

The Church of St Peter & St Paul, Muchelney TA10 0DQ
Muchelney Parochial Church Council

Annual Report for 2025

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Muchelney Church Council to provide regular services of worship, times of praise and prayer and opportunity for the whole community to discover God in their midst whilst ensuring that the church building is maintained, fit and safe for future generations.

Administration and Structure

The Parish of Muchelney is slowly joining the Benefice of Martock, Ash, and Kingsbury Episcopi. As the legal framework is still incomplete, Muchelney remains officially in a vacancy. However vicar, Revd Paul Fillery and the other parishes have continued to be welcoming and supportive in various events held in Muchelney this year. In September, Muchelney PCC began a monthly payment of £25 to Martock PCC for administrative expenses.

The Muchelney Parochial Church Council (PCC) remains responsible for the mission and maintenance of the ancient church of St Peter & St Paul and its surrounding churchyard, in accordance with Church of England regulations. The last Quinquennial inspection was completed in December 2023 with a report received in April 2024. Muchelney's webpage on "achurchnearyou.com" has been kept up to date by Mrs Sarah Nicholas.

Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers measure. Muchelney PCC operates under a charitable status. The method of appointment of PCC members is set in the Church Representation Rules (2011). Mrs Sarah Nicholas was elected as churchwarden and an additional four members were elected onto the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in April 2025.

The Muchelney PCC elected in April 2025 was as follow:-

Churchwarden:	Mrs Sarah Nicholas
Lay Chair:	Dr Elizabeth Nightingale
Treasurer:	Dr Elizabeth Nightingale
Secretary:	Mrs Dorothy Onslow

Plus

Mrs Mary Mullineux (Electoral Officer)

Mrs Angela Miller

Mrs Dorothy Onslow (Deanery Synod)

Four PCC meetings were held in 2025, plus the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April.

Mrs Sarah Nicholas has remained as the nominated Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Sarah Nicholas, Dr Elizabeth Nightingale and Mrs Dorothy Onslow have the authority to be lay Communion Assistants.

LOOKING AHEAD:

At a PCC meeting in July 2025, it was concluded that the burden of work on some members of the PCC had become too great and the future of church life in Muchelney was in jeopardy. Therefore a church meeting was called on 28 August 2025 for the whole village to understand the pressures and to consider the future of Muchelney Church. As a consequence, a Help List of Tasks was compiled by the PCC which was issued at the Village Meeting on 16 October 2025. Within a month, a good number of responses of new potential volunteers was received, and a Volunteer Lunch was planned for 18 January 2026 to explain the various tasks and make a plan of hope for the future of Muchelney church!

Church Membership and Attendance

The Electoral Roll for 2025 was 31 persons (32 in 2024) and the Worshipping Community in January 2025 was 11.

Church Services

Muchelney has continued with a service pattern of one service per month of Holy Communion fixing on the first Sunday of each month. All visitors and members of the congregation were encouraged to attend services in the benefice churches of Martock, Ash and Kingsbury Episcopi.

Three funeral services were held in 2025; Mr Shaun Davies, Mr Desmond Haynes and Mrs Olivia Davies. Ashes were buried for Mr John Groves and Mr Tony Fry. Two weddings were held in May and August.

As usual, the annual meeting of the Drayton and Muchelney 's Women Friendly Society was held in June in Drayton.

The PCC successfully applied and received for a £500 grant from The Choral Evensong Trust to enable a Muchelney PCC to hold a Choral Evensong on the Patronal Festival of St Peter & St Paul in June with the choir of Taunton Minster, their choirmaster Mr Miles Quick and guest organist Mr John Bodily. On a delightful summer's evening, over 70 people attended an exceptional service with glasses of Pimms and refreshments served afterwards. It was a joy to hear some fabulous singing and the organ played at its loudest and best! Bells were rung as people arrived!

Service of Harvest Thanksgiving with Holy Communion was held on Sunday 5 October 2025. Unfortunately due to lack of organiser, no lunch was possible this year but an authentic sheaf of wheat was donated to decorate the church!

Invitations to the annual All Soul's for Loved Ones held in November in All Saints' Church, Martock were sent to the families of those who have had a funeral service in the church in the last year.

Sadly due to illness, our usual organist, Mrs Alma Tucker, was unable to play at the annual Carol Service at 11am on Christmas Eve 24 December 2025 but fortunately, Mrs Ruth Jackson-Gash's son was visiting and stepped in, enabling around 60 people to enjoy a delightful Christmas service. Mulled drinks and festive nibbles were served afterwards. A collection was taken and donated to ARC, a charity for the homeless in Taunton.

Church Buildings and Grounds

Mr & Mrs A Mullineux continued as custodians of the church and WC throughout the year with the help of Mr & Mrs Du Monceau and Mrs P Knatchbull.

The Lady Chapel continued to be a quiet place of prayers.

Mr Ian Allen retired from grass cutting the churchyard and Mr Simon Tuffin agreed to take over at £160/cut. The annual subscription for a green council bin was renewed in February at cost £68.

Although the St George flag was repaired, it was no longer symmetrical and therefore a new one was very kindly donated by Mr A Mullineux.

It was a joy on selected days in 2025 to see the flag flying again at the top of the church tower, with huge thanks to Mr Simon Tuffin, trained by Mr A Mullineux.

The lapel microphone was repaired in February.

The repointing to the tower ceiling and west window was completed in April 2025. It was good to have full access around the church again and to see a clear sparkling window through the west end of the church!

A number of repairs were undertaken on the parapet and roof ensuring that there were no puddles inside the church after 'Storm Claudia' in November 2025! The gutters, drains and pathways were also regularly cleared and maintained throughout the year.

The church mute keys for the Ebound alarm box in the vestry stopped working in March. The alarm system was still fully working and could be muted by contacting Ebound directly. In August, Ebound conducted the annual service and replaced the battery affecting the mute keys. All working perfectly afterwards.

The Fire extinguishers are serviced annually.

The church organ was serviced by Michael Farley on 1 May 2025.

Local neighbour and parish clerk, Mr R Nicholass kindly interpreted the electrical report and gave advice and help including replacing the single plug plate in the Lady Chapel, a battery in the WC, installing a lock to the heating box (new key in vestry) and replacing light bulb in the roadside gateway. New signs and barriers have been put in place to dissuade members of the public from accessing the area around the electrical switches.

Under new management, the church temporarily lost access to the parking area of Muchelney Abbey. In June, Mrs Sarah Nicholas became an English Heritage volunteer and completed training to open/close the gates and check the site. With permission, the church has regained access to the extra parking. The new EH manager is very keen to support, encourage and work with all village and church events!

Mrs Sarah Nicholas updated the graveyard plan in July 2025, with a copy in church for visitors to use.

Due to extreme dry weather, the vestry door moved out of position on 24 August. Local resident, Mr Joe Walker, did an instant repair to the lock.

As a result of the Looking Ahead appeal for help, 3 new WC inspectors volunteered! We thank Helen Field, Utta Brown, Deb McCallum, John Edwards, Jenny Curtis, Liz Nightingale and Diff Wakely for their help and commitment.

Mission, Evangelism and Fundraising

A Big £10 Breakfast was held on Saturday 31 May with Dr Peter & Dr Elizabeth Nightingale cooking on a barbeque outdoors, and croissants, toast and teas served in the Lady Chapel. 40 tickets were sold and an impressive £330 raised.

Mrs Sarah Nicholas and Mr A Mullineux welcomed a small group from the Taunton Area Walkers & Socialisers on 22 June and enabled the barrel organ to be played for their entertainment.

The village community held a Medieval Day at Muchelney Abbey on Saturday 26 July. Muchelney church agreed to serve hot drinks and cakes and raised £183 for church funds.

On an extremely hot summer's day, the annual Garden Teas on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August raised £1000. A big thank you to Mr & Mrs A Mullineux again for hosting the event in their garden. Dr Peter Nightingale kindly played the barrel organ in the church. It was however noticed that fewer volunteers were available, particularly to put up the tent in the morning.

A village Wreath Making workshop was held in the church on 25 November 2025. A donation was received towards the heating costs.

Safeguarding Report

Mrs Sarah Nicholas continued as Parish Safeguarding Officer for Muchelney. Guided by the Church of England online Safeguarding Dashboard, all protocols and policies have been updated. At the year end, all members of the PCC had completed their safeguarding training.