

Hethel All Saints Parochial Church Council and Parish Report – 2025

Services, Events and Fundraising

As well as our usual rhythm of the 2nd Sunday benefice communion service, during 2025 Hethel Church also held its traditional Plough Sunday service, Good Friday reflective service and Beating of the Bounds as well as our All-Saints Tide Remembering Loved Ones service. As part of the Churches Count on Nature Week in June, we had a Wild About Hethel nature day led by Dr Anne Edwards. She suggested we look to engage the whole community in monitoring and recording wildlife as a project for 2026. Harvest Festival was celebrated with a homemade soup lunch after the service, expertly cooked by Peter Nicholls. Remembrance Sunday saw the last service that Cathy Nicholls officiated at in Hethel as licenced clergy. Then in December Adrian led the Christingle service which was followed later in December by a Carol Service at which members of the Mulbarton Community Choir enhanced the singing. During the course of the year one Wedding and one Funeral service was held.

Our fundraising Tea and Crumpet Sundays during the early part of the year and our Cream Tea Sundays during the summer were well received and raised some welcome funds towards our Tower Restoration project.

PCC Meetings and Resolutions

The PCC met seven times during 2025 and voted on the following formal resolutions which were all approved unanimously.

- Proposal to charge the same fee for a memorial service as for a funeral service. A
- To accept grant from Church Buildings Council for the conservation of the church bell.
- To accept the 2024 financial report
- To accept the fabric and parish reports

Adrian Miller and Peter Nicholls led, a 7week Bereavement Journey Course at the beginning of the year, assisted by Anne Howlett. This was attended by seven participants who had suffered bereavement. The course was well received and followed the well thought through course. Although the course was offered to anyone in the Benefice, Hethel church initially funded the course materials and training. These costs were mostly recovered by donations from the participants.

During the year the County Council deliberated on the request to re-route the footpath that goes through the churchyard. There were no objections and the new route was confirmed, thus the footpath no longer goes through the churchyard and the garden of St. Johns Thorn Cottages , but instead down its drive and then across the adjoining field.

During the year discussions were had by preachers and service leaders in the benefice on the Blessing of Same sex couples - further work is still to be done and the PCC will need to consider what line it might take on this subject

Building work on the tower and bell was due to start in January but had to be delayed until April because of hibernating bats. It continued in fits and starts through the rest of the year. Services and events working around the scaffolding and stored materials. Frustratingly although near completion by the end of the year it was not yet finished

The Parish Council decided to change the method for calculating its donation towards maintenance of burial grounds from 11 percent of its Precept income to a fixed and capped amount of £400 per annum, which will now need to be applied for with evidence of spending, rather than be paid automatically.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was due for a full revision during 2025 and at the end of this exercise we now have 12 people on the roll and increase of 3 members.

Quinquennial Inspection

Our Architect undertook the Quinquennial Inspection this year. The priority items that will need attention are repairing pantiles on the roof and repainting the steel beams in the crypt of the mausoleum.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Officer has attended PCC meetings and has ensured we have complied with our Safeguarding duties and that our policies and training are up to date.

Finally, I would like to thank Cathy and Peter Nicholls for the energetic, enthusiastic and prayerful work they have done as members of this PCC and as Church Leaders and Preachers in the Mulbarton Benefice. Cathy in particular for her hard work as licenced clergy, in leading services and initiating 'Messy Church' and the '4th Sunday at 4' service and much else besides. And Peter in addition to preaching, for his multiple roles as Churchwarden, Fabric Officer and Treasurer to this PCC. All their work has been done for the love our Lord with grace, integrity and efficiency. Their work and friendship have been much appreciated by all they have come in contact with and their presence will be greatly missed when they move to Norwich, especially since we have now also said goodbye to our Rector Adrian Miller.