



The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens followed by the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on  
Sunday 10th May, 2026 at 12 noon in St. Nicholas Church

## AGENDA

- 1 Opening Prayer for the Meeting
- 2 The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens (in accordance with the rules of the Churchwardens Measure 2001)
- 3 The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):  
Minutes of Annual Meetings: 11th May, 2025
- 4 Reports
  - i) Presentation of the Electoral Roll
  - ii) The proceedings of the PCC, parish activities & Deanery Synod  
(As presented in the Annual Reports)
  - iii) Treasurer's Report and presentation of the accounts
  - iv) Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory

If you have any detailed questions, please raise in advance of the meeting with the report contributor, or any member of the PCC (before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May). If there is an issue of wider interest you want raising at the meeting, please let the Chairman, Revd. Kath McBride know.

- 5 Elections
  - i) PCC Representatives
  - ii) Deanery Synod Representatives
  - iii) Independent Examiner

A brief meeting of the new PCC will follow at the end of the service

## The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. Nicholas' Dunnington

Charity Registration No. 1178934

### 'A Christ-like presence with the people of Dunnington'

#### Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in church at 11:00 am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

1) Revd. Kath McBride invited Revd. John Trevenna to lead us in a prayer for the Benefice and this meeting.

#### 2) Annual meeting for Election of Churchwardens

Peter Helm would be stepping down from his role at the end of July 2025. As yet no nominations for his replacement had been received. Kath invited anyone who may be interested in the role to step forward, mentioning that even if someone would like to carry out a portion of the duties, that would be helpful. In the event of no appointment being made, the work of the churchwarden would be shared between members of the PCC.

Kath presented Peter with some biscuits and a Garden voucher as we all expressed our gratitude to Peter for his years of service and excellent work as Churchwarden.

This part of the annual meeting then closed.

#### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

#### 1) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of last year's meeting held on Sunday 21st April, 2024 were agreed by majority vote as a true record. The minutes were subsequently signed by Revd. Kath McBride.

#### 2) Presentation of the Annual Reports:

Presentation of the Electoral Roll As reported in the document, the Electoral Roll now stands at 107, 17 fewer than last year. This follows a full review when 24 people were identified as either having moved away or no longer wished to be on the roll, there had also been two deaths during the past year. Nine new names had been entered on the roll.

Proceedings of the PCC, Parish activities and Deanery Synod The reports document had been circulated in advance via email and was available on the St. Nicholas website. Printed copies had also been available in church or on request. It had been requested that any questions on detail be raised with the report contributor or a member of the PCC in advance of the meeting. Kath thanked everyone who had contributed to the report and Elizabeth Skilbeck for compiling the report document.

On the subject of Safeguarding, it was reported that under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCCs of St. Nicholas Church Dunnington, Holy Trinity Holtby, Holy Trinity Stockton-on-the-Forest and St. Mary Warthill have complied with their duty to have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

Kath then spoke about why we are not seeing more younger people in church in spite of the changes we have made to our service pattern. There are many possible reasons for this: wariness, time constraints, the demographic of the village and some attend other churches. Every individual has a need for Jesus and that is what we have to offer, so we need to focus on sharing Jesus, to love and worship God and to love our neighbour. We need to help people to feel comfortable and welcome in church and show them how to come to faith. We need to adapt what we do in order to help those who are not familiar with church proceedings. Let us devote ourselves to listening to God, and talking about Jesus whenever we can.

There followed a discussion about how we can overcome the barriers to participation, which is acknowledged to be a nationwide issue. There are many people in their 20's and 30's who did not go to church as children and this 'un-churched' generation is getting older. Whilst school children see the church

as 'their church' and feel at ease, their parents are not engaging so well, and we need to formulate a strategy. Kath plans to re-advertise the Children and Families Worker role ready for September and hopes that this year she will be successful in finding a candidate, as this role is proven to be helpful in improving engagement with parents. The All-age service in Warthill is successful, and it was felt that our Contemporary Services need to be adapted to become more family friendly, too. We do have good connections with younger people for booking weddings and baptisms, but this does not lead on to attendance at weekly services. It was felt more effort should be put into publicising our child-friendly and other social activities.

Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for year ending 31 December, 2024 The accounts had been examined by Brian Hopper, Independent Examiner, and a copy of the full Report and Financial Statements had been displayed as the regulations required. This document was available to view on the St. Nicholas website, with printed copies available in church or on request. The Treasurer's Summary Review, Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet as at 31 December, 2024 were also included in the Annual Reports document. Helen reported that the accounts reflected big losses in our reserves, arising from a reduction in planned giving and donations combined with rising energy costs. In response to a question, Kath explained that the Benefice should aim to cover the costs of ministry and that by 2031 we will be required to do so. A reduction in the Freewill Offer to the Diocese could jeopardise our ability to remain as a benefice of just four churches. Also, funds given to the Diocese comes back to us in a variety of ways in supporting our work.

Much time had been spent trying to reduce costs wherever possible; Helen is now processing our payroll in-house and using a much cheaper accounting package, for example. In spite of this, a shortfall of £4,000 is projected this year. Although we do have funds designated for various needs, the shortfall relates to covering the costs of the gas and electricity bills and other day-to-day expenditure. Funds donated for a specific purpose are gratefully received, but may not always help to relieve the pressure on the General fund.

Feedback from the congregation had suggested that people like to know how their money is being spent and a proposal was put forward that we should display a 'Thermometer' showing our progress towards meeting our heating fund target.

Kath thanked Helen for all her work in preparing our accounts.

**Acceptance of all the reports, en bloc as presented, including the Treasurer's report and accounts, was agreed without dissent.**

Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory: These had been made available for inspection at the front of the nave.

### **3) Elections:**

PCC Members: Mary Murray and Pat Muir were completing their term of office and had both indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. A nomination had been received for Julia Perry. As there were three vacancies on the PCC, all three were appointed unopposed.

Resolution to reduce the number of PCC representatives. Kath put forward the following resolution: 'That from 2026 the Deanery Representatives and Readers are included within the total of 12 representatives of the laity on the PCC at St. Nicholas, Dunnington.' During the discussion which ensued, the resolution was not supported on the following grounds:

- Average attendance is only around 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of members
- Potential increase in workload for PCC members in the absence of a Churchwarden
- It was felt better to time-limit discussions at PCC meetings, rather than reduce the number of attendees, as a means of preventing the meetings being too lengthy

Kath then proposed, Robert Woolley seconded, that 'Our Licensed Lay Ministers should be permanent members of our PCC'. This resolution was supported unanimously by a show of hands.

Independent Examiner: Brian Hopper, who has examined the accounts for the past few years had not yet responded to an invitation to continue as Independent Examiner for the coming year. However, Re-appointment of Brian Hopper as Independent Examiner was agreed by show of hands.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon with the saying of The Grace.

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## 1) ELECTORAL ROLL

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is 108. This number is one higher than after the full revision of the Roll, which took place last year. There have been 4 new additions and sadly 3 deaths.

*Carole White, Electoral Roll Officer*

## 2) PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2025-26

The PCC met on seven occasions during the year with an average attendance of 12. The number of members at the start of the year was 13 elected lay members and four ex-officio members (David Marles became an ex-officio member once licensed in September). During the course of the year two elected lay members resigned.

At the meeting held immediately after the 2025 APCM, Elizabeth Skilbeck was re-appointed Secretary, Helen Pomfret was re-appointed as Treasurer, and Colin Beale was appointed Lay Chair.

At the APCM on Sunday 10th May, 2026 Jenny Brooks and Pamela White complete their elected term of office. Margaret Eldridge also completes her elected term as Derwent Deanery Representative. Vacancies to fill at the meeting therefore are:

- Four vacancies for elected lay members who will serve on the PCC for three years until the APCM in 2029.
- Three vacancies for Derwent Deanery Delegates - also a three-year term until the APCM in 2029.

It is important that we fill all positions at the APCM, if possible, as a strong representative PCC is essential to ensure that future changes to the structure of Church organisation and services reflect the wishes of our Parish and the Benefice. Please take this opportunity to share your vision for the future of our Church and Benefice by nominating for election to one of these vacancies.

In the absence of a Churchwarden, the PCC analysed the list of duties provided by Peter Helm. Many of these were identified as having transferred to the Churchwarden role during Covid restrictions, and have now been re-allocated to other roles. The PCC now has four task groups:

- Day-to-Day - a new group responsible for Fabric and Maintenance issues
- Social - based on the existing group responsible for organising social and fund-raising activities
- Heating - based on the existing group researching options for replacing our aging gas boilers
- Strategy - based on the existing group responsible for promoting our vision

In addition to reports from the task groups, and reports from Derwent Deanery, these are some of the topics discussed:

- The Annual Diocesan "Freewill Offering"
- Mission and Charity Giving
- Safeguarding
- Budget and Finance
- Grapevine Magazine
- Trusteeship Training
- Service Pattern
- Quinquennial Review - appointment of Architect

Thank you to members for their participation in our deliberations at meetings throughout the year. Finally, thanks to everyone who has supplied items and reports for meetings and this Annual Report.

*Elizabeth Skilbeck, PCC Secretary*

### 3) RECTOR

In the benefice of Rural East York we have a lot to be thankful to God for and there has been positive change and growth in the past year. The following reports about the specific ministries and activities of St. Nicholas' Church demonstrate our continued commitment to our vision of 'growing together in community and faith in Jesus' and our progress towards our specific priorities of everyone growing in discipleship, reaching out to children and younger people, and working together more closely as a benefice.

I think, over many years, our four churches have done great 'presence' ministry: people know that the churches are active in their villages and are there for them. Here at St. Nic's there are the regular coffee mornings, the Parish Lunches and Fun, Food and Fellowship; the school has regularly visited church, there's Little People, Discover and various adult bible study groups. Our churches still have lots of visitors for Christmas and Easter, lots of baptisms and funerals. People have been invited and welcomed really well, our community knows that we're here, but there are big gaps between feeling welcomed and coming regularly to our church services and being a committed disciple.

We want to see growth in the number of people worshipping with us, not just to feel optimistic about the future of the church, but because that is the mission Jesus gave his followers, and everyone needs to know the love and forgiveness of Jesus to be able to lead fulfilled lives. Our purpose as Christians is to deepen our own faith and to help others deepen theirs. We need to have the confidence to speak about our faith and to actively share it with those around us, and we also need to remove any barriers and make it as simple as we can for people to come to worship and learn to be disciples.

I've recently been researching and reflecting on the idea of a benefice as a 'mixed ecology,' which I think can help us to widen our reach in sharing faith. An ecosystem is what we call the relationship between different animals, birds, plants and their environment, and a healthy ecosystem is when all these things are in balance and working together in partnership, depending on and supporting one another. In a similar way, we are a group of churches, in relationship, with different groups and activities, and different types of worship. And for everyone to flourish and grow, I think we need to focus on two really important values: that every part needs each other, and that no part is 'better' than another. God hand-made us individually, we are all distinct and different by design, we like and dislike different things, we have different personalities and skills. We each have preferences for how we worship and the elements we think most important in faith, but all worship is equally important to God, and He loves variety. In small villages there aren't several types of church to choose from, so in the benefice of Rural East York we're trying to provide different types of worship that meet different needs at different times so that we share God's love with as many people as possible. Perhaps not every event will be exactly what we would like, but Jesus says that people will know we are his disciples if we love one another, and in the mixed ecology, that means supporting even those things that aren't our cup of tea so that the church as a whole can flourish. I encourage you to think and pray about that image some more, and see where you fit in.

*Rev. Kath McBride*

### 4) LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

As we reflect back over the last year, the highlight has been the licensing of David Marles as a Licensed Lay Minister. Each year all those involved in lay ministry are invited to the Minster to celebrate their ministry, to renew their promises and to license new ministers. Last September's really was a joyous celebration.

We work together to plan non-eucharistic worship, which takes place in all four of our churches. We also meet together to pray and to share. Judith continues to go into Dunnington School to take Collective Worship, on themes

provided by the school. She also organizes, with helpers, parish lunches and Fun, Food and Fellowship, both providing opportunities for those living alone to share a meal and time with others. Judith also continues to take a monthly Communion Service at the Beaumont where some Dunnington residents now live.

David continues to lead the team planning and running the informal evening Sunday@7 services, and to share in the musical side of our worship.

We are both grateful for the prayers and support you give us both so that we can continue our ministry. At the end of Matthew's Gospel there is the great commission, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.' We may be licensed, but we are all called to serve and no one knows what seeds are sown in the conversations we have with other people.

*Judith M Hewitt and David Marles*

## 5) FABRIC

Prior to the Quinquennial Review in April 2026 the following checks were undertaken and the required completion certificates obtained for the newly appointed Church architect: Boiler check and Gas service, Electrical Wire and Pat testing, Roof alarm and Fire equipment, Gutter cleaning and roof check, Clock service. No immediate problems: the Architect review will identify and prioritise any required future fabric maintenance. A new heating system is under review and we continue to search for the right system, which is both cost effective and environmentally friendly.

*Pat Muir, on behalf of the Day to Day Task Group*

## 6) CHURCHYARD

The churchyard has been kept tidy thanks to the much-appreciated help from our volunteers and the Community Payback team. Much welcomed donations from individuals, the Ward Committee, and Vertigrow have enabled us to update our equipment and cover much of our running costs. York Council unfortunately now charges for our green bins. While they haven't cut the grass, they have removed some bulk green waste bags and trimmed the back hedge. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another positive year.

*Peter Helm*

## 7) SAFEGUARDING

Compliance : We are committed to making our churches within the benefice safe for children, young people and vulnerable adults, leaders and volunteers. The work of safeguarding is an ongoing process which requires personal commitment, continued study of new information and attention to detail. With this in mind, it is important to state that Dunnington, St. Nicholas; Stockton on the Forest, Holy Trinity; Warthill, St Mary and Holtby, Holy Trinity have complied with the duty under Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Appropriate person(s) : The appropriate people for the Benefice of Rural East York comprises:

- Jo Muller is responsible for the administration of policies for the benefice, the majority of which include safeguarding issues. Jo has produced an Excel sheet which shows how our policies are brought to PCC meetings spread over each year for review, in the event of any amendments and for the agreement and adoption by PCCs of

these policies. Jo also has responsibility for the Dashboard system and with particular reference to the Safeguarding Action Plan for the benefice.

- Eve Scoreby is responsible for DBS checks and training within the benefice. There is now an extension of the Dashboard system with the facility to record role(s) within the church, dates training completed and, if relevant, DBS issued date.

- The Reverend Kath McBride has responsibility for that part of Safer Recruiting which includes job descriptions, person specifications, references and follow up interviews and appointments.

- Mary Murray has the role of safeguarding adviser to the team.

Relevant Information : Relevant and important Information is displayed on church noticeboards and in the case of IDAS, also on the back of toilet doors. Where there is no room on church noticeboards, churchwardens/contacts have been asked to place a notice on their boards asking people to contact them in order for them to see safeguarding documents. The 'Promoting A Safer Church' poster is on display in all churches. The website, which is currently under review, also displays important and relevant safeguarding information.

Safer Recruitment : All guidance is being followed. DBS checks, confidential declarations and references are performed, as appropriate.

Training : Training appropriate to role(s) needs to be refreshed every three years and plans are in progress to ensure compliance. Eve is happy to sit with anyone who needs to train, but is unsure of their skills with the internet, to ensure completion.

Conclusion : Overall, the PCCs have succeeded in creating a safe and respectful environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised.

There were no incidents or reports during 2025.

*Eve Scoreby/Jo Muller – on behalf of the Safeguarding Team for the Benefice of Rural East York April 2026*

## 8) PROCEEDINGS OF DERWENT DEANERY DURING 2025

Revd. Jackie Doyle-Brett and Paul Botting remain as our Area Dean and Lay Dean respectively. Revd. Debbie Long (curate; Rivers Partnership) has moved away to a parish in York, and Revd. Robert Owen (Asst Minister; Rivers P'ship) has retired. By December 2025 we were composed of 5 clergy, 17 lay members, 1 co-opted member and there were 7 vacancies. Our Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) is composed of the Area Dean; Lay Dean; Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA) (Phil McBride); secretary (Alison Gilmour); 1 elected clergy member (Revd. Jan Nobel) and 1 elected lay member (Caroline Wandless). Members of Derwent Deanery Partnership met 3 times during the year, twice by Zoom and in June at St. Thomas's Osbaldwick. We began the year with an in-depth look and explanations of our financial position led by Phil McBride (DFA). We also agreed to request a contribution of £25 from each parish, which we will use for Deanery expenses e.g. by paying for expenses for our two Quiet sessions each year instead of only attendees bearing these costs, and establishing a resources library for the Deanery. In June, a well-attended meeting open to all interested in churchyards took place in Osbaldwick encouraging us to value our open spaces. And in October we looked beyond local boundaries and were led by Canon Linda Ali and Revd. Jackie (our General Synod Representatives) into a deeper examination of the issues being considered by General Synod e.g. safeguarding and the End Of Life Bill currently going through Parliament. There have been 3 annual Deanery-wide services, held in Wheldrake for live-streaming purposes and led by each time by one of our benefices. We observed Candlemas, Ascension Day and a Service of Healing on St. Luke's Day. We also held a Quiet Time during Lent (3 hours on a Saturday morning) led by Revd. Sybille Batten from Holy Rood House, and our long-standing Quiet Day in September at Thicket Priory (10.00 - 16.00 on a Monday) led by Revd. Ian Gilmour (Church of Scotland minister). Both of these were open to everyone. The Deanery Prayer Calendar has continued with each benefice taking a week at a time to

ask for prayer support for their work, mission and celebrations. Due to a clash of dates the afternoon tea for clergy and LLMs was cancelled, but will be reinstated in 2026. Clergy-led monthly Evening Prayer on Zoom is still happening. Our Deanery Plan has been updated to include accessibility and safeguarding awareness. As always there have been regular reports from General Synod and Diocesan Synod and from our DFA on our financial position. 96% of our pledges to the Freewill Offering were paid; making us fifth out of the seven deaneries which make up the Archdeaconry and only 1 of our 4 deanery benefices (Rural East York, the Rivers Partnership, Osbaldwick w. Murton, and the plurality of Riccall, Barlby & Hemingbrough, and Skipwith, Bubwith w. Aughton) covered their own Cost of Ministry in 2025.

*Alison Gilmour, secretary of Derwent Deanery, February 2026*

Margaret Eldridge and Joan Verrier have been your Deanery reps and are not standing for re-election although they may still go to Deanery meetings as they are always open for anyone to attend. Judith Hewitt has also been a rep and is willing to stand for re-election. If you would be interested in becoming a Deanery rep please speak to any of us for more information.

## 9) MUSIC IN WORSHIP

We continue to be blessed with a strong team of musicians and singers at St Nicholas' church, who generously give of their time to enrich our worship.

Our organist, Lionel, assisted by Jocelyn, plays faithfully at the more traditional services. Our music group, Laudate, often alongside Sam or Pamela on the keyboard, allows us to have a variety of musical styles. We usually play at the Contemporary Communion, the Sunday@7 services, and the All Age Worship at Warthill. At major festivals, we're always delighted to combine all our musical gifts to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Laudate usually meets fortnightly in the Tower Room, each Thursday ahead of a Sunday@7 service. If you would like to be involved in the music in any way, please speak to Kath, David or any member of the music group.

*David Marles, Licensed Lay Minister*

## 10) CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK

Connections with the primary schools in our benefice continue to be strong; all three schools lead services in our churches at festival times and Revd. Kath and others lead assemblies and take part in occasional lessons. Dunnington School also visited St. Nicholas for a 'prayer and reflection space' led by Yoyo, with whom we maintain a good partnership and who led a benefice holiday club for us in July 2025 in Holtby Village Hall. After one unsuccessful round of recruitment, we did then appoint a Children and Families worker, Lydia Harrison, who started work in September 2025. In the first few months, her work was mainly to support and develop existing activities such as Little People, Discover and the children's involvement in our All Age and Contemporary service. She also took assemblies and organised a youth event, as well as helping to plan and lead in some of our Christmas services.

*Revd. Kath McBride*

### **Discover:**

In 2025 we continued to hold regular DISCOVER sessions. These sessions for children and families are based on a seasonal Christian theme. We held 5 sessions between January 2025 and December 2025 and through these connected with 25 families. Activities at our DISCOVER sessions include crafts, Lego, story and games. Each session ends with worship time with Rev Kath.

We are very grateful to a dedicated team of 10 adults and a youth helper who are involved with planning and running the sessions.

Moving forwards –

Encouraging, nurturing and including children and their families within our worshipping community is crucial to the growth of our churches. We aim to connect with more local families through DISCOVER and welcome them into our church family. To help make Sunday church more meaningful for children, since November 2025, some of the DISCOVER team have been organising children's activities at St Nicholas on a 3rd Sunday for part of the service. We plan to develop this ministry through 2026.

*Julia Perry, DISCOVER co-ordinator*

## 11) LITTLE PEOPLE PLAY AND PRAISE

Little People changed its meeting times this year to avoid clashes with childrens' nap times. This appears to have suited the majority of our families and we now meet at 10.30am to 12md on Tuesday mornings in term time. We had Lydia our Childrens' and Families worker helping and supporting us from September for 6 months. We have 2 mothers with toddlers who are DBS checked who help, 2 people helping with teas and coffees and a very welcome new helper who is currently doing safeguarding training and DBS checks.

We follow our longstanding format of time of play with toys and crafts for the first hour and then group together to celebrate any Birthdays that week and have a story and action song linked with our Bible theme for the week when the children can show the crafts they have made. The children then choose their own favourite song and we close with a short prayer. We advertise the All-Age and Contemporary services and Discover sessions and have several families who support these. Our children are mostly in the under 3 year age group. We have had many new Mums, carers and children come this last year and have 16 children on the books at present though actual numbers vary greatly averaging 5 to 10 in number each week.

We are grateful for the contributions of toys we have received from people this year enhancing what we can offer the children for play.

*Susan Wilson*

## 12) PASTORAL CARE

St. Nicholas continues to be able to offer various forms of pastoral care through volunteers' generosity with their time. For those unable to come to church, a small team takes communion to individuals' homes once a month, and another team makes social visits to prevent isolation. Grimston Court and Stamford Bridge Beaumont Care Homes have regular communion services led by St. Nicholas volunteers, and Judith continues to visit and support the older members of our community and congregation as part of her Lay Ministry. Revd. Kath also visits individuals and families to offer support in particular difficulties, but she is extremely grateful to others who use their spiritual gifts for this kind of service regularly to show the church's love and faithfulness to those who find it difficult to attend.

*Revd. Kath McBride*

## 13) CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP REPORT

The Christian Meditation Group meets every fourth Wednesday of the month. The group currently has a membership of 16 people, with an average attendance of 11 in 2025. The group practises silent contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel following a tradition of silent prayer that goes back to the Desert Fathers in early Christian times. Meetings include a short introduction using a reading and/or a reflection, usually with a short piece of music leading into a 30 minute time of silent prayer. Various group members take it in turn to lead the evening. The time of prayer is followed by refreshments in the Tower Room. Resources for Christian meditation can be found on the websites of The Julian Meetings and the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

Our annual away day in 2025 was to Beverley Minster, followed by a meal in a local restaurant. Beverley Minster is a parish church yet it is larger than many English cathedrals. It is dedicated to St John and St Martin. St John of Beverley was a famous saint in the Middle Ages. The Minster was built around his tomb which was in a chapel of the Saxon church. It attracted many pilgrims.

This year's away day will be at Thicket Priory.

*Revd Peter Moorhouse*

## 14) EVENING FELLOWSHIP

### **Monthly House Group:**

The monthly House Group is a group of up to 12 people who meet regularly on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month in people's homes as advertised. We meet for Bible study and discussion followed by a time of open prayer. We are currently looking at the Epistle to the Ephesians following the book in the Life Builder series: Wholeness for a broken world.

New members are always welcome to come and join us.

### **Benefice Prayer Meeting:**

The Benefice prayer Meeting meets monthly at Fair View, Warhill usually on the second Tuesday of the month. We have up to 12 people in our group and pray very informally as led by the Spirit for our Churches and communities in the Benefice, for those in need, for our country and the World. Anyone is most welcome to come and join with us.

*Andrew and Susan Wilson*

There are also two groups meeting regularly during the day for prayer and Bible study. If you would like to join in, or particularly if you could organise a new mid-week Bible study group, please get in touch with Revd. Kath.

## 15) SACRISTAN

The team of Sacristans have continued to ensure that all the elements required for the services of Holy Communion are in place prior to a service. We also change the colours of the 'hangings' in church to reflect the season we're in, as well as laying out the appropriate priest's vestments and setting up the candlesticks. This is all done before services start, so you probably only see us washing up the silver vessels used and returning them and the candlesticks to the safe after a service.

There is in fact a lot that needs to be sorted beforehand so that services run smoothly and the priest and congregation can focus on the spiritual aspects. We have had to amend our usual processes recently to accommodate the slight differences that have been brought into the usual service pattern. These have been added

to a comprehensive checklist which we find very helpful to refer to.

I would like to record my thanks here to Alison Gilmour (former Sacristan) who helps with laundering the large altar cloths around the Christmas and Easter festivals

If anyone else is interested in learning what is required and would like to join our team, I would be very happy to hear from you.

*Carole White, On behalf of the team (incl Pat Muir and Eve Scoreby)*

## 16) DATA PRIVACY REPORT

People applying to be added to the Electoral Roll are given an additional form to complete to indicate their consent to be contacted by the church. This ensures that St. Nicholas Church are in line with UK law regarding data privacy / protection. People may withdraw their consent at any time by contacting the church officers.

We ensure personal information provided is kept secure, remains confidential and only used for permitted purposes. Our procedures in this area continue to be reviewed.

*Carole White, Electoral Roll Officer and Elizabeth Skilbeck, PCC Secretary*

## 17) TWINAM TRUST

Your PCC Manages this historic Trust which was set up to help the poor and needy of Dunnington. The PCC agreed at its meeting on the 24 March 2026 that the dividends of £235 received in 2025 should be given to the Dunnington Primary School to better support pupils on the "Pupil Premium".

*Peter Helm, Carole White and Robert Woolley*

## 18) GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE REPORT

The Grapevine Magazine Accounts show a significant improvement during the year to 31st December 2025, compared to those of the previous year. Our funds have increased during the year by £2.8k to a closing balance of £6.3k, which should cover our publishing commitments and our obligation to subscribers during the remaining seven months of the Grapevine year. Donations of almost £200 helped us to cover our costs and record a profit of £67. Although a seemingly insignificant amount, this is a massive improvement from a loss of almost £2k in the previous twelve month period. Increasing the annual subscription to a more realistic figure of £7.50 for the twelve monthly copies, and broadening the appeal for advertisers by the option of having colour inserts of their advertisements, is already visible in the increased income levels year on year (which will be much more evident next year). A much improved and welcome position for us to be in.

Once again our thanks go to all the volunteers involved in the production and distribution of the magazine. Barry Hewitt continues to manage the subscriptions and distribution, my wife and I continue in our joint role of recording and controlling the finances and Elizabeth continues to do an excellent job in managing and improving the quality of the magazine content.

Thank you for your support.

*Dave Safhill, Grapevine Treasurer*

## 19) TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW—YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2025

2024 has seen a worrying decline in planned giving. This coupled with rising energy costs (the PCC's three-year, fixed price energy deal ended in November 2023) and rising inflation has depleted our General Fund reserves significantly. The 'Generous Living' campaign was launched in September 2024 and initial results show that planned giving in 2025 should return to 2023 levels as result of this campaign; however, the real value of this income will be much lower. Additional cost savings will need to be made in order to ensure that the reserves are not further depleted in 2025.

The final outturn for the year on all funds, before accounting for net investment losses, was total income £111,588 (2023, £149,172) and total expenditure £137,271 (2023, £213,657) resulting in net expenditure (a deficit) of £25,683 (2023, £64,485 deficit). The General Fund realised a deficit of £11,340 (2023, £1,268 deficit).

Planned giving by standing order has decreased significantly from £55,507 in 2023 to £50,551 in 2024. Free Will Offerings (open plate collections and the church's share of collections at funerals) increased slightly to £6,953 (2023, £6,066). Envelope remained stable at £1,263 (2023, £1,337). Use of the contactless card machine has grown again to £2,024 (2023, 1,235). One-off donations increased from £4,878 in 2023 to £7,044 in 2024.

We received grants of £1,271 from the Listed Places of Worship VAT reclaim scheme.

Income from Tower Room bookings remained stable at £1,100 (2023, £1,140).

Expenditure on church maintenance and repairs was £31,361, of which £23,710 related to the costs of the new Tower Room roof (now complete) and the repair of the churchyard wall (the latter covered by an insurance claim).

Our freewill offering to the diocese increased by 4% to £62,076 (2023, £59,692). The 2024 Mission and Giving donations will be £3,700 each to an overseas charity and a 'home' charity (2023, £3,900 each).

The General Fund balance (reserves) at the year-end have decreased substantially to £10,304 (in 2023 the General Fund balance was £23,871). Restricted Funds have seen a decrease of £13,639.

There was an upturn of the stock markets in 2024, which saw the market value of The Church Estate Fund investment increase by £946 (2.3%) and the James Twinam Fund investment increase by £217 (2.7%). The dividends from the James Twinam Fund (£231) will be donated to Dunnington Church of England Primary School to support the Pupil Premium.

For the benefice magazine (Grapevine), subscription income has remained stable, but income from advertising has reduced again resulting in another in-year loss. New advertisers will need to be sought in order for the magazine to remain financially stable.

The net movement on all funds, after taking into account the net market value gains on investments, amounted to £24,520 deficit (2023 £60,186 deficit), which when added to the funds brought forward at the beginning of the year, resulted in fund balances to carry forward at 31 December 2024 of £83,816 (2023, £108,336).

Helen Pomfret, PCC Treasurer (March 2024)

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St Nicholas, Dunnington**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
		General	Designated		2024	2023 Restated
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	76,901	951	6,021	83,873	103,008
Charitable activities	2(b)	6,308	1,663	3,193	11,162	15,477
Other trading activities	2(c)	2,937	-	9,537	12,474	12,951
Investments	2(d)	-	426	3,653	4,079	4,437
Other income	2(e)	-	-	-	-	13,299
<b>Total income</b>		<b>86,144</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>22,404</b>	<b>111,588</b>	<b>149,172</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	814	354	-	1,168	1,617
Charitable activities	3(b)	96,670	-	27,952	124,622	197,603
Other trading activities	3(c)	-	-	11,481	11,481	14,437
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>97,484</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>39,433</b>	<b>137,271</b>	<b>213,657</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments</b>		<b>(11,340)</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>(17,029)</b>	<b>(25,683)</b>	<b>(64,485)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	-	-	1,163	1,163	4,299
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(11,340)</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>(15,866)</b>	<b>(24,520)</b>	<b>(60,186)</b>
Transfers between funds		(2,227)	-	2,227	-	-
<b>Net movement in Funds</b>		<b>(13,567)</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>(13,639)</b>	<b>(24,520)</b>	<b>(60,186)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		23,871	11,279	73,186	108,336	168,522
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St Nicholas, Dunnington**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	
		General	Designated	Funds	2024	2023 Restated
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	-	50,978	50,978	49,815
		-	-	50,978	50,978	49,815
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Debtors	7	9,457	-	109	9,566	19,327
Cash at bank and in hand		10,574	13,965	32,485	57,024	78,981
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		20,031	13,965	32,594	66,590	98,308
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	9,727	-	8,425	18,152	20,287
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		9,727	-	8,425	18,152	20,287
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		10,304	13,965	24,169	48,438	78,021
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		10,304	13,965	75,147	99,416	127,836
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors: due to be paid beyond one year	9	-	-	15,600	15,600	19,500
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		-	-	15,600	15,600	19,500
<b>Net Assets</b>		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336
<b>Parish Funds</b>						
Unrestricted General Funds		10,304	-	-	10,304	23,871
Unrestricted Designated Funds	10	-	13,965	-	13,965	11,279
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	59,547	59,547	73,186
		£ 10,304	£ 13,965	£ 59,547	£ 83,816	£ 108,336

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev K McBride  
PCC Chair



H L Pomfret  
Treasurer