

# **Annual Report**

**St Andrew's Church West Wratting**

**For the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



## **Annual Meeting**

**Monday 28th April 2025**

**7.00pm**

***at St Andrew's Church***

***West Wratting***

***any apologies or questions please ring Simon Thorley 01223 290888 or e-mail to [simon@thorley.co](mailto:simon@thorley.co)***

## **St Andrew's Church, West Wratting –**

### **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

#### **Administrative information**

St Andrew's Church in West Wratting is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 45, High Street, West Wratting CB21 5LU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served from the Annual Meeting until the Annual Church Meeting in 2024 are:

*Rector:* Rev Iain McColl

*Church Warden:* Vacant

*Secretary:* Mr Simon Thorley

*Representative on the Deanery Synod:*

Mr Sebastian Bain

*Elected Members:* Mr Simon Sampson

Mr Simon Thorley

Prof Alex Walsham

Mrs Frances Peers

Mrs Maureen Clarke

*Treasurer:* Mr Gary Birditt

#### **Structure, governance and management.**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

#### **Objectives and activities**

St Andrew's Church, West Wratting PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building, churchyard and surrounding areas bounded by St Andrew's, West Wratting.

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### **Church attendance**

There are 29 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average attendance in 2024 was 15 adults. We had larger attendances at Songs of Praise. We hold at least One Sunday morning service and one Evensong each month.

## **Review of the year 2024. The Secretary's report of the PCC**

During 2024 the PCC met 4 times. The main subjects of discussion were (1) Reviewing the work necessary as a result of the Quinquennial review; (2) The highly successful Harvest Supper in part in aid of the fabric of the Church which together with the sums raised at the Auction of Promises in 2023 will enable those works to be done; and (3) the appointment of Hannah Threlfall as the Community Minister.

The PCC decided to continue without the formal appointment of a Churchwarden.

The members of the Standing Committee during the year were the PCC Members.

The pattern of regular worship was maintained with a service twice a month led by a member of the Clergy Team together with the Benefice service on the first Sunday.

## **Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll stands at 29.



## **The Acting Church Warden's Report**

We thank the Clergy team led by Rev Iain McColl, Rev Kathy Bishop, Rev Hannah Threlfall, Alistair Collen, and Steven Wheeler for continuing to lead our services in West Wrating. We thank Keith Day and the organist team. We are ever grateful that we have music at each and every service – thank you sincerely.

Our sincere thanks are also extended to Cazzy Walshe, administrator to the Seven Churches, without whom this Benefice would be at a complete loss. Her efficiency, cheerfulness and commitment are gratefully acknowledged.

Songs of Praise services attract excellent attendances. We extend our thanks to Scilla and John Harvey for leading and arranging the popular Songs of Praise services and to the many musicians, drawn from Rock Baptist Church, Linton Free Church and Christ Church Trumpington, who help to enliven these services.

St Andrew's faces ongoing challenges, especially financial ones. The Treasurer's report details the many challenges we have in the coming year, it will be vital to look at our fund-raising efforts and to seek a review of regular giving through covenants. We are grateful to all those who support the church in many ways. We thank Gary Birditt for being our Treasurer and Ian Creek for being our Independent Auditor.

The day to day running of the church relies on an increasingly small group of people, whose ongoing commitment and willingness to provide assistance cannot be taken for granted; we are all deeply indebted to them.

We need to plan for the future in terms of the succession of office holders and to increase the membership of the PCC.

We are grateful to Sisse McCall for maintaining the Rota of opening and closing of the Church to ensure visitors can have access, and Cobby McCall for arranging the Church tidy ups and keeping the Church yard looking so beautiful. We thank Linda Gorman for continuing to organise the rota for flower arranging. We thank Mark Addley for his on-call support with numerous tasks and specifically keeping the Clock tower in working order. Di Edwards has continued to support with arranging electrical repairs and fire extinguisher maintenance. Sincere thanks to all.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the church throughout the year in every capacity; all your love, contributions and endeavours are so appreciated by us, and the village of West Wrating.

**Acting Church Warden and members of the PCC**

**April 2024**

## **Fundraising**

We thank Nigel Job for organising the Shoot event and Richard and Jackie Clarke for continuing to support the Church by hosting the shoot. The date for the 2025 shoot is fixed for the Saturday the 23rd August.

**Financial review and Treasurer's report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



## **General Fund**

Covenant giving during the year amounted to £7,705 compared to last year's £7,960 being a decrease of £255. Covenants are the mainstay of our income and ensure we have a regular monthly cashflow to cover our outgoings – our sincere thanks to those of you that support us in this way. This is truly appreciated and is one of our focus points in our discussions.

Voluntary income from gift aid donations was £2,123 in addition to the donation £2,700 from Henry D'Abo both of which are very much appreciated. We did have the benefit of Benefice services which generates funds that we pass onto various charities.

At the yearend We had Gift aid tax claims in process of approximately £7,695 claims from gifts given to us over the past 3 years. ( we received in April claims for 2022 and 2023 and a further claim for 2024 to arrive in May 2025)

Other income increased to £2,053 (2023 £864) primarily from funerals and Interests.

Total income for the year increased by £3,371 to £13,981 (2023 £10,610).

We paid 100% of our parish share in 2024, a sum of £7,440 versus £7,169 in 2023.

General expenses increased to £4,602 from £2,653.

## **St Andrew's Restoration Fund.**

Income for the year was £3,740 compared to £11,436 of which the Auction of Promises in 2023 raised £8,436. In addition, we are due to receive £2,036 from Gift aid for claim for the past 3 years donations.

Restoration building support costs £6,808 in addition specific restoration building repair costs of £10,010. The works in 2024 were primarily to safeguard the windows, removing the iron supporting frames, repointing the tips with stainless steel, rust removal and coating with black paint. When they were replaced all the stain glass were rewired to the frames.

Without the generous support of the members of the parish and the most valued support from the various bodies that have awarded us grants we would not have been able to achieve what we have. We are indebted and look forward to continued support.

We took the opportunity of an interest free loan of £15,000 from the Cambridge Historic Churches Trust in 2020, which we appreciate and thank them for. This loan is now fully repaid.

As reported in previous years we must look in 2025 to holding more events if we are to maintain the upkeep of the church fabric.

## **Total Funds**

Total funds (excluding CBF investments and sundry school funds) at the year-end within all accounts were £13,090 versus £23,338 in 2023.

## **Charities supported during the year.**

We have supported Children in Need, the Royal British Legion, a total of £175.

## Legacy

There were no legacies received in 2024.



## Grants Received In the past

We are very indebted to the many individuals who have so generously donated to our repair needs in the past years and to the Grants received from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Wadlow Wind Farm, Church Care, All Churches Trust, Amey Community Fund, Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Fund, NIAS Wheatley Charitable Trust and the AS Charitable Trust without whose support we would not have been able to carry out the various projects in the past few years.

## Covenant Giving

We in West Wratting have a challenge not only to secure the needs of the day running of the St Andrew's and ongoing repairs to the fabric of the Church.

**Gary Birditt**  
Treasurer





April 2024





# Reports of the PCC

Family Services    West Wratting Church

Full year 2024

## *Family Services West Wratting Church*

### *Annual Report*

Once more we are very grateful to have been able to run Family Services in the church this year in collaboration with the 7-churches team and musicians and other helpers from Linton and Rock churches, as well as the village.

#### **Get Ready for Easter service      Sunday 24 March 2024**

We aim to publicize the service widely around the village, so most families received an individual leaflet inviting them to this child-friendly, all-age service.



We were really pleased to see that over 70 people attended, with a good mix of new families and some regulars.

With the beginning of Spring it's always fun to be able to hold the after-service events outside in the church grounds if possible, and the weather was kind so we all enjoyed the egg hunt, sausage sizzle bonfire (thanks to Cobby) and lots of tea and cakes. Each child was given a book about Easter to take home, along with their chocolate egg!



## Harvest Songs of Praise Sunday 13 October 2024

It was good to have Rev Hannah Threlfall to join us for the first time to celebrate this service with us. About 60 people came.

The children were invited to bring food items to donate to the REACH charity food bank in Haverhill and we looked at what the Bible says about God having a special heart for the poor.



Phil and Chris Griffen showed pictures of their life in Ethiopia helping particularly needy people. This made us realise just how much we are provided for in this country, and why it is so important to have a Harvest service thanking God for all he gives us.

Afterwards, we enjoyed the bonfire, sausages, tea & cakes as usual!

## Christingle Service Sunday 8 December 2024

This is always a great pre-Christmas celebration, and it was good to see over 70 people attending – some for the first time. This year the church was blessed with the most enormous Christmas tree and dazzled with lights and decorations – thanks to Sebastian and his ladder, that somehow just helped him reach to the top!



We looked at how the Christmas story is full of good news for Mary, Joseph, the shepherds – but also for us. We were introduced to a book called *The Greatest Gift* and the children were given a copy to take home. The church also looked great once the children had lit the candles in their oranges, and we all sang the familiar songs.

At the end, Rev Hannah invited the children who want to find out more about the Bible to

try out the mid-week Explorers Group in Balsham.

Tea and cakes and mulled wine for the grown-ups, followed!

We're now looking forward to **Easter Songs of Praise on Palm Sunday, 13 April 2025.**



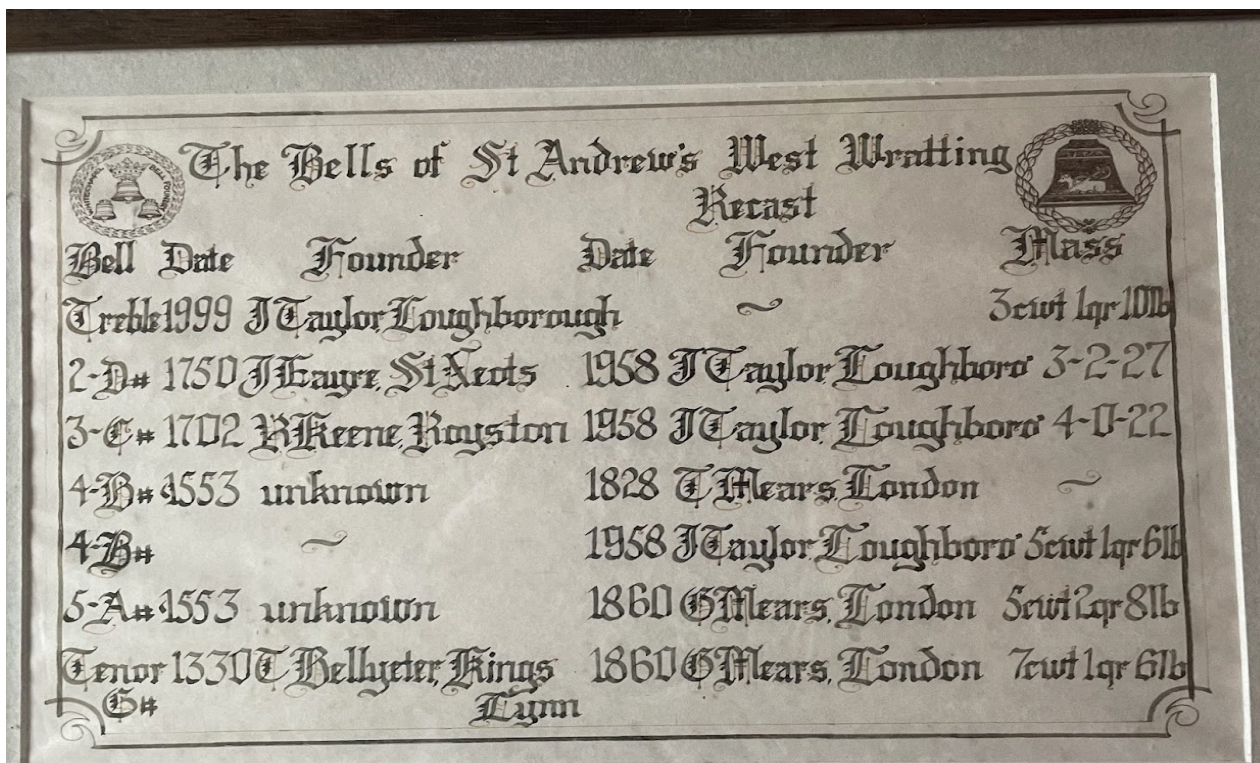
## Bell Ringing Report for the year 2024

There are still only two regular ringers in our parish. Nevertheless, we continue to collaborate with the ringers of Holy Trinity, Balsham, St Mary at Weston Colville and St Mary the Virgin, Brinkley, both for ringing practice and service ringing.

If any of our parishioners were interested in taking up bell ringing, I could arrange for them to receive instruction.

Our bells continue to attract visiting bands from other towers, resulting in a small income.

There has been no call for expenditure on bells or ropes this year, and so our Millennium Bell Fund remains healthy.



Bell	Date	Founder	Date	Founder	Mass
Treble	1999	J Taylor Loughborough	~		3cwt 1qr 10lb
2-D#	1750	J Bayre St Neots	1958	J Taylor Loughboro'	3-2-27
3-E#	1702	R Keene Royston	1958	J Taylor Loughboro'	4-0-22
4-B#	1553	unknown	1828	T Mears London	~
4-B#			1958	J Taylor Loughboro'	5cwt 1qr 6lb
5-A#	1553	unknown	1860	G Mears London	5cwt 2qr 8lb
Tenor	1330	T Bellwyter Kings Lynn	1860	G Mears London	7cwt 1qr 6lb

Mike Rowland  
Tower Captain

## Fabric Reports

Churchyard





Thanks to many volunteers, the churchyard has been beautifully maintained throughout the year and, as I write, the snowdrops are in full bloom, the primroses are beginning to flower, soon to be followed by the daffodils.

We had our usual Autumn and Spring clear-ups, which were well attended and the customary coffee and doughnuts were administered.

Three trees needed serious attention during the year - a lime and hawthorns on the North side, which appeared to be dying. They have all been pollarded rather than taken down as there are some signs of life up to about two metres, so we are hoping that taking the strain off the roots will enable them to revitalise.

If this doesn't work, then we will have no option but to take them right down. If this happens, we have some young saplings in the graveyard area - wild cherries, oaks, hawthorn, a walnut and a beech, which we may be able to transfer to fill the gaps.

We also pollarded a mature ash on the South side - it had died back - and several large branches had fallen down, creating a danger hazard. All the dead parts have been removed and we hope it can be revived. If not, there are some hawthorns nearby that could replace it. Much crossing of fingers!

There is a whole cohort of volunteers to thank for their great work in the churchyard and I am bound to miss someone out. Apologies in advance:-

Scilla & John Harvey, Sherry O'Donovan, Mick Lock, Maureen and Doug Clarke, James and Ben Willcocks, Sebastian Bain, Toby, Virginia and Edgar (7) Cockburn, Ed, Isaac (13) and Oakley (11) Groenhart, Amanda Rayburn, Simon Sampson, Simon Thorley, Simon Chandler, Alex Walsham, Linda Gorman, and a special mention to Zac Williams-Gray (18), Matthew Morrow (15), Thomas Wishart (19) and

Charlie Hodson (15) who cleared the nettles on the Northside which had grown massively this year, saving many metres of strimmer wire.

Thanks to everyone who helps. The churchyard looks beautiful, and above all loved - it is indeed one of the jewels of the village.

Cobby McCall

## **The Church Housekeeping**

We are grateful to all who clean the church especially Frances Peers, Jenny Knowelden and Maureen Clarke ensuring the church is looking beautiful and clean each and every week.

Many thanks to the flower arrangers whose displays beautify the church: Frances Peers, Alex Walsham, Jenny Knowelden, Louise Sampson and Linda Gorman. We thank Linda for managing the flower rota and taking the responsibility each year to decorate the Advent candle. We are always looking for helping hands with flower arranging – please reach out to Linda or any of the flower arranging team who can show you round.

We thank Mark Addley for looking after many of the day-to-day maintenance issues. Simon Chandler for going up the tower to check the roof for leaves etc our thanks.

Suzanne Langford very kindly donated towards the Christmas tree.

The members of the congregation help with coffee and biscuits after the service which are always a welcome time for us to chat and catch up on the week's events – sincere thanks to everyone that supports this social part of the Service.

Since October 2009 St Andrew's has been kept open during daylight hours for visitors to appreciate the quietness and beauty of the building. Once again, many thanks to Sisse McCall for managing the rota for unlocking in the mornings and arranging the locking in the evening. Sherry O'Donovan, Maria Brown, Louise and Simon Sampson, Ed and Jo Groenhart, Emma Barker and Nicola Barker-King. The whole team have all been available, whatever the weather, to open up early in the morning and lock up at dusk. There are many comments in the visitor book saying how beautiful the church is and that it is Open !

We, at St Andrew's, are extremely grateful to Maureen Clarke who, without the help of any church wardens, continues to not only organise church rotas, liaise with Cazzy Walshe, makes sure the church is clean and puts the heating on (at 7am on Sundays-!). She is a welcoming , warm and very integral part of our church community and we thank her.

We thank our sidespeople who ensure a warm welcome is given to all our visitors and congregations – an essential and important part of our role of welcoming all to St Andrew's

## **Building Report - 2024 Annual Report**

### **Quinquennial report**

The quinquennial survey was carried out by our Architect Stephanie Norris on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Some minor points were identified which we have Completed in addition during 2024 we completed the window repairs and in 2025 we shall complete a small programme of clunch shelter coating and repointing in areas that were not addressed when we completed our major works some years ago. A specialist stonemason (probably Herringbone) will be retained. We don't anticipate this to cost more than £10,000.

When the clunch repairs are complete all the category A and B will be complete.

### **The Oil Boiler**

The Oil burner has limped on for another year, we are grateful to Ian Timothy for continuing to maintain the Oil burner which was installed in 1984.

We are indebted to Di Edwards for ensuring we comply with Fire and Electrical Safety Certification and her discussion with electricians etc. Thank you sincerely, Di.



## **Annual Report on Ministry in the Granta Vale Benefice – 2024**

The following report is given in relation to a year of ministry and mission for 2024. This was a year when we celebrated Hannah's ordination as deacon at Ely Cathedral, welcomed Alastair France to our ministry team, held a variety of services in our seven churches -including Taize services, Café Church and Creative Church, saw our

youth groups continue to flourish, and sought to serve people in our local communities and in the wider world. We celebrated holding many weddings and baptisms, and led many funeral services throughout our parishes. Hannah, who was already part of our ministry team as Community Minister, was ordained as deacon at Ely Cathedral on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June and hence began leading service as an ordained minister. Alastair France joined our ministry team on placement as part of his vocation discernment process, whilst we continued to benefit from support from ministers outside of our Benefice, in particular from our rural dean Revd Michael Wilcockson. This report reflects our patterns of worship, the pastoral life of our six parishes and the local mission engaged with over the last year. It is also an expression of gratitude to the many people who helped lead and support ministry and mission in our parishes with a mixture of commitment, creativity and compassion.

### **The Ministry Team**

This was led by Revd. Iain McColl and included: Revd Hannah Threlfall as assistant curate; Revd Kathy Bishop as associate priest; Alistair Collen and Steven Wheeler as Licensed Lay Ministers; Authorised Lay Ministers Keith Day (Music Minister) and Rosemary Mead (Pastoral Care); music group leader Steve Jordan; and Alastair France on placement with us.

Ministry Team meetings happened fortnightly on Tuesday mornings, usually at 10:45am, and were an important way of members of the ministry team supporting one another. Most members of the ministry team would usually be present, and as well as discussing and planning ministry and mission throughout the Benefice it was an important time of fellowship together.

As Community Minister, Hannah continued to offer valuable contributions to the ministry team well as her wider ministry in our parishes throughout the first half of the year. Hannah was then ordained deacon at the end of June. As an ordained minister, Hannah led Sunday morning services and funeral services as well as continuing to build on the good work she started as Community Minister in leading assemblies and developing contacts with local schools.

We continue to be grateful to Bob Coates for his creativity and energy in supporting the production of short films for ministry. These can be viewed on the Benefice's YouTube channel and were occasionally made available through the email newsletter or via the website. We aimed to produce new films for church festivals and also to go with events held by *Soul Space* at Weston Colville.

We are also thankful to Cazzy Walshe for her brilliant administrative skills, enthusiasm and diligence, her hosting of ministry team meetings, organisation of the email newsletter, managing our website, leading on safeguarding and many other things so important to the organisation of our Benefice. Cazzy often goes the extra mile in supporting ministers, people making enquiries and people in the parish, and in doing so shows a calm, kind and empathetic approach which is very much appreciated.

We are thankful for Rosemary Mead for her co-leading, along with Hannah, *Creative Church* in Great Abington, and for Alistair Collen and all others who have led and helped with *Silent Space* which is based in Hildersham church on Tuesday evenings.

We have been greatly helped by those churchwardens who led services or assisted during services from time to time. We also very much appreciate the work of the sacristans in their preparations for services, Amanda Palmer and Anna McColl for their contributions to the Children's Church Council, those who have helped with



children's work on a Sunday, John and Scilla Harvey who have continued to organise the West Wratting *Songs of Praise*, and all those many others who have contributed towards our services throughout the year.

### **Pattern of Services**

Our pattern of services has generally been as follows: two or three services held at 9:30am; two or three services at 11am; a *Songs of Praise* (four times a year); Café Church monthly at Hildersham; Evensong at 4pm or 6pm and, since July, monthly Taize services at 6pm. We are very grateful for the contributions of the choir led by Keith Day and the music group led by Steve Jordan, and have continued to enjoy the regular contributions of the bellringers. We are also grateful to all those who have supported and led the children's work. United services have involved parishes co-leading and we are grateful as well for all those who have helped with organising and supporting this, including reading, leading intercessions, providing welcomers and refreshments, and helping to clear after the service.

Throughout the year, Holy Communion and Morning Worship services have been held regularly in each village church. Evensong was held in Little Abington, Hildersham and West Wratting; a *compline*, 'Silent Space' held on Tuesday evenings in Hildersham church; and monthly Taize services were started by Hannah at Weston Colville church from July onwards.

We were delighted to celebrate a number of weddings and baptisms this year. Funerals were led by various members of the ministry team and the ministry team were very grateful for the support of churchwardens and organists in leading these.

### **Bellringers**

Our services continued to be supported by our wonderful bellringers led by Richard Pargeter at Balsham, Mike Rowland at West Wratting and Ian Ashbridge at Weston Colville. We are very grateful for the beautiful sound of our bells ringing prior to our services and also on those evenings when there is bell-ringing practice.

### **House Groups**

The House Groups continued to meet for prayer, bible study and fellowship throughout the year. These were led by a range of people, with some groups asking a different member of the group to lead each time.

### **Children's Church Council and Youth Group**

The Children's Church Council (CCC) met monthly in Hildersham and continued to thrive, and we are grateful to all those who support the CCC, especially Amanda Palmer and Anna McColl. The Youth Group continued to meet monthly at the Balsham Pavilion and was led by Iain McColl, Karis Reyes, Emma Hilson, Hannah Threlfall and Anna McColl. It's inspiring to have such creative and enthusiastic groups of children meeting as part of our churches and they continue to flourish in fellowship and friendship.

### **The Churches' Choir**

The Granta Vale Churches Choir has members representing every parish within our Benefice and met weekly in Hildersham church for practice under the direction of Keith Day. They sang regularly at united services on the first Sunday of the month as well as at occasional Evensongs.

### **Love Abington and Serving our Communities**

*Love Abington*, an Abington church initiative, has continued to provide pastoral support to many as well as running regular community-based events. A special thanks to Rosemary Mead, Hannah Threlfall and all from Great or Little Abington who have continued to help support and develop *Love Abington*.

As well as supporting many local pastoral initiatives in our villages, we also continued to support REACH in Haverhill and a variety of charities through giving at the first Sunday service, and we are grateful to all those who have helped to support such local initiatives.

### **Contributions to our Village Magazines**

Members of our ministry team continued to make regular monthly contributions to our village magazines via articles, and regular information was provided in these magazines about our church services and activities, including our online services.

### **Parish Administration**

Cazzy continued to provide vital support and work as our parish administrator. She has, amongst other things, supported ministers in the preparation of services, including occasional offices, regularly hosted ministry team meetings, acted as the Benefice safeguarding officer, helped prepare rotas and orders of service, produced a weekly email newsletter and maintained our Benefice website. We are very grateful to Cazzy for her administrative skills, willingness to go the extra mile and cheerful support.

Revd. Iain McColl

April 2025

## **Parish Safeguarding Officer's report – 2024**

*'Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abuse'.*

I am pleased to present my Safeguarding Officers Report for 2024, as the PSO for the Granta Vale Benefice, a role which I have held since June 2015.

Representatives from the PCC's agreed jointly on a Safeguarding Policy, approved on 09.07.24, to cover all six parishes. This policy is reviewed annually, is available to view in all the church buildings within our benefice, and is also downloadable from the Granta Vale website. As part of our ongoing commitment to safe spaces in our church buildings we have taken the initiative to put up signs in spaces where children's activities take place. The signs indicate that children using the area should be accompanied by a parent, carer or member of our team who has been DBS checked.

**Website** The Granta Vale website [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk) clearly sets out our vision which is that we are committed as a group of parishes to actively promote the safeguarding of Children, Young People, Victims of Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Adults. The website has a page dedicated to safeguarding which not only has local information about how to report any concerns but also has links to the Ely Diocese Safeguarding pages on their website. As the website administrator I ensure that all the links, information and advice are kept updated and current.

**DBS checking** the APCS checking service continues to make the completion of DBS checks a smooth process, especially with the option to upload ID documents electronically. A number of individuals who have undertaken their DBS checks and used this process have reported back to me that it was easy to navigate. The results allow for a fast approval of DBS certificates.

**Training for PCC members** PCC's are reminded that all members of PCC's are required to complete a Basic and Foundation online training course every three years. For those members of the PCC's who are not confident with their

IT skills, Revd Hannah Threlfall has organised small group training sessions, which have proved to be not only popular, but also successful with the pass marks.

**Safeguarding Newsletters** The Safeguarding Team at Ely publish quarterly Safeguarding Newsletters which Cazzy forwards to the Church Wardens.

*Cazzy Walshe - Parish Safeguarding Officer and Church Administrator*

*16.04.24*

## Report of the Music Minister

It is my pleasure to be able to offer you this very brief report regarding musical activity during 2024. From my perspective it is a great joy to be able to sing and make music during the services and I hope you too have found this the case.

Although it has been a great pleasure to be playing again, I still feel something of a part-timer, and I want to offer my most sincere thanks to all those who in my limited availability have stepped up to ensure that most of the service have continued to have music – they are a wonderful team

This has not been a year that has seen exceptional musical developments in our churches, but I remain encouraged that we have been able to enjoy music at most of our services. Notwithstanding my conservative tastes it is a source of pleasure that at some services we have been able to have a variety of instruments in use in addition to the organ.

May I please now make one or two observations regarding specific matters:

### **1. Granta Vale Churches Choir**

The choir are a wonderfully friendly and mutually supportive small group of people who meet regularly for practice and to enjoy each other's company. The aim of the choir is simply to enhance worship by supporting the congregation and contributing solo items where appropriate. We aim to explore a variety of music although I readily confess to a preference for the more conventional styles.

The choir have been pleased to contribute to the monthly United Services in Balsham which has been the main activity in the past year but we remain open to other suggestions and opportunities. We really are a very happy group so, if you feel even the least inclination to sing do, do please join us.

I regret that again I was obliged to desert the choir for the first part of the year but am so grateful to Richard Lloyd for giving them some much appreciated support especially with the Good Friday, Stations of the Cross service

### **2. Carol Services**

Carol services present a wonderful opportunity for singing and worshiping without inhibition and this was certainly the case at those services where I privileged to be present around the Benefice.

### **3. Organists and Musicians**

For a rural benefice we are so very fortunate to have a committed team of accomplished organists and musicians willing to cover most of our services. Without wishing to embarrass anyone I am going to mention them all; John Clenaghan, Steve Jordan, Richard Lloyd, Karris Reis, Peter Richards and Robert Weedon – what a team. Thanks are due also to Robin Halls who once again supported us while he was here over the Christmas period. On behalf of all of us I want to thank you for the warm welcome we itinerant musicians unfailingly receive in all the churches.

### **4. The Organs**

I am pleased to report that the organs in our churches remain in good working order except for Weston Colville where the organ is still in real need of some TLC; I appreciate the PCC there have many and various other calls on their funds but I fear the relatively small cost involved is unavoidable at some point. I am, as always, most grateful to our organ builders Charles and Stephen Hall for the excellent and very cost-effective service they provide to us.

### **5. Other Opportunities**

Once again, I cannot conclude this report without thanking Bob Coates for the “hymn of the week” and his other wonderful visual offerings, I know how much these are appreciated by people far and wide who do not necessarily come to, or indeed do not even live near, our churches.

It has been my pleasure to produce a limited number of “Music Reflections” through the year. I do however hope these reflections are of some interest and always welcome any suggestions or comments you may care to offer both regarding them or indeed any other aspect of music in church

I continue to view the future of music in our churches with hope and encouragement.

Keith Day

01223 891527

[keithdday@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdday@btinternet.com)

11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## **2024 Granta Deanery Synod Report for Granta Vale**

**In March the Synod met at All Saints’ Church, Harston, where Rev’d Mandy Flaherty led us in prayer.**

There followed a Lent talk by Rupert Shortt, author and Research Associate at the Von Hugel Institute, St. Edmunds College, based on his book “The Hardest Problem: God, Evil and Suffering”,

a meditative reflection on the nature of God, the divine purpose and the nature of providence, in a world beset by suffering and evil. Rupert suggested that the purpose of human life is not just happiness, but is a process of learning self-giving love and true wisdom, a process that has become tragically disordered in our world, but which can be re-oriented to its true goal by God’s grace. A difficult but thought-provoking lecture!

Treasurer Suzanne Darkins announced that the 2023 Parish Share was met in full, entitling the Deanery to a 2.5% rebate to be shared proportionately back to the parishes. The balances at the end of December 2023 were £7387 in the Deanery Development Fund, £8479 in the Parish Grant Fund and £17064 in the Parish Loan Fund.

Jenny Duke reported that Youthinc was again trying to recruit a youth worker for our parishes. The Deanery Come & Sing event in February planned to raise funds for Youthinc was cancelled due to lack of interest and support but will be rescheduled at a later date.

Michael Wilcockson had met with other Rural Deans and Bishop Dagmar and reported that 7 Granta churches had grown their congregations between 2016 – 2022 (omitting 2 years for the pandemic). Jon Smith will meet with these churches to find out how they did it and whether others could follow their good practice.

Archdeacon visitations will begin in 2025. This audit aims to support churches and flag up any areas of concern. Rural Deans, Clergy and Churchwardens will be involved in these visits.

### **The July Deanery Synod meeting was held at St. Mary's Church, Linton, where Rev'd Paul Seaton-Burn opened with prayer.**

The July meeting is traditionally the one for discussing finance. The Standing Committee offered 3 options for redistributing the rebate from Ely, assuming that every parish meets its share:

i) equally to each parish ii) pro rata iii) by need as decided by application to a committee.

Deanery reps were asked to discuss these options at PCC meetings prior to voting in October.

The Diocese is expected to ask for an increase of 4.5% in the parish share in 2025.

The Treasurer reported that the balance in the current 3 Deanery funds was £33304 and questioned the need for such large reserves. Lay Chair Andrew Gore provided suggestions as to how the funds could be better utilised in future, once the Rural Dean's expenses have been allocated. Much discussion ensued: a share-out for all parishes, support for Youthinc, setting up a Science Chaplaincy, supporting struggling Granta parishes. Deanery reps were asked to share with their PCCs and report back prior to the next Deanery meeting.

Deanery Synod members expressed disappointment and frustration because the Crown Nominations Commission had not been able to reach the level of consensus required to nominate a new Bishop of Ely. It was hoped the discernment process would recommence in Spring 2025. We need to keep Bishop Dagmar in our prayers.

The Deanery elected the following people to the Diocesan Synod:-

Clergy members: Mandy Flaherty, Kathryn Waite, Paul Seaton-Burn, Simon Scott, Julie Norris, Ed Westrip. There is one clergy vacancy.

Lay members: Jon Smith, Andrew Gore, David Brock, Lizzie Taylor, Jeannie Green.

### **In October the Deanery Synod meeting was held at St. Mary and St. Andrew, Whittlesford.**

Rev'd Olivia Coles led members in prayer and drew our attention to the beautiful modern stained glass window which was installed in 2022 to commemorate 1000 years of the church and the caring which occurred during the pandemic.

The Rural Dean read from Luke 10, The sending out of the seventy-two, followed by small group discussion. Michael reminded us of the purpose of the Deanery as a means of bringing parishes together to build up the Kingdom of God, to support each other in mission and to develop projects such as youth work which are more



effective done collectively. A Deanery Event could be an opportunity to bring parishes together and raise funds for Youthinc. A celebration event was suggested to attract a more diverse group of people.

Newly appointed Deanery Youthworker, Hannah Elphick, was introduced by the Rural Dean. She talked about her earlier life and recent move to Cambridgeshire from the Isle of Man, where her father is a vicar. She works for Youthinc within our Deanery for 60 hours per month, and as a youth worker for Cambridge and District Youth for Christ at No.40, a drop-in centre on St. Andrew's Street. She is currently working in the parishes of Whittleford, Sawston and Hinkledux and is helping to set up mentoring sessions in Cambridge secondary schools. She looks forward to meeting young people in the Granta Vale benefice soon.

A proposal for the Science Parks Chaplaincy was outlined by Kathryn Waite from the working group. The plan is to employ a person who can support all faiths and none and can run services. Funding would come from the Deanery and Science Parks and matched funding then applied for – the Faraday Institute is very supportive. The chaplain's primary role would provide a listening ear in an open environment where Christians and those exploring faith could express themselves and be supported in their faith. It is hoped to make an appointment in April 2025.

Michael thanked all reps for the feedback following PCC discussions on the Deanery Funds - Rebate and Reserves. Most PCCs had supported the pro rata distribution of future rebates according to the respective shares and the meeting agreed to this policy. After some further heated discussion about the use of reserves, the Synod voted in favour of Option 3 (£8500 to be retained for expenses and loans to parishes with the remaining £25000 to be used to support Deanery Mission work).

I would like to remind all PCC members and church congregations that they are welcome to attend any or all of the Deanery meetings each year to listen to interesting talks and take part in discussions. The next Deanery Synod will be on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at St. Mary's, Linton. I am happy to email details and offer transport if needed. If PCC members would like to vote at Synod meetings, do consider becoming a Deanery Representative for your church – I would also be happy to nominate you!

*Marilyn Broadhurst,  
Deanery Representative for the Abingtons  
March 2025.*

We are indebted to Marilyn for her excellent report – thank you

**St Andrew's, West Wrating.**

Annual Church Meeting Monday 28th April 2025 at 7.00pm.  
at St Andrew's Church west Wrating

AGENDAS

**MEETING OF the Vestry of the Parishioners TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS**

- 1 Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting of 21st April 2024 for approval
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Election of Churchwarden(s)

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1 Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting of 21st April 2024 for approval
4. Matters Arising
5. The Reports\*
  - Churchwarden's report
  - Electoral Roll
  - Annual Report of the PCC
  - Report of the Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024
  - Report on the Goods, Fabric and Ornaments of the Church
  - Bell Ringer's Report
  - Report from the Deanery Synod
  - The Minister's Report
- Elections and Appointments
  - Election of Lay Parochial Church Council Members
  - Appointment of Sidesmen
  - Deanery Synod Representative to support Benefice Representative
  - Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Apologies to Simon Thorley. Tel. 01223 290888. E-mail: [simon@thorley.co](mailto:simon@thorley.co)

St Andrew's, West Wrating.

Annual Church Meetings held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 10.15 am.

In The Church

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry Meeting of the Parishioners.**

1. Present: Iain McColl, Simon Sampson, Alex Walsham, Maureen Clarke, Clive Parry, Linda Gorman, Sherry O'Donovan and Simon Thorley.
2. Apologies for absence: Sisse and Colin McCall, Sebastian Bain, Francis Peers and Gary Birditt.
3. The Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. There were no proposals for the election as Churchwarden and the office will therefore remain vacant. Members of the PCC will continue to work together to carry out the Churchwarden's duties.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Present: Iain McColl, Simon Sampson, Alex Walsham, Maureen Clarke, Linda Gorman, Sherry O'Donovan and Simon Thorley.
2. Apologies for absence: Sisse and Colin McCall, Sebastian Bain, Francis Peers and Gary Birditt
3. The Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved
4. There were no matters arising.
5. The following Reports were tabled and approved
  - Churchwarden's report
  - Electoral Roll
  - Annual Report of the PCC
  - Report of the Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024
  - Report on the Goods, Fabric and Ornaments of the Church
  - Bell Ringers Report
  - Report from the Deanery Synod
6. Elections and Appointments
  - The following were elected as Lay Parochial Church Council Members: Sebastian Bain, Alex Walsham, Simon Sampson, Frances Peers, Maureen Clarke and Simon Thorley
  - The following were appointed as Sidesmen: Jenny Knowelden, Sisse McCall, Alex Walsham and Frances Peers.
  - Sebastian was appointed as the PCC Deanery Synod representative and will liaise with Marilyn Broadhurst, the Benefice Representative.
7. Ian Creek was re-appointed as Independent Examiner of Accounts

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.30am.



# **West Wratting Parochial Church Council**

## **Receipts & Payments Accounts**

**For the Year ended 31st December 2024**

	Contents
Page	
1	General Fund
2	Restoration Fund and Church Central Board of Finance Account
3	Assets & Liabilities Bank Balances Summary of Receipts over Expenditure Sundry Assets Sunday School Funds

## West Wratting Parochial Church Council

### Receipts & Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2024

		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>General Fund</b>			
Receipts			
Voluntary Income			
Gift Aid donations :			
Covenants	7,105	7,360	
Gift Aid donations : Other	2,123	600	
Collections	2,700	1,786	
Gift Aid tax rebate (see notes)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
		12,528	
		0	10,346
Other Income			
Dividends & bank interest	248	98	
Funerals, weddings & baptisms	<u>1,805</u>	<u>766</u>	
		2,053	864
Total Receipts		£ <u>14,581</u>	£ <u>11,210</u>
Payments			
Payments to Charities			
Children in Need	150	150	
DEC / Pakistan	0	227	
British Legion	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	
		175	402
Other Payments			
Parish share	7,440	7,169	
Cost of services & vicar's expenses	2,205	1,508	
Candles, wine & wafers	275	43	
Church : light, heat & water	1,183	675	
Loudspeaker System	338	0	
Flowers	33	0	
Framed Pictures	318	0	
Organ Honorary	25	0	
Gifts	0	25	
Christmas Tree	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>	
		11,867	9,420
Total Payments		£ <u>12,042</u>	£ <u>9,822</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		£ <u>2,539</u>	£ <u>1,388</u>

## West Wratting Parochial Church Council

### Receipts & Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>St Andrew's Restoration Fund</b>		
Receipts		
Gift Aid donations : Covenants	600	600
Clay Pigeon Shoot donations	2,190	2,400
Auction	0	8,436
Bell ringers donation	200	0
Harvest Supper	<u>750</u>	<u>0</u>
	3,740	11,436
Payments		
Repairs & maintenance: -		
10,01		
Building Work & Architect's Fees	0	0
General repairs	126	185
Insurance	2,324	1,841
Organ service	246	326
Fire precautions	33	32
Electrical	147	112
Boiler Service	92	118
Portaloo	38	900
Cambs Historic Church Trust		
Repayments	3,750	3,750
Historic Church subscription	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
	16,816	7,314
	<u>-13,07</u>	<u></u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	£ <u>6</u>	£ <u>4,122</u>

### Church Central Board of Finance

Legacy	0	75
Interest		
General Deposit a/c	836	440
Church Repairs Deposit a/c	<u>53</u>	<u>1</u>
	£ <u>889</u>	£ <u>516</u>



**West Wratting Parochial Church Council**

**Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2024**

**Assets**

**Bank Accounts**

Lloyds

Church Central Board of Finance

**Movement represented by results : Excess of Payments over Receipts : -**

---

**Notes**

-----

-----



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew's Church, West Wrating, Cambridgeshire**

This report is in respect of an examination carried out on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act. That examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *I E L Creek*

Date: 23/4/25

Ian E L Creek,  
6 Trinity Close, Balsham, Cambridgeshire.

