part in archery, canoeing, and finished with our picnic and award ceremony.

Starting back for the autumn term the younger sections enjoyed different crafts and games. They also made smoothies and learnt more about Advent. The older sections enjoyed challenges, crafts, film night and laser tag. This year for Christmas all sections made cards for the people in the village, which the Church delivered. We also donated to Besom in Sawston charity.

The Junior section had a sleepover in the Church. This was planned by the Boys' brigade where over 1000 Juniors across the county took part at the same time. We had challenges to complete and had a film.

For DofE, after the large number of young people completing their Bronze and Silver last year, this year we have 2 groups: 4 members doing their Gold and 5 doing their Silver. The Gold group has already done their practice run – they chose canoeing. They will be completing their test later this year. The Silver group are also planning their routes in the coming weeks.

Our Band has been busy since last year, they have supported the Fun Run and Mary Challis VE Day. We have also done our yearly event for the Kedington Fete. Last year we led the Saffron Walden Carnival parade, which happens every 3 years. We also led last year's Sawston Remembrance parade.

Lastly for band, we are busy with the plans to visit France and Belgium for the band tour, which is bringing together other BB companies to make a band size of about 60 people and Rev Kathryn will be joining and leading devotions.

Alistair Montgomery, Sawston Youth Group Chairman

Tuesday Stay and Play (previously known as Sawston Toy Library) Report 2025

2025 was a hectic year for the group. The established volunteers who had been running Sawston Toy Library for years were no longer able to continue giving their time on a regular basis. Replacement volunteer leaders had been sought for some time, which had proved difficult amongst the young mums and childminders and it looked like the group would have to come to an end. However, help came at the last minute from a group of seven volunteers, many of whom were recently retired.

What had originally looked like a straightforward handover became quite complex, with the Toy Library charitable status having to be ended. Kathryn was reluctant to see the group go as it had always been well attended by the local community and is a valuable resource. Therefore, she offered to keep the group going under the umbrella of St Mary's Church and with the help and guidance of Joanna Johnson we were able to get everyone DBS checked. The group started regularly again on 13 January 2026 under the title of Tuesday Stay and Play.

Anne Martin

World-Wide Mission Committee report to the APCM 2026

The members of the Mission Committee for the past year were Sue Lowdell (Chair), Marian Watson (Treasurer), Tina Casey (Co-opted member), Jose John (Co-opted member), Anne Little (Co-opted member), Agnes Stamper (Co-opted member), Janet Marven (Co-opted member), Sarah Caswell (Co-opted member), Liz Parker (Co-opted member), Joanne Beale (Co-opted member, *from February 2026*), Revd Kathryn Waite (*Ex-officio*). We met on 15th May 2025, 11th September 2025, and on 24th February 2026.

The main aim of the Mission Committee is to support, both prayerfully and financially, those charitable organisations chosen by the Committee. These are mainly, but not always, organisations with a Christian foundation, and to inform the congregation about these organisations through the Church Magazine, weekly notices and speakers from our chosen

charities; we hope to encourage everyone to take an interest in, and support, all our fundraising events.

Our agreed quarterly charities for this past year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026) were as follows:

(i) **East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA)** was our 'home' charity from 1st April – 30th June 2025.

East Anglian Air Ambulance is a charity providing life-saving critical care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by air and road. From road traffic collisions to cardiac arrests to medical emergencies, their specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots bring the advanced skills, equipment and medicine directly to you and your family, in the fastest time possible. Covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, they bring hope to the most seriously ill and injured people in East Anglia. EAAA is a charity that is independent from the NHS and receives no regular government funding. They rely almost entirely on public donations and community support.

(ii) **The Amos Trust** was our 'overseas' charity from 1st July – 30th September 2025.

The Amos Trust partners with vibrant grass roots projects around the world that have unique local experience, expertise and connections. Collaboration is at the heart of everything they do. Their current projects focus promoting the rights of street children, creating a just peace for Palestine and building sustainable rural communities in Nicaragua.

(iii) **Emmaus Cambridge** was our 'home' charity from 1st October – 31st December 2025

Emmaus Cambridge is a charity that offers a home, work and personal support to a community of formerly homeless people. Their companions all work in their shop in Landbeach where they sell donated furniture, clothing, homewares and more. Living in a stable environment with the opportunity to gain new skills helps their companions to regain any lost esteem and confidence so they can get back on their feet.

(iv) **Tearfund** was our 'overseas' charity from 1st January – 31st March 2026 & our Lent Charity.

Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development. Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world and God is calling all of us to reach out to people in greatest need.

East Anglian Air Ambulance was our **Lent Charity for 2025.**

2025 Christmas Shoeboxes

The magnificent total of **13 Christmas Shoeboxes** donated by members of St Mary's and St Peter's congregation were delivered to Sawston Free Church (SFC were the 'hub' for the shoebox collection in Sawston this year), by the deadline at the end of October 2025.

Blythwood Care collected, checked and distributed the Christmas Shoeboxes to men, women and children living in poverty in Eastern Europe. A very big 'thank you' to everyone who donated a Christmas Shoe box.

Charities for specific church services:

The Children's Society: Christingle Service, November 2025; Christmas Services, December 2025.

Our Invited Guest Speakers for the past year were as follows:

- (i) Jonathan Green was a Guest Speaker from EAAA Sunday 6th April 2025.
- (ii) Chris Rose was a Guest Speaker from Amos Trust on Sunday 21st September 2025.

Fundraising Coffee Mornings (and the Strawberry Tea) held during the past year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026), were as follows:

- (i) **Saturday 14th June 2025:** Strawberry Tea, in support of **EAAA**.
- (ii) **Saturday 20th September 2025:** Coffee Morning in support of **Amos Trust**.

- (iii) **Saturday 13th December 2025:** Coffee Morning in support of **The Children's Society**.
- (iv) **Saturday 28th February 2026:** Coffee Morning in support of **Tearfund**.

Donations were made to our quarterly charities from 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025, as follows:

- (i) **USPG Partners in Global Mission** (United Society Partners in the Gospel): Overseas Charity for the first quarter (1st January – 31st March 2025): **£537.50**
- (ii) **EAAA** quarterly charity from 1st April – 30th June 2025 and Lent Box Charity: **£709.00**
- (iii) **The Amos Trust** quarterly charity from 1st July – 30th September 2025: **£500.00**
- (iv) **Emmaus Cambridge** quarterly charity from 1st October – 31st December 2025: **£170.00**
- (v) **The Children's Society** Christingle and Christmas Services 2025: **£500.00**

Christian Aid Week was held from 11th – 17th May 2025:

St Mary's and St Peter's donated **£60** in Christian Aid envelopes which were given to Sawston Free Church, where they were added to the donations Sawston Free Church had received from a Quiz Night; a collection outside the Co-op, and Christian Aid envelopes, which amounted to a grand total of **£942.09** for Christian Aid.

House Box Charities in 2025:

The Mission Committee agreed to nominate an annual charity to support for the month of August. In 2025 we chose **The Leprosy Mission** as our **August House Box Charity**. We were very happy to continue receiving House Boxes from members of the congregation for Mission to Seafarers and the Children's Society.

House Box Donations made in 2025:

The Leprosy Mission: **£200.00**
The Children's Society: **£50.00**

Membership of the Mission Committee:

New Member:

We welcomed Joanne Beale as a new member of the Mission Committee.

Retiring Chair:

After 10 years in the role, I will be stepping down as Chair of the Mission Committee at the APCM on 30th April 2026. I would like to thank all the lovely members of the Mission Committee and the St Mary's and St Peter's congregations for their wonderful help and support. It has never failed to amaze me how generous everyone has been with offers of help, gifts of cakes for the coffee mornings, items for the tombola and the craft stalls, and of course, the many generous donations to our charities.

Sue Lowdell
22nd February 2026