THE CHURCH IN GREAT NOTLEY



AGM Reports 26th April 2026

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1. Ministry Team Report:

Once again, it is right to begin by giving thanks to God. The years after the pandemic were particularly challenging for us as a Church. As we wrestled with low finances, low morale, and big changes in our team and church community, there was a sense of winter. And yet, as a bulb grows underground for a long time before it reaches the light, so God has been preparing and leading us into a new season, into growth. 1 Corinthians chapter 3 reminds us that "God alone brings the growth" and so we give God the glory.

As we give thanks to God, we give thanks too to all who are "co-workers" with God – to all who worship here, to all who volunteer, to all who give generously of their time and their skills, and to all who contribute financially to the church. It is a joy to share in ministry together. I would like to extend particular thanks to colleagues on the Church Council, for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, and their faithfulness to God and to the Church.

This year the Church Council established a Mission Action plan, with five key priorities for 2025, which form the basis for this report.

1.1: Focus on building up All Age Worship.

It is a great to work with a team in planning the All Age worship services, and thanks go to Emma, Helen, Sarah Bethell, Emilia, Suzanne and Sidney for their help over the last year. It has been noticeable that these services have grown in number, and this has been a wonderful encouragement. We endeavour that this is an intergenerational service that is engaging for all ages, and so are grateful for the support and encouragement from all ages and stages in faith.

1.2: Become a more welcoming church.

Thank you to all who serve on the welcoming team. This year, we increased the numbers of welcomers and changed the layout slightly to make our church more accessible. We have also made some necessary changes to our building to make sure it is safe for all. The Church Council have also adopted policies that help us to welcome others, so that we were able to host a Notley High Student on work experience for a week in the summer. We are hugely grateful to the work of June, our pastoral care co-ordinator, who supports families and ensures new folks get a warm welcome, and to Wendy who supports her. We know that welcoming is the responsibility of the whole church, so thanks to all who befriend, support, and encourage each other.

1.3: Establish and improve links with the local community and seek opportunities to serve, support, and be a blessing to them.

Back in May, as part of the 80th anniversary of the VE day celebrations, we worked with the Parish Council to host an event on the green. Thanks to Liz Winter at the Parish Council for doing all the administration required, and a huge thanks to all members of the church who assisted to make us part of such a wonderful community occasion.

Once more we were grateful to Suzanne for organising and bringing so many different community groups together at the Christmas Tree Festival this year, which was very well attended. It was also good to work with the Parish Council again for the Torchlight procession

in December from the Church to the NGCA, and thank you to Suzanne for organising and to Mike and June for assisting.

This year we have worked towards establishing a new sensory room to enhance our existing family room. The need for this has been established by listening to members of the community, including Little Notley's preschool and Notley Green. We are grateful to Emma Church, Lucy Machin, Jess Wicks, for their work here, and to the various grant giving bodies who have provided the funding.

We continue to have good links with Notley Green school, and are grateful to all who bake cakes to show love to the staff. Thanks also to Paul Freeman who has served as a governor, and though he has stepped down this year, continues to be involved. It was great to host their school art exhibition in the spring and to welcome parents and carers into our church building. It is also good to have regular contact through Church services with White Court school again.

1.4: Develop a discipleship pathway.

As a result of our Alpha courses, we had the joy of baptising Fraser and Jess on Easter Sunday by full immersion, and marked their confirmations later in the year. We also had the privilege of baptising Vic and hosting Sophia's thanksgiving.

In Lent we hosted eight children for a first communion course for children across the benefice to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation, including Sidney, Izzy, Kieron, CJ and Dante from Great Notley.

Across benefice, various courses offered to help people to grow in faith including two Lent courses, an Autumn course on the Nicene Creed, another Alpha course in September to November.

We are hugely grateful to Maggie Ouwehand, who has led Bible study for the last few years (as well as doing many and varied roles in the church!) and we said a fond farewell to her in December before she moved house.

1.5: Work towards becoming a Bronze Eco Church in 2025.

Our thanks to Paul Freeman and Paul and Ruth Gilman who have formed an Eco Church group to help us make progress here. Whilst we have not yet achieved an award, we are making progress. Thanks too to Ron and to Lisa Scott who have prepared our application towards solar panels which we hope could be installed in 2026.

It is good to remember that we share in the task of ministry. Thank you to the Methodist and Baptist church for their support in providing us with ministers. Thanks to all who run groups and to all who support and care for each other and the wider community. Thank you to Roman and Nikki, for their encouragement, support and skill, and to Lisa Gregson for all she does behind the scenes to keep us organised and cheerful! Thank you to you too for all your contributions to our shared life together. And, of course, thanks be to God, who has begun a good work in us and who we can trust to bring it to completion! (Philippians 1.6)

Rachel and David

2. Benefice Administrator

Standard administrative work supporting the Three Churches and elements specific to Great Notley has continued throughout the year including:

- *Life Events:* Dealing with emails and enquiries relating to Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Interments. Supporting clergy on what they need in relation to these. Ensuring invoices are done and sent.
- *Website / Media / Promotion:* Continued updating of website front page with posters (events posters, foodbank and other), amendments as needed, updating link to live-streamed service. I undertake general upkeep checks on our website and also review with Reverend Rachel regularly to pick up any changes which need making. I have attended a couple of webinars run by the Church of England media team on Social Media Tips. These provide technical help on developing promotional material in canva using CofE produced templates for Christmas and Easter. It also included a Church Near You. I have also done posts and promotions on facebook page.
- *Rota:* Supporting the production of the rota for services across the Three Churches and sending information to others.
- *Printing:* Regular printing (St Peter & St Paul) and ad-hoc as needed (e.g. All Saints, party in the park) and ensuring recorded so cost to Great Notley can be monitored. Printing for Great Notley has included welcome leaflets, colouring sheets and posters to put on the noticeboards. Printing around Christmas and Easter is also done.
- *Foodbank:* Continue to be point of contact for Foodbank to receive information and ensure this is shared.
- *Calendar:* Oversee calendars for St Peter & St Paul, Florence Slater Room, All Saints, Old School Room.
- *Other:* I produce and distribtute the weekly CiGN notice. I maintain the community bookshelf in the foyer (there are still a large number of books in the loft and we are investigating ways to get rid of these).

I meet regularly with Reverend Rachel to check on work and priorities. We also meet to have a more formal review and set some targets for bigger projects in addition to 'business as usual' work. For 2026 these will including developing control sheets for certain acitivites, reviewing use of Trello to ensure its working for us and making sure we have an up to date contact database for across the Three Churches.

I have enjoyed another year of working with the Church and the truly kind and friendly people within it.

Lisa Gregson.

3. Café & Chat

We continually meet every 1st Thursday of the month term time only. In the winter months Oct to March, we serve hot soup & bread with a few homemade cakes and April to September just homemade cakes.

We take a donation of £2 from everyone every month which covers the costs of the soup & bread in the winter months, and of course the great essentials tea, coffee, sugar, and milk. We do fairtrade tea and coffee to support them.

We have a great team of helpers, which we are very blessed with and thank every month: Daphne, Jacquie, Jan, Judith, Sandra Thomas & Stephane, making cakes and serving everyone always with a smile. Martin & Sam also help us out when we are short.

Jacquie still works out the quizzes and dingbats every month which helps keep everyone chatting and laughing.

Paul Freeman still gets us the large tables and the chairs from the Worship Area out each month.

We also thank our ministers as one of them comes and gives a biblical 'Thought of the Day' each month.

We have had several new members join us this year, which is always great to see. We now have a total of 16 members that attends regularly. Unfortunately, we lost Jacquie Fanchette's dear Mum Phil Scott in August 2025 due to a stroke & Parkinson's which she had been suffering for a long time.

In May 2025 some of our Café & Chat group attended the village's VE Day Celebrations which was a great afternoon out

We had another brilliant year doing 'Link to Hope' Shoeboxes with a total of 42 completed Boxes with some lovely knitted/crochet blankets.

We had an extra session in October so we could wrap the shoeboxes up - we only made drinks as we had a lot to do!



As we go forward to this 2026/27 year, we hope to welcome more new members and helpers. We will also start saving for 'Link to Hope' Shoeboxes 2026 by giving everyone a monthly calendar through which 'Link to Hope' suggests the different shoebox items to collect each month of the year.

Wendy Potter

4. Catering

Church coffee mornings on Tuesday and Friday are well attended by the walking grops and recently a few members of our congregation. It's just time for folks to have a chat.

We had our usual bring and share lunch for the Harvest Festival which was enjoyed by all. The Christmas Tree Festival was a success and we served plenty of refreshments over the two days. It certainly reached out to the wider neighbourhood of the village.

We will continue to run the coffee mornings as long as we are able. My thanks to Betty and Sandra Thomas for without them is would not happen.

Sandra Higby.

5. Data Protection / Policies and Procedures

This year has been a quieter one regarding the development of policies. However, the first policies that were produced are due for review, commencing with: -

- Data Protection Policy GDPR/Policy/0001/01
- Data Protection Retention Schedule GDPR/Document/0001/01
- Data Protection Privacy Statement GDPR/Document/0002/01

I am very grateful to Lisa Scott, Eric Smart, Helen Rayner and Emma Gibson for volunteering to review and comment on these documents. Minor changes were made to the Data Protection Policy to reflect a change in law, regarding the handling of complaints, which is due to be implemented in June 2026

These policies were approved and adopted by The Church Council at the meeting in February 2026. They will next be reviewed in February 2030, unless there are changes to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation or to operational requirements.

Fire Alarm testing continues to be undertaken by Roman Kukiewicz and myself on Tuesday mornings at 8.15 am.

A copy of all the current policies are available in a file in the Church Office.

Pauline Banks

Data Protection Co-ordinator

6. Financial Report

Our overall income was £86,869.89 and our overall expenditure was £81,497.12. This is an overall net income of £5,372.77 across restricted and unrestricted funds as follows:

	General £	Restricted £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Income and endowments	51,819.97	35,049.92	86,869.89	85,588.25
Expenditure	(57,044.91)	(24,452.21)	(81,497.12)	(79,999.40)
Net income/ (expense)	(5,224.94)	10,597.71	5,372.77	5,588.85

The restricted activities had surplus income due to increased donations and grants, while general activities resulted in a small deficit of expenses over income of £5,224. It is encouraging to see the regular offerings have increased over the year, however, the level of our general-purpose cash with

an ongoing deficit is not desirable and emphasises the importance of general fundraising in inflationary times.

The income also includes restricted grants.

Our hall hiring bought in just over of £23,425. Catering income is slightly down on last year, at £2,101.

Our gas and electricity costs have reduced again this year, with 2025/26 costs being £7,583.25, a reduction of £489.68.

This last financial year we had our first quinquennial inspection which highlighted essential maintenance, so we spent £4,722.06 on some repairs. Although in the accounts it shown under goods purchased.

The overall cash position for year ending 2025/26.		£
The year end bank balances are		63,335
And set aside for the fabric of the church is		16,735
	Leaving	46,600
However, this includes the following restricted fund;		
Flower fund		106
Philip Howard bequest		119
Sensory room		2,507
Deanery Printing fund		267
Children's worker salary		18,235
Worship flooring fund		2,143
	Totalling	£23,377
This leaves cash for general purposes of approximately		**£23,223**

Next financial year (2026/27)

Salary costs

The salary fund will remain for this next financial year. Decisions are being made around the future of our children's work. I am grateful to those who still donate to top up this fund.

I am also grateful to those who make contributions toward the admin worker, with the benefice.

Building maintenance

We are still building up the new flooring fund will be utilised to replace the tired carpet in the worship area.

Solar Panel Project

As you are all aware, Ron Paternoster undertook a project with regards to Solar Panels. The quotes remain around £36,000-£40,000. I have been successful in securing two thirds of the funding. With the final bid being heard in February, although we may not hear until mid/late March.

Finally

The cleaning team continue to provide a weekly cleaning service of the worship area. The team has diminished recently due to personal matters so an extra big thank you to all who are still involved.

I remain forever grateful to each and every single person who can make a financial contribution to the church. Without your continued and unwavering support, I would not be able to balance the books.

Lisa Scott.

(Further financial statements follow on next page).

The Church in Great Notley

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/01/2026 £	At 31/01/2025 £
Fixed assets						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Cash At Bank And In Hand	39,953.91	-	23,381.13	-	63,335.04	57,962.27
	39,953.91	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Total assets less current liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	39,953.91	-	-	-	39,953.91	46,098.72
Designated						
Restricted						
Restricted - Childrens And Youth Worker Salary	-	-	18,235.80	-	18,235.80	9,874.69
Restricted - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	267.69	-	267.69	-
Restricted - Flower Fund	-	-	106.36	-	106.36	126.29
Restricted - Organist Remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	480.00
Restricted - Philip Howard Bequest	-	-	119.64	-	119.64	319.64
Restricted - Sensory Room	-	-	2,507.98	-	2,507.98	-
Restricted - Worship Area Carpet/Flooring	-	-	2,143.66	-	2,143.66	1,062.93
Fund Totals	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**

The Church in Great Notley

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 February 2025 to 31 January 2026

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
4009 - Bequest and Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations recieved	730.42	-	1,317.16	-	2,047.58	4,399.92
Donations and legacies Totals	**730.42**	**-**	**1,317.16**	**-**	**2,047.58**	**4,399.92**
Income from charitable activities						
Income from charitable activities Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other trading activities						
Other trading activities Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Investments						
Investments Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other income						
4000 - Grants received	-	-	5,195.00	-	5,195.00	1,130.83
4001 - Offering	17,437.61	-	29.67	-	17,467.28	16,090.42
4002 - Fund raising	813.75	-	243.00	-	1,056.75	1,792.76
4003 - Hall hire	23,425.63	-	-	-	23,425.63	22,006.93
4004 - Gift Aid	5,170.28	-	-	-	5,170.28	4,753.88
4005 - Miscellaneous income	489.63	-	80.00	-	569.63	3,145.60
4006 - Snackanory and Messy	-	-	-	-	-	-
4007 - Catering	2,101.20	-	-	-	2,101.20	2,116.69
4008 - Interest	1,227.45	-	-	-	1,227.45	1,370.52
4011 - Organist fund	-	-	-	-	-	540.00
4012 - Misc Income - Leaving gifts	155.00	-	-	-	155.00	-
4015 - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	310.00	-	310.00	-
4100 - Funeral services	269.00	-	-	-	269.00	1,284.00
4101 - Wedding services	-	-	-	-	-	-
4150 - Salary admin worker	-	-	5,510.74	-	5,510.74	4,516.54
4151 - Childrens and Youth worker salary	-	-	22,364.35	-	22,364.35	22,440.16
4200 - Cafe Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income Totals	**51,089.55**	**-**	**33,732.76**	**-**	**84,822.31**	**81,188.33**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**51,819.97**	**-**	**35,049.92**	**-**	**86,869.89**	**85,588.25**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Raising funds Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure						
5000 - Goods purchased (General inc building)	1,555.63	-	3,166.42	-	4,722.05	9,863.21
5001 - Water rates	1,578.95	-	-	-	1,578.95	1,282.73
5002 - Gas	3,446.11	-	-	-	3,446.11	3,232.85
5003 - Electricity	4,137.14	-	-	-	4,137.14	4,840.08
5004 - Council Tax (Manse)	651.91	-	-	-	651.91	-
5005 - Premise Insurance	923.11	-	-	-	923.11	891.59
5006 - Repairs and Servicing	6,704.70	-	-	-	6,704.70	3,723.66
5007 - Cleaning (including supplies)	6,224.91	-	-	-	6,224.91	5,703.55
5008 - Window Cleaning	485.00	-	-	-	485.00	400.00
5009 - Licenses and software	1,537.27	-	-	-	1,537.27	1,006.39
5010 - Equipment Hire	567.79	-	-	-	567.79	536.54
5011 - Gardening	700.00	-	200.00	-	900.00	855.00
5012 - Misc Expenditure - leaving gifts	236.75	-	-	-	236.75	-
5015 - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	24.33	-	24.33	-
5100 - Printing	785.42	-	-	-	785.42	832.24
5101 - Office stationary	361.29	-	-	-	361.29	263.78
5102 - Telephone and Internet	944.18	-	-	-	944.18	951.66
5103 - Postage	6.80	-	-	-	6.80	-
7000 - Wages - Admin	-	-	6,512.53	-	6,512.53	5,863.14
7001 - Wages - Children's worker	-	-	14,053.24	-	14,053.24	13,447.30
7100 - Ministers discretionary fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
7101 - Travelling (Mileage)	227.79	-	-	-	227.79	357.21
7102 - Hospitality	123.80	-	179.93	-	303.73	62.98
7103 - Worship resources	761.26	-	315.76	-	1,077.02	1,056.44
7104 - Organist costs	-	-	-	-	-	200.00
7200 - Donations	384.10	-	-	-	384.10	384.83
8000 - Denomination cost - Church of England	15,711.36	-	-	-	15,711.36	14,816.62
8001 - Denomination cost - URC	6,750.00	-	-	-	6,750.00	6,389.00
8002 - Denomination cost - Methodist	1,878.84	-	-	-	1,878.84	1,783.85
8003 - Denomination cost - Baptist	86.80	-	-	-	86.80	74.75
8004 - Denomination cost - Visiting ministers	40.00	-	-	-	40.00	40.00
8005 - Funeral fees	234.00	-	-	-	234.00	1,140.00
Other expenditure Totals	**57,044.91**	**-**	**24,452.21**	**-**	**81,497.12**	**79,999.40**
Expenditure Grand totals	**57,044.91**	**-**	**24,452.21**	**-**	**81,497.12**	**79,999.40**
Income less expenditure	(5,224.94)		10,597.71		5,372.77	5,588.85

7. Flower Ministry

We have been able to continue to send flowers or appropriate gifts to those experiencing both difficult circumstances and celebratory occasions. Sandy continues to support the ministry by making beautiful flower arrangements which, on most occasions, she also delivers. This is all made possible by financial donations and the sale of plants, which have become popular. My thanks to Suzanne who has been instrumental in promoting these sales.

If you feel this ministry is something you could financially support, please speak to Lisa Scott, our treasurer.

June Frisbee

Pastoral Co-ordinator

8. CiGN Foodbank Distribution Centre

We at Food Bank are most grateful that the church has continued to allow us the use of the worship area for our work in meeting people at their point of need and in times of adversity for themselves and their families.

In 2025 this allowed us to give supplies to 348 adults and to 274 children. The Great Notley Food Bank is an important piece of the jigsaw in our local area, supporting the other centres in Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Braintree and Witham. If people fall into desperate need anywhere in that wider geography of Braintree Area Food Bank, then we are there for them when we open on Tuesdays mornings: those other centres look after the other days in turn. And of course, we work within the wider framework of the Trussell Trust with its Christian ethos. More locally, we could not exist without the warehousing, management, transport and pastoral support of our Food Bank Warehouse in Braintree.

In 2024 our volunteers had considered ceasing our operations in Great Notley amongst a worry that we were not needed as a centre. But we soldiered on, reorganised our rotas, welcomed new volunteers and we have come to an understanding of the wider significance of our work.

We are staffed by a splendid set of faithful volunteers who fulfil their duties with care, compassion and humour and support each other to the hilt. We were sad to lose Maggie Ouwehand who had been a founding member of our group and had been our manager for a long while and we wish her well in her new home and church.

Over the year we have been sustained by the kindness, tea, coffee and biscuits of the Coffee Morning volunteers, Sandra and Betty. We are so grateful to them for keeping us cheerful and hydrated.

Occasionally, we pick up donations of food and supplies left in the lobby in the church, and we are most grateful for those. In Christmas 2025 our volunteers entered a Food Bank Tree into the church Christmas Tree Festival and we loved it when church members gave us food cans to build up that tree display. All of that went to the warehouse so that it could be sent out to feed the hungry in our midst.

Roman K, Foodbank Manager.

9. Membership

Due to the postponement of the Local Advisory Group meeting last June, I continued as Membership Secretary until September 2025.

Membership now stands at 53 which includes two transfers from Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford. We were delighted to welcome Eric and Wilma to the congregation.

A membership course was arranged for September. Despite good promotion and personal invitations only one person showed interest. As the result of a lengthy discussion at the September LAG meeting it was decided to revisit our approach to membership. This led to a Step in Faith lunch, led by Rev'd Rachel and Rev'd David, which was well attended. A one-day membership course has been arranged by Rev'd David for 2nd May 2026.

I ensured that all loose ends were tied up before I stood down and that figures were sent to all the necessary people to complete their returns. My thanks again to Sam Prior for dealing with our own denominational returns.

June Frisbee

10. Pastoral

Since the last AGM the team took the opportunity to review our contact with those who were unable to attend services. We were satisfied that we were doing everything possible to maintain contact with them and provide support to access on-line services where possible.

Various people have spent time in hospital and we are delighted to have them back worshipping with us. We are blessed to be able to continue to welcome a variety of new people to the church, of all age groups. We look forward to them becoming an integral part of our worship and witness. It is a challenge to keep our Family Photo Album up to date, my apologies to those who have not yet made it into the album.

It has been sad to say goodbye to a few people, most notably Bev Moore and Maggie Ouwehand. Both of these ladies have been involved with the church from the very earliest days. Bev was the regular organist. Her job as a music teacher saw her involved with the community and arranging several musical concerts. She was greatly missed when it became necessary for her to move to Witham and unable to attend regularly. We wish her a long and happy retirement in Wales. Maggie covered many roles within the church. She was instrumental in setting up our Foodbank hub. She spent time as treasurer, led a variety of services, served on Church Council and initiated bible study groups. She is now enjoying retirement in Lincolnshire.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Agnes Mathieson. Although she and Margaret had not been worshipping with us for very long it felt as if she had always been part of the congregation.

We continue our visits to Longmead Nursing Home where Rev'd Rachel conducts short services. The singing of familiar hymns is very popular with the residents who are able to attend. There are mixed feelings when a familiar face is no longer present.

As Pastoral Co-ordinator I advised Church Council that, due to personal circumstances, I would have to pare back on my various responsibilities within the church. These needed to be address before this AGM and volunteers were being sought. I will maintain my role as Pastoral Co-ordinator.

June Frisbee, Pastoral Co-ordinator

11. Safeguarding

The CIN Great Notley is committed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

During 2025 work has continued to ensure that our Parish is compliant with the Safeguarding. The Model Parish Safeguarding Policy for Promoting a Safer Church and the Policy for responding to Domestic Violence have been agreed and signed. These policies are currently displayed on the notice board.

We have introduced Model Volunteer Job Roles available for:

- Volunteers Working with Children, and or Adults,
- Church Wardens,
- Safeguarding Officers and other roles as they arise.

Work continues to ensure the Parish is compliant with the Church of England Practice Guidance for Safer Recruitment, this applies to all paid and volunteer posts. DBS is carried out in line with the job roles held by the volunteers and paid posts. Confidential Declaration Forms for Enhanced DBS, and Basic DBS Confidential Declaration Forms, these have to be completed before the DBS can be completed.

Judy Spearman

12. Hiring

Cath & I continue to monitor the hiring email between us, ensuring that hiring enquiries are not left too long before getting a response.

It has been decided that we are reviewing casual hirer on a case-by-case basis. If we have volunteers to open and close, then we accept the hire. There are so few of us, it is becoming an onerous task. This year we have welcomed a new regular hirer, Boxercise, which now means the church calendar is full.

Our regular hirings include;

Little Notley Nursery,

Great Notley Photography Club,

Pilates,

Pantoloons,

Wellness & yoga sessions,

Rascals Theatre School,

Moving on,

Rainbows & Brownies,

Alphabakes,

Boxercise

Our hiring income in the financial year 2023-2024 was £20,906.98

Our hiring income in the financial year 2024-2025 was £22,006.93

Our hiring income in this financial year was £23,425.63

This is broken down as…

Little Notley Nursery	£12,177.75	52%
Rascals Theatre School	£ 3,303.00	14%
Great Notley Photography Club	£ 747.50	3%
Moving on	£ 540.00	2%
Simply Craft	£ 487.50	2%
Boxercise	£ 458.70	2%
Rainbows & Brownies	£ 1,236.30	5%
Pantoloons	£ 270.00	1%
Wellness & yoga sessions	£ 882.85	4%
Pilates	£ 1,299.10	6%
Alphabake	£ 540.00	2%
Casual hires	£ 1,482.93	7%

13. Children and Families Work

Suzanne Gillingham was employed as our Children and Families worker throughout 2025. As part of this, she ran a weekly Lego Club, a weekly baby and toddler group Snackanory, monthly Junior Church sessions, and monthly Wiggle Church. Suzanne also served on the All Age worship planning team.

It was a good year in terms of attendance and engagement with our children and families work.

In the autumn term, we saw an increase in attendance at our All Age worship service. The last four months of the year recorded the average of 61 adults and 8 children. Wiggle Church numbers have also remained more stable, between 8-10 children coming on the 4th Sunday of the month with their parents and carers, with our highest session of 10 children and 13 adults.

The midweek children's and families groups continued to be popular. At Lego Club in September, the average number of children was 19, and adults was 15. At Snackanory, the baby and toddler group, the average attendance in September was 14 children and 13 adults.

In June 2025, Suzanne's role changed as she was funded by the Deanery (collection of Braintree Area Church of England Churches). This meant that her role included an element of resourcing and supporting other local churches. Unfortunately, Suzanne resigned in December 2025. We gave thanks for her work and all her many contributions to the life of our church and are pleased that she will still worship at the Church in Great Notley. We are grateful for all the volunteers who have also supported her throughout 2025, in particular Cath, Jess, Ann, Betty, Lisa, Jonie, Holly, Sabah, and any others I may have missed - apologies!

We will be looking to employ a new children's and families worker in 2026, whose role will be to lead and support a team of volunteers, so we can continue to embed our children and families work into the heart of our church life.

14. Care of Building / Quinquennial

As every year there are jobs that come along regularly, for example: toilet seats coming loose, taps that either drip or need replacing, all of which this year has demanded. Plans are still in progress for the installation of Solar Panels, this will save the Church a great deal of costs annually.

The Quinquenial inspection raised many issues, they are being addressed as and when we can, but we have implemented the first of these by having built a new access slope at the fire exit into the Church end, whislt also reversing the opening of the same.

Once agan thanks must go to my loyal friend Ron for all the dedicated work he contributes to our work.

Mike Higby.

14. Eco Church

The church is seeking to increase awareness of its contribution to environmental issues and how it can improve its overall effectiveness in this area. To this end a small group comprising Ruth and Paul Gilman and myself has been set up to monitor the church's involvement in a scheme called Eco Church. This is organised by a Christian environmental organisation called A Rocha which was started some years ago by a group of like-minded Christians in Portugal and is now operating throughout Europe including the UK.

A Rocha has initiated a system of rewards to churches who are making moves to reduce their carbon footprint and make their premises more environmentally friendly, these being Bronze, Silver and Gold. To obtain these awards involves an on-line questionnaire most of which has been completed. The final part involves the participation of the church membership and congregation in the completion of a questionnaire concerning the various issues involved. One such issue for our church is the ongoing process of securing funding for solar panels. An award from A Rocha would help in this process. Once this has been completed, we can submit the whole survey to A Rocha with the view to obtaining the Bronze award in line with Rayne Church and Christ Church who have already completed this process.

Paul Freeman

Treasurer report

Our overall income was £86,869.89 and our overall expenditure was £81,497.12. This is an overall net income of £5,372.77 across restricted and unrestricted funds as follows:

	General £	Restricted £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Income and endowments	51,819.97	35,049.92	86,869.89	85,588.25
Expenditure	(57,044.91)	(24,452.21)	(81,497.12)	(79,999.40)
Net income/ (expense)	£(5,224.94)	£10,597.71	£5,3728.77	£5,588.85

The restricted activities had surplus income due to increased donations and grants, while general activities resulted in a small deficit of expenses over income of £5,224. The income also includes restricted grants.

Our hall hiring bought in just over of £23,425. Catering income is slightly down on last year, at £2,101.

Our gas and electricity costs have reduced again this year, with 2025/26 costs being £7,583.25, a reduction on £489.68.

This last financial year we had our first quinquennial inspection which highlighted essential maintenance, so we spent £4,722.06 on some repairs. Although in the accounts it shown under goods purchased.

The overall cash position for year ending 2025/26.		£
The year end bank balances are		63,335
Of this, the amount set aside for salaries is		18,235
And set aside for the fabric of the church is		16,735
	Leaving	28,365
However, this includes the following restricted fund;		
Flower fund		106
Philip Howard bequest		119
Sensory room		2,507
Deanery Printing fund		267
Worship flooring fund		2,143
	Totalling	£5,142
This leaves cash for general purposes of approximately		**£23,223**

Next financial year (2026/27)

Salary costs

The salary fund will remain for this next financial year. Decisions are being made around the future of our children's work. I am grateful to those who still donate to top up this fund.

I am also grateful to those who make contributions toward the admin worker, with the benefice.

Building maintenance

We are still building up the new flooring fund will be utilised to replace the tired carpet in the worship area.

Solar Panel Project

As you are all aware, Ron Paternoster undertook a project with regards to Solar Panels. The quotes remain around £36,000-£40,000. I have been successful in securing two thirds of the funding. With the final bid being heard in February, although we may not hear until mid/late March.

Finally

The cleaning team continue to provide a weekly cleaning service of the worship area. The team has diminished recently due to personal matters so an extra big thank you to all who are still involved.

I remain forever grateful to each and every single person who can make a financial contribution to the church. Without your continued and unwavering support I would not be able to balance the books.

Lisa Scott.

DRAFT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Church in Great Notley

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church in Great Notley (the Church) for the year ended 31 January 2025. The accounts are those presented in the Annual Report dated 27 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

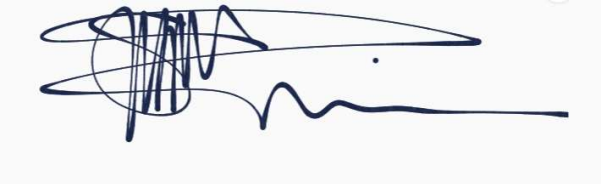
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Name: Sarah Prior ACA
Address: Pearcroft Aldecar Lane
Saxmundham
IP17 1HN
Date: 4 September 2025

Comments on my review

The underlying accounting records are comprehensive and easy to follow. All payments and receipts are fully recorded and properly authorised. The treasurer keeps the church well and regularly updated on all key financial matters.

The Church has ceased to keep its account on the SAGE platform which was problematic. The new system works far better and is easier to understand. However, on transfer to the new system the deficit balance on the youth worker restricted reserve of £1,399.62 was amalgamated into the unrestricted reserves. This means that 'fund balances brought forward" in the accounts do not agree to the funds carried forward at the end of the prior year's accounts in terms of the split between restricted and unrestricted. Maintaining integrity and transparency in respect of restricted reserves is important from a Charities Act perspective so, whilst there is no reason to expect this to happen again, care should be taken when rolling forward from one year to the next.

Whilst the church had made an overall surplus of £5,588 this reflects a surplus of £9,762 in restricted funds and a net deficit £4,173 in the unrestricted activities, thereby eating into the unrestricted reserves. This highlights the importance of fundraising being focussed on the general needs of the Church as well as specific endeavours.

I note that work is ongoing to ensure that all church groups, existing and new, that are run under the auspices and control of the church council are identified and included in the accounts where appropriate.

The Church in Great Notley

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 February 2025 to 31 January 2026

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
4009 - Bequest and Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations recieved	730.42	-	1,317.16	-	2,047.58	4,399.92
Donations and legacies Totals	**730.42**	**-**	**1,317.16**	**-**	**2,047.58**	**4,399.92**
Income from charitable activities						
Income from charitable activities Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other trading activities						
Other trading activities Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Investments						
Investments Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other income						
4000 - Grants received	-	-	5,195.00	-	5,195.00	1,130.83
4001 - Offering	17,437.61	-	29.67	-	17,467.28	16,090.42
4002 - Fund raising	813.75	-	243.00	-	1,056.75	1,792.76
4003 - Hall hire	23,425.63	-	-	-	23,425.63	22,006.93
4004 - Gift Aid	5,170.28	-	-	-	5,170.28	4,753.88
4005 - Miscellaneous income	489.63	-	80.00	-	569.63	3,145.60
4006 - Snackanory and Messy	-	-	-	-	-	-
4007 - Catering	2,101.20	-	-	-	2,101.20	2,116.69
4008 - Interest	1,227.45	-	-	-	1,227.45	1,370.52
4011 - Organist fund	-	-	-	-	-	540.00
4012 - Misc Income - Leaving gifts	155.00	-	-	-	155.00	-
4015 - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	310.00	-	310.00	-
4100 - Funeral services	269.00	-	-	-	269.00	1,284.00
4101 - Wedding services	-	-	-	-	-	-
4150 - Salary admin worker	-	-	5,510.74	-	5,510.74	4,516.54
4151 - Childrens and Youth worker salary	-	-	22,364.35	-	22,364.35	22,440.16
4200 - Cafe Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income Totals	**51,089.55**	**-**	**33,732.76**	**-**	**84,822.31**	**81,188.33**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**51,819.97**	**-**	**35,049.92**	**-**	**86,869.89**	**85,588.25**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Raising funds Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other expenditure						
5000 - Goods purchased (General inc building)	1,555.63	-	3,166.42	-	4,722.05	9,863.21
5001 - Water rates	1,578.95	-	-	-	1,578.95	1,282.73
5002 - Gas	3,446.11	-	-	-	3,446.11	3,232.85
5003 - Electricity	4,137.14	-	-	-	4,137.14	4,840.08
5004 - Council Tax (Manse)	651.91	-	-	-	651.91	-
5005 - Premise Insurance	923.11	-	-	-	923.11	891.59
5006 - Repairs and Servicing	6,704.70	-	-	-	6,704.70	3,723.66
5007 - Cleaning (including supplies)	6,224.91	-	-	-	6,224.91	5,703.55
5008 - Window Cleaning	485.00	-	-	-	485.00	400.00
5009 - Licenses and software	1,537.27	-	-	-	1,537.27	1,006.39
5010 - Equipment Hire	567.79	-	-	-	567.79	536.54
5011 - Gardening	700.00	-	200.00	-	900.00	855.00
5012 - Misc Expenditure - leaving gifts	236.75	-	-	-	236.75	-
5015 - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	24.33	-	24.33	-
5100 - Printing	785.42	-	-	-	785.42	832.24
5101 - Office stationary	361.29	-	-	-	361.29	263.78
5102 - Telephone and Internet	944.18	-	-	-	944.18	951.66
5103 - Postage	6.80	-	-	-	6.80	-
7000 - Wages - Admin	-	-	6,512.53	-	6,512.53	5,863.14
7001 - Wages - Children's worker	-	-	14,053.24	-	14,053.24	13,447.30
7100 - Ministers discretionary fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
7101 - Travelling (Mileage)	227.79	-	-	-	227.79	357.21
7102 - Hospitality	123.80	-	179.93	-	303.73	62.98
7103 - Worship resources	761.26	-	315.76	-	1,077.02	1,056.44
7104 - Organist costs	-	-	-	-	-	200.00
7200 - Donations	384.10	-	-	-	384.10	384.83
8000 - Denomination cost - Church of England	15,711.36	-	-	-	15,711.36	14,816.62
8001 - Denomination cost - URC	6,750.00	-	-	-	6,750.00	6,389.00
8002 - Denomination cost - Methodist	1,878.84	-	-	-	1,878.84	1,783.85
8003 - Denomination cost - Baptist	86.80	-	-	-	86.80	74.75
8004 - Denomination cost - Visiting ministers	40.00	-	-	-	40.00	40.00
8005 - Funeral fees	234.00	-	-	-	234.00	1,140.00
Other expenditure Totals	**57,044.91**	**-**	**24,452.21**	**-**	**81,497.12**	**79,999.40**
Expenditure Grand totals	**57,044.91**	**-**	**24,452.21**	**-**	**81,497.12**	**79,999.40**
Income less expenditure	(5,224.94)		10,597.71		5,372.77	5,588.85

The Church in Great Notley

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/01/2026 £	At 31/01/2025 £
Fixed assets						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Cash At Bank And In Hand	39,953.91	-	23,381.13	-	63,335.04	57,962.27
	39,953.91	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Total assets less current liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	39,953.91	-	-	-	39,953.91	46,098.72
Designated						
Restricted						
Restricted - Childrens And Youth Worker Salary	-	-	18,235.80	-	18,235.80	9,874.69
Restricted - Deanery Printing Fund	-	-	267.69	-	267.69	-
Restricted - Flower Fund	-	-	106.36	-	106.36	126.29
Restricted - Organist Remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	480.00
Restricted - Philip Howard Bequest	-	-	119.64	-	119.64	319.64
Restricted - Sensory Room	-	-	2,507.98	-	2,507.98	-
Restricted - Worship Area Carpet/Flooring	-	-	2,143.66	-	2,143.66	1,062.93
Fund Totals	**39,953.91**	**-**	**23,381.13**	**-**	**63,335.04**	**57,962.27**