

The Parish Church of  
**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**SOUTH WIGSTON  
WITHIN THE WIGSTON BENEFICE**



**AGENDA,  
MINUTES  
and REPORTS**

**for**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**and**

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

# **THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Opening Prayers**
- 2. Apologies for Absence – already notified**
- 3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners –4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**
- 4. Election of Church Wardens.**

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## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**1. Present:**

K Martin (Chair) and 27 parishioners

**2. Apologies:** (notified in advance) P Rowley, P Kenney

**3. Minutes:**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved as a true record. Proposed by C Kenney, seconded by I Day and carried unanimously,

**4. Election of Church wardens:**

There were two nominations for church wardens:

Mrs Pauline Footman – proposed by J Perry and seconded by J Peters

Mrs Kate Martin – proposed by J Barradell and seconded by P Kenney

There being no other nominations Mrs Footman and Mrs Martin were declared church wardens for the coming year.

The church wardens sincerely thanked everybody for their help and support during the past year, especially during the interregnum.

*June Day  
PCC Secretary*

# **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting – 04.05.2025**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report**
- 4. Elections:**
  - a. Three members of the Parochial Church Council**
  - b. Two co-opted members of the Parochial Church Council**
- 5. Presentation of the Accounts**
- 6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
- 8. Clergy Report**
- 9. Report of the Parochial Church Council**
- 10. Safeguarding Report**
- 11. Church wardens' Reports (the Church wardens)**
- 12. Reports**

*These will be taken as read and any questions may be asked through the Chair*

  - a Pledged Giving**
  - b Fellowship Group**
- 13. Any Other Business – previously notified**
- 14. The Grace**

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**04.05.2025**

## **Present**

The attendance and apologies were as for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

### **1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the 2024 meeting, having been circulated, were approved as correct. Proposed by C Wood, seconded by C Lowson and carried unanimously.

### **2. Matters Arising**

None

### **3. Electoral Roll**

Mrs C Wood gave the Electoral Roll Report. There had been a full renewal of the Electoral Roll this year. The number now stands at 42 of which 21 are outside the parish. Sadly, W Langeveld had passed away during the year. The Chair thanked C Wood for the report.

### **4a) Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

The Chair informed the meeting that due to the decrease in the number on the electoral roll, this reduced the number of members on the PCC by one. As there were three members up for re-election, the Chair proposed, in line with Church rules, that we co-opt one of the members for a year. This was agreed unanimously and will be carried forward each year. There are now two vacancies and one co-opted member. The nominations were as follows:

#### Elected members

J Barradell – proposed by K Martin and seconded by P Footman

I Orr – proposed by C Lowson and seconded by P Footman

#### Co-opted member for one year

C Collins – proposed by J Day and seconded by C Lowson

The above were duly elected for their respective terms.

### **4b) We still have 2 vacancies for the Deanery Synod but there were no nominations.**

## **5. Presentation of Accounts**

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but a written report was included in the Annual Report

The Annual Accounts had been audited and were self-explanatory.

The Treasurer's report indicated that the accounts were looking reasonably healthy. However, numbers in the congregation were dropping but costs still rising. We are awaiting quotes for repair work to the vestry roof and planning permission for a new church entrance ramp.

Income from the church hall has again reduced significantly and £21,944 was spent during the year removing asbestos from the boiler room. At a PCC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the decision was taken to put the hall up for sale.

The Treasurer also reported that the hall had an outstanding debtor with £5,703,50 still outstanding. This amount was being pursued through the small claims court. However, due to the ex tenant's personal circumstances, the decision was taken at the PCC in October 2024 to write off the debt as any further payment was highly unlikely.

The Chair thanked the Treasurers for all their hard work in maintaining the church accounts.

## **6 Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer proposed, in his report, that Colin Wood be the Independent Examiner for the coming year. Seconded by C Collins and carried unanimously.

## **7. Clergy Report**

Fr Paul Betts gave his report and said that 2024 had been a year of change as Fr Chris Johnson had left in September 2024 to take up a post in Kent. He, himself had been seconded during the year, as Bishop's Chaplain and he thanked everybody for allowing him that chance. He gave a huge thankyou to the church wardens for all their work since Fr Chris left including the arrangement of visiting clergy to enable worship to continue at St Thomas's.

The Wigston Benefice is now entering Phase 2 of the Minster Communities formation process. The intention of this process is to strengthen local churches so that they better serve their local communities. He thanked those from the parish who are involved in this process for their commitment to it.

He made mention of his delight at seeing so many families at the Christingle service.

He recalled the sad passing of Edna Cowan, Judith Proctor and Derek Tester.

**8. Parochial Church Council Report**

The chair explained the purpose of the PCC and the report was taken as read.

**9. Safeguarding Report**

The Safeguarding Report was taken as read.

**10. Church wardens Report**

Pauline Footman gave the church wardens report. J Watkiss thanked the church wardens for all their hard work over the year.

**11. Other Annual Reports**

The following reports were all taken as read:

Pledged Giving Report

Church Hall Report

Mother's Union Fellowship report

**12. Any Other Business**

a) The meeting was updated that the Church Hall had now been on the market for a couple of weeks and there was quite a lot of interest. There was a closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> May for offers and the PCC were due to meet on 28<sup>th</sup> May to consider them.

b) The question of whether we still needed to pay a Parish Contribution even though we have no clergy was asked. GW replied that we are still committed to paying. The diocese pay for visiting clergy on Sundays and major festivals

**The meeting closed with the Grace.**

## **REPORTS for 2025**

### **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **INCOME**

The PCC had total receipts of General Income £38,866 including giving under the Parish scheme of £26,537 and Charity Income £2,132. There has been a significant decrease in hall income and fees (only 2 funerals).

#### **Restricted Account £110,745.**

This is currently held in an interest bearing account in lieu of 'church ramp construction' expenditure and to meet impending hall sale legal costs. In 2026 we hope to see significant expenditure being undertaken on:

- New church entrance ramp construction - currently awaiting submission of planning application to Oadby & Wigston Council.
- Church reordering following hall sale in March 2026 - awaiting DAC approval.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

General Payments totalled £51,631 of which £19,759 being hall related - legal fees, cleaners redundancy etc. The remaining expenditure was similar to the previous years. The burden of the hall running costs will no longer be a factor in 2026 and we look forward the future with expenditure being to improve the infrastructure of the church building - heating, ramps and re ordering - funding for which will be in place.

#### **Restricted accounts**

The PCC has continued to support charities as detailed in receipts & payments entry totalling £2,147.

#### **Reserves**

A formal reserve policy that each year a balance of circa £10,000 is retained in the current account that equates to 3 months general expenditure net of Parish Contribution.

*Paul Kenney  
Treasurer*

### **8. CLERGY REPORT**

#### **New Beginnings**

My arrival at the start of Advent last year happened at one of the busiest times of the church calendar, and was somewhat compounded by difficulties in organising my removals. At a time when I could easily have been swamped with work, others stepped up to ensure I would have the space I needed to be among folk. In spite of the busy-ness, I was able to get my bearings, due entirely to the kindness and patience of the community. Of that number, our dedicated churchwardens have very much kept me on the straight and narrow, offering advice and words of

wisdom. I am immensely grateful to both Kate Martin and Pauline Footman—as well as Patrick Thacker and Winsum Wright at All Saints—who have each taken a special care to make sure I settle well. There have been many times when a quiet word from a warden has been immensely helpful, and their support has been truly invaluable. So to each of our wardens: a heartfelt thank you from me.

My first Christmas among you was enjoyable, from the visit by the Cantamici Choir for our Carol Service, to the Christingle service where the congregation was wrapped up in red ribbon, to Christmas morning with the chocolate nativity. Lent followed quickly this year, and I have found the run-up to Easter to be particularly moving. I have been so grateful to the readiness with which folk have engaged with the Lent course following Judas's journey with Jesus; it has been wonderfully encouraging as a priest to prepare a course that has been so appreciated. At the time of writing, I am very much looking forward to the Easter Vigil, and indeed to reaching Easter Day.

### **Life at St. Thomas'**

As someone who has recently arrived, my initial observations are that you are a welcoming community that cares for and keeps an eye out for one another. It has been wonderful to arrive and discover a congregation where there is still energy and appetite to engage with activities beyond Sunday mornings. For example, you have a faithful cohort who meet on Wednesdays. Folk have also gathered for a celebration of pancakes ahead of Ash Wednesday, and I am aware of other gatherings that happen at other times. You have a small but dedicated team who faithfully visit folk who can no longer make it easily to church; and you also have people who are dedicated to the task of safeguarding. To each and every one of you who is involved in some sort of ministry or hospitality, or who does the background work that happens quietly and unobtrusively, which most of us do not know happens, but which allows everything else to happen seamlessly: a big thank you.

Changes are afoot for our church building, not least as the church hall has now been sold. We all owe Kate Martin an enormous debt of gratitude, for it seems to me as someone who has arrived late in the day that she has been the chief person to take on the mantle of work, and who has helped get us over the finishing line. This means we are closer to reordering the building, which will give us a future where we can offer basic hospitality. Amongst other things awaiting our church building is completing the project to install a ramp at the entrance.

We have had a single funeral in my short time among you, with another just another due within a few weeks of writing this report. This next funeral will be for Margaret Fahey, who until recently had been a regular at St. Thomas'. I am due to take a baptism early May, and we have a wedding of two of our own number mid-July: Jeremy and Cheryl. It is always a blessing to be there for the occasional offices for members of our

church family, not just for parishioners who live in the local area and feel connected to our building, but who are not necessarily part of the church community.

### **Wider Church Life**

It is worth making a few comments about the wider life of our church, not least as you share me with the good folk at All Saints in Wigston Magna. Both communities are unique in their way, coming together to share a common life at key points in the church's life, and I am very much enjoying my time getting to know both communities. I have been grateful for the adjustment in expectations both communities have made ahead of my arrival, and the acceptance that I cannot be in two places at the same time. The way in which both communities have adjusted to having one priest across both parishes is admirable.

Minster Communities are very much on the agenda as the Diocese of Leicester continues to push forward on these. In truth, we do not know what shape this will take. However, it is obvious that one benefit to MCs is that they could form support networks for clergy by encouraging clergy to work together more intentionally in a way that deaneries have not necessarily done. Where clergy can work together, there are benefits for fruitful partnerships. However, I have arrived at a point in the church's calendar when I am focussing my attention to what is needed. I anticipate that I will be in a better position to engage with MCs once we reach the summer.

### **Looking to the Future**

I appreciate that that I still have much learning about the community at St. Thomas', as well as the community at All Saints and the wider local communities in which we are rooted. I remain committed to being among you as I continue to get to know your church and local communities better. I have begun to forge ties with the local primary schools, particularly with All Saints Primary in Wigston Magna. I have also made a few connections with local government, first through being invited to speak the Holocaust Memorial Day, and then through enquiries to find out more about the St. Wistan's pilgrimage.

### **Thank You**

The last thing for me to note is a big thank you for the warmth of welcome I have received over the past few months. I am very grateful to be here among you as your parish priest.

*Revd David Cowie  
Rector*

## **9. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2025**

### **Aim and purposes**

St. Thomas the Apostle Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the clergy of the Wigston Benefice in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. During 2025 the PCC was also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall, Blaby Road, South Wigston.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity, exempt from registration with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (CRR) and membership of the PCC consists of the licensed clergy within the Benefice, the Church Wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Unfortunately, no representative from St Thomas' currently sits on the deanery synod, for which there are two vacancies.

Customarily, the Chair of St Thomas' PCC is taken by the Associate Vicar/Rector. However, since the departure of the Associate Vicar in September 2024 the role is taken by the elected Lay Vice Chair. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met 6 times including the APCM plus four additional meetings to discuss specific urgent items. In order to fulfil its function the Council has the following arrangements: Standing and Finance Committee Membership: Rector (from December 2025), Church Wardens, Treasurers, Secretary & two members elected by the PCC. This committee sets the agenda for the PCC and conducts business on behalf of the full Council between meetings. The Committee is limited to expenditure of £500 on any single item.

### **Working Parties and ad hoc groups are appointed for the following matters:**

- Social events and Fund Raising for Charities Group
- Catering Group
- Minster Communities
- Church reordering sub-committee

### **Individuals appointed to specific tasks on behalf of the Council:**

- Covenant & Stewardship Recorder
- Safeguarding Officers for Children & Young People and for Vulnerable Adults
- Children's Independent Person
- Insurance Manager

- Buildings Manager
- Hall Booking Secretary
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Health and Safety Officer (including Fire Officer)

The Hall Cleaner previously employed by the PCC was made redundant in October 2025 due to the sale of the church hall.

*An honorarium is paid to the clock winder.*

*Organists are engaged on a freelance basis.*

Persons serving on the Council between 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the Adoption of the Accounts for 2025 in April 2026

<b>Ex Officio</b>	
Rev P Betts	Curate (left May 2025)
Mrs P Footman	Church warden
Mrs K Martin	Church warden (Vice Chair)
Vacancy	Deanery Synod Representative
Vacancy	Deanery Synod Representative
<b>Elected</b>	<b>Retire 2026</b>
Mrs J Day	Elected 2023
Mr C Lawson	Elected 2023
Mr G Withers	Elected 2023
Mrs C Collins	Co-opted 2025 for one year
<b>Elected</b>	<b>Retire 2027</b>
Mr P Kenney	Elected 2024
<b>Elected</b>	<b>Retire 2028</b>
Mrs J Barradell	Elected 2025
Mr I Orr	Elected 2025

### **Church Membership**

2026 has required a revision of the electoral roll as per the requirements of the CRR. At the time the Roll closing prior to the APCM 2026 there are 48 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 21 of whom are not resident within the parish.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Thomas's.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish.

Our services and worship seek to help our worshippers to people to live out their faith through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. In particular, we try to enable this through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Thomas and the Church Hall.

## **Achievements and Performance**

St Thomas' seeks to offer a variety of ways for people to engage with the life of the church and Christian faith, along with the important task of maintaining the historic fabric of our Grade II\* listed church building. Some of these achievements have included:

- Continuing consultation on the plans to improve accessibility into the church building, prior to applying for a faculty and planning permission.
- Drawing up plans for the installation of toilets, kitchen, creation of a meeting room with ramp within the church building.
- Nearing the completion of the selling of the church hall to be used as a dance studio
- Maintaining a regular pattern of services during the interregnum, including Christmas, Holy Week and Easter Services
- Engaged fully with the Minister Communities process with representatives attending all meetings and workshops

### *Average Attendance at Church Services*

The average attendance at Sunday services in 2025 has been approximately 30.

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 and through funeral services friends and family

express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

### **The Church Hall**

An offer has been accepted for the sale of the church hall and the process for the sale is nearing completion. The process was delayed to the need for a Licence for Access on the land between the hall and church. The property was sold to a private buyer in March 2026.

### **Ongoing Projects and Initiatives**

Throughout the year the PCC have been working on a number of ongoing projects and initiatives.

- The process of adopting the Minster Community Model throughout the Diocese continues. The Wigston Benefice being part of Area 3. Our representatives attended Working Groups to discuss and refine the details of how the proposed groupings will work together. We are now awaiting the final proposals to be written, hopefully during the first half of in 2026.
- Church accessibility installation of permanent ramp – The PCC received, largely positive, feedback from Historic England following the consultation period. Taking into account the comments made, the architect is currently in the process of revising the plans ready to be submitted to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council for planning consent.
- Reordering of the church to include toilet, catering facilities and creation of a meeting room – the DAC conducted a further site visit in November to discuss the initial plan and drawings that had been produced. These have been submitted to Historic England and the Victorian Society for consideration and comment. It is anticipated that the application for a faculty will continue once feedback has been received during the first quarter of 2026. Funding will depend on a successful sale of the hall.
- Vestry roof – we continue to monitor the roof, however, there does not appear to have been any discernible difference.

### **Interregnum**

Fr Paul Betts, Curate, left the Benefice in May 2025. Thankfully Rev David Cowie was appointed Rector of the Benefice and took up his post in December 2025.

The PCC would like to record its thanks to the visiting clergy who have provided cover for services during this time. Their help and support has been very much appreciated and has enabled us to hold a service every week.

## **Administrative information**

St Thomas's Church is situated on the junction of St Thomas' Road and Blaby Road, South Wigston. It is part of the Wigston Benefice with All Saints' Church and St Wistan's Church both of which are in Wigston Magna. It is part of the Diocese of Leicester within the Church of England. The contact for the benefice is the Revd David Cowie by email at [rector.wigston.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:rector.wigston.benefice@gmail.com). The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. The Chair of the PCC role was undertaken by Kate Martin, Churchwarden and Vice Chair, until the appointment of Rev David Cowie who took over the role in December 2025.

*K Martin  
Vice Chair of the Council*

## **10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Each year sees developments and shifts in best practice in order to achieve a high standard of safeguarding provision. The PCC and church as a whole have taken significant steps in recent years to implement and develop good practice in what we do and how we operate in relation to guidance at national and diocesan level. The last couple of years have caused significant disruption to our usual events and operations and we will need to review and update things accordingly.

Each year we are required to review and report to the APCM what tasks are outstanding or not fully implemented in relation to our work with children and young people and vulnerable adults.

These are:

- To review our current situation particularly following recent events within the Church of England.
- To ensure that copies of the latest policies and the Pocket Guide to Safeguarding are made available to volunteers.
- To ensure that volunteers undergo safeguarding training, including instruction on what to do if they receive information or have concerns about possible abuse. This should be renewed and updated as required.
- To ensure that volunteers and staff are aware of the expectations upon them, particularly in relation to social media and the use of text messaging with those under 18.
- To complete and update risk assessments for activities and to ensure that adequate insurance is in place for them.
- To clarify our first aid needs and to train volunteers as appropriate.

- To continue to ensure that consent forms for under 18s and contact details for volunteers are in place and up to date.

Ongoing matters will be monitored as appropriate. Other matters will be implemented over the next few months by church officers and the clergy.

*June Day  
Safeguarding Co-ordinator*

## **11. CHURCH WARDENS' REPORTS**

### **Church Life**

It is fair to say that 2025 was a quiet but nevertheless eventful year in the life of St Thomas'.

January and February continued much as usual with services every week presided over by either Revd Paul Betts or visiting clergy.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we held our annual Pancake Party, this year in aid of Helping Hands, a local charity that aims to help the people of South Wigston with advice and support.

During Lent, Revd Paul led a Lent Group at All Saints. This was very well supported by members of the congregation. There was a Benefice Service on Maundy Thursday at All Saints with Good Friday and Easter Sunday services at St Thomas'.

The Revd Paul's last service with us was held at St Thomas' on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> and was followed by coffee and cake. Paul's Induction and Collation as Rector of the Benefice of Market Bosworth took place on 1<sup>st</sup> June. A coach was organised from the Wigston Benefice so that a good number of us could attend the service. This was followed very generous hospitality hosted by the Market Bosworth Benefice which included more cake!

May saw the news that we had all been hoping for when the PCC were told that there had been an 'expression of interest' in the Rector post. This was from a priest currently working within the Diocese. The interview was arranged for 31<sup>st</sup> July and we were delighted when our prayers were answered and the Revd David Cowie was offered, and more importantly, accepted the post.

Also, in July we hosted a concert given by the Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra. This, unfortunately, turned out to be the last time that they would visit us as it was announced that their founder and conductor, Keith Smith, was retiring early in 2026 after 40 years. Keith was once a choir boy here and his family had a long association with St Thomas', so it was always a great pleasure to welcome the orchestra.

In September St Thomas' again supported the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride'. Kate Martin strode round 14 churches in Leicester City Centre and a number of volunteers opened up our church

to welcome riders and striders from across the Diocese. Many thanks to all who supported the event. It is important that we continue to support this charity as they raise funds for grants towards repair and maintenance of churches in the Diocese.

A very special service was held on 1<sup>st</sup> November when we hosted a Flag Dedication service, organised by our local councillor on behalf of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. During the service the Borough's new Union Standard and a new standard for the Armed Forces Veterans' Breakfast Club were dedicated by the Revd Caroline Brown. The service was attended by many civic dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of Leicester.

With much rejoicing the service of Induction and Collation for the Revd David Cowie was held at All Saints on 8<sup>th</sup> December. It was a lovely service conducted by Bishop Martyn and was very well attended when the congregations of both St Thomas' and All Saints were joined by members of David's family, members of the congregations of the Framland Benefices, local civic leader and local ministers.

Being at the end of year David was slightly 'thrown in at the deep end' with leading Christmas services whilst physically moving into his new home. However, everything went seamlessly. We had a wonderful Carol Service with the Cantamici Choir again supporting us. There was almost full capacity for our Christingle service with many donations of toys to the Toys on the Table appeal and a very interesting Christmas Day morning service including the Chocolate Christmas Story which was much appreciated by the chocolate lovers among us!

We cannot conclude the report on church life in 2025 without expressing our very grateful thanks to everyone for working together to ensure that the church has been able to hold regular services throughout the year. To the retired priests who have presided at our Eucharists, to those who have led services of Morning Prayer and Café Church on Sundays and Wednesdays, for those who have provided refreshments at the end of the services and most of all to everyone who has continued come along, rain or shine. Without a congregation there would be no church. Thank you.

### **Church Fabric Report**

Generally, the condition of the church building continues to be good.

We have been fortunate that during the last 12 months very little work has had to be carried out on the church building. Things that have been completed were:

- Clearing the drains to ensure that the water pumped out from the cellar didn't flow back into the cellar or flood the car park
- Replacing all the light bulbs in the Chancel with higher lumen and low energy use alternatives.

- Resetting the boiler on a couple of occasions during the year. The boiler was serviced in August – more about this later in the report.
- Engaging a consultant to produce a Heat Loss Survey
- A big thank you to Paul Kenney who cleaned and polished the floor. The transformation was amazing!

Nothing further has been done about the vestry roof. We continue to monitor it and will investigate further if it deteriorates.

There have been no changes to our plate and vestments during the year.

Some of the communion linen has had to be replaced this year – thank you to Jenny Barradell for sorting this and, along with Janet Perry, for washing the linen after each Eucharist.

Thank you again to Jenny who regularly cleans the brasses and the silver ware; to Bob and Inez Knott who keep the votive stand in good condition and also clean the communion silver; and of course to Ian Day, our Sacristan, for making sure that there is oil in the lamps, that we are displaying the right colours and have enough candles!

Our next Quinquennial Inspection is due to take place towards the end of 2026. We will have to wait and see if this highlights any other areas of concern.

## **PROGRESS ON MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS**

### **Sale of the hall**

The hall was placed on the market in April 2025. There was a good response, with the Estate Agents overseeing a number of viewings, from which we received a total of 5 offers. The PCC agreed to accept an offer from a buyer who plans to use the hall as a dance studio. The PCC felt that this would be the best fit for both the church and local community.

Unfortunately, from that point forward progress has been very slow. Very few historic records appear to have been kept by either the Diocesan Registry or the church. This resulted in a great deal of legal work having to take place to determine boundaries. Ownership of the hall also had to be registered with the Land Registry, which again took several months to be completed.

We had been very hopeful of a completion before Christmas. However, we have had to apply for a Licence to allow the buyers right of access across the piece of land between the east end of the church and the hall so that they can get to the boiler house for any repairs or general maintenance. The Diocesan Chancellor indicated interim approval of the licence, subject to conditions, which will allow the sale to go ahead prior to our application receiving confirmatory approval. The sale was finally completed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **Internal Re-Ordering**

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) made a further site visit in November to discuss the initial drawings with the architect and the PCC Sub Committee. The architect has revised the plans which have now been submitted to the DAC for their consideration. The plans have also been sent to Historic England and the Victorian Society for consultation and comment.

Following the consultation the plans will need to be revised, specifications drawn up and resubmitted to the DAC to consider prior to a faculty being granted. Once we have that we will be able to put the project out to tender and it will be all systems go.

### **Accessible External Ramp**

In March 2025 the proposals were sent to Historic England for consultation and comment. By and large the response was positive. However, there has been no progress on the external ramp during the year. This is largely due to the architect's work commitments and the work that we were undertaking on the sale of the hall/reordering of the church.

At the time of writing the architect is now in the process of revisiting the plans to take into account the comments from Historic England and the findings from the Heritage Impact Assessment. The intention is to submit the plans to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council for planning approval in the first quarter of 2026.

### **Church Heating**

As everyone is aware the programming unit for the heating system no longer works so the heating must be put on manually. Thank you again to Charles Lowson for doing this.

Unfortunately, the 2025 boiler service highlighted the fact that the top casing of the boiler is very badly corroded, most likely due to water dripping on it from the flue. The engineer indicated that is highly likely that the boiler will not pass the service in 2026 which is somewhat of a worry.

As the Diocese is aiming to be Zero Carbon by 2030, getting permission to replace a boiler isn't a straightforward process. Before submitting a faculty application, the PCC have to conduct a thorough investigation into a range of different types of heating, complete an options appraisal of the findings including a presentation of the case for and against each option. Work has started on this but it could take some time to be ready to submit the findings to the DAC.

*Pauline Footman & Kate Martin  
Church wardens*

## **12a. PLEDGED GIVING REPORT**

The majority of our pledged giving continues via the Parish Giving Scheme that generates the gift aid tax rebate each month and, if agreed, increases with inflation the monthly amount.

Unfortunately, within the last 12 months the overall regular Pledge Givers has reduced from 24 to 22 in total. Despite this drop in regular Pledge Givers the overall annual income generated via the Parish Giving Scheme has increase by circa 5% and we remained blessed with the continuing financial commitment and generosity of the parishioners who remain the lifeblood of the church.

*Garry Withers*  
*Assistant Treasurer & Covenanting Secretary*

## **12b. FELLOWSHIP GROUP (FORMERLY MOTHERS' UNION)**

Our small group has continued to meet most months during the year enjoying a time of prayer and fellowship.

Some members attended the twice yearly Forum where there is the opportunity to meet members from all over the diocese and to learn more about the work of the M U in this country and around the world. It is heartening to hear how projects developing numeracy and literacy have helped girls and women to find employment and, in some cases, start small businesses.

Our members are very generous in supporting the diocesan initiatives such as providing holidays for families who have rarely had one , donating items for the homeless and giving Easter eggs and small gifts which fathers in prison can give to their children as part of support for family members who are experiencing difficult times. All this is an expression of our Christian values.

On the social side we enjoyed a lunch in the New Year and a bring and share afternoon tea kindly hosted by Angela and Alan Bullas in their garden as the weather was good. Anyone interested in what we do would be very welcome at a monthly meeting, the first Friday of the month.

*Jenny Barradell*

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**AGENDA**

1. **Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

2. **Elections:**

**Vice Chair**

**Treasurer**

**Buildings Manager**

**Two Members of Standing & Finance Committee**

**PCC Secretary**

**Electoral Roll Officer**

**Covenant & Stewardship Recorder**

**Safeguarding Officers**

**Health & Safety and Fire Officer**

3. **Dates of Future Meetings**

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Sunday 04.05.2025**  
**(Following the APCM)**

**1. Present**

K Martin(Chair), P Footman, J Barradell, I Orr, C Collins, C Lowson, G Withers and J Day

**Apologies**

P Kenney

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed by C Lowson, seconded by C Collins and carried unanimously.

**3 Elections**

- a) Vice Chair – K Martin
- b) Treasurer – P Kenney, assisted by G Withers
- c) Building Manager – C Lowson
- d) Standing Committee –, C Lowson, J Barradell
- e) PCC Secretary – J Day
- f) Electoral Roll Officer – C Wood
- g) Stewardship & Covenant Recorder – G Withers
- h) Safeguarding Officer Children – J Day
- i) Safeguarding Officer Adults – J Barradell
- j) Health & Safety Officer – C Lowson
- k) Catering Group Convenor - J Day
- l) Fire Officer to come under Health & Safety

These were proposed from the Chair and carried unanimously.

**4 Any Other Business**

None

**4. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 28th May 2025

*June Day*  
*PCC Secretary*