



St David's Church



***The Church of
St John the Baptist***

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING 2026
REPORTS**



St Mark's Church

KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025 INDEX	
APCM Agenda 2026	3
APCM Minutes 2025	4
Rectors Report	13
Team Vicar's report	14
Team Curate report	17
Deanery Synod Report	18
Electoral Roll Reports	20
PCC Secretary's Report	20
St David's Churchwarden's Report	21
St John the Baptist Churchwarden's Report	23
St John the Baptist Fabric committee Report	24
St Mark's Churchwarden's Report	25
Lay Reader's Report	27
Safeguarding Report	29
Flourish Report	30
Social Media Report	31
Mothers Union Report	33
St John the Baptist Choir Report	34
St John the Baptist Flower Group Report	35
Renew 88 Report	36
Renew Family 0-5s Café (St Davids)	37
Little Stars Report	37
Brick Church Report	38
Woodland Church Report	39
Bloom Group Report	40
Kingsthorpe Churches together Report	41
Kingsthorpe Pocket Park Committee Report	42
Charity Commission Report	44

KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY
Charity Number 1130370
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2026

AGENDA for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at **St David's Church** at 7.30pm.

Prayers

VESTRY MEETING:

Apologies for absence

- Appointment of Churchwardens
- Appointment of PCC members (10 persons from each church)
- Appointment of Sidespersons.
- Appointment to Deanery Synod.

PARISH MEETING:

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 22nd May 2025

Report from PCC Treasurer and approval of the accounts.

Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Electoral Roll(s).

Comments from Team Clergy.

Reports from Lay Pastoral Ministers, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary

and Deanery Synod – already circulated.

Fabric reports.

Rector's comments.

Any Other Business:

Date of 2027 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

NEW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Dates of future meetings.

Appointment of Lay Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer.

KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the annual parochial church meeting held on Thursday, 22nd May 2025 at St Davids Chrich Hall

Revd. Canon Jane Butler chaired the meeting. Revd Alison Wagner was also present. Matthew Brennan was interpreter.

Present:	St. David	6 laity
	St. John the Baptist	9 laity
	St. Mark	11 laity

Apologies:	St. David	3 laity
	St. John the Baptist	1 laity
	St. Mark	3 laity

The meeting opened with prayers lead by Revd. Canon Jane Butler.

VESTRY MEETING:

Appointment of Churchwardens:

St. David:

1. Jane Serbyn – proposed June Ward; seconded S Basford
2. Phillip Nash – proposed June Ward; seconded S Basford

St. John the Baptist:

1. Vacant
2. Vacant

Rev Jane stated that she would make this matter known to the Archdeacon and ask his advice.

St. Mark:

1. Samantha Hunt - proposed Helen Hickman; seconded Shirley Cumbleton
2. Kathy Wilcox - proposed Helen Hickman; seconded Sue Evans

Revd Jan Butler thanked the outgoing churchwardens for all their work in the past year and that she looked forward to working with the newly elected church wardens in the coming year.

Appointment of Parochial Church Council:

St. David:

1. Sarah-Jane Major Ex-Officio/Lay Reader.
2. Rebecca Adnitt (P June Ward S Jane Serbyn)
3. Carol Church (P June Ward S Sylvia Whitmore)
4. Maureen Robinson (P June Ward S Mary Hardwick)
5. June Ward (P Maureen Robinson S Philip Nash)

Vacancies remain for five PCC places.

St. John the Baptist:

1. Jenny Griffin Ex-Officio
2. Penny Crockett (P Phil Gothard S Pauline Stone)
3. Pauline Stone (P Phil Gothard S Penny Crockett)
4. Susan Darby (P Mandy Bentley S Carol Issac)
5. Mark Brame (P Pauline Stone S Carol Issac)
6. Mandy Bentley (P Carol Issac S Pauline Gothard)

Vacancies remain for four PCC places.

St. Mark:

1. Paula Blackwell (P Adrian Evans S Samantha Hunt)
2. Jessica Carey (P Jane Maloy S Kathleen Wilcox)
3. Jo Carrick (P Samantha Hunt S Kathleen Wilcox)
4. Adrian Evans (P Paula Blackwell S Ruth Gould)
5. Sue Evans (P Kathleen Wilcox S Samantha Hunt)
6. Ruth Gould (P Karen Tomlin S Samantha Hunt)

7. Helen Hickman (P Richie Carrick S Shiley Cumbelton)
8. Alexander Hunt (P Ruth Gould S Jo Carrick)
9. Glenda Lee (P Sue Evans S Kathleen Wilcox)
10. Karen Tomlin (P Kathleen Wilcox S Samantha Hunt)

No vacancies remain for PCC places.

Appointment of Sidespersons:

St. David:

All members of the congregation.

St. John the Baptist:

All members of the congregation.

St. Mark:

All members of the congregation.

All the above named were elected to serve as sidespersons in their individual churches for the coming year. All members present were in favour.

Deanery Synod Representatives ex officio (3rd year of 3-year term). (5 persons allowed)

- Jenny Griffin
- Sarah-Jane Major

Rev Jane gave a brief explanation as to the Deanery Synod does and how it is good networking tool.

Penny Crockett said that she would be interested in becoming a member of the Deanery Synod. Jenny Griffin proposed her nomination, and Ruth Gould seconded it. Penny was duly elected.

PARISH MEETING:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2024 were signed as a true record after the as all persons present were in favour.

However, the following amendment was made: -

“Peter Borley-Cox pointed out that in 2023 the total amount of income was £148.5k (£138k for unrestricted fund and £10.5K for restricted funds). This was reduction of £40k over the previous year.” A “k” was added after £138.

Finance:

Sue Evans explained to the APCM that she provided regular updates at the PCC meeting. She told the meeting that she was happy with the 2024 out-turn. Income had been steady with hall income growing. This hall income had been boosted by local elections. Planned giving had also been steady.

Utility costs had reduced over the twelve months, and this too had helped to the out-turn. The parish had been £40k short in paying the parish share but the PCC paid over every penny that it could afford.

Sue reassured the APCM that’s the parish’s policy of retaining a reserve was still being followed. In fact, the reserve had been increased to £24k during 2024. Interest had been used to fund this.

Sue told the meeting that the accounts had been signed off by the Independent Examiner, Jackie Brame last week.

Philip Gothard took the opportunity to thank Sue for her hard work in her first year as Treasurer. Sue responded that it had been a team effort and she thanked Helen Hickman.

Sue then asked the floor if there were any questions. There were none.

Before concluding Sue asked permission to buy Jackie Brame, the Independent Examiner, a small gift as appreciation. The meeting agreed

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Sue Evans explained that Jackie Brame was willing to be the Independent Examiner again for the coming year. The appointment of Jackie Brame was proposed by Sue Evans and seconded by Helen Hickman. The meeting passed this motion.

Electoral Roll:

St. David:

The APCM were told that St Davids had a total of 28 members on their electoral roll. (An increase of 3)

St. John the Baptist:

The APCM were told that St John the Baptist had a total of 53 members on their electoral. roll. (A decrease of 15).

St. Mark:

The APCM were told that St Marks had a total of 42 members on their electoral roll. (A decrease of 1)

Revd Alison Wagner's Comments

Revd. Alison Wagner told the APCM that her report in the booklet covered everything she wanted to say. However, she added the observation that the parish has some very good signs of life.

Report from Organisations & Committees including the Fabric Reports

Revd. Jane told the meeting that any other reports were in the booklet which had been circulated. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

However, Philp Gothard noted that the noticeboards had been removed and the yew trees trimmed back at St John the Baptist.

Rector's Comments:

Revd Jane said her comments were too in the report in booklet, but she wanted to extend a big thank you to everyone.

Revd Jane observed past year had been an exciting one and that the Parish had grown together. She gave the example of Café Church as an indication of the parish coming together.

Revd Jane said she was looking forward to working with Revd Angie Kennedy as she is a blessing for the parish.

Revd Jane explained that she could not thank Revd Ali enough. There is a good mix of laughter and serious discussion. This will be beneficial in moving the parish forward.

Revd Jane also thanked Sarah-Jane Major. She explained that Sarah-Jane is always willing to help.

Concluding, Revd Jane said that everybody in the Parish plays their own part and this would be invaluable when the parish is in interregnum.

Any Other Business:

Adrian Evans thanked everybody who have helped get the APCM booklet together.

It was observed that there was no Men's group report in the booklet. It was hoped that one could be provided for the next APCM.

Philip Gothard asked if the "good news" feature that Rev Sarah Lee had introduced could be continued.

Revd Jane thanked Matthew Brennan for helping with signing at the PCC meetings.

Finally, Revd Jane thanked Liz May and for the 16 years she had served the church. Revd Jane explained that Liz had been her "right hand man." She will be greatly missed. The office will be a project, and the parish will look to find someone to fill the parish administrator's role.

Date of 2026 Annual Meeting:

Thursday 21st May 2026 at 7.30pm.

This ended the business of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Appointments to the new Parochial Church Council:

Lay Chair – Mandy Bentley

Secretary – Helen Hickman

Treasurer – Sue Evans

Safeguarding Officer – Jane Serbyn

All members present were in favour of these appointments:

Dates of Parochial Church Council meetings for 2025/26

- 26 June 2025
- 24th July 2025
- 11th September 2025
- 27th November 2025
- 22nd January 2026
- 26th March 2026

- 2025 APCM 21st May 2026

The meeting closed with the Prayers.

**KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY.
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025 REPORTS.**

Rector's Report 2025.

The last year has seen us working together more as a team of churches. The work we have begun has continued and grown and I would like to thank those who have continued to lead these groups. Worship has continued in all of the churches, with cafe church continuing in St David's church. We also have a dedicated children's service on the first week of the month in all of the churches.

There is also work done with the elderly and infirm at St Davids on a Wednesday morning. This is enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Jane Serbyn for all she does. Jane is also our lead in Safeguarding which is a difficult job to keep up with. Without her shouting at us all we wouldn't have the safe parish that we do.

Finance is a difficult subject to address. I don't know what we would do without Sue Evans and her back up team. I would like to express my gratitude to them all. This parish is still running at a deficit as we are not fulfilling our parish requirement with regard to parish share. This continues to be a sadness to me as it means that we can't afford our clergy. As to what we pay equals to how much a priest costs and what we give.

During this time we lost Liz May after a short illness. A large hole was left for us all especially at the office; however this has now been filled by Jessica Carey, and the office is back up and running I am pleased to say.

I would like to thank all those who work both behind the scenes, as well as church wardens and my team who work with me closely to

guide this parish forward. Without them the parish would not be moving forward in the way that it is doing.

This is my last APCM report after 16 years, it has been a very enjoyable time, and I would like to thank you all for all the hard work that you have put in over the years.

As we look to the past and give thanks, we also look to the future and all that it holds for all of you and trust that God will continue to guide you as you journey forward.

Revd. Jane Butler
Team Rector

Team Vicar Report 2026

There is much to give thanks to God for this year, there are signs of life across the parish in many and varied ways.

At Christmas I completed the CPAS Leadership in Mission Course, largely funded by the diocese but with support too, from the PCC. I met monthly with a cohort of vicars as we shared the joys and challenges of ministry and mission in our different contexts. We were led by Rev James Laurence from CPAS who is an inspirational and attentive teacher.

I am also being trained as a Training Incumbent to our curate Rev Angie. We are learning much together and Angie has benefitted particularly from having both myself and Rev Jane involved in her formation. It is a real gift to share in ministry with her, her questions keep me on my toes and her prayer and obvious love of this parish is much appreciated. We look forward to her priesting in June.

We have seen the regular pattern of worship within our three churches shift towards a lay-led Service of the Word once a month and my thanks go to those worship teams who have stepped into this.

We've had two days as parish together to look at worship (David Morton- Lay lead) and spiritual gifts (Rev Andy from Resource) both have been encouraging and have born much fruit.

Our parish retreat at Highgate House was another opportunity to fellowship together and explore what Being with, Becoming like and Doing the things that Jesus did mean for us in a relaxed environment where time slowed down!

Café Church continues to provide a different form of worship alongside our regular pattern and Woodland Church and Brick Church are drawing greater numbers than last year. They are meeting our families where they are at and are vibrant worshipping communities in this place.

Connections with each other and with God are growing and being strengthened through our House Groups, Fellowship Groups, Explorer Groups and Little Stars.

Our schools work across the parish has also been growing and greater connections are being made.

Schools are approaching us, the doors are open for us to share God's love with all.

All three churches have held baptism services this year, for babies and teenagers coming to faith. There are more to come as we look forward to baptising babies and parents at the same time over the coming months. Our occasional offices (weddings, funerals and infant baptisms) are rich opportunities to bless our communities and encourage the exploration of faith. Thanks to Sarah- Jane and Jo

Carrick for their commitment to the Bereavement Journey and the comfort that has been to those suffering loss.

Appointing Jessica Carey as our Parish Administrator has been key to our mission in Kingsthorpe. It has lifted a load from the clergy and others who had taken on extra work and meant that enquiries can be handled centrally. I am particularly grateful that we have a colour-coded Parish Calendar and I no longer have to sort room bookings.

Highlights from this year: 'The Grumpy Owl' production at St David's a full church- 120 people transported into another world where the Gospel was re-imagined. Our Flourish students loved it as did everyone who came.

The Being With course led by Angie, exploring faith with adults seeking baptism alongside those who've been Christians for a long time.

Christmas Services and all the opportunities to share across the parish.

Holy Week and Easter- especially the Good Friday workshop for families.

As we move into interregnum I feel hopeful knowing the prayer and service will continue and that Jesus will go on ahead of us.

It will be very strange without Revd Jane and Jackie, I have so appreciated their support, love and humour. I pray that the next chapter will be one of great blessing.

My thanks to all of you who commit to pray and serve in this parish. The Lord is here, His Spirit is with us. And therefore we have hope.

Reverend Alison Wagner – Team Vicar

Curate's Report 2025

Time has really flown since finally moving into the parish in June 2025, after spending my third year as an ordinand here before becoming your curate. It does not seem like 9 months have passed since I was ordained deacon at Peterborough Cathedral, back on a very rainy July day last year! It has been a very busy and interesting 9 months as I have settled into not only a new role, but also a new home and in an area of Northampton I had not lived in before, whilst leaving behind my children.

First of all, thank you for welcoming me into the church family and helping me navigate the three amazing churches and all the mission projects that happen throughout the parish. I really appreciate the different styles of worship and traditions and am getting used to the robes (although I did have to have them both shortened to prevent me from tripping over them!)

Although my curacy is a little different from a traditional post, being half-time in the parish and half-time as part of the chaplaincy team at Malcolm Arnold Academy, I have really enjoyed getting involved and learning the things associated with the role of a new curate.

My particular highlights have been around seeing people throughout the parish starting the journey towards becoming the people that God has called them to be, and getting involved with the “Being With” baptism course that ran during Lent, which will result in two ladies and two babies being baptised later this year.

We have also been engaging with students within the school, and through the Flourish project, we have had a trip to an outdoor centre, been part of the recruitment process for a major Church of England position and are seeing the number of those engaging grow.

Alongside this, I have been blown away by the way God is moving in the parish, with amazing conversations with those on the fringes of the church who are seeking to know who God is. These are happening alongside the mission projects, and I especially remember a conversation with a gentleman who wandered into Brick Church, bible in hand, just wanting to know more about Jesus.

I have been really privileged to have the opportunity to learn from and work with two amazing priests, Jane and Ali, as well as Stuart and Sarah-Jane. All have been so supportive throughout this year, showing different ways and styles of worship and allowing me to grow and develop into the person that God is calling me to be. I am very much looking forward to what God has in store for Kingsthorpe Parish over the next 12 months.

Angie Kennedy - Curate

Deanery Synod Report

There have been four meetings of the Deanery Synod since our last APCM.

Topics for discussion included:

- A discussion on ways that churches can honour their histories and foster links between organisations within their local patches for the benefit of their communities. This followed the example of a group of Northampton organisations that had come together to initiate renewal in the town centre to mirror the re-growth of the town after the Great Fire of Northampton which marked its 350th anniversary in 2025.

- A report on the Diocesan governance review which had revealed that much change was required to bring Peterborough's governance up to national standards. Bishop Debbie was championing the change and expressed the hope that this would foster a closer connection between the Diocese and its parishes.
- A presentation by the diocesan safeguarding team on their work throughout the diocese, including their plans to increase support to the parishes to develop and maintain their safeguarding culture. The work of parish safeguarding teams was recognised and applauded.
- A talk from the Archdeacon of Northampton about clergy vacancies, preparing parishes for the reality that posts can remain vacant for some time. He encouraged parishes with vacancies to engage deeply with their parish profile and he emphasised the vital role and authority that parish representatives have in selecting their new clergy.
- A presentation from the new Bishop's Missioner about her role. Her initial aim was to release clergy and lay people from some of the administrative demands of running a parish to give them more time to focus on other aspects of their ministry. She acknowledged the effort that was put into running the 'business' of the parishes and she was keen to find ways that the Diocese could provide more support in this area.
- A report from the Treasurer that 74% of the total 2025 parish share for the deanery had been paid, which was 2% less than the diocesan average. Declining payment of the parish share was a concern for the diocese and a working group had been established to review the formula.

Penny Crockett

Electoral Roll Reports

St David Electoral Roll Report

Electoral roll numbers 2025- 28

1 deceased

2 moved away

2 new members.

Electoral roll numbers 2026- 27

Becky Adnitt

St John the Baptist Electoral Roll Report

We began the year with 53 on the Roll.

1 has died

There are now 52 members on the Roll.

Jenny Griffin.

St Mark Electoral Roll Report

Members lost : 1

New Members : 2

The Electoral Roll membership now stands at 43 an increase of 1.

K.Sumbler St Mark's Church Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Secretary's Report for 2025

The Parochial Church Council met seven times in the 2025-26 parochial year. Officers were elected at the end of the annual meeting. All the meetings were quorate. All PCC meetings took place at St David's church hall. Attendance was very good.

The main items of business across the year:

- The PCC did not manage to pay the Parish Share in full. However, the PCC were able to pay the same amount as the previous year. This was due to the continued reduction in cost of utilities and no large costs. (The decision was made in 2013 to pay the parish share in full as a priority, requiring regular fund-raising events).

- The parish continued with its outreach activities with the continuation of Brick Church, Little Stars and Food for Thought, Woodland Church, and the Bereavement Journey course.
- Safeguarding work took place to ensure the three churches, and the parish continued to be compliant in all aspects of safeguarding
- We welcomed Rev Angie Kennedy to our parish

Deanery Synod is attended regularly.

Core Groups remain and were able to meet regularly in person during the year, i.e., Pastoral Care, Nurture and Growth, Youth, and Mission.

Helen Hickman

St Davids Church Warden report 2026

Worship:

In addition to our usual Sunday Communion we have celebrated with a Christmas Crib Service, which was interactive and fun. We have marked the major festivals, Christmas and Easter. It was good this year to have the Maundy Thursday evening service at an earlier time, which gave the opportunity for people to attend the Agape Supper at St Mark's if they wanted to.

Our St David's Day service was followed by a shared lunch and auction of promises. Dedication Sunday in October was also marked, as was Remembrance Sunday in November.

Our Worship Team have led a monthly All Age Worship Service of the Word, which has generally been well received.

Café Church is held on a monthly basis and is a popular, growing ministry.

We hosted a Worship Teams Day and this is a developing ministry within the parish.

We have celebrated an infant and older baptisms as a part of our Sunday worship, which has been a great joy.

Two house groups have been set up, daytime and evening and anyone interested is welcome to come along.

Events:

The Grumpy Owl theatrical presentation in December was a huge success, with an attendance of 120.

We have held some other well supported fund raising events including a games night, quiz night and auction. The proceeds from these events will go towards our fabric and buildings maintenance.

In the coming months we are planning a history of Kingsthorpe talk with a walk around the village, followed by tea and cake in the chapter house and a summer afternoon tea, so look out for these in the parish notices.

Funding:

We were very fortunate to be awarded a £20,000 grant from Asda towards the repair of the roof. However, on further inspection, the roof is not in such a bad condition as originally thought and will not be such a huge expense. Asda have been contacted to request that the remainder of the grant that is not used on the roof can help us with other outstanding needs, such as the repair of the guttering and installing disabled toilets.

The removal of the large conifer trees near the boundary fence will have to be addressed in the early autumn, as damage was caused to a neighbouring property by a falling branch, which has been dealt with, but will be an ongoing problem if the trees remain and so money will be needed for this.

We continue to apply for grants from various sources for the maintenance of the church and hall

Schools:

We have had visits to the church by Malcolm Arnold Primary, a school's Christingle Service and an enacted class baby baptism.

Kingsthorpe Grove School was visited and an Easter presentation given there.

The life and local community support of St David's continues to grow and develop. Jane and Philip thank everyone for their help and support over the last year and we move forward with faith and trust in the Lord.

Philip Nash

St John the Baptist Report 2025

Morning Prayer continues on Zoom every Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 9 am.

Every Thursday morning at 9:30 am there is Holy Communion with usually up to 5 people attending.

The 10:00 am Sunday services continue with an average of 25 people attending throughout the year.

In Holy Week we held services of Compline (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). On Good Friday there was the three hour devotion and

on Easter Eve a vigil was held. The Easter Day service was well attended and everyone enjoyed the Easter egg hunt in church. The Church was once again open for Heritage Weekend and the chained books were on display.

The annual Remembrance Service was held in November (42 attended). This was followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial where the local Scout group joined us.

Over Christmas we held the Nine Lessons and Carol service (over 90 people attended). We also held a Community Carol service with Carol singing in the church. Over 130 villagers came and enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies!

We hosted a Christingle service for the local Primary School with over 170 adults and children attending.

The Crib service combined with Christingles continues to be really popular early on Christmas Eve - again over 150 attendees.

Midnight Mass and Christmas Days services were both fairly well attended.

Brick church continues to grow nearly every month, with bible story videos, brick building and games, followed by a feast of sandwiches and cakes all prepared by volunteers.

Mandy Bentley

St John the Baptist Fabric Report

Annual Servicing

The clock, boilers, alarms and fire extinguishers have all been serviced. All small electrical items have had a Portable Appliance Test. The mains electric meter has been upgraded so can now be read electronically.

During the recent boiler service it was found that the existing heating pressurisation unit has failed and will eventually need to be replaced.

Organ

Repairs to the organ continue. This is covered by previous payments.

Bell Tower and Roof

Pigeons had broken into the belfry. Professional cleaners had to be called in to perform the arduous work of removal of pigeon guano. This took over 2 days.

The same team undertook clearance of vegetation and leaf accumulation from the roof. This has reduced to zero the number of false alarm callouts in respect of the roof alarm system and has also helped drainage from the roof. Since this work there has been no water ingress into the church from the roof.

Churchyard

This is regularly mown and maintained by council contractors.

Mandy Bentley

St Mark's Churchwardens report

St Mark's Churchwardens report - Apr 2026

Fabric of the Church

The annual servicing of the boilers in the church and hall were carried out with a burner gasket needing to be replaced on the church boiler. All the appropriate checks to meet the fire regulations and electrical testing have also been undertaken.

Our Fabric Committee is small in number but continue to meet bi-monthly to discuss items needing attention in the church, hall and

grounds as well as working through the Quinquennial Inspection from June 2023. Jobs undertaken during the year were the painting of the exterior of the church doors leading onto the car park, replacement of 4 high broken windows in church, treatment of a wasp nest in the garden and replacement of fence posts between the church and neighboring gardens. Work mornings were held throughout the year to keep the church, hall and gardens in a clean and tidy state. We are thankful to the Fabric Committee and willing volunteers who give up their time to help maintain our grounds and buildings.

General

We held several parish events during the year which were well attended and were times of fellowship and fun together. Quiz evenings were held in June and November which in total raised just over £400 for our Fabric fund. In May we held a car wash and coffee morning which raised £254 for Christian Aid. Another car wash in September raised £200 for our Fabric fund. In October we enjoyed a Harvest Supper and got crafty with the help of Sian and Jessica! On Shrove Tuesday we held a pancake evening with plenty of pancakes and toppings. Both of these events raised money for our Fabric fund. The money raised for St Mark's fabric throughout the year is used to fund the works we have to undertake to keep our buildings in good shape. All of these events are only possible with the help of our willing volunteers and we are very grateful to all those who give their time and talents to make these events happen.

Sunday service attendance averages 25 and our thanks go to members of the congregation who undertake tasks to ensure the smooth running of our services.

We welcomed Whitehills Primary School children at Easter, Advent and for 2 Christmas Carol Services with approximately 200 adults and children attending each service. We also held a Carol Service for

the Cubs and Scouts of 22nd Whitehills Northampton Scout Group with attendance over 100 young people and adults.

New to our services at Christmas was a Reflective Service held in early December. This was a quieter service for those who find the joy of Christmas difficult. Our usual Carol service with the Pipe Band was held on 14th December, with the Pipe Band playing outside at the beginning and the end. On 21st December a few of our congregation went to Nicholas Rothwell House and sang carols and told the Christmas story through bible readings. This was so well received we went again on Palm Sunday and presented the Easter story and sang Easter hymns. Both of these were very much enjoyed by the residents. On Christmas Eve our Christingle Service was well attended with 148 people.

Father Oliver Coss visited on 17th November to complete our church inspection. We held a parish Sanctuary day on 10th January which was led by Rev Andy Ackroyd and around 30 people attended and had a thought provoking day.

Again, a big thank you to everyone who helps in any way, we are truly grateful for your prayers and support.

Sam Hunt & Kathy Wilcox

Lay Reader Report

Another year, full of blessings and opportunities to meet and worship together.

Over the last year I have continued to lead worship across the parish. It has been a privilege to work with the worship team at St David's, and I look forward to doing the same at St Marks and St John's.

It has been a pleasure to work with the team at St Marks as we welcomed local schools to our buildings to explore the Christian faith as part of the RE curriculum. The schools really value the churches involvement.

I have had the honour of meeting together with our young people at Starbucks. Our young people are a credit to themselves, and their families. It is a real privilege to meet with them, learn from them as they like us continue their journey of faith.

Food 4 Thought continues to meet every other month and a group of a group of us from across the parish continue to work together to provide an alternative service with a meal at St Marks Church. Those who come along are enjoying the time we spend together exploring our faith through fellowship, music, and prayer.

It is a real privilege to journey with people that are grieving, and the Bereavement Journey course has been a gift that we can offer. Jo and I facilitate this course together and I thank her for the compassionate, caring ministry that she gives to our guests.

Lastly a few thanks, for our wonderful congregations who I enjoy worshipping with and today as I write this report, I am feeling particularly blessed as I reflect on the wonderful retreat at Highgate House. It was filled with worship, discussion laughter and a few tears, joy and fellowship as we explored together. Thanks also go Revd Ali and Revd Jane and Revd Angie for their encouragement, guidance, teaching, and prayers.

I look forward to the coming year as we work together for the Kingdom of God, continuing our journey with Christ together.

May we all receive Gods love and Grace.

Sarah – Jane Major

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be central to our culture within the Kingsthorpe Team Ministry. The Safeguarding Officer works closely with the Peterborough Diocese Safeguarding team and Parish Clergy. Updated reports are recorded at each Parochial Church Council meeting re the progress of our aims within a Safer Church. The Peterborough Diocese Dashboard ensures that all are informed as to the level of achievements to date. Currently working at L3 of Mandatory Requirements and in recent months the use of the Diocese online Hub.

The Safeguarding team continues to ensure that all are aware of their responsibilities regarding DBS and training which is renewable every three years. A Parish Safeguarding overview training is delivered to all PCC, church members and all affiliated groups annually. We continue to celebrate ‘Safeguarding Sunday’ within the parish.

Our churches display relevant information, on the outside of our buildings and within the church and hall rooms, giving clear information of how to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and local Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Thanks are extended to the extended team for their continued eyes, ears and voices in their relevant churches within the parish. We meet quarterly to update and share information to ensure a continuous safe place to be.
Jane Serbyn (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Flourish.

Flourish is flourishing! This year we have seen a growth in numbers regularly getting between 10 and 12 each week.

Last summer we went to Birmingham for a National Meet up and our students spoke so beautifully about what Flourish meant to them. We meet weekly in term- time on a Wednesday after school, beginning with snacks and hot chocolate.

We ask each other 'Where have we seen God at work this week?' and then we explore a theme through a Bible passage linked to Collective Worship that week. An example of this being 'Can I volunteer?'- thinking about Jesus' words 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' and then reflecting on the account of the Good Samaritan and how this takes 'volunteering' to the next level!

We have planted bulbs, prayer walked round school, discussed whether social media should be banned for teenagers. Some students spent a day at St David's during the summer holidays engaging with Wellbeing and helping in the gardens. They also came up for The Grumpy Owl and a fish and chip supper. More recently we had an away day at Rock UK in Irthlingborough climbing very tall things!! I even abseiled.

In October half term a Flourish student panel were involved in the interviews for the national Growing Faith and Flourish lead. It was a real honour to be involved in the process and to welcome the successful candidate to a Flourish meeting in the last week. We have been given funding for another year which means that Fiona Hailes our Chaplaincy and Flourish Assistant can remain. The scheme is being rolled out in September for a new cohort and so much that has been learned will be incorporated into that.

Last year I would have described Flourish as a tender plant, this year we are becoming more established. We are welcoming new students regularly the core group is so open to that and the invitational ethos of Flourish.

It is an oasis of peace for our students in the middle of the week where they grow in faith and discover more of what God has for them. Thank you for your prayers.

Reverend Ali

Social Media Report

Over the past year our social media presence has continued to grow, helping us share the life of the church with our congregation, our community, and those who may be exploring faith for the first time. While many of us don't personally use social media, it has become one of the most effective ways for churches to be visible, welcoming and outward facing - something especially important as we prepare to recruit a new rector.

During Advent and Christmas, I took part in the Church of England's *Digital Growth Programme*, which offered practical guidance on how churches can use social media more effectively. This has helped build my confidence, improved the quality of our posts, and saved valuable time during busy seasons.

Working closely with Jessica in the office, we have also streamlined how we advertise events, coordinating posters, social media posts and information sharing so that everything is clearer, quicker and more consistent.

This year we made the decision to move our website to *A Church Near You*. This platform is easier to manage, offers stronger technical

support from the Church of England, and costs less than our previous provider. Work is ongoing to ensure our old domain redirects smoothly to the new site so nobody gets lost along the way.

A huge thank you to everyone who sends information, photos and updates. These make a real difference. And if you *are* on social media, simply liking or sharing our posts helps extend our reach. Think of it as a small act of modern day evangelism!

This Year's Numbers

Facebook (our busiest platform)

- **176,000 views**
- **2,800 interactions** — *up 21% on last year*
- **4,600 page visits** — *up 43% on last year*

Instagram (still small but growing)

- **3,300 views**
- **157 interactions**
- **101 visits** — *up 25%*

Our highest-performing posts were centred around Christmas, including the St John the Baptist Carol Service, Brick Church and Woodland Church — clear signs that people engage most when we share the heart of our worship and community life.

Karen Tomlin

Kingsthorpe Mothers Union Report

Mother's Union Branch Leader Report Kingsthorpe Branch AGM
February 3rd 2026

It does not seem long since the last AGM and another busy year has gone by. The committee met 6 times over the year and communicated by numerous e-mails. The bank account took up a great deal of our time during the first nine months. The account had been changed by Lloyds to a treasurers account as they no longer have a charity account. Eventually after many visits and numerous phone calls the signatories were sorted and the account changed to a business account. Thank you, Andrea, for your help and to Bridget for her dogged determination to make sure everything was correct.

The Branch has signed up to obtain the bronze award for the Rise Up against Gender Violence Campaign. To achieve this award, we are required to put notices up in the toilets advising people where they can get help and support an organization who helps victims of gender violence. Baby Basics was approved by M. S. H. as an organization meeting the criteria for helping individuals of gender violence. A speaker from Baby Basics attended our meeting in May who informed us about their history and how they supported their clients. Members donated various items for the organization and we will continue to work towards this award over the next few months.

Four members attended the provincial meeting in Oxford in September. It was uplifting, informative and reminded us that we are part of a world-wide organization. Peterborough diocese was mentioned by Katherine Snow our World-Wide President in the work we do as a diocese supporting prisoners. The branch supported the appeal for gold biscuit bars and Wagon Wheels to go into goodie bags

for Christmas for prisoners at 5 Wells prison. This was a joint effort with the Saint Vincent De Paul Charity.

There was a minimal amount of fund raising over the last year. We had a presence at the Fair on the Green and managed a coffee morning in combination with St Mark's church car wash.

Three members were enrolled during the year. One at a service at St Marks church and two at the meeting in July and we welcomed two new members.

Thank you to the committee June, Pauline Stone and Bridget for their support and hard work over the last 12 months. Thanks to Pauline Gothard for organizing the Baptism Rota to Eileen for organizing and sending the baptism cards and to Rosemary for organizing the raffle. Thank you to you the members who have helped, donated or supported in any way what the branch has done over the last 12mths I look forward to 2026 as we celebrate 150 years of MU.

Ruth Gould Branch Leader

St John the Baptist Choir Report

Our small choir continues to support regular Sunday worship. With the help of singers from St David and St Mark and former members of the SJB choir we again contributed significantly to worship around Christmas and Easter, in particular the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which in 2025 again saw a record attendance since 2020.

In February we held a recruitment event for adults. This was in the form of a half-day 'taster' workshop where, following some fun warm-up exercises, participants learnt three anthems typical of our

repertoire from scratch. We finished with a performance in church accompanied by the organ. Including the current choir, this drew 16 singers, a mixture of regular church members and others from the wider community. Feedback on the event was positive with many participants saying they would come to another such event, but disappointingly this hasn't translated into new regular members. However, it has resulted in Clementine singing with us until she returns to London and another two members of the congregation being inspired to sing with us on special occasions.

Finally, I must thank regular members of the choir for their continued loyalty and those who sing with us occasionally. Similarly, Robert for playing the piano at rehearsals and my daughter Rachel for helping to organise and run the workshop.

Ian Smith, Organist SJB
April 2026

St John the Baptist Flower Report 2025

We are continuing to develop our policy of using sustainable, eco-friendly products and materials.

We no longer use floral foam in our regular arrangements and are trying to use it less for weddings. We use local flower farms or homegrown flowers and foliage as much as we can.

We have not had as many weddings this year but it continues to be a joy to plan the flower arrangements with our wedding couples. This year we had our first wedding with locally grown flowers

Thank you to all those who have given towards the cost of flowers throughout the year either for special occasions, in memory of someone or just as donations.

We would also like to thank all who have arranged flowers or helped in any way especially at Easter and Christmas.

Pauline Stone, Carol Isaac, Jenny Griffin

Renew 88 Well being St David's

During the year this group has enjoyed a growth in membership and activities. Word of mouth, council advertisement, and Social Prescribers at local surgeries have added to our numbers for those in need of enhanced wellbeing and fellowship.

Each week attendees have the opportunity to learn from each other, exploring new skills and crafts. Many bring their own hobbies sharing their knowledge and enjoyment. We continue to support the Church and local issues with projects within the Knit and Natter group including knitted dolls, crosses and hearts which are placed around the local community with a message from the church.

During the session meditation, monthly mass and a quiet space is offered. Its motto 'It's ok not to be ok' shares the message that support, fellowship and guidance is central to its mission.

This year we have received grants from Kingsthorpe Parish Council and Kingsthorpe Town and Manor Trust to help with resourcing materials and providing the weekly refreshments and soup lunch.

Jane Serbyn (Group Lead)

Renew Family (St Davis's tot's group)

Families have enjoyed fellowship over the past year including well-being opportunities. The group encourages parents to enjoy each other's company and engage in a support network.

Parents have enjoyed evening meals provided by the group volunteers twice this year. This has enabled mums to have time out for themselves. We have received grants from West Northants Wellness fund, Kingsthorpe Parish Council and Kingsthorpe Town and Manor Trust to help with our activity.

This year we have showed a drop in attendance, due to some extent by children moving onto local nurseries and schools. Therefore, it was decided to promote the Little Stars Group in the Parish and close this group after fifteen years. Remaining families were given information regarding the Councils new Family Hub in St David's Road and activities at Kingsthorpe Library on the Welford Road.

Thanks are always expressed to our steadfast volunteers who have over many years given of their time, creativity and experience.

Jane Serbyn (Group Lead).

Little Stars

Little Stars continue to meet during term time on Tuesdays, 1:30pm - 3pm at St Mark's church. We run thanks to a dedicated rotating team of volunteers. Our numbers are slightly down compared to last year as some of our Little Stars left us to go to big school and we vary week to week between 3-10 babies, toddlers and preschoolers with their grownups. Our sessions usually start with a craft that is connected to our theme, followed by singing, including our song of thanks and our

blessing. The session then moves to free flow play and refreshments for all before tidy up time.

We have covered a range of topics in the last twelve months, with favorites being Jonah and the Whale, The Nativity and our yearly wet play session in the garden. Little Stars continue to participate in other Parish initiatives such as supporting the St David's food bank with Harvest and Christmas collections and the children continue to enjoy sharing their crafting talents with the parish having made star ornaments for Christmas, bookmarks for Mothering Sunday and leeks and lions for patronal festivals.

Thanks to the support of Jane Serbyn we were able to apply for, and secure a grant from the Manor and Town Charity Trust which will enable us to buy new resources to benefit the children and hopefully some storage to tidy our corner of St Mark's.

I would like to thank our amazing volunteers that help each week with setting up, providing and serving refreshments, crafting with, and playing music for our Little Stars, you are all shining examples of Christ's love and faith and I love that we can share that with our Little Stars and one another.

As our Little Stars blessing says; God guard us, God love us, God bless us. Amen.

Jessica Carey - Little Stars Co-Ordinator.

Brick Church

Firstly, we would like to say a huge **thank you** to our helpers that turn up every month with great enthusiasm, to set up, provide and prepare

food, and stay to help clear away. In 2025 we have been joined by our current curate, Revd. Angie Kennedy, and are grateful for her help. We meet at St John the Baptist Church, 2nd Sunday of each month 2pm – 4pm.

We regularly have 19 children join us with their parents, grandparents and neighbours. In March of this year, we broke our record for numbers with 22 children accompanied by 20 adults.

The afternoon format is usually a quick mini build as families arrive, a themed Bible story, a short video and then let our imaginations run wild for our main builds. After our show and tell, we then enjoy refreshments in the chapter house.

Andrea & Mark Brame.

Woodland Church

This year we have seen Woodland Church grow from strength to strength. We have managed to keep to the 3rd Sunday of the month throughout the year with a break in August. This consistency has helped us to become a regular fixture in people's diaries.

The team is a lovely reflection of parish working together with representatives from all three churches. There are 5 of us on the team which enables flexibility when one or two of us are off.

The pattern we follow is a dramatic outdoor Bible reading on the theme of the day followed by wandering through the landscape, collecting 'treasure' and pausing and prayerfully reflecting as we go. We arrive at the Barn on Bradlaugh for home cooked delicious refreshments and a craft response to the theme.

We end with a prayer bringing all the thoughts and experiences of the afternoon together.

We follow the church calendar throughout the year and mark the seasons and the changes in nature that we see around us.

For example:

The New Life of Easter- reflected in the abundance of blossom and birdsong.

Remembrance and Advent- where things die back and rest in the soil.

We focus on what has gone before.

Our worshipping community runs from babies to octogenarians, and the outside space and conversations give everyone an opportunity to contribute.

We are grateful for the team that has woven together over the past couple of years and the many gifts they share. And give thanks to God for the growth in numbers we are seeing month by month.

Bloom Group Report

Bloom was created to meet a simple but important need within our church community: providing a space for women of working age to connect, build friendships, and enjoy fellowship at times that fit around busy work and family lives. Many of our existing groups meet during the day, which can make regular involvement difficult for those in full-time employment. Bloom offers an accessible alternative.

We meet monthly in a local pub, keeping the atmosphere relaxed, welcoming, and easy for newcomers to join. Our numbers vary from two to ten - a blend of regular congregation members and women we may not see as often on Sundays. This variety has become one of Bloom's strengths, helping us maintain connections across different stages of life and ensuring that no one feels "out of the loop" simply because their schedule looks different.

After a short pause in recent months due to other commitments, we are delighted to be restarting Bloom over the summer - ideally making the most of a pub garden and lighter evenings. The heart of the group remains unchanged: to offer friendship, fellowship, and a place to belong for women who might otherwise miss out on midweek church life.

Bloom continues to demonstrate that small, simple ideas can meet real needs. We look forward to welcoming familiar faces and new ones as we grow this ministry in the year ahead.

Karen Tomlin

Kingsthorpe Churches Together Report 2025

2025 began with the joint service for Christian Unity on the 21st January at St Davids with a good attendance. The AGM was held on the 28th January in St Marks church hall followed by the ordinary meeting. Ruth Gould was re-elected as Chairperson, David Bunker as Secretary. The representatives met twice more in May and October. Ecumenical Prayer lunches continued monthly except in August and December.

It was decided to alternate the venue during the year between the churches in K C T to try and encourage more people to attend. This seemed to attract different people to the lunches in the different locations and an average of 6-7 people attended each lunch.

The World Day of Prayer was held on the 7th March at 2pm in St John the Baptist Church. Attendance was increased from the previous year and it was decided to hold it in the afternoon in 2026. Members were invited to attend a Stations of the Cross Service during lent at St

Aidan's and the Mothers Union service at St David's. The Walk of Witness service was held at St Aidan's followed by the walk of Witness to Kingsthorpe Community Church (K.C.C) for the final blessing and hymn followed by refreshments. K.C.C held an advent study course which was opened to any one from the churches to attend.

In December members from all the churches joined in with Carol Singing and more people returned for refreshments this year in K C C hall. Various events were held during the year by the churches involved in KCT which members of KCT attended along with members of the congregations from the various churches.

Ruth Gould

The Friends of Kingsthorpe Pocket Park Committee

Tucked away behind St John the Baptist Church on Vicarage Lane in Kingsthorpe village is the New Churchyard. To call it new stretches credibility a little bit as the land was purchased by the Church in 1863 and consecrated in July 1864. The churchyard was active for a hundred years but is no longer so. By the millennium the land had become overgrown and had been deconsecrated.

In 2006 a group of local residents decided to develop the New Churchyard as a natural and peaceful green space for the local community. The aims were to conserve the remaining gravestones and to ensure access to land that was able to support a wide variety of plants and wildlife.

As you might imagine, this took a huge amount of effort - firstly by the local council and later by volunteers. Much of the vegetation consisted of Common Nettle, Blue Bells, Bramble and Cow Parsley. Pathways were cleared and laid. The land was adopted as a Pocket

Park and is now an area of peace and tranquility within Kingsthorpe - a secret garden.

We have an active badger set and despite the damage caused, volunteers are careful not to disturb it. Work by volunteers has continued every Saturday from early March to late October since 2006. We maintain the paths and clear weeds that become rampant. Bulbs and woodland plants are planted, as is the occasional small tree

The Friends of Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park continue to meet at 10 am every Saturday between March and October to maintain and improve this old cemetery with the aim of providing a quiet area of green space within the village.

Despite actively publicising the work of the group the number of active volunteers is now very small, perhaps 4 or 5 people each Saturday. Work is focused on keeping the paths clear and cutting back brambles, nettles and other fast-growing plants to allow space for planted bulbs and other plants to thrive.

Children from Kingsthorpe Village Primary School use the park one day per week for nature trails and woodland observations. They get much pleasure from seeing the plants grow and the many birds nesting in the bird boxes. Dog walkers regularly use the Park. All dogs must now be on leads.

The Friends are confident local residents value this area and the new seating is much appreciated. If you fancy a few hours of light gardening, with a cuppa and biscuits, do pop along and join our little band.

Mandy Bentley.

Report for Charity Commission

*The purpose of our Church
is to grow together in the faith of Jesus Christ
and to share God's love with all.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Charity No. 1130370)
for St. David, Eastern Avenue, NN2 7QB
St. John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe Village, NN2 6QZ
St. Mark, St. Mark's Crescent, NN2 8EG**

The staffing level in the parish during the last year was Rector (Revd. Canon Jane Butler), team vicar (Revd Alison Wagner), the Curate Revd Angie Kennedy joined the parish during the year. Rev Alison Wagner also hold the chaplaincy of Malcolm Arnold Academy. Assistance. Rev Stuart Mousir-Harrison also helps the parish by assisting with services. Mrs. Sarah-Jane Major is a Reader Ministry.

Thanks are due to Interpreters Jackie Hutchinson and Matthew Brennan who work with the Rector.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 22nd May 2025, following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the membership of the Parochial Church Council was made up as follows: -

St. David:

Sarah-Jane Major (Lay Reader/ex-officio), Becky Adnitt, Carol Church, Philip Nash (Churchwarden), Maureen Robinson, Jane Serbyn (Churchwarden), June Ward

St. John the Baptist:

Mandy Bentley (Lay Chair), Mark Brame, Jennifer Griffin (Deanery Synod/ex-officio), Penny Crockett (Deanery Synod/ex-officio), Susan Darby, and Pauline Stone.

St. Mark:

Paula Blackwell, Jo Carrick, Adrian Evans, Suzanne Evans (Treasurer), Ruth Gould, Helen Hickman (Secretary), Alexander Hunt, Samantha Hunt (Churchwarden), Kathy Wilcox (Churchwarden), Karen Tomlin, Glenda Lee.

The Parochial Church Council met seven times in full session in the year. The PCC meet at St David's Hall. All meeting were quorate.

(Representation to the PCC from each church at the annual meeting in 2013 increased to ten persons over and above Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members (as agreed and notified in 2012)).

Various members of the PCC support the life of the Parish through sub-groups, i.e., Pastoral Care, Nurture and Growth, Youth activity, and Mission.

Deanery Synod representation after the annual meeting was two people. (The electoral roll allows for five positions).

The Parish was unable to pay the Parish Share in full in 2025. The PCC did not have any large capital expenses during the year and with the reduced cost of utilities, so the same level as previous year was paid to the diocese.

The Parish Office operated without a Team Co-ordinator until November 2025 when the post was filled. During the remainder of the

year, it operated with voluntary assistance as it is viewed as an important asset for the parish.

Mrs Jane Serbyn is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. She has ensured that across the team on-line training has been undertaken where individuals have access to the technology to do so. She provided regular updates to the Parochial Church Council.

Mrs Penny Crocket is the Parish Governance Officer. She has been instrumental in getting policies and protocols drawn up to ensure the smooth running of the parish.

The Team has representatives to the local Kingsthorpe Village Conservation Group, Pocket Park Committee, Kingsthorpe Churches Together and St. David's Community Association. The Community Café at St. David's was able to reopen. St David's have been running a successful and well used foodbank.

Fabric matters are dealt with regularly at all churches.

During 2025, contact with the local schools has continued. There have been in person visits made to our churches at Easter and Christmas.

Other events in the year:

- Christmas day services
- House groups
- Easter Services
- A Nine Lessons & carols services were held in the parish.
- A Remembrance Day service was held at the War Memorial in Kingsthorpe.
- Crib and Christingle services.
- Woodland Church
- Brick Church

- Food For Thought
- Bereavement Group
- Little stars

Each of the church halls is used to hold a variety of community events and sponsored by the church congregations.

Administrative Information:

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hall Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4JQ

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, The CBF Church of England Funds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET.

Independent Examiner:
Jackie Brame FCCA.

For Parish Matters:

The Reverend Canon Jane Butler, The Rectory, 16 Green End, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6RD

Parish Office:

St. David's Church & Hall, Eastern Avenue South, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 7QB. Tel: 01604 720781.

Website: www.kingsthorpechurches.co.uk

Facebook – Kingsthorpe Parish

HJH April 2026