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# Annual Report

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**T**rust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Over the past year, this verse has been a steady anchor for us as a church community. We have faced a range of challenges—when roofs leak and solutions seem beyond our understanding and our means; when concerns are raised about our churchyards; alongside the very real pressures of individual health challenges and the realities of an ageing congregation. These are not small matters, and they should not be diminished.

Yet it is often when we reach the limits of our own resources that we begin to see more clearly what God is doing—in and through our churches and our communities.

As this annual report shows, there is so much to give thanks for. From our regular Sunday worship to mission and outreach, from opportunities for learning to growth in faith and understanding, our churches continue to be places of life and connection. This is made possible through the faithful commitment of our volunteers, PCC and Church Wardens, to whom we owe sincere and heartfelt thanks. Through your generosity of time and gifts, relationships are built, support is offered, and our communities are strengthened.

Financially, the picture is mixed but encouraging. Over the past year, our overall position appears stronger. We have invested significantly in our buildings, including new heating at Seckington and important work to the bells and tower at Newton—projects for which funds had been carefully raised. Our un-restricted funds show a surplus, and in some areas giving has increased.

At the same time, we have contributed less to the Common Fund than in previous years, and we made the difficult decision to pause our Parish Mission giving, recognising that we cannot give what we do not have. Now, however, as a PCC, we believe it is time to revisit that position. Leaning into the wisdom of Proverbs, we seek to trust in the Lord, giving thanks for God's generosity to us and seeking to model that same generosity in our life together.

As we move forward, we do so with a renewed commitment to be good stewards of all we have been entrusted with—financially, physically, and spiritually. God is at work among us.

Our calling is to notice where—and to join in.

Blessings  
Revd Joanne

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 10.30 am

St. Nicholas Church, Austrey

## AGENDA

*We begin with refreshments and worship*

### Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Church Wardens

### Meeting of Members

Apologies for absence.

Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Matters arising from the minutes.

Electoral Roll Report

Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer 2026/27

Appointment of 4 Deanery Synod Representatives

PCC Report

Finance Report

Appoint Independent examiner for 2026/27

Buildings Committee Report (Fabric Reports)

Deanery Synod Report

Safeguarding Report

Mission Links & other Reports

Election of All Souls Parochial Church Council

A.O.B. – ***items to be notified to the Rector at least 48 hours before the meeting.***

Closing Prayer

**PARISH OF ALL SOULS, NORTH WARWICKSHIRE**  
**Minutes of the APCM held on**  
**Sunday 18th May 2025 at 10.30 am in Austrey Church**

**PRESENT:** Revd Joanne Dyer (Chair), Anne Bufton-McCoy, Shirley Faulkner, Heather Cooke, Alison Meredith, Trish Richardson, Margaret Dalton, Jan Powell, Judy Meads (Churchwardens & PCC members) + 10 parishioners (Stephen Packham, Trev & Lyn Henderson, Barry Dyer, Maxine Maddox, Edith Critchley, Pam Orton, Sarah, Sharon & Sid Gibson-McGreal).

**APOLOGIES:** Adrian & Sally Parkes, John & Gina Larkin, Michelle Withey, Roger & Julie Shiers, Robin Powell, Lynn Wynne, Claire Holloway & Dawn Cole.

This year's APCM was incorporated into the regular morning service and was introduced by Revd Joanne after a period of worship.

**Meeting of Parishioners to elect Churchwardens:**

The following being the only nominees were duly elected to serve for the year 2025 – 2026:  
St Nicholas, Austrey - Heather Cooke Proposed: A. Meredith Seconded: P. Richardson  
St Mary, Newton Regis - Shirley Faulkner Proposed: A. Bufton-McCoy Seconded: J. Powell  
All Saints, Seckington - Anne Bufton-McCoy Proposed: S. Faulkner Seconded: J. Powell  
St Matthew, Shuttington - Claire Holloway Proposed: C. Holloway Seconded: J. Dowd

Holy Trinity, Warton remains without a churchwarden. Still only 4 out of a possible 10.  
The churchwardens were thanked for their valuable contribution, also Alison Meredith for covering at Warton where needed. Members asked to reflect on whether they could take on the role – it was stressed that the churchwardens work as a team, helping each other out, sharing a wealth of experience between them.

Admission of churchwardens: 23 June 7.00 pm at Polesworth.

**MEETING OF CHURCH MEMBERS**

**Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 12 May 2024** - Acceptance of these as a true record was proposed by Margaret Dalton, seconded by Judy Meads, agreed by all present and duly signed.

**Matters arising** -None.

**Electoral Roll Report**

This year saw a complete revision of the electoral roll, as a result of which All Souls now has 120 members. Sadly, 4 previous members were deceased and a number had chosen not to renew their membership, but we are pleased to welcome a good number of new faces. The church is growing! Thanks recorded to Kathryn Packham for preparing the roll and to the churchwardens for contacting folk to renew membership.

**Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer**

Kathryn Packham is happy to remain in the role. Proposed by Revd Joanne, seconded by Trish Richardson. Appointment agreed unanimously.

**PCC Report** (written report issued prior to meeting, copy attached)

The past year has seen major challenges with regard to parish finances and preserving the fabric of our 5 historic churches but there have also been many joys – the flourishing of our outreach activities through Lighthouse Stay & Play, Youth 139, Coffee & Chat and School Assemblies as

well as progress with safeguarding and compliance with C of E and Diocesan requirements. We need to remember that God is good! Looking forward the PCC will be exploring working with Amington Church, to see how we might encourage and support one another. As always there is a need for volunteers to spread the load of running and maintaining our churches.

Thanks expressed to Alison Meredith for a comprehensive report.

### **Finance Report (copy attached)**

Revd Joanne began by emphasising that looking after the All Souls finances is very much a team effort – Alison Meredith (banking & paying bills) Trish Richardson (book keeping & managing the accounts) Stephen Packham (our independent examiner) along with Annabel Arnold (Seckington Fabric Fund) & Sally Hunt (Newton Regis Fabric Fund). Thanks to all for their efforts.

She went on to comment that although the accounts up to 31 December 2024 look good, 2 things should be borne in mind:

Firstly, all our churches are facing considerable expenditure on their buildings this year: Newton Regis will have spent £33,000 on repair to the bells, Warton £14,000 on new gutters and downpipes, Seckington is working hard to raise the last bit of money to pay for new heating (£44,000). Austrey needs £158,000 for roof repairs and now Warton too needs a new roof, no cost as yet.

Secondly, the surplus showing at the end of 2024 was only achieved thanks to a very generous one-off donation from a church member.

Things are far from rosy and as well as endeavouring to prune expenditure the PCC has set up a Stewardship Team to look at improving our finances.

Stephen Packham reassured members that a formula had been worked out for distributing any interest earned between those churches whose accounts are held jointly in All Souls.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025/26**

Stephen Packham happy to continue in this role but will aim to spread the workload by reporting quarterly to PCC.

Proposed by Revd Joanne, seconded by Barry Dyer and agreed unanimously.

### **Buildings Committee: Fabric Report (copy attached)**

A number of issues were dealt with in 2024, with some ongoing this year. Major works needed to maintain the fabric of some of our churches. All necessary inspections up to date.

**Austrey:** churchyard wall rebuilt at cost of £12,000+. Work to investigate & treat water ingress will be extremely expensive - £158,000+.

**Newton Regis:** bells repaired in time to be rung for 80th anniversary of VE Day. Churchyard wall repaired.

**Seckington:** Faculty submitted to install chandelier style heating. Funding almost there.

**Shuttington:** organ repaired (cost £1,400). Quotes sought for repairs to internal plaster & redecoration.

**Warton:** work to remedy water damage surrounding north east nave window carried out July 2024 (cost £16,000 +). UPVC gutters and downpipes replaced with cast iron in January 2025 (cost £14,000). New roof needed as result of extensive wet and potential dry rot in timbers – no quotes as yet.

**Churchyard maintenance:** thanks to all volunteers for their help.

More volunteers needed to deal with general maintenance.

Thanks to Alison for putting together the report.

**Deanery Synod Report:** (copy attached)

Three meetings held in June & October 2024 in person and February 2025 via Zoom. Presentations given on Pathways, Racial Justice Board, Growing Gifts, Safeguarding, also information on Quick Wins scheme & outreach events aimed at children & families.

Thanks to Alison for report.

**Safeguarding Report:**

Revd Joanne reminded members that Safeguarding is important to us not only as individuals but as a parish and nationally. We can be reassured that most of the C of E failings are historic and the world is in a far better place today in dealing with abuse.

Thanks expressed to Margaret Dalton for her comprehensive report and all her work throughout the year not only to make us compliant with the C of E safeguarding requirements but to help us show how we make sure God cares for everyone. We are currently at Level 3 on the Parish Dashboard, with only one section needing updating but will need regular review. Providing information required for the new Safeguarding Hub (designed to help churches keep track of safeguarding arrangements and volunteer records) is a work in progress. All volunteers at Coffee & Chat have gone through safer recruitment process & are up to date with safeguarding training. There were no reportable safeguarding issues during the past 12 months.

Margaret Dalton informed members of the decision taken at General Synod in February 2025 that all future decisions regarding Safeguarding will be dealt with by an independent body. Until that is established the Diocese will continue to deal with matters.

**Other reports: (copies attached)**

Revd Joanne highlighted their importance as they show us what God is about and how we are carrying out His work & showing His love. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this possible.

**Mission Links:**

In July 2024, due to the parish's financial difficulties, the PCC reluctantly decided to suspend financial support to Mission Partners, apart from an existing commitment to fund a Crosslinks Study Partner until March 2025. Need to review our practice of tithing and how best to support them.

**Assembly Team:**

We have continued providing 3 assemblies in each of our 3 primary schools each term, thanks to the co-ordinating efforts of Anne Bufton-McCoy. Children are enjoying stories in the Old Testament and schools are appreciative of what we do.

**Social & Fundraising Team:**

Social activities continued apace in 2024 with the need to raise urgent funds for various building projects. Innovations included a Comedy Night and a Pet Shop Boys Tribute Act and Lesley Smith returned to Seckington as Mary Queen of Scots and Margaret Thatcher! Help and ideas always welcome!

**Bible Club & Prayer Circle:** continue to flourish.

**Youth 139:**

Has continued to grow and flourish, with some youngsters reaching the age of 15 and moving on and others becoming old enough (10 years) to join. Meetings now alternate between Austrey School and Austrey Village Hall, where we are able to take advantage of cooking facilities. The coming months will see some changes in the volunteer structure but we pray that this amenity for village youngsters will be able to move forward.

**Lighthouse Stay & Play:**

Continues to thrive, with an average attendance of between 20 and 30. Thanks to a committed band of volunteers.

**Rector’s Report:**

Revd Joanne reflected that despite the many challenges we face we need to remember to proclaim that GOD is GOOD and there are many ways in which our generous God is at work throughout the parish, both within the church fellowship and in the building of bridges and relationships with our communities, thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers contributing whatever skills and gifts they possess. We look forward in hope and faith in a God who is good. All the time God is good.

**A.O.B.**

Revd Joanne highlighted the work done on Eco Church by Helen Perry, our Eco Champion. 3 of our churches already have the Bronze Award and we were hoping to add the remaining two but the scheme changed in January 2025 and we need to do more to satisfy the section about the church encouraging individuals to be more environmentally aware.

**Election of All Souls PCC 2025 – 2026**

Following the decision to rotate periods of service on the PCC, Trish Richardson and Adrian Parkes stepped down. Robin Powell also decided to step down from the PCC, resulting in 4 vacancies. For the coming year 3 nominations were received:

- Adrian Parkes Proposed: Sally Parkes Seconded: Barry Dyer
- Trish Richardson Proposed: Heather Cooke Seconded: Judy Meads
- Roger Shiers Proposed: Anne Bufton-McCoy Seconded: Shirley Faulkner

Election approved unanimously.

There being no further business Revd Joanne closed the meeting with prayer at 11.25 am, following which Anne Bufton-McCoy, on behalf of those present and those not, gave a vote of thanks to Revd Joanne for everything she does as leader of the All Souls team and to her husband Barry for all his much appreciated support.

At the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 18th May 2025, attended by a total of 18 electoral roll members of the Parish of All Souls, four churchwardens were elected unopposed to serve on the PCC for the coming year - Heather Cooke (Austrey), Shirley Faulkner (Newton Regis), Anne Bufton-McCoy (Seckington), Claire Holloway (Shuttington). There were 3 nominations for the 3 vacancies for PCC as a result of which Adrian Parkes and Trish Richardson were re-elected and Roger Shiers was welcomed as a new member to serve from 2025 – 2028. PCC for the coming year consists of Jan Powell (Newton Regis), Adrian & Sally Parkes, Trish Richardson, (Austrey), Roger Shiers (Seckington), Margaret Dalton, Judith Meads & Alison Meredith (Warton). Alison Meredith, Margaret Dalton and Michelle Withey continue to serve as Deanery Synod representatives.

Parish finances continued to be a concern throughout 2025 and as well as focusing through worship on God's great generosity towards us and how we might respond, we are grateful for the efforts of the Stewardship Team who embarked on producing an informative leaflet which was distributed to church members and in many cases followed up with face to face conversations. That leaflet has been revamped and is now being sent to others on the electoral roll who are church supporters but not necessarily attendees. It was with cautious optimism that the PCC again committed to contributing £30,000 to the Common Fund. We are greatly indebted to Stephen Packham who stepped in to finalise the 2025 accounts when the Treasurer became indisposed.

Progress has also been made with projects to restore our church buildings (new heating installed at Seckington, repairs to the bells and tower at Newton Regis, further exploration of the cause and extent of water ingress at Austrey) with new challenges surfacing ( a new roof needed at Warton, repairs to the bell at Shuttington and church redecoration).

It was, however, also a year of innovations: we are now formally linked with St. Editha's Amington as an Oversight Area, following a joint PCC meeting in July 2025 when we discussed how we might work together and support each other. The link was celebrated with Bishop Michael presiding at a service in March 2026. On a more regular note, the 10.30 am service at Austrey has been given a new look, aimed at being more inclusive of families with young children, laid out café style and including activities. Shiloh, a monthly prayer initiative started in the autumn of 2025, held in a different church each month, is proving popular and a blessing to those who attend. Prayer walks were also held around the new housing developments in our villages in the spring of 2026, affording an opportunity to make contact with newcomers. Our regular outreach activities – Lighthouse Stay & Play, Youth 139, Coffee & Chat, leading school assemblies– continue to thrive and support for all our fundraising ventures is encouraging.

We also continue to make sure that we are compliant with the C of E and Diocesan Safeguarding requirements, thanks to the capable oversight of our Safeguarding Officer Margaret Dalton.

The PCC and the churchwardens have continued to meet regularly. It is disappointing that we still have only 4 churchwardens doing the work of 10 and Warton continues to be without a churchwarden. Many hands would make the burden of responsibility for the week by week running of our churches SO much lighter! Please consider prayerfully whether you might offer your services...

It has been another full year of ups as well as downs but we soldier on in our efforts to be an effective witness to the love of Jesus in our communities.

Alison Meredith  
PCC Secretary

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2025– 2026**

Deanery Synod followed the usual pattern of 3 meetings per year, in June 2025 at St Barnabas, Kingshurst, October 2025 at St Clement's, Castle Bromwich and February 2026 via Zoom.

The main focus of the June meeting was a discussion around Living in Love and Faith, exploring the theme of how we might live well together. Prior to splitting into groups Revd John White gave a thoughtful Bible-based reflection on how the early Church had dealt with issues which gave rise to conflict. The thoughts of members highlighted the challenges of doing so practically, maintaining unity whilst celebrating diversity.

The October meeting was devoted to an update from Bishop Esther and Archdeacon Phelim on the Diocese's successful funding bid, as a result of which Birmingham was awarded £17.6 million by the Church Commissioners to promote leadership, both lay and ordained, parish growth and church planting. Its main aim is to create communities transformed by Christ. There followed questions from synod reps, several of whom were concerned about the way the bid was put together and the fact that only 7 churches in the Diocese are benefitting, mainly charismatic and evangelical in nature.

Steph Haynes, The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer returned in February to highlight the importance of Safeguarding and to update on progress at both Diocesan and national level as the C of E seeks to formulate the most effective way of carrying out its responsibilities.

The current triennium comes to an end in June 2026 and at the APCM we will be electing Deanery Synod representatives to serve for the next 3 years. It is hoped we will have our full quota of 4 representatives.

Alison Meredith  
Deanery Synod Representative for All Souls

**PCC of All Souls North Warwickshire**

**2025 financial summary  
(receipts & payments basis)**

	Unrestricted fund	Y139 LS&P					Restricted funds total				2024 total
		C&C *	Austrey	Newton Regis	Seckington	Shuttington	Warton	2025 total	2024 total		
Regular giving	30,278		265	480				1,105	31,383	27,091	
Collections at services	8,427		972					972	9,399	7,475	
All other giving	1,820	405	3,403	126	4,178	1,585	1,680	11,376	13,197	26,188	
Gift aid	9,398		89	904			250	1,243	10,641	8,097	
Grants	100	8,923	7,250	9,043	15,598	2,237	9,843	52,894	52,994	13,102	
<b>Total voluntary giving</b>	<b>50,024</b>	<b>9,328</b>	<b>11,978</b>	<b>9,169</b>	<b>21,160</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>12,133</b>	<b>67,590</b>	<b>117,614</b>	<b>81,953</b>	
<b>Fundraising activities</b>	<b>1,314</b>		<b>3,915</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>5,028</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>14,795</b>	<b>16,109</b>	<b>13,042</b>	
Investment income	1,455		695	656	1,000	513	317	3,180	4,635	3,094	
Fees retained by PCC	8,436		100					100	8,536	8,795	
Trading activities				23				23	23	53	
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>8,436</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8,559</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>8,559</b>	<b>8,848</b>	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>61,228</b>	<b>9,328</b>	<b>16,688</b>	<b>13,615</b>	<b>27,188</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>12,625</b>	<b>85,688</b>	<b>146,917</b>	<b>106,937</b>	
<b>Costs of fundraising activities</b>	<b>525</b>		<b>691</b>					<b>691</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>1,766</b>	
Mission giving & donations	389	574						574	963	1,940	
Diocesan parish share contribution	30,000								30,000	38,716	
Clergy and staff expenses	2,869								2,869	3,386	
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>33,258</b>	<b>574</b>						<b>574</b>	<b>33,832</b>	<b>44,042</b>	
Mission and evangelism costs	277	2,421		760	131			2,421	2,698	2,731	
Church running expenses	16,001							891	16,892	17,812	
Church utility bills	4,476								4,476	5,007	
<b>Church expenses</b>	<b>20,753</b>	<b>2,421</b>		<b>760</b>	<b>131</b>			<b>3,312</b>	<b>24,065</b>	<b>25,551</b>	
Major repairs to the church building			3,431	43,160	49,656	1,422	15,378	113,046	113,046	24,550	
Major repairs to other PCC property		2,800		1,220				4,020	4,020	12,608	
<b>Major capital expenditure</b>		<b>2,800</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>44,380</b>	<b>49,656</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>15,378</b>	<b>117,066</b>	<b>117,066</b>	<b>37,158</b>	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>54,536</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>45,140</b>	<b>49,787</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>15,378</b>	<b>121,644</b>	<b>176,179</b>	<b>108,516</b>	
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>3,532</b>	<b>12,566</b>	<b>-31,525</b>	<b>-22,599</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>-2,753</b>	<b>-35,955</b>	<b>-29,263</b>	<b>-1,580</b>	
<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>35,202</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>20,399</b>	<b>33,850</b>	<b>30,498</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>15,321</b>	<b>123,846</b>	<b>159,049</b>	<b>160,628</b>	
Amendments to brought forward	-981	981						981			
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>40,915</b>	<b>12,775</b>	<b>32,965</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>7,899</b>	<b>20,340</b>	<b>12,568</b>	<b>88,871</b>	<b>129,786</b>	<b>159,049</b>	
Cash	672		170		830		20	1,020	1,692		
<b>Total of bank accounts</b>	<b>40,243</b>	<b>12,775</b>	<b>32,795</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>7,899</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>12,548</b>	<b>87,851</b>	<b>128,094</b>	<b>159,049</b>	
	40,915	12,775	32,965	2,325	7,899	20,340	12,568	88,871	129,786	159,049	

\* Youth 139, Lighthouse Stay & Play, Coffee & Cake and general restricted fund.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of All Souls North Warwickshire Parochial Church Council**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act);
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no 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 & comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stephen Packham BSc, FCA  
Newton Farm, Main Road, Newton Regis, Warwickshire, B79 0NE  
6 April 2026

PCC of All Souls North Warwickshire 2025 financial summary (receipts & payments basis)	2025	2024	2023	2022
	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted fund
<b>Income</b>				
Regular giving	30,278	26,251	27,321	28,736
Collections at services	8,427	7,475	7,349	7,030
All other giving	1,820	14,934	1,062	4,409
Gift aid	9,398	7,177	9,697	9,348
Grants	100	1,752		1,653
<b>Total voluntary giving</b>	<b>50,024</b>	<b>57,589</b>	<b>45,429</b>	<b>51,176</b>
<b>Fundraising activities</b>	<b>1,314</b>		<b>154</b>	
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>102</b>
Fees retained by PCC	8,436	8,795	8,445	9,056
Trading activities			39	1,187
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>8,436</b>	<b>8,795</b>	<b>8,484</b>	<b>10,243</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>			<b>160</b>	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>61,228</b>	<b>66,931</b>	<b>55,085</b>	<b>61,520</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Costs of fundraising activities</b>	<b>525</b>			
Mission giving & donations	389	1,940	3,724	2,982
Diocesan parish share contribution	30,000	38,716	36,972	35,984
Clergy and staff expenses	2,869	3,386	2,159	2,691
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>33,258</b>	<b>44,042</b>	<b>42,854</b>	<b>41,657</b>
Mission and evangelism costs	277	1,073	128	
Church running expenses	16,001	14,964	25,018	20,316
Church utility bills	4,476	5,007	5,008	3,449
<b>Church expenses</b>	<b>20,753</b>	<b>21,044</b>	<b>30,154</b>	<b>23,765</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>54,536</b>	<b>65,086</b>	<b>73,008</b>	<b>65,422</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>-17,923</b>	<b>-3,901</b>
<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>35,202</b>	<b>33,358</b>	<b>51,281</b>	<b>55,182</b>
Amendments to brought forward	-981			
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>40,915</b>	<b>35,202</b>	<b>33,358</b>	<b>51,281</b>

2025 saw the **Electoral Roll** completely refreshed. The 2026 revision of the roll remains at 120. We have welcomed 2 new members who have become regular worshippers at Shuttington. But sadly 2 individuals, including the amazingly faithful 105 year old from Warton, have returned to be with their Saviour.

Did you know that the numbers on our electoral roll influence how many members we can have on Deanery Synod? And that each member on deanery synod can vote and determine diocesan and general synod membership - ultimately having a say in the overall business and policy of The Church of England.

***Thank you to Kathryn Packham for your ongoing work in maintaining the electoral roll.***

# Prayer Circle

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## PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT MAY 2026

Prayer Circle has 24 members and is always open for new people to join. It has been going for some years now and has proved to be a great blessing to many.

We receive prayer requests from each other or anyone we know who has asked for or needs prayer. The prayer request is sent to me (Gina) via SMS text message and then I forward this to the whole group who will pray.

The Prayer Circle is very active and we can all witness to the power of prayer, especially when we all pray together. We have experienced awesome answers to our prayers and also the knowledge that others are praying with us and for us is a huge comfort.

If you would like to pray with us and become part of the circle, just text me on **07966664508** and I can add you to the group.

If you have any prayer requests but do not wish to be part of the group, just text your prayer to me starting with "Prayer Circle:" and ending with your name.

Gina Larkin



## Assembly Team

The School Assembly teams continue to visit schools three times a term and we are working our way through the Old Testament – which has some terrific stories and messages!

The children particularly enjoyed hearing about Moses and Samson and were really quite excited to hear the next instalments each time!

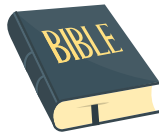
We are very grateful for the continued support of Trevor, Lyn, Trish and Heather as we continue to work and pray with children across the three Church Schools in our Parish.

Anne Bufton-McCoy  
Assembly Team Co-ordinator

Although finances are not yet on a sufficiently sound footing to reintroduce our practice of tithing, we continue to support our Mission Partners – Mission Aviation Fellowship, Crosslinks, Bethesda Hospital in India, Birmingham City Mission and the Church in Malawi (our Diocesan link) - through prayer and in the case of Birmingham City Mission we have supported their food bank with harvest gifts and their Christmas Toy Appeal for needy children. Harvest items were also donated to Tamworth Food Bank.

As finances start to recover, it is the intention of the PCC to review our practice of tithing, which originated in Austrey & Warton in the 1980s, to decide whether we continue as before or introduce a greater element of individual choice.

## Bible Club



We continue to meet on Wednesdays to explore, study and learn together different aspects of God's word in the Bible. We have completed our studies looking at the Armour of God and followed on with a one-off study exploring the concept of Joy within the Bible and we have also spent time studying the Holy Spirit. Finally, we have joined in with the recent Lent course which considered the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. Our studies are led by Sally who mixes her own thoughts and work with material sourced online. This allows for a relaxed and thoughtful look at what we're studying with all of us learning from each other. At times we do struggle to find a Wednesday when most of us are available, but we always get there in the end!

We are a small group of between 6 and 7 but we would love to welcome others to join us.

Our many thanks to John and Gina who continue to host us in their house and who make us feel very welcome.

Sally Parkes



## Shiloh

Shiloh means "peace and tranquillity" and takes place on different days approximately once a month rotating round our 5 churches. We provide a prayer board for written prayers that are prayed at the end of the session, candles that can be lit to remember a loved one, free space for meditation and prayer and an opportunity to talk/pray with us. The number of people attending has varied with each session but it has always been a real blessing to spend an hour in peace and tranquillity praying with and for our churches, church family, our villages and for anyone who is on our hearts needing prayer.

We were encouraged by the number who attended our last session in Warton and the texts of appreciation we received afterwards. Everyone is welcome and can drop in for as long as they like. For more information ring Gina on 07966664508

Gina Larkin

# Lighthouse stay and play

Lighthouse Stay & Play opened its doors for the first time during September 2022 in the school hall of Newton Regis C of E Primary School. It takes place every Tuesday morning (term time only) from 10.00 to 11.30 and caters for pre-school children and babies accompanied by adults (parents, grandparents, carers, childminders etc).

We have lots of toys and a craft table and we always end with a story and the Lighthouse prayer (with signs) and the Lighthouse song (which all the children love and join in with the actions). We provide tea, coffee, squash and snacks.



Lighthouse is structured so each week we have a biblical theme and the craft and story are based on this.

We are very grateful to our local councillor Brynne Ririe who secured some funding for us which paid for a new shed that was badly needed to enable us to keep the toys clean and dry.

We have been so blessed that our volunteers are very committed, love to come and are a fantastic team. We have 10 regular volunteers, plus four who are registered but cannot commit regularly but will come if extra help is needed. We have been very encouraged that the numbers attending have increased with time and many parents with their children become regulars. We have had over 30 attend at some sessions and probably average at least 20. We are sad when children leave us to start school.

We have also been delighted to welcome very tiny babies whose mothers really enjoy getting out, the company and numerous willing volunteers to cuddle their baby while they relax with a cuppa. We feel the friendly, warm atmosphere really helps the children acquire social skills and prepares them well for pre-school and/or school as well as helping them learn about God

There is no charge for visitors and no booking required. We have had lots of donations of consumables.

If you are interested in coming with your child or becoming a volunteer, please contact John on 07967928282.

Gina and John Larkin



Youth 139 continues to meet on Thursday evening, 6.00 – 7.30 p.m. We meet between two sites: Austrey Primary School or Austrey Village Hall. The school offers space to play a range of sports, and the village hall enables us to cook together.

We have had a few young people join and some have come of age and left.

Attempts have been made to recruit more volunteers but unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful.

We have been able to secure some funding towards the replenishment of equipment. Jan has kindly taken up the offer of overseeing Youth 139's finances and updating the PCC members on the club's general developments.

Michelle Withey



## COFFEE & CHAT

Since its inception in November 2023 Coffee & Chat has proved a popular meeting place, especially for those living on their own. We gather in Warton Parish Room twice a month, on the first and third Thursday, to have a chat and catch up over a cup of tea or coffee, cake and biscuits as well as toasted crumpets. Thanks go to local councilors who recognising the value of what we offer have provided funding, supplemented by donations, for new mugs, a toaster and room hire the organisers, and thanks especially those who set up (often unseen) and clear away!

# Safeguarding

The care and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The Parish of All Souls North Warwickshire and those parishioners who undertake roles within the work of the church which bring them in to contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults take their responsibilities seriously and undertake the necessary awareness training and checks.

Below is a brief update on actions and developments in the last 12 months which has been undertaken to comply with Church of England (CofE) Safeguarding requirements to ensure a safer church for all.

## **Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and new Safeguarding Hub**

### **Parish Safeguarding Dashboard update**

Parish Dashboard is an online document designed to display a clear and simple dashboard to give Parish Safeguarding Lead, incumbent, church wardens and the PCC the current status of safeguarding practises in the parish at a glance. As the Parish Safeguarding Lead, I provide regular updates to the PCC on where we are against various elements in the 3 Dashboard levels;

- Level 1 – Safer Recruitment
- Level 2 – Safer Activities
- Level 3 – Safer Practices

As a Parish we are Level 3, to maintain this top level to we need to take action throughout the year to ensure we review and update certain areas which the Dashboard flags up. I am pleased to report that we have maintained Level 3 Sections, however there are 4 items need be to updated, these are in-hand.

The Dashboard is a live programme and requires continuous monitoring as elements have different review cycles. However, I am pleased to report that following a recent survey of Dashboard Users in 2025 the overall consensus was we only wanted the Dashboard to be changed once a year. So hopefully this will reduce the constant emails of changes and updates we need to action.

# The Parish Dashboard

Level 3 Section	Number of subsections	Current Status
Policies and Action Plan	5 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> -these regular reviewed throughout the year and updated accordingly
Safeguarding Procedures	5 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> but one is due for review in June 2026
Safeguarding Roles	3 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> but one is due for review in June 2026 by the PCC
Training for Key Roles	4 sub sections	<b>2 to be completed</b> – process in hand
Learning and Development	5 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> but will need regular review
Displayed Information	4 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> but will need regular review.
Reviews and Reports	5 sub sections	<b>All completed</b> but will need regular review.
Church Activities	<p>1) Open Book – School Assemblies has 7 sub sections.</p> <p>2) Lighthouse Stay and Play has 7 sub sections.</p> <p>3) Youth 139 has 7 sub sections</p> <p>4) Coffee and Chat has 7 sub sections.</p>	<p><b>All completed</b> but will need regular review.</p> <p><b>1 item needs to be completed</b> ie - review of risk assessment – in hand.</p> <p><b>All completed</b> but will need regular review.</p> <p>1 individual is in middle of updating their training.</p>

## **Safeguarding Hub**

The Parish Safeguarding Hub continues to be developed and adjusted to how we record volunteer records. I am still trying to complete information on this platform requires, and continues to remain a work in progress.

As Safeguarding Co-ordinator I continue to undertake annual visits to all our outreach groups, and throughout the year have regularly chats with leaders at each group to see how things are going.

## **Youth 139**

Youth 139 continues to go from strength to strength with the help and care of our experienced group of volunteers. All volunteers have gone through the Safer Recruitment process and are up to date with the appropriate Safeguarding Training.

## **Lighthouse Stay & Play**

Lighthouse Stay & Play continues to go from strength to strength with the help and care of our experienced group of volunteers. All volunteers have gone through the Safer Recruitment process and are up to date with the appropriate Safeguarding Training.

## **Warton Coffee and Chat -1st and 3rd Thursday per Month**

The Warton Coffee and Chat continues to be popular, and all volunteers have gone through the Safer Recruitment process and are up-to-date with the appropriate Safeguarding Training.

## **Safeguarding Reporting**

I am pleased to report there has been no reportable safeguarding issues raised during 2025/26 to date.

## **Annual Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinators Annual Meeting Day 2025**

I was unable to attend the Annual Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators Annual Meeting on 7 March 2025 due to being away on holiday. I requested a copy of the presentation and updates given on the day, it contained no new information but clarified the process to follow when supporting vulnerable adults.

Update – The House of Bishops Guidance for Safer Recruitment and People Management Policy has been removed from the CoE website and replaced with the new Code of Practice.

There has also been a number of changes to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator Annual Meeting Day is 6 March 2027



Margaret Dalton  
Safeguarding Lead & Parish Verifier  
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# FABRIC REPORT

Some major projects were completed during the year and we were fortunate to be able to reclaim the VAT through the extended Listed Places of Worship Scheme, thanks to the prompt submission of the claims by the vicar. But as soon as some problems are resolved, others appear, especially when dealing with historic buildings – and we have 5 of them!

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NEWTON REGIS

- Work to repair bells and associated work in tower completed by summer of 2025.
- Small section of churchyard wall to right of lych gate repaired by Craig Hill at quoted cost of £1,200. Craig's services were again required in March 2026 to repair another section of the churchyard wall adjoining the car park at a cost of £1,800. The collapse in both cases was felt to be the result of heavy rains.
- Path leading from the former rectory into churchyard and gate repaired to allow disabled access on occasions such as weddings and funerals.

## ST NICHOLAS, AUSTREY

- Exploratory works to determine the extent of the problem of water ingress in parts of the nave, which included the need for a bat survey, were carried out in the spring of 2026 and we await a full specification and costing of the repairs needed.
- The church clock, has now worked consistently for a number of months, thank you to Austrey Parish Council for addressing.
  - Faculty granted for installation of a new electricity distribution board in summer of 2025.
  - 3 faulty heaters replaced in December 2025.

## ALL SAINTS, SECKINGTON

- New heating system installed in summer of 2025 at cost of over £40,000. Bishop Michael attended a joint Harvest and Thanksgiving Service in October 2025.
- Next project involves attention to stonework on south-facing windows.

## ST MATTHEW, SHUTTINGTON

- PCC resolved to appoint conservation architect to draw up specification for internal re-plastering re-decoration.
- PCC also resolved to apply for Faculty to repair cracked headstock of the bell dated 1664 (estimated cost £17,000+). Grant applied for in January 2026. Fundraising under way.

## HOLY TRINITY, WARTON

- Prolonged investigations into the state of the timber battens on the north facing side of the roof have confirmed that a new roof will be needed. Detailed specification and costings still to be obtained but a major fundraising drive will be needed

In addition, **fire extinguishers** in all churches checked October 2025. **Organs** at Warton, Shuttington, Newton Regis & Austrey tuned in April 2025. Austrey organ also tuned in October.

Projects requiring Faculty application or involving considerable expense must receive PCC approval. PCC has also resolved to reinstate the Buildings Committee to expedite issues around the fabric of our churches.

If you have any questions concerning the fabric, please address them to the Vicar or the relevant churchwarden.

**More help with conserving and maintaining our church buildings and churchyards is always welcome, so if you are interested, please contact the vicar.**

## CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE:

We continue to be extremely grateful to the volunteers from our villages who give of their time and energy to mow and trim to keep the churchyards tidy. Efforts are also being made to make them ecologically and environmentally friendly: Austrey churchyard now boasts a splendid bug hotel!



## Social & Fundraising

Social gatherings continued to feature regularly in the calendar during 2025/6, with a wide variety of events to suit a range of tastes.

Very many thanks to all who have organised the various fundraising events over the past year as well as everyone who supported them.

Funds for the Parish of All Souls were raised at the Harvest Supper in September 2025, which also featured an auction of various items, and again in March 2026 when Newton Regis WI organised a Fashion Show and clothing sale, kindly donating half of the proceeds to All Souls.

All Souls again hosted a Christmas Market at the end of November 2025 with each church running a stall to raise monies for its own church funds. Additional tables were hired out to other traders and organisations so there was a wide choice of products on offer.

Anne and Ray opened their garden once again at the end of May 2025 raising funds for Seckington Church towards their target for a new heating system which was successfully installed in the summer. Lesley Smith returned in March 2026 as Florence Nightingale and a concert by Diamond Harmony in April 2026 helped replenish the coffers.

Warton will need to get its act together in the coming months as a new roof is needed! Watch this space!

Please speak with your local churchwarden if you have ideas or are able to offer help. Our churches are an integral part of our communities, there for the benefit of all.

Shirley and Rhona ran their very successful Bingo nights for Christmas 2025 and Easter 2026 to raise funds for St Mary's Church in Newton Regis, with repairs to the bells and the tower being completed by early summer. Open Gardens was held in July 2025 with proceeds once more being shared between St Mary's Church and other village projects. The traditional Harvest Auction in October was another memorable evening in aid of the church.

Trish & Heather continued their monthly walk-in Coffee Mornings to raise funds for Austrey Church, interspersing them with an Afternoon Cream Tea in July 2025 and a Big Breakfast in November 2025. In June 2025 Paul Kerensa entertained us with a Comedy Night and a Country Music and Line Dancing Evening in Austrey Village Hall provided a further boost to funds.

Shuttington now has a fundraising team which has been extremely active since its formation last summer, raising money through breakfasts, afternoon teas, book and china sales, knitting projects and marmalade sales.

## ECO Church: Faith in Action for Creation Care

The ECO Church award, run by A Rocha UK, encourages churches to care for God’s creation through practical action and lifestyle change. It recognises commitment across three key areas: worship and teaching, management of church buildings and land, and engagement with the local community and global issues. Churches can achieve three levels of award—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—each reflecting deeper commitment and impact.

Achieving the Bronze Award is the first step. Churches complete an online survey and begin taking simple, practical actions such as reducing energy use, including creation care in worship, and raising awareness among the congregation. While we do not have a formal eco group, we are supported by our Eco Champion, Helen Perry, who helps guide and encourage this work. Locally, Austrey, Seckington, and Shuttington churches have all achieved Bronze, showing that steady, intentional steps can make a real difference. Warton and Newton Regis are now ready to apply for Bronze, marking encouraging progress across our churches.

Moving to the Silver Award involves building on these foundations. Churches are asked to demonstrate more consistent action, such as improving energy efficiency, caring for church land in sustainable ways, and engaging more deeply with the wider community. A key part of this stage is encouraging individuals to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles in their daily lives.

The Gold Award represents a fully embedded, long-term commitment, where sustainability shapes every aspect of church life and outreach.

As we work towards Silver across all our churches, ECO Church is not just about how we use resources wisely, but about inspiring one another to live in ways that honour and protect God’s creation.



**GARDENER'S DELIGHT:** Anne and Ray's garden at Hillview, Seckington is sure to delight as always and will be open as usual to visitors on **Saturday 23 May** from 2 – 5 pm. Make sure you visit all the stalls before relaxing with friends over a cuppa and slice of home-made cake in (hopefully!) warm Spring sunshine. Raising funds for All Saints, Seckington

**Plant and Produce sale, cake and a cuppa** at Maxines, 71 Austrey Rd Warton Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 11-2. Raising funds for Holy Trinity, Warton

**Newton Regis Open gardens and Flower Festival, with the odd Scarecrow**  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July



**Austrey  
BIG  
Breakfast**

- 📅 Saturday 16th May 2026
- 🕒 9.30, 10.30 or 11.30
- 📍 Austrey Village Hall

**Full English £10**  
**Breakfast Bap £5**  
☕ Free hot drinks

*Eating together to raise funds for  
St Nicholas Church Building Fund*

buy your tickets online at  
<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NjU10C0xNg/t>  
(booking fee applies)  
or call Heather on 01827 830548

**VINTAGE CHURCH FAYRE**  
SATURDAY 16 MAY 1PM TO 3PM  
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH SHUTTINGTON  
Stalls with various vintage items for sale

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE  
ST MATTHEW'S RESTORATION FUND

Cake Stall    Book Stall    Tombola  
Refreshments available