



WYMONDHAM
ABBNEY
A place of Welcome Worship & Wonder

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS
for the year ending
31 December 2025



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of WYMONDHAM ABBEY with SPOONER ROW

Registered charity number 1130495

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Saturday 25 April 2026 at 10am

At Wymondham Abbey

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is intended only for those named on the Electoral Roll.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Saturday 25 April 2026

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To receive and confirm the minutes of the APCM held on 20 April 2024
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive reports:
 - a. Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the activities of the parish during 2025
 - c. Financial statement for the year ending 31 Dec. 2025
 - d. Fabric report
 - e. Deanery Synod report
5. To elect one parochial representative of the Laity to the Deanery Synod
6. To elect up to seven parochial representatives to the Parochial Church Council for a three year term.
7. To appoint a person to be the Independent Examiner of the PCC for 2026
8. Any other business
9. Address by the Vicar: Reverend Andrew Hammond

The Blessing

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Saturday 10 May 2025

Present: Fr Andrew and 52 Parishioners

Apologies were registered as for the Vestry Meeting just completed.

1 To receive and confirm the minutes of the APCM held on 20 April 2024

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting following a proposal by Brian Randall, seconded by Sue Naylor

2 There were no matters arising from the minutes

3 Statutory Reports for the year ending 31 December 2024 were all in the Annual Report and Accounts. They included reports on

- a. The Electoral Roll which had been renewed this year and now totalled 145 people.
- b. Proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish during 2024
- c. Financial statement for the year ending 31 Dec. 2024
Chris Grant commented that we had done better this year with a surplus of £7,000 and the parish Share had been paid in full. We still had a long way to go to get regular giving on track and it was noted that the Parish Giving Scheme had remained static and was only used by 55 members.
- d. Fabric report
Andrew Naylor explained various work done and proposed. He spoke for the congregation in recording our indebtedness to the Abbey Preservation Trust in funding most of the work that needed doing.
- e. Deanery Synod report
Barbara Randall explained that we were now in Thetford and Rockland Deanery.

The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated by email and 100 copies were available in the church.

No questions were asked.

5 Election of Deanery Synod representatives

Barbara Randall explained that we have four lay parochial representatives on Thetford and Rockland Deanery Synod. These representatives are automatically members of the PCC and normally serve for three years. Barbara Randall had one more year to serve, Kay Dorling and Catherine Mack both had two more years to serve. Morwenna Thomas wished to step down so one replacement was required. Alex Perry had been proposed and seconded for the vacancy.

6 Election of members to the Parochial Church Council for a three-year term

Barbara Randall explained that we were entitled to 12 members on the PCC. She had received no new applications before the meeting. Graham Shelton volunteered and was duly proposed and seconded.

7 Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2025/2026

It was agreed to reappoint Peter Bussey FFA, FIPA of Abacus

8 Any other business

No questions were raised from those present.

Brian Randall spoke of the 48 years' service of Hayden Charles as a bell ringer and latterly as Tower Captain. He was stepping back from the leadership role but would still be ringing regularly. David Carter is now the Tower Captain.

9 **Address by the Vicar:** Reverend Andrew Hammond spoke as follows:

Although this is a business meeting, you might say, and we are doing our statutory duty of good governance, it is mostly just a necessary technical exercise, albeit an important one. But it allows me to say that I hope that all of you who undertake voluntary roles – of which there are so many – know how valued you are, and how grateful I personally am to you. The way in which you have restored the life of the Abbey after the difficult times, under the gentle, wise care of Father Christopher, has been exemplary and a reason to rejoice and be glad.

Those of you who have been involved in the work towards a new Mission Action Plan will know my mantra when it comes to parish ministry: ‘good church, good pastoral’. That is at the heart of how we live out our mission as a church, and as the Wymondham bit of the Body of Christ in the world. It is simply a version of *love God, love your neighbour*, of course, the great double commandment. We can’t do the first if we’re not doing the second. It’s actually impossible. As St James says in his Epistle, *If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.* (James 2.15-17) Jesus himself makes it clear in his parable of the Judgment of the Nations, the sheep and goats story. *Whenever you did not do this to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did not do it to me.*

The Mission Action Plan working groups, under the watchful wise eye of Jim, will soon produce specific ideas and actions in many areas of our life together – a life devoted to worshipping God well and serving his people with loving attention. We will discuss and – I hope – adopt the proposals in the PCC, then make them known to the whole congregation. They should combine ambition and pragmatism, perhaps living up to Jesus’ provocative teaching that we should be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove.

There is so much more to a healthy, holy church life than attendance numbers, but our mission – our response to Jesus’ **commission**, to go and baptise all nations – our mission is to bring others into the fold. I have been encouraged by the number of folk who come here to worship together, and indeed to build friendships and community. But we can be ambitious about bringing in more: especially when you consider the size of the parish.

Somewhat ironically, I talked about this in my homily at the Easter Vigil – ironic, because it was the least well-attended service in Holy Week! So I will finish this address as I finished that homily, not least because we are still very much celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Our Lord and his opening of the way past death to life eternal.

We need to tell this good news, and we need to live it. Now more than at any other time in the year we should be fired up to do this. If you’ll forgive me, I’m going to dare to offer a challenge, an exhortation even. What is each of us going to do to for the good news, for the Gospel? Vital to the gospel life is belonging to the body of Christ. That means being part of the Church. So here’s the challenge. If everyone here were to bring someone to church membership in the next year, we would double it. Now this is not to play some crude numbers game. It’s just about wanting to share our joy in the risen Jesus, and about wanting to draw others into his kingdom of love.

We must evangelise the people of this place, because in some ways the world is getting darker and more hostile. And we have a story to tell of light and love and welcome. In the words of St Augustine: ‘We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!’

9 The meeting closed with the Blessing.
Barbara Randall, PCC Secretary 14 May 2025

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Saturday 25 April 2026

STATUTORY REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT - *Barbara Randall, Electoral Roll Officer until 31 December 2025*

A completely new Electoral Roll was prepared in 2025. This is done every six years. At the end of December 2025 there were 144 names on the roll, 26 lived outside the parish. Since the last APCM held on 10 May 2025, one person on the Roll has died, one has moved away and one person has joined. On 31 December 2025 there were thus 144 people listed on the Roll.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT - *Barbara Randall, PCC Secretary until 31 December 2025*

During 2025 PCC business has included:

The Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were held on Saturday 10 May 2025 attended by Fr Andrew and 52 parishioners. The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The PCC is a Registered Charity and its Trustees are the people responsible for controlling the work, management and administration of the charity on behalf of its beneficiaries. There are currently 17 Trustees. Two churchwardens were appointed at the AVM: **William James Hartley** and **Brian Peter Marcus Randall**. Brian has now resigned his post with effect from 31 December.

At the APCM on 10 May 2025:

Deanery Synod representatives: we are entitled to have four lay parochial representatives on Thetford and Rockland Deanery Synod. These representatives are automatically members of the PCC and normally serve for three years. **Morwenna Corfield Thomas** (stepped down at the last APCM in May 2025), **Alex Perry** was elected as a replacement on a three-year term, **Kathleen Melvill Dorling** and **Catherine Sian Mack** were both elected for a two more years. **Barbara Joan Randall** (resigned on 31 December 2025 during the last year of her term).

The following trustees (all elected in March 2023) would serve on the PCC for another year **Isabel Louise Davidson** and **Dr David Valentine Hamilton**.

The following would continue to serve by virtue of their role: **Christopher James Grant**, PCC Treasurer, **Philip Sydney Aldred**, Spooner Row representative and **Andrew Richard Naylor**, Fabric Officer. Diana Grant was appointed Safeguarding Officer, Iain Drayton was appointed Health and Safety Officer, Barbara Randall continued her roles as PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer until 31 December 2025.

There were six ordinary PCC meetings during 2025, in addition to the APCM in May and an extraordinary meeting to approve the Annual Report and Accounts in April.

ABBHEY SERVICES:

Services:	2024	2025
Baptisms	20	22
Confirmations		11
Weddings	13	12
Funerals	22	27
Burials of ashes	2	7
Funerals in crematoria	6	5
Attendance figures:	2024	2025
Average Sunday in October	151	161
Easter communicants	314	255
School carol services	400	790
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services total	734	917
Advent and Christmas total	2,084	2,236
Total members in our worshipping community	314	338

An average of 26 people received Communion at home or in residential homes each month during 2025.

The weekday pattern of services in 2025 was as follows:

Monday to Friday: Morning Prayer each day at 10am reducing to three times a week in September
Weekday morning Eucharist on Wednesdays at 10.30am
Christian meditation and contemplation prayer group met weekly on Tuesday at 10.30am
Evening Eucharists on Feast Days

Sunday services: BCP Holy Communion at 8am, Sung Eucharist at 10.30am, Evening service at 5pm (Choral Evensong normally on First Sunday, contemporary style on Fifth Sunday, Evensong on other Sundays) plus two new services: 'SoulSpace Service' at 7pm on the Third Sunday of each month started in July. A 9am informal Eucharist service, 'Every Age Service', began in September.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 31 December 2025 is at the end of this document, following the reports on Parish Activities.

FABRIC REPORT - *Andrew Naylor, Fabric Officer*

Last year we were able to complete the catching up with relatively minor but time consuming repairs and maintenance, as well as starting other larger projects.

All the boiler servicing and repairs were done at the start of the year – the boilers are nearly 18 years old now and we need to keep them running as many churches seem to find permission to replace defunct gas boilers is not forthcoming from the diocese.

We had Anglia Stonecare in to fix some floor cracks in St Benedicts and the South Aisle that were becoming a safety hazard. A more substantial repair was made to the stone slabs near the welcome desk by Atthowes. Buried in the concrete underneath we discovered modern electrical cables and heating pipes, so some areas of the stone floors aren't as old as they first appear!

In the summer we had the main parquet floors repolished – this probably should be done professionally every 2 or 3 years to avoid the need for the major refurbishment we had in 2023.

As usual we had all drains and gutters cleared at the start of the year – the Scots pines can cause quite a blockage and this soon leads to leaks if left. There were still a few leaks in the North Aisle after the dry hot summer, but they seem to have abated now and inspections haven't revealed any holes or gaps. We are now considering the timing of a full scale re-leading of the North Aisle as it seems the present covering had been there over 100 years, since the 1903 renovations...

We made a few minor improvements to the fire and intruder alarms and also fixed the hearing loop and made usability improvements to the PA system so that funerals and weddings can have more control over their sound.

All of our portable appliances were safety tested (at all 3 buildings) by Crosses electricians and a few were removed or repaired as a result.

Various alternative suggestions for the new North Inner doors are being discussed and this will go out to a new architect shortly for more detailed work. We have to make sure that the design and manufacture will still look good in 100 years!

At Spooner Row there was a flurry of activity when roof, gutters and drains were sorted and the flooring re-levelled inside after removal of the old wooden dais. This addressed a number of items found during the previous Quinquennial Inspection.

There were a few minor changes in the Abbey Hall including new lighting in the main hall which is much brighter than before, and new storage cupboards across the end.

The ongoing project to upgrade the external lighting has been moving forward and a survey of the underground cabling in the churchyard revealed that around 90% is fit for re-use. The joint committee with the Friends is considering various design options.

The work on the ruined East walls and stonework has now reached a detailed survey stage following which we can go out to tender on a detailed specification.

As always, we are indebted to the advice and great generosity of the Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust and the Friends of Wymondham Abbey in funding most of this work. We are in a very privileged and rare position to be able to look after this great building without having to continually fundraise and their continued support is always hugely appreciated.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT - *Kay Dorling, Deanery Synod Representative*

The Deanery Synod has met 4 times since the last APCM.

In May we welcomed Bishop Graham and the Bishop of Lulea - one of our link dioceses in Sweden - together with a group of 9 young Swedish people who acted as her advisors. We said Evensong together and this was followed by a question-and-answer session with Bishop Graham covering a variety of issues.

In July our guest speaker was the Rev. Richard Lamey, director of Mission and Ministry for the diocese. He spoke about the Diocesan Mission Strategy Update.

The October meeting was held here at Wymondham Abbey. Andy Jones, director of operations at Raise Kids Work spoke movingly about engaging children between the ages 5-11 with the Christian faith.

In January we heard from Becky May about growing missional ministry in rural parishes.

We meet in a different Church of the Deanery each time and the meetings are chaired by our Rural Dean, Matthew Jackson. Our Lay Chair is Peter Lotario.

HOLY TRINITY SPOONER ROW - *Philip Aldred, Spooner Row Representative*

Our small but very active community at Holy Trinity, Spooner Row continues to hold Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday of the month and a Lay led Service of the Word every fourth Sunday. Christmas, Good Friday and Easter are also celebrated plus a Nativity Play and Carols round the Organ. The latter two were very well attended by people of the village as was an open Craft and Arts afternoon.

After each Service we enjoy refreshments and each other's company, thoughts and fellowship.

Everyone is always welcome...do come and join us!

Thank you to Fr. Andrew, Andrew Naylor, Chris Grant and the PCC for their support throughout the year.

Our sincere thanks, as always, to Fr. Tony for his wonderful and gentle sermons and pastoral care.

To all who, quietly and lovingly, clean, arrange and provide flowers, decorate, provide our music and care for our simple, serene and beautiful Church a huge 'Well done and thank you'.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT - *Brian Randall and Jim Hartley*

2025 was the first full year with Fr. Andrew. It's been a joy sharing his clear vision of how he wants Wymondham Abbey to develop its mission to the people of Wymondham.

The Vicars and Wardens (VCW) met roughly every 2 weeks but were in constant contact via Whatsapp and/or email. This regular contact has contributed to a very happy and effective working group.

There have been a number of new initiatives, listed elsewhere, that have contributed to a sense of growth and positivity among the congregation. It has been good to welcome new folk on most Sundays and hear their appreciative comments.

We couldn't run such a busy church without willing and active volunteers. The Abbey has around 190 volunteers on its books, from servers and choir, PCC members, bell ringers, concert stewards through to welcomers and shop helpers. The latter allow us to keep the Abbey open virtually every day of the year, and importantly provide a warm and hospitable welcome. Our team of flower arrangers beautify the church every week. Concerts and recitals provide additional opportunities for visitors and provided much needed revenue.

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers for their cheerful willingness in helping put the Abbey at the heart of our town.

We are very appreciative of the tremendous support we have received from so many people and wish to express our thanks. It has made our job a real pleasure.

A personal note from Brian: When Barbara and I decided to move nearer our family in Oxford, we knew that leaving the Abbey would be a wrench. It's been our spiritual home for many years and the love and affection shown to us as our move got closer was, at times, overwhelming. We feel very privileged and proud to have been part of the Abbey's recent journey, and to have made so many friends among the many, many people who, individually and collectively, make the Abbey such a special place. We will forever remember the welcome, the worship and the wonder that envelopes the church. Thank you one and all

REPORTS ON PARISH ACTIVITIES

ABBEY ARCHIVE – *John Herne*

The archivist continues to answer queries from academics and local and family historians.

Conservation of documents is ongoing.

Displays put in the Abbey display cases this year: the history of the West Tower, and Churchwardens' Accounts from the reign of Henry VIII.

Two of the Friends' booklets (*Abbey Bells & Abbey Organs*) have been edited for reprinting, with additional information included from new research. The intention is to have the booklets for sale in the Abbey Shop.

ABBEY CHOIR – *Rob Goodrich, Director of Music*

The Abbey choir continues to thrive and has welcomed a number of new choristers to both the adult and junior sections. The choir has enjoyed revisiting repertoire so as to enhance the worship, most notably the Allegri Miserere for Ash Wednesday and the Sanders - Reproaches sung on Good Friday. We have enjoyed learning some new service music for evensong, including Gibbons Second Service and Brewer in D. We have very much valued the support from Peter O'Connor, as accompanist who has expressed his versatility by playing both the West Organ and Chamber Organ. We have been delighted to have Joe Richards as our Eucharist organist twice a month, in addition to Martin Adams, Ollie Scott-Lincoln and Daniel Ayers, all of whom have contributed much as deputy organists and their skill and commitment has allowed me to focus on pulling the choir together at the other end of the church.

Whilst the choir are disappointed not to have the opportunity of singing a choral setting of the mass so often now, nor the psalm, we have been creative in slipping in some short anthems, on occasion, before receiving communion, which have gone some way to satisfy our enthusiasm for an engaging choral diet.

We thoroughly enjoyed our opportunity of singing some secular music at the Friends Soirée back in June. The large lady's choir was particularly well received, as were those who provided solos and duets, and we look forward to participating at this event again in 2026. We are very grateful to The Friends, who continue to support the financial needs of music at the abbey.

ABBEY JUNIOR CHOIR – *Lorna Goodrich*

The junior choir has had another busy year, and the choristers have enjoyed singing as part of the 10.30 services on a Sunday morning, as well as services over Christmas (including the Crib Service and Town Carol Service). Their confidence is growing and they have developed their solo singing skills, ability to sing in harmony and their understanding of music theory.

We are hugely grateful for the support that Rebecca Ayres and Rose Naylor have given to the junior choristers over the last year. They have assisted and encouraged the younger children by helping them to follow the music, as well as leading the singing. They have also been a huge help in our music theory games and activities that take place during rehearsals.

The junior choristers follow the RSCM Voice for Life choir training program, which has a syllabus designed to help children develop their vocal skills, aural skills, music theory, and understanding of worship within the church. Congratulations go to Matilda and Clara who were awarded the white medal, and Aria, Nicole, Clara, Rose, Tilly, Ella, Evie and Lilliana who were awarded the light blue award.

ABBEY FLOWERS – *Doris Waymark*

Once again, we are extremely grateful to Andy Free for his sponsorship of the flowers we are delighted to arrange in the Abbey week by week. The cost of flowers has risen dramatically during this year, but with the generosity of Andy and donations from members of the congregation and of course the arrangers we are coping very well.

With enthusiasm from Father Andrew, we have endeavoured to use flowers of the colour appropriate to the particular theme or Saint for special occasions.

There have been a number of weddings during the year, but most have elected and been happy with our flowers. We are happy to accommodate any request for a special colour, and also happy if they decide to donate towards them.

We would welcome more arrangers to join our small team, no experience necessary, help and guidance can be given. For more information, please contact either myself, *Ann Hammond* or *Anne Johnson*.

ABBEY HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT – *Martyn Chamberlain*

During the report period, extensive efforts have been made to secure external funding to pay for the proposed refurbishment and upgrading works at the Hall. The overall objective of the work is to improve the Hall so that it can continue to be offered to a variety of groups and individuals for the benefit of the Abbey and Town community.

The proposed works involve: replacement of the WC's; formation of a new office for confidential meetings; and upgrading of the insulation, glazing and doors.

Grant Applications were made to the following Trusts: Joseph Rank, Lady Hind, Snelling Trust, Graham Dacre Trust and the Broomton Foundation. The sums applied for ranged from £8000 to £50,000. In addition, a short video was made and placed on our website to support these Applications. Unfortunately, none met with any success, and little or no feedback was received. At the end of the Calendar Year, it was therefore decided to review the process, making smaller Applications and deploying some internal funding.

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP – *Lorna Goodrich*

It has been another eventful year for the Wymondham Abbey Baby and Toddler Group.

The sessions have continued to be successful and extremely popular - they have been fully booked almost every week. Our sessions cater for up to 50 families weekly and offer a range of activities such as craft, messy play, singing, stories and a wide variety of age-appropriate toys. Each week is themed and this year we have had a mix of religious and secular themes, highlights including Noah's Ark, Candlemas, Space, Easter, Science week, Harvest Festival and Christmas. We also provide refreshments such as teas, coffees, fruit and

homemade cakes. Our sessions have given parents and carers a chance to make friends, support each other and share advice, while their children play. Numerous families have commented on how much they value this opportunity to connect with others, as raising young children can be a lonely and overwhelming experience at times.

These sessions wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Sadly, Angela, who helped the children with their craft activities, amongst other things, passed away this year. She was loved by all of us and is greatly missed.

Towards the end of the year, it was requested that the Baby and Toddler Group move out of the Abbey and into the Abbey Hall. It was felt this would enable the North aisle to be used more imaginatively. The Abbey Hall is a lovely community building but provides less space than the Abbey meaning that the group may need to reduce the number of children we can accommodate. It was felt amongst the current team, that this change, alongside a lack of set up time (due to existing bookings in the hall), made the group unviable in its current set up. As a result, most of the current team, including the group leaders, made the difficult decision to step down at the end of this year, and the group had its final session on 4th December 2025.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported the Baby and Toddler group over the last three years: Jim and Chris for all the chair and furniture moving; Chris and Margaret for their work in the kitchen; Roz, Amanda and Debs for their help in the sessions and Fiona and Rachael for supporting the running and administration of the group as well as everything else! Finally, thanks must go to Fr Christopher for sharing our vision and being integral to our success when we launched the group in the Abbey in December 2022, and to Fr Andrew for continuing to allow the Abbey to be used for such an important community outreach activity this year.

BELLS – *David Carter*

Change of Ringing Master, Easter 2025.

Sunday Morning Ringing: rung for every Sunday 10.30 service. On 26 occasions rang all ten bells and 49 occasions 8 or more bells were rung for the morning service.

Quarter peals. We have attempted a quarter peal a month for Evensong, usually on 1st Sunday. 14 quarter peals have been rung involving 15 of our own ringers and 12 visitors, including one to mark Hayden's retirement as Ringing Master and one in memory of former Mayor, Kevin Hurn. We are developing links with Bardwell band to improve quality of ten bell ringing through quarter peals.

Practice nights held weekly on Tuesdays. Averages 15 ringers including about 30 visitors to the tower across the year. Reintroduced 8pm entry for practice nights.

Ringling for 9 Weddings, 3 funerals, Remembrance Sunday, VE and VJ Day anniversaries, Town Carol Service, Midnight Mass and New Year's Eve. Tenor tolled for the anniversary of the death of James Quigley. Supported the visit of the Norfolk Young Ringers in July. Hosted a practice for Norfolk women ringers.

Safeguarding. Completed by start of August. Register of attendance maintained from 21st April.

Bell Sunday: quiz for congregation.

Deep clean and paint Ringing Chamber: first since 1963.

Introduced WhatsApp group to aid communication within band.

Outing to Scole, Pulham Market, Redenhall, Bungay, Ditchingham and Shotesham.

Tower Picnic July at Marlpit Community Garden. New Year's Eve Party at home of Hayden and Rosemary.

Winners of Diocesan striking competition, 2025.

Supporting handbell ringing group including making 25 cloth bags to protect the bells.

In process of obtaining written quotation prior to faculty application for training bell.

Heritage Open Days - two Saturdays previously one. Over 80 visitors to the tower.

Training New ringers. David has been teaching four new ringers. Jess regularly attends Abbey practice and rings on Sunday mornings. In December she rang her first quarter peal. Another learner attends the Hethersett practice, another is having a lay off due to health issues and one person is learning to handle a bell. Another enquiry has been offered a January start. Teresa is working towards her teaching qualification with the Association of Ringing Teachers.

Model bell provided which will enable learners to understand how a bell rings and identify parts of bell mechanism.

Front covers of The Ringing World and Wymondham Magazine. The Wymondham Magazine article has generated a number of enquiries about learning to ring.

Pauline and Teresa assisted with the Christmas Fair tombola.

Support by members of the band of ringing at St Peter Mancroft (including training centre), Hethersett, Reymerston, Barnham Broom, Ditchingham, Bungay, Yaxham and Bardwell (Suffolk).

Two peals rung by two of the oldest ringing societies in the world during the year (Ancient Society of College Youths and Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (the latter conducted by David, our Ringing Master).

CAFE TEAM – *Diana Grant*

The success of our kitchen continues and the fundraising is impressive with donations of £6,906 and this does not include income from other organised events such as concerts.

Our small team provides simple refreshments on a routine basis after services. Extra volunteers join in at our big events.

We use a WhatsApp group to organise our work.

Generally, the kitchen is open for help-yourself refreshments during the Abbey opening hours for anyone including the public to enjoy our hospitality. Payment is by donation, by cash or card. This seems to work well generally without staffing but during the summer season, should volunteer numbers allow, it would be ideal to staff the kitchen. This could provide a friendly welcome, service and care of the kitchen area, cleaning and stocking up.

Thanks to everyone who has worked hard through the year and in particular to Andrew and Sue Naylor who ensure we never run out of supplies.

Children, Parents and Carers Activity Sessions – *Jim Hartley*

These were organised during the summer holidays and were for children aged 3-11 and their parents or carers. There were six sessions lasting two hours and were supervised by six volunteers.

There were a range of activities available for children and adults to participate in together including giant “Genga”, giant “Connect Four”, stone painting, badge making, playdough and darts.

Each session included a Bible story at the midway point with related worksheets and Bible activities available for immediate use or to take home. Refreshments were provided. Eight to ten children and associated parents attended, some coming to every session.

Much of the equipment was borrowed from the Diocesan Children’s Department.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION – *Gill Lee*

We create a place to explore the spiritual approach to the art of listening to God through silence, reflection and presence.

We empty ourselves of all expectations, anticipations or demands simply being open, watchful and awake to the still small voice within. The more we are quiet to all that is around us, the more we can receive what waits within.

Over the last year a small group of us have met between 10.30 and 11.30am every Tuesday and practised various techniques including Christian mindfulness, guided meditations, centering prayer, body and breath prayers, examen as well as lectio and visio divina practices. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in slowing down, and finding God in this still place.

CHURCHYARD and HERB GARDEN – Hilary Hunter

The Medieval Herb Garden continues to be maintained with replacement plants added at the end of May 2025 and a new metal support for the hop, the wooden one having collapsed. The Wildlife Conservation Area was covered in cowslips in the spring with further displays of wildflowers throughout the year. The latest survey shows an increase of 295 different species from the 47 noted in the last survey of 1984.

Brambles growing into the ha-ha were dealt with, as was the ash tree suffering from major die-back. This was pollarded to a height of 8 feet. A mulch of wood chippings from the work, mixed with manure, was laid on all the flower and tree beds.

The Abbey roses thrive on being dead-headed regularly and winter pruned. One rose has died after being chewed by muntjac – as was one of the hazels. These have been replaced.

The churchyard was included in the judging for Wymondham in Bloom – which won Gold.

With the help of Scythers United the Wildlife Conservation Area was scythed in September and the hay given to a local farmer. The area was then tidied and mown with all the pathways short mown.

Our annual Green Halloween event, assisted by Wymondham Nature Group, was very successful, starting with a blessing, wildlife hunting, craft activities and pumpkin soup finishing with bat detecting.

A rockery for a Mary Garden has been prepared using large stonework left over from the extension works. The remaining stonework along the north side of the abbey will be removed to the far west end. The Garden will be planted up in the spring with plants associated with the Virgin Mary.

Greening Wymondham have prepared a Town Tree Trail which includes three Abbey trees – ash, sycamore and oak. They will be preparing a Tree Trail especially for the Abbey.

An outdoor notice board has been sited in the north west corner of the churchyard with information on the Wildlife Conservation Area and the Garden of Remembrance. Memorial plaques may be placed in the flower bed under the sign.

Sales of herbs and roses will begin in April in time for the Spring Fair. Sales from the plants fund all the work in the churchyard including replacements.

Maintenance is carried out by volunteers.

CONCERTS IN THE ABBEY – Barbara Randall

2025 has been a significant year for music events in the Abbey. We have had concerts by our local music societies: Wymondham Symphony Orchestra performed in June and November, and Wymondham Choral Society in July, with the Abbey raising money from hire fees and refreshment sales.

We have had several smaller daytime concerts from visiting choirs including singers from the Netherlands as well as groups from Norfolk. The Sundays at Three slot has been popular with musicians as well as guest speakers.

The organ recital season started with a Lenten devotion by Mike Webb. Later Daniel Ayers put together an excellent programme, Nick Larsen enchanted us with Purcell to S S Wesley using both organs, Rev'd David Price completed his UK tour with us to play the organ he first knew over 40 years ago. The season was completed by Peter O'Connor who managed to fit in more notes in his recital than anyone else and introduced the music with great expertise.

New for this year were concerts promoted by the Abbey bringing performances by top international artists. First, a chamber concert by rising stars Eleanor Grant and Gus Mcade and secondly the famous close harmony group The Kings Men who entertained a full house with a varied programme.

The year ended with a cluster of school carol services and concerts all with large audiences and a great number of budding young musicians. It has been a pleasure to welcome them all. We are grateful to all the volunteers who help with events such as these, preparing and servicing refreshments and keeping an eye on the safety of all those attending.

CRAFT FAIRS AND DUCK RACE – *Hayley Cornwall*

In 2025, we held our usual 3 Abbey Fairs in conjunction with Clear Company, Spring Fair, Summer Fair and Christmas Fair. These events are very well established with the community expecting these to take place each year, one seems to get bigger and better with the Spring Fair being our biggest and most profitable one yet. With the help of Julie at Clear Company the fairs are much more than another craft fair, they are attended as days out for visitors who can enjoy not only the local businesses stalls but also music, lots of free activities and local street food. Our fairs also help bring visitors into the town and helps local businesses which is fantastic

We also held the annual Abbey Duck Race at the Tiffey, which exceeded our expectations and thanks to the good weather, was extremely well attended and raised lots of funds for the Abbey. We learned lots from running this event this year after the departure of Robert and Christopher and will implement these changes for the next one and hoping that the 2026 Duck Race will be even more successful.

DISCUSSION AND READING GROUPS – *Jim Hartley*

There were 3 Discussion and Reading groups in 2025.

Godly Reading - 6 evening sessions during Lent - average attendance 18

“Letters to the World” - 4 evening sessions - average attendance 8

Godly Reading - 3 sessions during Advent - average attendance 6

GUILD OF ST BENEDICTS – *Jim Hartley*

The Guild continues to grow (currently 187) as more volunteers join the many teams now operating. The Team Leaders met 3 times. This is a useful meeting where heads of teams can share information and offer support to each other where appropriate.

There were four social events during the year, a pancake party, a cream tea, a hot lunch and an informal carol service.

There was also a Refresher/Training session which was well attended and appreciated.

Most Guild volunteers are in WhatsApp contact with other team members which has enabled efficient communication, planning and mutual support.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – *Iain Drayton*

Firstly, let me remind you all that the responsibility for Health and Safety within the Abbey is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Mop up spills of any liquid you see on the floors to prevent slips. Do not leave things, especially toys around in the walkways for people to fall over or walk into.

So what did happen in 2025?

The watch on Maundy Thursday saw three people slip or walk into things in the dark prompting us to review lighting in the future.

During the year there were a few falls while descending the steps between the sanctuary and the Lady Chapel, whereby a Server fell from the raised platform around the Lady Chapel altar onto the lectern, fracturing an arm.

A visitor apparently suffered a heart attack and was taken to hospital by the ambulance service, while another visitor fell backwards while looking at the ceiling in the nave. A mirror is provided for visitors to do this without looking upwards but this was not used on this occasion.

Diana Grant organised a First Aid training day for volunteers and these skills were put into use for several of these accidents.

Otherwise, Health and Safety has been routine with checking the fire extinguishers and emergency lighting etc. and we continue to review areas that have caused concern to avoid future occurrences.

HOME COMMUNIONS AND VISITS to Care Homes, Assisted Living and Sheltered Living Complexes –

Margaret Hartley

Home Communion is taken to about 10 housebound members of the congregation, usually monthly.

The following Care Homes are visited monthly with a Holy Communion Service:

Melton House, Fairlands Court, Sutherland's and Ogden Court. Kay Dorling also visits Ogden Court weekly and holds an Annual Carol Service there. Robert Kett Court has a monthly Service of the Word. The Holy Communion services are led by Father Andrew and Reserve Sacrament Holy Communion services by Kay Dorling and Margaret Hartley. They are assisted by volunteers from the congregation including Neville and Tina Moon and Sue Boniwell. It is hoped that more members of the congregation will become involved in the services and in visiting the Care Homes and individuals

MISSION ACTION PLAN – Jim Hartley

Following the Vision Day held in November 2024, it was decided to focus on 3 broad areas

- 1 Community, Pastoral and Outreach.
- 2 Finance and Communication
- 3 Theological Education and Spiritual Enrichment

Each Task group was set up with the brief to produce a five year mission plan while identifying two projects to be implemented in 2025-26 .

The Community, Pastoral and Outreach group met six times during the year and proposed three new initiatives.

1. An annual social event for parents and godparents whose children had been baptised at the Abbey in the last two years planned for March 2026.
2. A monthly "Dad's and Kids" breakfast on a Saturday morning beginning in January
3. A "Befriending" scheme to address the issue of loneliness in the community beginning in 2026.

The Finance and Community group met once. As a result new Whatsapp groups for the various teams have been created and more use is being made of Social Media. Notices and media information has been updated.

The Theological and Spiritual Enrichment group met four times and identified two specific and achievable ideas.

- 1 Informal worship services at the 5pm service on the fifth Sunday. These took place in March and June (but planned for four times a year)
2. Develop a range of prayer journey resources starting with a one-off afternoon prayer pilgrimage event in the Abbey grounds. (17th August)

Further proposals were identified.

NEWBORN GROUP – Margaret Hartley

This group is organised by Andrea, a midwife, for parents with babies under six weeks old. It is held once a month in St Benedict's, so there are different people attending and each month. Someone from the Abbey Congregation (usually Margaret Hartley) attends each month to help Andrea with the refreshments, welcome the families to the Abbey and reassure other visitors that they are still welcome in the kitchen area. Some

groups have continued to meet in the Abbey on a regular basis. Some of the babies have been baptised and some families have come to services. One family now volunteers at the Abbey as a result of the group.

PARISH LUNCHESES – *Joyce Reynolds*

Since September 2000 lunches have been prepared and served in the Abbey Hall on the 1st Sunday of the month, with the exception of January and August.

Tickets can be purchased after the 10.30am service on Sundays prior to the lunch, or by contacting Joyce Reynolds on 604904.

Meals are prepared and served by volunteers from 12.30pm.

To continue providing these monthly meals two team leaders are required to co-ordinate two teams, to shop, prepare and serve a three course meal to an average of forty people.

Please contact me if you feel this could be you!

SACRISTAN AND SERVERS – *Iain Drayton*

Much progress has been made in the Sacristancy during 2025. Glynis had managed to repair many of the large Altar cloths bring them up to a higher level of serviceability. Two new large credence cloths made by her, has enables us to rotate the linen to ensure it is regularly laundered. New routines have been developed and during the Church year from Advent 2024 to Advent 2025 Iain has been documenting all the different actions required to prepare the Abbey for the various services that take place. This should be a good start for any future Sacristan. A brass polishing team, well Patrick has been busy throughout the year polishing any and every thing brass within the Abbey and I am sure that we can all see the difference. One Saturday morning during the summer a small team lowered the chandelier in the Lady Chapel area and set to polishing it. It was an enjoyable time and the finished result was appreciated by many people.

The Serving Team has evolved over the year, having lost several of the regular team members, Morwenna moving to live nearer her family, Alex Durrant and Darius Lentin moving on to University life. Fortunately, we have recruited a couple of new member and some who have returned. This has ensured that the team, while small, has remained strong enough to provide an appropriate number of servers for whatever the Vicar has thrown at us.

SAFEGUARDING – *Diana Grant, Safeguarding Officer*

During the year we proudly achieved our target of getting about 150 volunteers up to date with training and we now have a policy for new volunteers to complete prior to starting.

The first three-year renewals became due towards the year end and this will be the main ongoing training activity.

Some additional training has been added - Domestic Abuse training for churchwardens and Leadership training for those leading children's activities.

All members of the PCC confirmed their formal adoption and commitment to the C of E policy statement "Promoting a Safer Church". Additionally, the PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

The PCC and the Vicar have been very supportive in recognising the importance of safeguarding and thanks go to the team leaders for prompting and encouraging where necessary. Thanks also to our Parish Administrator Hayley for the mountain of documentation.

We have started work on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which is a database linked to the Diocese. All records are stored confidentially.

Happily, there were no safeguarding incidents during 2025.

SCHOOL LIAISON – *Fr Andrew Hammond, Vicar*

As none of the Wymondham schools are church schools, we do not have any kind of formal association with them, so discretion is important. I have visited Robert Kett and Browick Rd primary schools, for either assembly or class sessions.

In 2025 all the primary schools came for their Christmas carol services or concerts, which provided excellent opportunities for us to offer hospitality and for me to say a few words about the meaning of Christmas.

With significant support from the Papillon Trust, we ran a project with all the primary schools in anticipation of our Patronal Festival weekend. Norwich Community Arts brought carnival specialists for end-of-year workshops in July, creating outfits for a Mary-themed procession. The procession took place on September 6th, beginning in the Market Square and ending with an outdoor service on the site of the old monks' church. Only a small proportion of the total number of children who had done the workshops came to the procession and service, but it was a very happy event - and the weather held too!

SHOP – *Stef Adams*

I took on the responsibility of the day-to-day shop administration at the beginning of 2025. It's been a rollercoaster year getting to know the stock, suppliers and what our visitors and local customers want from the abbey gift shop as well as deciding on our parameters to fit the space we have available. My main priorities have been to stock a wider range of Christian products and resources, abbey-branded and locally produced food and gifts and fairly traded gifts benefitting overseas charities. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes in making sure that all stock has barcodes and prices, cost prices and suppliers have been matched and added to the EPOS system and old products have been archived or deleted, tidying the whole system up. The shop fittings were repositioned in September to give the shop and the welcome desk sight of each other, thus helping to safeguard the volunteers and an additional card stand was purchased at the same time.

I'm happy to report that we saw increased sales in every month of the year resulting in total sales of £22,600 with an approximate profit towards abbey funds of £12,000. This is a healthy increase from last year which is good to see after all our hard work. The Embrace shop-in-a-box Christmas initiative raised almost £500 all of which went directly to the charity. In 2026 I hope to consolidate and build on what we achieved last year. None of it would have been possible without the support and hard work of our wonderful team of shop volunteers and Chris Grant who has given me a lot of help and support, especially in the early days.

SUNDAY CLUB – *Kay Dorling*

Sunday Club takes place every Sunday at the 10.30 Eucharist. After the initial hymn and welcome the children come to the front and, with a prayer from the Celebrant, transfer into St. Benedict's with the Sunday Club leaders. The sessions, lasting approximately 30 minutes, comprise a story based on the lectionary of the day followed by a craft activity focussing on the main point. The sessions conclude by gathering in a circle, shaking hands for The Peace, praying a short intercession, and finally saying the Grace together. We then rejoin the congregation during the singing of a hymn when the children can return with their parents or continue some craft in the South Aisle.

During the past year we have established a stable group of about ten children, and a group dynamic has evolved. Our numbers increase on the Sundays when the Junior Choir are involved.

We have four leaders who lead the sessions and helpers who assist. All of us have the appropriate Safeguarding Training.

There were two highlights in the past year. On Sunday November 16th, nine young people from the Sunday Club and Junior Choir were officially admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation. This was a lovely celebration taking place in the service before the whole congregation.

The second highlight was at Christmas when the young people performed a short Nativity Play which was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody.

Sunday Club did not function during August. Instead, we borrowed equipment from the Diocese and ran sessions on Thursday mornings where children, accompanied by a parent, could come and play in the North Aisle. A Bible story was always told in the middle of the morning.

Our team of leaders and helpers meets on a regular basis four times a year with Father Andrew to review progress and discuss initiatives. Regular reports are also given to the PCC meetings.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLICITY – *Chris Grant*

The website has continued to be updated with a good amount of information and now includes a 'Media library' which is regularly added to with PCC Minutes, Weekly Pew Sheets and sermons. Electoral Roll and Volunteer application forms can also be downloaded from here.

Publicity continues to be developed and now includes an Instagram page where we post events and Abbey news in parallel with Facebook.

Poster clip frames have been installed throughout the Abbey and the churchyard where we can easily insert event posters. Eight large A1 clipframes have been installed in the Abbey Hall and lobby to promote the Abbey as our Church 'Church Matters' and our town mission work 'Community'. The purpose is to reinforce the connection between the Church and the Hall while illustrating the community activities taking place in the Hall as part of our outreach mission.

WEDDINGS – *Hayley Cornwell*

In 2025, we conducted eleven weddings (one of which was at Spooner Row), two cancelled weddings, one renewal of vows, and published seven external banns. In total, these figures show the wedding activity is higher than the previous year.

Nine weddings in 2025 included bellringing which is the same as 2024. Nine out of eleven requested the organ with four of those also requesting the choir while only two opted for pre-recorded music only. Apart from the statutory fees determined by the diocese, wedding fees have not changed.

I took over weddings from Fiona Prentice in March 2025 and tried my best to keep all admin in the same format as Fiona had done previously for continuity. Fiona has been extremely helpful in answering any questions I've had in this transition period which has been immensely helpful.

WELCOME DESK & TOURS – *Gill Curtis / Carol Bolderstone*

It has been a good year at the Welcome Desk. We have recruited several keen new volunteers, and the rota fills up very quickly, so much so that the "floating" Welcomers' (those without a regular weekly slot) can sometimes be disappointed!

Visitor numbers on our clicker have exceeded last year's total of just over 36,000 and stands at 44,635.

There are some lovely comments in the Visitors' Book, remarking on the beauty of our Abbey and how well cared for it looks, as well as acknowledging the warmth of their welcome. There is no set script for welcoming visitors, but we ask our volunteers to do so in their own words, ones they feel comfortable with, and not to forget to hand out biscuits to enthusiastic pooches and stick-on badges to children!

We provided a cream tea for all front of house volunteers in July as Fr Andrew wished to tell us all about proposed changes and to encourage people to give their thoughts and opinions. This was very well received.

Our volunteers are all happy, enthusiastic and helpful people who do not hesitate to go the extra mile when necessary. We are lucky to have them.

Tours went well and we conducted 17 in all, including 2 for new volunteers and those who wanted to brush up on their Abbey knowledge. The groups vary in size - anything between 2 and 40. The larger groups are divided between the three guides who, after the initial sit down welcome, start at different places so that progress around the Abbey is unencumbered. The coffee and biscuits afterwards seem to be appreciated and gives those who want to delve a little deeper into history the chance of further chat with the guides.

TREASURER'S REPORT For the Year ending December 31st, 2025

Income in 2025 amounted to £247,279. After grants from the Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust (WAPT) and Wymondham Abbey Friends (WAF) of £66,647 (Building repairs, gas and electricity utilities support, Insurance, Friends), the 'Sustainable' balance of £180,632 was from Giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, visitor donations, gift aid, events and the Abbey shop.

Total expenses amounted to £276,507 resulting in an operating Income of - £29,227 (loss). However, when taking into account planned expenditure from Restricted Funds of £39,968 received in previous years, the effective operating income was around £10,000 surplus.

The Parish Share, our largest single expense was again fully paid.

Our sister church of Spooner Row has a maintenance fund of £17,579 and sufficient regular income to meet essential annual expenditure such as utilities and insurance.

Significant activities:

- The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has remained static, with regular giving from 55 members giving £45,019 including Gift Aid.
- The Visitor Donation Point contributed £10,593 cash and £11,250 (£7,214 2024) card while the Self-Service Cafe contributed a welcome £6,906 in cash and card.
- Total giving from all sources was up a little at £96,691 (£92,770 in 2024).
- Events generated a profit of around £19,869 (£18,271 in 2024) on an income of £31,493 (£26,113 in 2024), an important contribution similar to 2024.
- The shop returned to a healthy profit of around £11,611 (£9,248 in 2024) on an income of £24,049 (£17,657 in 2024). Many thanks to Stef Adams and her enthusiastic team.

Vision Finance and Communications team (FinCom)

The Finance and Communications team met during 2025 to review plans.

Five year Action Plan:

- For the PCC to become financially stable beyond just an annual break-even point, allowing for reliable and identified revenue funding of additional paid assistance and mission growth where appropriate. *Currently we are fortunate to have Restricted funds for certain paid roles, but these need securing for the future with revenue.*
- To identify waste and cost savings while maintaining essential Parish needs.
- To reduce dependency for energy subsidies from WA Preservation Trust.
- To seek higher income streams including extending the Parish Giving Scheme (larger electoral roll), high caliber ticketed events, promoting legacies, grants, higher return saving and Restricted investment income,
- To examine how we communicate both internally and externally by improving the use of advertising, website, social media, WhatsApp groups.

Our targeted actions to implement in 2025 were:

- To set up paid ticketed events and promote using EventBrite, social media, local advertising and marketing, internal promotion.
- Identify regular expenditures suitable for funding by grants, Friends, specific sponsorship.
- Promote Parish Giving Scheme and Legacies.
- Research investment vehicles with safe but higher returns than the very poor interest on Barclays savings accounts.

Vision achievements

Our 'Summer Season of concerts' included The Kings Men and Eleanor & Gus, which made a welcome surplus of £2,200 while Abbey Fairs and Duck race continued to do well.

We are very grateful to the **Friends of Wymondham Abbey** for their agreement in June to contribute annually towards a collection of regular expenditures that support the choir, music, organists, costs of service consumables and printing. This will be reviewed each year in June.

An 'instant access' no penalty savings account with HTB bank was opened in June with £120,000 of Restricted funds. The interest rate has varied between 4% and 3.6% over the year, currently standing at £3,097 and accruing, which will be paid in June this year.

We are again very grateful to the **Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust** without whose regular funding for the Church building and energy cost, we could not possibly survive. To support our five-year plan, we have agreed on a phased energy contribution based on the annual costs of gas and electricity, reducing to 50% over 6 years. With this in mind and forecasting a positive end of year, we were able to avoid seeking a contribution from the Trust for the October to December energy costs.

Thanks go to so many who have supported us this year and particularly those who continue to give or have joined the Parish Giving Scheme with regular monthly donations. For their sound advice and support: Fr Andrew; church wardens Brian Randall and Jim Hartley; Fabric officer Andrew Naylor; Chris Jackson for her long-standing efficient management of gift-aid.

Chris Grant, *Treasurer*

Profit and Loss summary:

Summary 2025	Total	Restricted	UnRestricted
Income	247,279	16,892	230,387
Expenditure	276,507	47,589	228,918
Surplus	-29,228	-30,697	1,496

Funds:

Restricted Fund	Balance 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Dec 2025
Abbey Concert fund	£1,310	£0	£196	£0	£1,114
Outreach Community projects	£70,605	£0	£12,337	£0	£58,268
Outreach Community projects building fund	£31,424	£0	£14,711	£0	£16,713
Director of Music fund	£3,858	£0	£3,858	(£2,308)	£0
Friends fund	£0	£13,829	£6,580	£2,299	£7,249
Choir fund	£328	£100	£437	£9	£0
Families Worker fund	£8,000	£0	£7,000	£0	£1,000
Warden's fund	£1,089	£0	£0	£0	£1,089
Door fund	£12,861	£0	£0	£0	£12,861
Designated Fund					
Flower fund	£1,570	£0	£1,537	£0	£33
Mary Garden fund	£0	£235	£588	£353	£0
Stations of the Cross fund	£0	£2,375	£353	(£353)	£2,022
TOTAL	£131,045	£14,210	£44,906	£0	£100,349

Purpose of Restricted Funds - *subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the purpose of the appeal*

Abbey Concert fund

Supports concerts and musical events held at the Abbey. Items related to concerts and running of interval bar. Glass storage boxes were purchased during the year.

Outreach Community Projects and Outreach Community projects building fund

These funds were set up with a generous legacy left by the late Howard Thomas, to be used for Parish work in the community of Wymondham and refurbishment of the Abbey Hall to help achieve these aims. Expenditure in 2025 was mostly for the salary of the Parish Nurse and improvement to storage in the Hall. Expenditure in 2026 will be to improve the private consultation facility, insulation, and toilets.

Director of Music fund

Set up in 2023 with a generous donation to contribute towards a salary, became exhausted during the year.

Friends fund

The Friends of Wymondham Abbey, who also contributed to the 'Choir Fund' in previous years, generously agreed in June to contribute annually towards a collection of regular 'noncritical' expenditures including support the choir, Director of Music, deputy organists, costs of service consumables and printing of service books.

Choir Fund

The Friends of Wymondham Abbey contributed to the 'Choir Fund' in previous years, but as stated above, has now been incorporated in the Friends fund.

Families Worker Fund

Set up with a generous donation from the Papillion Trust in 2023. Use this year included: funding a six month Internship to assist with pastoral visits, development of new family and youth orientated services. Running workshops in three local Primary Schools, culminating in a Carnival Procession and Festival Service at the Abbey to celebrate our 'patronal festival'.

Warden's Fund

This fund is for use at the discretion of the Church Wardens to assist persons in need.

Door Fund

Initiated at the request of Fr Christopher when he retired, to seek donations towards the replacement of the old and heavy north main doors. A design is in progress and costings obtained but will need a faculty as well as additional funding from Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust. Completion planned for 2026.

Purpose of Designated Funds - *amounts set aside by the PCC for particular purposes but remaining under its control.*

Flower Fund

For flowers and floral displays within the Abbey, generously donated by local Undertaker Andy Free in 2024 and is now almost used up.

Mary Garden Fund

Funding for the development and maintenance of the Mary Garden, dedicated to the Virgin Mary to the side of the ruined East Tower. Donations collected towards this are to be spent on plants, cultivation of the site and a statue of Mary.

Stations of the Cross Fund

A fund created from donations to commission a 15th Station of the Cross.

Transfer Note

During the year the balances of the Choir Fund and Director of Music Fund were transferred to the Friends Fund following agreement that the Friends organisation would support these activities going forward.

The Mary Garden fund expenditure was partly supported by a transfer from the Stations of the Cross fund following agreement from the donors.

Bank and saver accounts	Start 2025	Change	End 2025
Abbey Current account	77,350	-25,013	52,337
Abbey Saver	131,102	-119,431	11,671
HTB saver account (3.6%)	-	120,500	120,500
Spooner Row Current account	2,164	365	2,529
Spooner Row Saver	22,403	-4,824	17,579
CCLA Ron Hyam	31,259	-365	30,894
CCLA F Buttolph	571	26	597
CCLA Bailey	18,244	-729	17,514
CCLA CB3030537-001	2,650	631	3,282
TOTAL	285,744	-28,840	256,904

The CCLA accounts consist of what remains of several past legacies. All of these are to be used at the discretion of the PCC. They have not performed well during the year and we will consider moving them in 2026 to a savings account with better return.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Governing Documents of Parochial Church Councils The Church of England have agreed with the Charity Commission that for the purposes of agreeing ‘governing documents’, Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are governed by two pieces of legislation: the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. This defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as “promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church”. You can find the full text of the PCC Powers Measure in its currently amended form on the legislation.gov.uk database at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended) You can find the full text of the Church Representation Rules in its currently amended form on the legislation.gov.uk database at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/1969/2/schedule/3

The PCC was registered with the Charity Commission on 9 July 2009. The Church is classified as a charity under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855. **Charity number:** 1130495

Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC is required to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the parish, the whole message of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how its services can involve the many groups that live within the parish.

Public benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. It is also aware of the supplementary guidance relating to religious charities. The PCC promotes, where allowed, the whole mission of the church through the following activities - regular public worship open to all; pastoral work; provision for the poor, teaching of Christian worship through sermons, courses and small groups; promotion of Christianity through

the staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature; encouragement for all in faith and wellbeing by developing provision in the churchyard, promotion of the whole mission of the Church through activities for all ages.

Principal address: Wymondham Abbey, Church Street, Wymondham, Norfolk, England, NR18 0PH.

Detailed information:

Registered Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of SS Mary and Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham with Silfield and Spooner Row.

Working name: Wymondham Abbey PCC

Bankers: Barclays Bank Plc, 45 Market Street, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0AL

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, The CBF Church of England Funds, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ

Related parties

The PCC is supported by Friends of Wymondham Abbey (registered charity number 1064418). The PCC is also supported by Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust (registered charity number 1054896).

Independent examiner: Peter Bussey, Abacus Accountancy, The Willows, Ipswich Rd, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2TG

Trustees

The following Trustees (*who were elected and/or re-elected commencing 20 April 2025*) served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rev. Andrew Charles Hammond, Vicar (*appointed 12 September 2024*)

Brian Peter Marcus Randall (*appointed 17 July 2022, resigned 31 December 2025*)

William James Hartley (*appointed 17 July 2022*)

Barbara Joan Randall (*appointed 4 March 2023, resigned 31 December 2025*)

Morwenna Corfield Thomas (*appointed 4 March 2023, resigned 25 April 2025*)

Catherine Sian Mack (*appointed 28 April 2019*)

Kathleen Melvill Dorling (*appointed 28 April 2019*)

Isabel Louise Davidson (*appointed 4 March 2023*)

David Valentine Hamilton (*appointed 4 March 2023*)

Alex Perry (*appointed 29 May 2022*)

Christopher James Grant (*appointed 30 October 2022*)

Philip Sydney Aldred (*appointed 1 March 2020*)

Andrew Richard Naylor (*appointed 28 April 2019*)

John Martyn Chamberlain (*appointed 20 April 2024*)

Iain Alfred Drayton (*appointed 20 April 2024*)

Diana Margaret Grant (*appointed 20 April 2024*)

Hilary Frances Hunter (*appointed 20 April 2024*)

Graham John Shelton (*appointed 10 May 2025*)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on Sunday 12th April 2026.

Rev. Andrew Hammond, Vicar



Date: 12th April 2026

Financial Review
For the year ended 31 December 2025
Wymondham Abbey PCC

Financial performance

The PCC recorded a **net deficit of £30,322** for the year (2024: surplus £58,317).

Total incoming resources were **£247,279** (2024: £361,947), and total resources expended were **£276,507** (2024: £304,405).

The deficit for the year reflects a reduction in income compared to the previous year, particularly in relation to grant funding.

Income

Income decreased by £114,668 compared with 2024. The principal reason for this was a significant reduction in **grant income**, which fell from £138,291 in 2024 to £66,647 in 2025, following the completion or reduction of major externally funded projects.

Income from **donations and legacies** totalled £97,061 (2024: £149,111). Regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme remained strong and continues to provide a stable income base.

Income from **other trading activities**, including shop sales and fundraising events, increased to £55,575 (2024: £43,770), reflecting continued support from the community and successful fundraising initiatives.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £276,507.

The main areas of expenditure were:

- **Parish Share:** £72,595 (2024: £70,420)
- **Staff costs:** £41,877 (2024: £28,783)
- **Church running and buildings:** including utilities, insurance and maintenance

Staff costs increased during the year as the PCC invested in staffing to support ministry and operational activities.

Expenditure on church buildings includes both routine maintenance and repairs, some of which were supported by restricted funds and grants.

Support and governance costs remained broadly consistent with the prior year.

Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of **£30,322** (2024: increase of £58,317). This includes other losses of £1,094 (2024: gains of £775).

Financial position

At 31 December 2025, total funds were **£253,718** (2024: £284,039), comprising:

- Restricted funds: £98,294
- Designated funds: £2,055
- General unrestricted funds: £153,369

The PCC continues to hold a reasonable level of reserves to support its activities.

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet its ongoing financial commitments and to provide a buffer against fluctuations in income.

At the year end, general unrestricted funds amounted to **£153,369**, which the PCC considers to be an appropriate level given the scale and nature of its activities.

The PCC reviews its reserves policy on a regular basis.

Going concern

The trustees consider that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund balances

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes in accordance with donor intentions and are not available for general use.

During the year, transfers of **£2,317** were made from the Director of Music Fund:

- £2,308 to the Friends Fund
- £9 to the Choir Fund

The trustees are satisfied that these transfers were consistent with the purposes of the funds.

Principal financial risks and uncertainties

The PCC is aware of the following key financial risks:

- Dependence on voluntary income and regular giving
- Variability in grant funding
- Ongoing costs associated with maintaining historic buildings
- Exposure to increases in utilities and other operating costs

These risks are monitored regularly, and the PCC seeks to mitigate them through careful financial planning, diversification of income sources, and active stewardship of resources.

Conclusion

The deficit reported for 2025 reflects the transition from a year of unusually high grant income in 2024 to a more typical level of income. The PCC remains in a stable financial position, supported by regular giving, active fundraising, and prudent management of resources.

Wymondham Abbey PCC
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
	2				
Donations and legacies		85,461	11,600	97,061	149,111
Charitable activities		23,615	–	23,615	22,231
Other trading activities		55,575	–	55,575	43,770
Investment income		1,996	–	1,996	2,346
Grants		66,647	–	66,647	138,291
Rental income		2,386	–	2,386	6,198
Total income		235,680	11,600	247,279	361,947
Expenditure on:					
	3				
Raising funds		25,581	–	25,581	15,655
Charitable activities:					
	3				
Church running & buildings		49,418	29,211	78,629	142,935
Worship & services		7,136	–	7,136	7,842
Weddings & funerals		15,872	–	15,872	14,336
Mission & outreach		7,135	–	7,135	1,509.43
Staff costs		41,877	–	41,877	28,783
Support & governance		97,320	–	97,320	90,568
Accountancy and Professional		2,958	–	2,958	2,778
Total expenditure		221,715	46,878	276,507	304,405
				Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Net income / (expenditure)				(29,228)	57,542
Other gains / (losses)				(1,094)	775
Net movement in funds				(30,322)	58,317

Wymondham Abbey PCC
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Assets	5				
Cash at bank and in hand		158,863	98,294	257,157	285,955
Stock		3,639		3,639	4,366
Debtors		(160.00)		(160.00)	163
Total current assets		<u>162,342</u>	<u>98,294</u>	<u>260,636</u>	<u>290,483</u>
Liabilities	5				
Creditors		1,718		1,718	144
Deferred income		5,200		5,200	6,300
Total liabilities		<u>6,918</u>		<u>6,918</u>	<u>6,444</u>
Net assets		155,424	98,294	<u><u>253,718</u></u>	<u><u>284,039</u></u>
Funds	6			2025	2024
Restricted funds				98,294	55,480
Designated funds				2,055	1,570
General unrestricted funds				153,369	226,989
Total funds				<u><u>253,718</u></u>	<u><u>284,039</u></u>

The Notes form part of the financial statements

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and applicable accounting standards, including FRS 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention.

Funds held by the PCC are classified as:

- **Unrestricted funds**, which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of its general objectives
- **Designated funds**, which are unrestricted funds set aside by the PCC for specific purposes
- **Restricted funds**, which are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the purpose of the appeal

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the PCC has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received
- Gift Aid is recognised when the related donation is received
- Grants are recognised when any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met
- Fees (including weddings and funerals) are recognised when the service is provided
- Trading income is recognised when the sale takes place
- Rental income is recognised on an accruals basis over the period to which it relates
- Investment income is recognised when receivable

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Raising funds
- Charitable activities
- Support and governance costs

Irrecoverable VAT is included within the relevant expense category.

Allocation of costs

Costs are allocated directly to the activity to which they relate where possible.

Support and governance costs include parish share, administration, office costs, and other costs incurred in the governance of the PCC and are allocated to charitable activities.

Stocks

Stocks (principally shop stock) are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the amount due. Provision is made where recovery is uncertain.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash includes cash in hand and balances held in current and deposit accounts.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

Creditors and deferred income

Creditors are recognised where the PCC has a present obligation resulting from a past event. Deferred income represents income received in advance of the period to which it relates.

Financial instruments

The PCC has only basic financial assets and liabilities. These are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. Income

Income for the year is analysed as follows:

Donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Planned giving and regular donations	38,892	36,038
Gift Aid recoverable	12,974	17,546
Collections and visitor donations	21,886	17,489
Other donations and appeals	19,309	17,474
Restricted donations	4,000	60,564
	<u>97,061</u>	<u>149,111</u>
Total donations and legacies	<u>97,061</u>	<u>149,111</u>

Other income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable activities (fees)	23,615	22,231
Trading activities (shop and events)	55,575	43,770
Investment income	1,996	2,346
Grants	66,647	138,291
Rental income	2,386	6,198
	<u>150,219</u>	<u>212,836</u>
Total other income	<u>150,219</u>	<u>212,836</u>

Total income

Total income for the year was **£247,279** (2024: £361,947).

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

3. Expenditure

Expenditure for the year is summarised as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Raising funds	25,581	15,655
Charitable activities	150,649	195,405
Support and governance	<u>100,277</u>	<u>93,345</u>
Total expenditure	<u><u>276,507</u></u>	<u><u>304,405</u></u>

Charitable activities include the costs of worship, ministry, mission and outreach, together with the maintenance and running of the Abbey and associated buildings.

Support and governance costs include parish share, administration, office costs and the costs associated with the governance of the PCC.

Net Movement in Funds

	2025	£	2024	£
Net income / (expenditure)		(29,228)		57,542
Other gains / (losses)		<u>(1,094)</u>		<u>775</u>
Net movement in funds		<u><u>(30,322)</u></u>		<u><u>58,317</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

Assets and Liabilities

Current assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	257,157	285,955
Stock	3,639	4,366
Debtors	(160)	163
	260,636	290,483
Total current assets	260,636	290,483

Liabilities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	1,718	144
Deferred income	5,200	6,300
	6,918	6,444
Total liabilities	6,918	6,444

Net assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net assets	253,718	284,039

6. Funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted funds	98,294	55,480
Designated funds	2,055	1,570
General unrestricted funds	153,369	226,989
	253,718	284,039
Total funds	253,718	284,039

Restricted and designated fund movements are shown in detail in the fund analysis included within the financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

Restricted funds represent income received for specific purposes. Movements on these funds during the year were as follows:

Fund	Opening £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Closing £
Abbey Concert fund	1,310	–	196	–	1,114
Outreach Community projects	70,605	–	12,337	–	58,268
Outreach building fund	31,424	–	14,711	–	16,713
Director of Music fund	3,858	–	1,550	(2,308)	–
Friends fund	–	11,500	6,550	2,299	7,249
Choir Fund	328	100	437	9	–
Families Worker fund	8,000	–	7,000	–	1,000
Wardens fund	1,089	–	–	–	1,089
Door fund	12,861	–	–	–	12,861
Total Restricted Funds	129,475	11,600	42,781	0	98,294

Designated Funds

Designated funds are amounts set aside by the PCC for particular purposes but remain under its control.

Fund

	Opening £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Closing £
Flower fund					
Mary Garden fund	1,570	–	1,537	–	33
Stations of the Cross fund	–	235	588	353	–
	–	2,375	–	(353)	2,022
Total Designated Funds	1,570	2,610	2,125	0	2,055

Transfers Between Funds

During the year, a small number of transfers were made between funds to reflect the appropriate allocation of resources in accordance with the PCC's intentions and the purposes of the funds.

Transfers arise where:

- expenditure has initially been met from one fund but is more appropriately charged to another, or
- the PCC has formally reallocated funds to better reflect their intended use

The transfers during the year relate to the following:

- A transfer of **£2,308 from the Director of Music Fund** comprising £2,299 to the **Friends Fund** and £9 to the **Choir Fund**.
- A net transfer of **£353 between designated funds** (Mary Garden Fund and Stations of the Cross Fund) to reflect the correct designation of expenditure

All transfers were approved by the PCC and are consistent with the purposes of the individual funds.

No transfers were made that would conflict with donor restrictions, and restricted funds have only been applied in accordance with their specified purposes.

Further details of the purpose and use of individual funds are included in the main APCM report.



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "Wymondham Abbey PCC"

I report on the accounts of the above charity number 1130495 for the year ended 31 December 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Bussey FFA FIPA

25th April 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WYMONDHAM ABBEY with SPOONER ROW

Registered charity number 1130495

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Notes 

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