The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
22nd March 2026

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2025 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2025, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2026.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY & LAY READERS

Vicar: Rev. Hannah Grivell
Dr. Peter Elsmore - Reader & *Lay Vice-Chairman*
Dr. Neill Hepburn - Reader

WARDENS

Mrs. Chris Elsmore
Mr. David Gratrick
Mr. Roger Hansard
Mr. Nicholas James

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

	For term to finish
Dr. Neill Hepburn	2026
Position Vacant	

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne	Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Gratrick	Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

	Elected for term to finish
Mr Andrew Simmons	2026
Mrs Margaret Arrand	2026
Ms. Felicity Ingleton	2026
Mrs Sue Humphrey	2027
Mrs Carolyn Jones	2027
Mrs Su Toogood	2027
Mrs Joan Beresford	2028
Mrs Clare Wise	2028

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & 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 PCC.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Church Wardens and the Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses, Associate Priest, whilst we were in vacancy, and then Rev. Hannah Grivell from November 2025, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee
As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship, Discipleship & Education Committee
Oversees all matters of worship and Christian nurture.

Buildings Committee
Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION		2024	2025
BAPTISMS		5	7
WEDDINGS		6	3
FUNERALS	Church	18	16
	Crematorium/graveside or other	1	5
	Committal/burial of ashes only	2	0
	Total Funerals	21	21
CHURCH ATTENDANCE			
1st Sunday in October		131	44
2nd Sunday in October (3 services)		58	61
3rd Sunday in October		55	40
4th Sunday in October (3 services)		111	84
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE *(including children)*		57	59

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The current Church Electoral Roll has been in place since 2024 and comprises of 56 names at present. 2 names were removed during the year and 2 were added.

Joanne Osborne, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This year's Annual Accounts for 2025 are presented in this report. My thanks again go to Councillor Lance Pennell as Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the unrestricted funds were £85,717 and are detailed in the financial statements.

Expenditure for 2025 was £116,653 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £60,000. We completed further major works amounting to £14,296 this year including the full amount for our new sound system.

We continue to overspend each month in maintaining the upkeep of St Nicholas Church.

Projected Budget for 2026

It is imperative for 2026 that we increase our monthly income to avoid reducing the investments we have for new projects and work required to encourage more people through our doors. Our Parish Share remains at £60,000. Gas, Electric and Insurance have all increased and our projected expenditure for 2026 is £105,850.

The monies held in our savings and investment accounts as at 31.12.25 are as follows:

CCLA Investment account £80,753

CCLA Deposit account 1 - £31,464

CCLA Deposit account 2 - £44,042

Our CAF current account - £16,092

The only invoice for final major work to be paid is for the new outside lighting system for £2,351 held in the CCLA account No.1.

Restricted Funds held in CCLA No.1 account amount is £5,780 (majority for organ repairs) and Flower Fund £180.

Sandra Gratrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

At the end of 2025 we had 59 regular givers using either the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CAF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these, 51 are taxpayers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	27	2	29
CAF Bank	21	3	24
Envelopes	3	3	6
Total	51	8	59

Please take some time to review your giving. If you have not joined one of our regular giving schemes yet, make today the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, make today the day you do. If you are a taxpayer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

We spent most of the year in vacancy, but in November welcomed Mother Hannah Grivell as our new Vicar.

The outside lighting upgrade along the Centre path was completed. Thank you to Sue Humphrey and Roger Hansard for seeing this through.

Our wonderful Treasurer of the last 14 years, Sandra Gratrick, has now retired from the role and I would like to say a very big thank you for all she has done for St Nicks. Thank you also to David Gratrick who will step down as Churchwarden at the APCM in 2026, to Tom Ellis who has stepped down from leading the Choir and to Fr. Alan Moses for his ministry during our period of vacancy. Thank you to Peter Elsmore for acting as Chair of the PCC during vacancy. To all of you, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to St Nicks over the years.

My thanks go to the Churchwardens, and Sue Humphrey, Carolyn Jones and Su Toogood for Verging

at Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings and to all the people who volunteer to keep our church open and accessible for all.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Churchwardens have continued to maintain, improve and update both the external and internal features of St Nicholas Church.

We thank David Gratrick for his invaluable service as a Churchwarden for many years up to the 2026 APCM. We welcome Nick James as a new Churchwarden and thank him for his important contribution throughout the year. Chris, Roger, Nick and David work as a team to make sure the services and jobs are well supported.

Church Heating System - We have continued to improve the church heating system to guarantee it works well when needed. We purchased a booster and extra sensor to help. It has been a challenge because the WiFi which supports the system sometimes drops out. It will be updated in 2026.

Sound System - The sound system became unreliable in September 2025. The sound engineers identified that the north section speakers weren't working because wires had been striped or completely cut. The culprits were rats and mice. Further scrutiny revealed damage to many areas. Keystones, the sound engineers, made a temporary fix and then waited for us to employ pest controllers to eliminate the problem. In mid-December 2025 Keystones rewired the sound system and we await their bill for the rewiring. No insurance for churches covers the cost of the damage caused by vermin.

Pest control - Thankyou to the congregation for their patience and forbearance as we dealt with the pest control problem. We eliminated the consequent smells with incense and removed the flies with fly killer. Poison traps will be monitored by the Pest Control company until March 2026 when the PCC will review our contract. In December 2025 there was still evidence of mice feeding in the traps, both in the church centre walls and outside the church. The pest control company will report on how we can prevent entry of rats and mice in the future.

Lighting Upgrade - The lighting upgrade on the approach to the Church Centre continued and the Building Committee made sure that we liaised with the Diocese on suitability and colour of the lighting. This made sure that it was installed correctly.

Stannah stair lift - This was still a challenge in 2025 and continues to be. We are again grateful to Joanne, one of our administrators, for her patience liaising with the engineers to get problems fixed as parts are becoming obsolete. We are exploring alternative lifts to replace the stairlift.

Personnel - We would like to thank Fr Alan for presiding and preaching at the majority of regular, as well as special services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Members of our congregation who are housebound or in care homes have been well looked after by Fr Alan and Carolyn Jones. Both have taken home communion to them, and they are always pleased to be remembered. Thank you for this important ministry.

Our Licensed Lay Ministers, Peter Elsmore and Neill Hepburn have made an important contribution to the life of the parish by supporting our regular worship in a variety of ways. Two important examples are that they have produced intercessions and stimulating Sermons both at St Nicholas and St Mary Magdalene churches on a regular basis. They have also led Lent and Advent courses with the clergy at both St Nicholas Church and St Mary Magdalene's. We continue to share Advent and Lent courses with St Mary Magdalene's, and everyone enjoys the fellowship as the two congregations learn together.

We offer special thanks to the Choir who have worked hard and given us so much pleasure in 2025. Well done! Thank you, Tom Ellis, for your input in the choir this and previous years. Thanks to the organists for their special contribution to our services.

Thank you to our ALM's Carolyn Jones, Sue Humphrey and Chris Elsmore who contribute to the pastoral care of the parish and are involved in outreach and worship.

Our team of volunteers who keep this church functioning are incredible. In particular thank you to those who are involved in the hospitality – whether preparing/making food, serving the drinks and food for the different events in 2025. We can't do it without your input. In particular we valued your help with the promotion of Rev. David Mowbray's book, the leaving gathering of Father Alan and Teresa Moses and the installation of Mother Hannah Grivell in November 2025. Each one was a great occasion, but the numbers and food supplied for Mother Hannah Grivell were special. A brilliant result!

Thank you to the sacristans, vergers, stewards, servers, flower arrangers, cleaners and church openers. The church can't function properly without your contribution.

Thank you to our office administrators, Joanne and Jackie, for all their hard work and support throughout the year. Thank you to our Treasurer, Sandra Gratrick for advising us and enabling all the changes to be made both in 2025 and all the many years you have

been a conscientious Treasurer. Sandra has been amazing! Enjoy your long-earned rest. It's well deserved.
A special welcome our new incumbent Mother Hannah Grivell and her family Tim and Miriam. It is great to have you all with us and we look forward to getting to know you more as we worship and work together. We look forward to supporting Mother Hannah in the exciting times ahead as we move forward with activities to grow St Nicholas.
The Churchwardens and PCC value your prayers and practical support.
The Churchwardens

WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee has expanded to include Neill Hepburn, our second Lay Reader, and Rev Julia Hepburn attending to facilitate joint worship with St Mary Magdelene, for example during Holy Week.

Following the successful Songs of Praise last year, another had been agreed for 21 April, to be followed by tea. The choir continued to lead services with a team of organists.

As always, more volunteers were needed for reading, intercessions, arranging flowers and serving tea and coffee.
Su Toogood, Secretary

MUSIC REPORT

Year 2025/6 was an active one for the choir of St Nicholas.

On October 26th we had the enormous pleasure of singing at the launch of David Mowbrays book "Alleluia this is our song". The congregation was able to appreciate David's talents as he provides us with new words to sing to well-known hymn tunes.

On November 6th we welcomed the Rev. Hannah Grivell to St Nicholas. Our 4-year interregnum had finally ended. Mother Hannah has a particular passion for singing which we hope will enhance the music within St Nicks.

Two members of St Nicks choir (Tom Ellis and myself) joined with Lincoln Choral Society to sing in St Nicholas Church Hyden's St Nicholas Mass for the Patronal Festival. It was a joy, and a first for many in the congregation, to participate in a choral mass sung liturgically.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was well received and enhanced by the conducting of Jane Ellis.

As with the past couple of years, the choir has relied on the generosity of Jane Ellis and Linda Hepburn-Booth to conduct and accompany us at our twice monthly choir practices. Tom Ellis has worked hard to sort music and liaise with the various organists.

Margaret Arrand, Member of the Choir

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

The Christianity Deanery Synod met 4 times during 2025:
26 Feb 2025 at St Mary-le-Wigford
18 June 2025 at St Peter at Gowts
16 Oct 2025 at St Nicholas with St John Newport
12 Nov 2025 – at Holy Cross, Boultham

There had been some discussion around the name of the Deanery as Christianity did not describe the area, however, after a vote at the October synod it was agreed to remain unchanged.

The highlights of the meetings during the year are given below.

The Deanery Pilgrimage (Sunday 3rd August)

90-100 people from the deanery gathered at the Cathedral for Evensong. The Cathedral facilitated this and shared hospitality after the service, and St. Mary Magdalene's provided the opportunity to stop and pray (using a scallop shell) and for provided refreshments beforehand. Feedback was positive, and people said they would like to do something similar in the future. To help the Cathedral, it was suggested that individual churches might be asked to take responsibility for providing the refreshments and hosting after the service.

The College of St Hugh

Revd. Dr. Hugh Jones talked about various aspects of his role and how the College of Hugh is there to promote a culture of lifelong Christian learning and support people to take the next step in their journey. He spoke about different resources available and how to access them. Some of the key information from Hush's presentation is listed below:

• The Digital Learning Platform 'Learn, Grow, Share' is accessed from the website. It has lots of resources from ALM training courses, to 'Ten Top Tips' and 'Tried and Tested'. The Advent course 'Set our hearts on fire' (8 weeks) is also available and includes resources from other dioceses and the National

Church Support hub. In the future people will be able to upload their own materials.
• Authorised Lay Ministry training – 'To Love and Serve the Lord' 16 session foundation module (not necessarily mandatory) and practice modules in 'Worship Leading' and 'Pastoral Care' (each 7 sessions). Modules in 'Children and Young People' and 'Mission and Evangelism' will be released soon. Materials are provided, but training is delivered locally. Re. leading worship, ALM training is necessary if doing anything over and above reading Morning and Evening Prayer. It is not necessary for engaging in children's ministry or for being a pastoral visitor.
• Training for Ordained and Reader Ministry – this is in partnership with St. Hilds, Sheffield. There's a centre for Lincoln ordinands based in Lincoln but resourced from St. Hild. This provides degree level training.
• Training for Curates (IME2) – This is provided in-house, but some may also undertake further study with St. Hilds.
• Focal Ministry Training – Focal ministers do not necessarily have to have been an ALM, Reader or PTO previously, and is for those who will be delegated aspects of ministry by the incumbent where they have responsibility for large numbers of smaller churches – more relevant in rural areas – looks different in different contexts and depending on need and the experience/skills of the Focal Minister, but is for those who will have significant delegated leadership responsibilities.
In answer to a question about what 'Raising the Spiritual Temperature' means in operational terms, Hugh said that it's looking at where the energy comes from in the life of the church. He referred to 'Set our Hearts on Fire' and to 2 Corinthians 5:14 'For Christ's love compels us' and said it's about making sure it's about what God has done for us in Jesus.

Time to Grow Together update
A Diocesan Strategy Engagement event had taken place at The Salthouse on Monday 3rd November, and this had been an opportunity as a deanery to feed into the process of developing the next stage of the Diocesan strategy. Feedback included:
• The questions asked were deep important questions that we need to engage with.
The presentation was encouraging, but some expressed concern that they had not heard the strategy – neither where we're going nor how we're going to get there.
• Some found the experience overwhelming and the questions were difficult to answer.
• A lot of assumptions were made about prior knowledge.
• Turn-out was good and people were willing to engage which was encouraging.
• Concern that it all seemed to be about bums on seats.
• The presentation was encouraging.
• There needs to be more clarity on what is meant by 'Raising the spiritual temperature'.

Cornerstone (Generous Giving team
Cornerstone: A free online guided learning tool to help churches to understand and improve their giving practice and culture of generosity Cornerstone has been developed by the National Giving Team and is delivered by this Diocese's Generous Living Team. The aim is to take Parishes on a journey to understand their church's giving culture and financial situation. It aims to leave Parishes with clear, simple steps to grow giving and income.

Cornerstone is supported by an online platform that helps show areas where Parishes can focus your resources to get the best results. The platform has easy to follow step-by-step actions which are called Pathways. The Diocese of Lincoln has engaged with Cornerstone from its inception and led one of the first pilot programmes last autumn. Another cohort is taking part this spring, the Northeast Lincs Deanery Partnership is running a coordinated programme for its parishes in the summer. Cornerstone draws on actual financial and mission data which has already been submitted by individual parishes. Andy Wright from the Generous Living Team spoke about how we might use Cornerstone with parishes in the Deanery and demonstrated the platform. He also suggested a possible timeline to include the sign-up process, online introductory webinars, and face to face guided workshops for parish teams to attend.

Drama for Mission
David Shenton – Drama for Mission gave a powerful and moving example of how scripture can be brought to life through drama, giving characters from well-known Bible stories a voice and enabling them to tell their stories in a way that hasn't been heard before. He said that through his one-man plays People of the Passion, The Messenger and Changed he wants to share the gospel and make it accessible to as wide a cross-section of people as possible. He said that he had presented his plays to various groups and asked people to contact him directly if interested in making a booking: trinityvicardavid@gmail.com

The Cathedral
Dean Simon and Canon Rowena came to the February meeting of synod. They gave a brief outline of how

they'd come to be in their present roles at the Cathedral – Simon as the Dean, and Rowena as the Canon Missioner. Dean Simon gave some statistics which included the following: - 100 people on the payroll with over 60 FTEs - 500 volunteers – who are a key part of the Cathedral community - 129,000 paying visitors in 2024 (visiting between 10am-4pm) - Numbers of paying visitors up 27% on previous year - Attendance at services up on previous year - Cost £25k per day to keep the cathedral open Dean Simon explained the vision and 5-year strategy they had developed for the cathedral 'Singing a new song', following many conversations with employees, volunteers, clergy, people from churches in the diocese and the wider community. He said that they were keen that the cathedral should be seen as 'our cathedral' where everyone was welcome and were keen to encourage visitors to become pilgrims.
Canon Rowena outlined some ways in which they hope to develop a sense of the cathedral as a place of pilgrimage. Ideas include welcoming parish groups at no cost for Quiet days and to art exhibitions, a 'Day of Pilgrimage' ending with a service to celebrate together and partnering with churches with 'Sacred Space' and 'Out of Hours' for people exploring those styles of worship. The idea of sending invitations to churches in the deanery for specific services e.g. the Advent Carol service on the Saturday before Advent Sunday was welcomed. Synod was then asked to think about how the cathedral could support both of them as individuals and their parishes, as partners in ministry going forwards. Ideas were discussed in small groups. Lots of ideas were fed back including ideas about increasing the range of Christian books, prayer cards etc, ways of further developing links with schools, universities and students and by scaling admission prices.
Dr Neill Hepburn, Deanery Synod Representative

PHOENIX GROUP

The 2025 Programme was a mixture of old and new speakers, all of whom gave entertaining and informative talks (or in the case of May, yet another rousing performance by the Yellabella Accupella & The Peasants Revolt group. Other subjects covered by the agenda comprised 'Torksey to the Trent', 'Come Fly With Me', the 'Lincoln Cathedral Needlework Guild', 'The Churches of the Lincolnshire Wolds', the 'RNLI', the 'Joseph Banks Centre', 'Pennells' History', 'The Canal and River Trust', 'Owling Mad', 'Moonshine and the Rural Dream - Homes fit for Heroes in Lincolnshire ' and 'Forensic Science – Grenfell Tower'. Of course, refreshments also played a big role at our meetings, giving people the chance to catch up with each-other's news. These talks are all on the third Monday of each month.

The Games Afternoons continue on the first Monday of each month (unless that falls on a Bank or Public Holiday in which case it is moved to the following Tuesday), mostly Scrabble and Rummikub, but we are open to suggestions.

We continue to ask those attending the main meetings for donations of £3 to cover the cost of the speakers and refreshments and £1 at the Games Afternoons. This year we were able to make a donation to the PCC, who allow us to use the Centre free of charge for our meetings as part of the Church's out-reach mission.

We were sorry to lose Audrey Salisbury who has retired as our Treasurer during the year, but are pleased to welcome Pat Carter to that post, the other helpers being Susan Pycock, Una Barnes, Jean Bentley and myself.
Betty Brown

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Buildings Committee met on four occasions during 2025. Following a very active year in 2024, when in addition to other projects, the majority of advisory items included in the last Quinquennial Inspection report were completed. The committee has continued to oversee the safety and condition of church premises but has instigated and overseen fewer large projects during the year. Monitoring and promoting the use of the church centre has also been within its remit.
The largest project completed was the installation of new, more effective, high-level, security lighting to the section of the path nearest the church centre and the re-use of the previous light fittings to illuminate the path at lower level along the section between the northwest corner of the main church building and Newport.

Other works have included:
Refixing of wiring along the internal wall near the tower; Replacement of a light fitting in the servery area of the nave; Investigation of the provenance and value of a large painting of Christ and St Thomas; Replacement of the internal porch door handle; Updating of the church log book; Remedial work to the bin storage area (ongoing) Inspection of bell frame and bells (ongoing); Removal of north and south aisle carpets and repair/restoration of tiles (ongoing);

Regular maintenance and servicing of heating systems, fire extinguishers and alarm, stair lift, PAT testing (organized by Parish Administrator) etc.
Initial research into the replacement of the church boiler and heating system in light of the Diocesan policy of moving towards "net zero".

Looking ahead, the committee will be involved in:
Repairs to external high-level stonework and repointing to an area on the south wall; Replacement of the existing stairlift; Repairs and restoration of the tiling in the north and south aisles; Painting of the bell frame and maintenance of the bells and frame; Planting of a wildflower area, in conjunction with the Brownies, on the approach to the church centre;
Replacement of defibrillator battery and pads (in conjunction with Parish Administrator).

In the coming weeks, Mthr. Hannah intends to rewrite the terms of reference for The Buildings Committee which will then become the Fabric Committee. The committee will continue to meet approximately every two months.

Sue Humphrey

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

With the closure of both St Nick's Nippers and 3rd Lincoln Brownies this year, it may seem that we have been doing less well in the area of Children and Young People. Sue Humphrey has continued to try to have a relationship with Mount Street School, but this has proven difficult.

However, hope is not lost! We had a lovely group of Children with us for our crib service, a new Brownie troop have moved in, and there are plans to relaunch a toddler group in the new year.

One of the roles I hope we will recruit with the assistance of the Strategic Development Fund, is a Children and Families Outreach worker, which would be a wonderful addition to the team.

Some consideration over how we can engage with students is also being made, and we hope to become a safe space for all.

Mother Hannah

SAFEGUARDING

Church workers are obliged to complete Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Services) checks. The Charity Commission and our Insurers demand that we meet these requirements and we are working towards 100% compliance.
But Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all and every member of St Nicholas' must play their part. Please talk to me if you would like more information.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

VICAR'S REPORT

What a joy and a delight it is to finally be with you all and write my first Vicar's Report in post! It took longer than expected and hoped, but I am so thankful to have been installed at the start of November as your Vicar. That being said, there is much of the year that I was not around, which may make this report feel a little sparse. What I hope to do is reflect a little on the year just past and then look to the future and where God is steering our wonderful community through the Holy Spirit.

It has been a great start to my ministry amongst you. As Fr Alan pointed out last year, often vacancies mean a falling apart of some things, and that most certainly isn't the case with St Nick's. I am so grateful for the tireless work of the PCC, the Parish Administrators, our Secretary and Treasurer, our Churchwardens, our Lay Readers, our Authorised Lay Ministers, our retired ministers, Church openers, flower arrangers, servers, choir, organists, vergers, intercessors, lesson readers, collection counters… I could go on! I am so very blessed to be able to minister alongside such wonderful, God filled people. And all of the things I have listed here are a vocation and calling in and of themselves. None is higher than another – especially the Priesthood!

2025 has seen a decline in a number of things. 3rd Lincoln Brownies closed their doors; St Nick's Nippers stopped running; there has been a decline in attendance on Sundays. It can feel demoralising when numbers dwindle. But out of death, came life: Jesus had to die on the cross so that He could rise again, defeating death.

A new Brownie troop have moved into the hall. Plans are afoot to restart a toddler group in 2026, with a small trickle of people turning up on Thursdays wanting to join in despite the closure. Our Parish Vision Day will hopefully bring a lot of good ideas and initiatives for the future. We will celebrate 3 confirmations on 11th January, a wonderful testament to the embracing love of God and of this Parish. Out of death, there is hope.

Looking ahead, we have been given an incredible opportunity as a parish with the funding awarded to us through the Strategic Development Fund. With 2 full time roles to finalise and recruit for, a large grant to help put on events throughout the year, and a buildings grant to help make it easier for us to be radically hospitable to all who walk through our doors.

At this moment in time, we don't know exactly what the future will look like – but we can trust that it is in God's hands. My prayer for St Nick's in the coming year is that it will be a Church becoming more and more at the heart of the community, exuding the inclusive love of God to all who walk near it and beyond.

Mother Hannah Grivell
Vicar of Lincoln St Nicholas with St John

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2026

AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2025
4. Election of Churchwardens

AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
   a. Church Electoral Roll
   b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
   c. Financial Report
   d. Statement of PCC funds and property
   e. Accounts for the year 2025
   f. Budget for the year 2026
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
6. PCC Reports
7. Elections:
   a. Parochial Church Councillors
   b. Deanery Synod
8. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
   a. Date of next meeting
   b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
9. Closing Prayers

MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

held on 23 March 2025 at 12:00 noon

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom Ellis, Sue Humphrey and Andy Simmons.

2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Joanne Osborne. Proposed by Chris Elsmore and seconded by Roger Hansard.

3. **The Minutes** of the 2024 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record. Proposed by Chris Elsmore and seconded by Roger Hansard.

4. **Election of Churchwardens**

There were four nominations received for the positions of Churchwardens, David Gratrick (proposed by Joanne Osborne and seconded by Dave Valentine), Roger Hansard (proposed by Joanne Osborne and seconded by Margaret Arrand), Christine Elsmore (proposed by Sue Humphrey and seconded by Una Barnes) and Nick James (proposed by Clare Wise and seconded by Anne Wells).

Peter Elsmore thanked the Churchwardens for all their hard work in the past year and for the year ahead.

There being no further nominations, the four nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting of the Election of Churchwardens.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

The meeting took place 23 March 2025 at 12:00 noon

There were 25 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom Ellis, Sue Humphrey and Andy Simmons.

2. **Minutes of the APCM 2024** were accepted as a true record, with the following amendments; page 5, under WDE Committee it says that the choir continued to lead services and organised a successful table top sale, they didn't organise a table top sale. Proposed by Nick James and seconded by David Simmons.

3. **Reports**

a. **Electoral Roll**. The report was accepted by the meeting.

b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting.

c. **Financial Report.** Sandra Gratrick had provided a report for the meeting which was attached to the Annual Report. We are still spending approximately £2,000 per month more than our income. We continue to pray for the financial health of our parish.

d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.

e. **Accounts for the year 2024.** These were attached to the Annual Report.

f. **Budget for the year 2025.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.

The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Sandra Gratrick, and our Independent Examiner, Lance Pennell.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Lance Pennell was appointed as the Independent Examiner and it is hoped he will continue in this role.

5. The report from the Christianity Deanery Synod can be found in the Annual Report.

6. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report.

7. Elections

a. **Parochial Church Councillors**. PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Joan Beresford and Ron Johnson had completed their terms of office on the PCC and Adele Sheriff had left the Parish. This has resulted in there being four vacancies for three-year terms.

Nominations had been received for Joan Beresford (proposed by Sue Humphrey and seconded by Una Barnes) and Clare Wise (proposed by David Simmons and seconded by Dave Valentine) for a three-year term and they were duly elected.

b. **Deanery Synod Representatives**. There are currently two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives who would join Dr Neill Hepburn who continues in this role.

8. Matters of parochial or general church interest

Peter Elsmore reported to the meeting that on 31 March 2025 there would be an interview for the vacant post of Priest in the Parish.

a. The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.

b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 12th May 2025.

9. Closing Prayers were led by Fr. Alan Moses ending with The Grace.

Financial Report for 2025

This year's Annual Accounts for 2025 are presented in this report. My thanks again go to Councillor Lance Pennell as Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the unrestricted funds were £85,717 and are detailed in the financial statement's.

Expenditure for 2025 was £116,653 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our Parish Share of £60,000. We completed further major works amounting to £14,296 this year including the full amount for our new sound system.

We continue to overspend each month in maintaining the upkeep of St Nicholas Church.

It is imperative in 2026 that we increase our monthly income to avoid reducing the investments we have for - New projects and work are required to encourage more people through our doors.

Our Parish Share remains at £60,000. Gas, Electric and Insurance have all increased and our projected expenditure is £105,850.

The monies held in our savings and investment accounts are as follows as at 31st December 2025

CCLA Deposit Account No 1 = £31,464
CCLA Deposit Account No 2 = £44,042
CCLA Investment Account = £80,753

Our CAF Current Account = £16,092

The only invoice for final major work to be paid is for the new lighting system outside for £2351 held in CCLA account No.1.

Restricted Funds held in CCLA No 1 account amount to £5780 (majority for Organ Repair) and Flower Fund £180

Sandra Gratrick
Treasurer

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2025
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

Receipts	2024		2025	
Incoming Resources from donors				
Planned giving – Gift Aided	38673		42289	
Income Tax Received	8761		13867	
Planned Giving – not Gift aided	3173		3648	
Collections at Services	3101		3298	
Gift days & Sundry Donations	2825		1430	
Brownies	56		400	
Nippers	56		9	
Phoenix Group	250		100	
CD Sales			30	
		56895		65071
Other voluntary incoming resources				
Grants & Legacies	870		5000	
Fund-raising	1148		970	
Insurance claim & other Income	115		47	
		2133		6017
Income from investments				
Investments	41659		0	
Interest CBF Deposit & CAF	61		45	
		41720		45
Income from charitable & Ancilliary trade				
Fees	6151		7361	
Hire of Rooms	2605		5717	
		8756		13078
		109504		84211

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2025
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2024		2025	
Income for restricted use				
Christian Aid	80		345	
Children's Society	65		0	
Water Aid	319		137	
Collections at funerals	171		0	
Ride & Stride	157		174	
Sound System	2000		0	
Holiday Bag	182		0	
Poppy Appeal	6		0	
Afternoon Tea for Cancer Research	416		0	
Gifts	208		445	
Food Bank	45		10	
Wedding fees for 2025	716		0	
Laptop			395	
		4491		1506
TOTAL RECEIPTS		113995		85717

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2025
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

Payments	Year 31/12/24		Year 31/12/2025	
Grants				
Overseas missions	399		387	
Home missions	1426		490	
Secular Charities	401		410	
		2226		1287
Activities directly related to Church work				
Diocesan Quota	60000		60000	
Clergy Expenses	1020		1188	
Church Upkeep	2809		7669	
Church Utilities expense	8480		6974	
Upkeep of services	1879		1837	
Upkeep of Churchyard	94		40	
Nippers & Level Up	0		0	
		74281		77708
Trading:-				
Trading for Equipment & Maintenance Costs	1068		810	
Major Works	21035		14296	
Catering & Household	497		542	
Salaries & Support Costs	11161		11814	
		33761		27462
Administration				
Flowers	985		700	
Photocopier	1219		1250	
Bank charges	82		64	
Admin/Other	1114		1857	
Phone & Broadband	659		728	
St Nicholas Insurance	5433		5597	
		9492		10195
		119761		116653

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2025
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	Balance C/Fwd 01/01/2025	Balance as at 31/12/2025
General Account	118359	90719
CCLA - CBF Deposit A/c 1	59197	31464
CCLA - Deposit A/c 2	42135	44042
CAF Cash A/c	17027	16092
	118359	90719
Investments		
CCLA Investment A/c	81707	80753

Notes to Accounts On Income	Year to 31/12/2024	Year to 31/12/2025
Fund Raising (Major Events)		
Ride & Stride	314	174
Coffee Mornings	781	796
Centre Hire	2605	5717
Donations for Flowers	627	590
Phoenix Group	250	100
Brownies		400
Expenditure		
Church Running Expenses		
Insurance	5433	5597
Heat, Light & Water	8480	6974
Telephone & Broadband	659	728

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2025
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

I have examined the Statement of Income & Expenditure, also the Cash Book and Payments & Receipts Vouchers. These accounts accurately reflect the true financial affairs of the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John , Newport, Lincoln as at 31st December 2025

Name **Lancelot John Pennell**

Signature L J Pennell

Date. 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Address **Chiltern Lodge**
School Lane
Canwick
Lincoln
LN4 2 RP