St James Church 2025

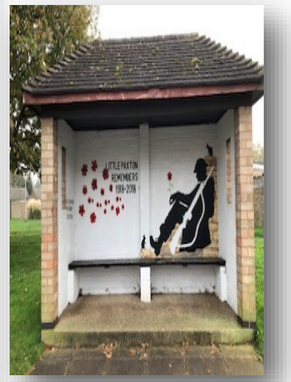


















Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ending 31st December 2025



St James' Church, Little Paxton

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

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St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

Total income for the year			78,078.22
Barclays General account balance at 1st January		5,655.19	
	Transfers in	5,000.00	
	Transfer out	15,000.00	(4,344.81)
CCLA General account balance at 1st January		0.00	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	15,000.00	
	Transfer out	5,000.00	10,000.00
CCLA Restoration account at 1st January		26,310.62	
	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	26,310.62
100 Club balance at 1st January		3,736.66	
	Donations	5,665.96	
	Transfer out	0.00	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	6,402.62
	Draw payments	(2,980.00)	**£116,446.65**
Total			

Total expenditure for the year	72,344.40
Barclays General Account balance at 31st December	1,389.01
CCLA General Account balance at 31st December	10,000.00
Restoration Fund	26,310.62
100 Club at 31st December	6,402.62
Total	**£116,446.65**

CCLA Account CB3025111-001 / 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares @ 31.12.25
1031 @ 22.1983 = £22,886.45

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater, Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated 16th February 2026

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 18th February 2026

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Deputy Churchwarden & Interim Chair of PCC
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Treasurer
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Community Space Manager
Graeme Anness
Email: graemeanness@gmail.com

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)
Sandra Macrow
sandramacrow@btinternet.com

Authorised Lay Minister (ALM)
Nick Gellatly
nick.gellatly@gmail.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

Opening Words from our Interim Chair for our Parochial Church Council
Ken Heley, Deputy Churchwarden

Welcome everybody to the 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St James Church, Little Paxton. Those of you who have been here before will notice the change in Chairman! On the retirement of Annette, our longstanding Vicar, I enthusiastically volunteered to take over the post.

For those who do not know me, my name is Ken Heley and I have been an established member of this church and I have, for some time now, held the post of Deputy Churchwarden.

I should point out that technically my title is Interim Chairman, until we appoint our next incumbent, at which point I will hand the reigns back to the ordained minister.

Since mid summer our Churchwardens have taken over the running of the church in all aspects (huge thanks to Helen & Nicci) and it has been a seamless transition. They have been ably assisted by Graeme, our Community Space Manager who actually does far more than his position requires, along with our very talented treasurer Kate.

Services have continued as normal as possible, in person and online with the assistance from two St Neots based priests covering our two Communion services. All other services have been covered by Sandra Macrow (LLM) and Nick Gellatly (ALM). A huge thanks to all four of them, but particularly to Sandra & Nick as we could not have continued without them. Their help and guidance has been invaluable.

Ken Heley
Deputy Churchwarden & Interim Chairman of the PCC
April 2026

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

Administrative information
St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration
During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission. (Registration No. 1144292)

Worship Report for the AGM from Nick Gellatly, Authorised Lay Minister

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you all.

As we gather for this year's AGM, I find myself holding together two deep truths: gratitude for all that has been, and hope for all that is still unfolding among us.

Since Annette's retirement in July 2025, it has been a privilege and a responsibility to help lead worship in this place we love. I am deeply thankful for the generosity, encouragement, and quiet faithfulness of so many of you who have sustained the life of St James in these months of transition.

Worship over the past year has been shaped not by certainty, but by attentiveness - to God, to one another, and to the world around us. Together, we have tried to create a space that is open, inclusive, and rooted in compassion. Our sermons and reflections have leaned towards a vision of faith that is generous rather than narrow, curious rather than defensive, and grounded in love rather than fear. Again and again, we have returned to the simple but demanding call of Jesus: to love our neighbour, to welcome the stranger, and to seek justice with humility.

In our services, we have explored themes of belonging and authenticity - recognising that each of us comes as we are, with our own stories, questions, and journeys. There has been a conscious effort to ensure that all feel seen and valued: younger and older, long-standing members and newcomers, those full of faith and those still searching. I believe this spirit of openness is not an optional extra for the church today, but central to the Gospel we proclaim.

We have also sought to mark the rhythms of the Church year in ways that speak to contemporary life and which 'keep the plates spinning' in the absence of a resident in the Vicarage. From the quiet waiting of Advent to the hopeful light of Christmas, from the reflective honesty of Lent to the joy and challenge of Easter, our worship has aimed to connect ancient story with present reality. The reflections we have shared via Facebook, Village Views and Quartet have tried to hold together honesty about suffering with a resilient hope rooted in God's enduring love and to offer a welcome to all who see this building as their village church.

Beyond the church walls, the past year has been marked by significant challenges in our nation and across the world. We have lived through a time of economic uncertainty, political tension, and deepening division in public life. Globally, ongoing conflicts continue to bring suffering, displacement, and fear to countless communities. The images and stories we encounter can feel overwhelming, and at times it is hard to know how to respond.

SIMPLY SATURDAY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

A Saturday lunch group was proposed by Leisa Hunt towards the end of 2017 and Simply Saturday began early in 2018. We are grateful for the many people who have taken a role in arranging entertainment, obtaining grants, and general running of the group.

In 2025 Simply Saturday met on the first Saturday of each month, 12.30 – 2.30pm, with a bring & share lunch (except in December when we had a catered Christmas lunch) followed by entertainment. We had many different singers and some talks during the year, and we have a varied list of entertainment booked for 2026.

We have an average of about 40 members attending each month, and our members look forward to coming, some for the company at a weekend as well as for the shared meal and entertainment.

We ask for a £3 donation per person towards costs and have a raffle at each meeting to help raise funds. For Paxfest in July members donated items to make up hampers to be raffled, which along with a 'Name the Bear' game raised further funds towards running costs of the group. We were grateful for a grant of £1500 from Tesco during the year, which was to be used towards payment for entertainment and the Christmas lunch.

Churchyard Maintenance
Notes from Dave Gutteridge.

There is always plenty to do for the churchyard team!

We keep the grave areas tidy, there is always plenty of weeding, strimming, mowing plus the thousands of leaves to clear at the year's end.
We also clear the guttering when needed. All in all the churchyard is a very nice place to keep
tidy. And we always have tea and biscuits at half time.

We would be delighted to welcome any new volunteers so do give me a ring on 07895390400 if you would like to know more.
Dave Gutteridge

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to the churchyard team. Thanks and all good wishes to Dave Gutteridge and the team. The churchyard gives much pleasure to us all.

The Deanery Synod report for 2025

The Synod has met four times during the year at Little Paxton Church to discuss matters of interest for the parishes of the deanery. The Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, Ven Richard Harlow has attended two meetings this year and spoke about the importance of safeguarding and also future allocation of clergy in the deanery but also the current state of the Deanery finances as the Diocesan Finance Officer had failed to attend two meetings. The latter and concerns over the payment of Ministry Share prompted an extra meeting in December. Parishes are finding it increasingly difficult to pay the share and if it is not paid in full by the end of the year there is no deanery rebate and there is likely to be an even higher increase in requested share to pay for ministry.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones & Graeme Anness for continuing to represent Little Paxton at the Deanery meetings.

Tower Captain's report – March 2026

2025 was a busy year for the bellringers. We have rung for most Sunday services and continued with our practice sessions on Thursday evenings.
A bell has been tolled for 5 funerals and all 6 were rung for the thanksgiving service for Frankie Lovelock and for the internment of ashes of Sheila Smith.
The bells were rung for 3 weddings.
The bells were rung for Canon Annette Reed's last service, the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ day and half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
We hosted a District Meeting and tea in July, which was very well attended with over 30 attendees. We were complimented on our facilities, lovely bells and wonderful tea. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event.
We had 5 visiting bands, 2 other visitors and 2 quarter peals were rung, one by our local band on the occasion of the retirement of Canon Annette Reed.
The promised new ropes duly arrived, and we are grateful for the help of Geoff Burn for fitting them in March. We are very happy with them, thank you.
We have had 2 learners this year, one unfortunately leaving to go to university, and one coming on well. We would still like to recruit some more ringers, especially any in the village who are already competent.
I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the ringers who support St James and dedicate their time to the Thursday practice and service ringing. It is important to keep the art of ringing alive and to give service to the church in this way.

Mary Parnham
Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Mary and her team.

Yet within our worship, we have not turned away from these realities. Instead, we have tried to bring them honestly before God - in our prayers, in our silence, and in our shared reflection. We have remembered that the Christian calling is not to offer easy answers, but to remain present: to stand in solidarity with those who suffer, to pray for peace with sincerity, and to commit ourselves, however modestly, to being peacemakers in our own lives.

In this context, the message of Christ feels both more challenging and more necessary than ever. God's desire for peace is not abstract or distant; it calls us into action - into lives shaped by reconciliation, kindness, and courage. Whether in our families, our community, or our wider society, we are invited to resist the pull of division and to choose the harder path of understanding and grace.

Closer to home, I have been continually encouraged by the quiet ways in which this church embodies that calling. In conversations over coffee, in acts of care and support, in the willingness to listen to one another even when we differ - there is a lived expression of faith here that speaks more powerfully than any words. This is something to cherish and to nurture as we look ahead.

There are few clearer expressions of lived faith among us than Soup Monday - a simple, gentle offering of hospitality at the heart of our community. With no liturgy, no prayers, and no expectations placed on those who come, it quietly embodies the essence of the Gospel: a table where all are welcome, and where neighbour meets neighbour in warmth and dignity. In its unassuming way, it reflects the very calling of the Church - to offer presence, kindness, and belonging, and to make space for love to be shared in its most natural and human form.

As we move into the coming year, there will no doubt be further change. Questions remain about leadership, about the future shape of our worship, and about how we continue to serve our community well. But I believe we face these questions not from a place of anxiety, but from a foundation of trust - in God, and in one another.

My hope is that St James will continue to be a place where people encounter not judgement but welcome; not exclusion but belonging; not fear but hope. A place where faith is lived with honesty, where doubt is not a threat but part of the journey, and where love remains at the centre of all we do.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your kindness to me and to each other, and your shared commitment to this community.

With every blessing,
Nick

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are as follows:
please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:	
The Reverend Canon Annette Reed*	Chair (up to her retirement on 29th July 2025)
Churchwardens:	
Helen Young*	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Nicci Jones* (*Safeguarding Officer*)	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Deputy Churchwardens:	
Ken Heley	(Appointed Chair from 29th July 2025)
LLMs	
Sandra Macrow	Joined PCC from March 2025
ALMs	
Nick Gellatly	Joined PCC from January 2025

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (ideally for three years from their election date):

Nicci Jones* (Churchwarden)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024

Elected PCC Members:

Ken Heley	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
June Griffin	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Glen Doick	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Iris Slade	Stepped down from APCM 27 April 2025
Kate Bywater (Treasurer)	Elected from APCM 27 April 2025
Dennis Konadu	Elected at PCC meeting 27 April 2025

Co-opted Members:

None

Safeguarding Report for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
Prepared by Benefice Safeguarding Officer Nicci Jones assisted by Graeme Anness.

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:
The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Nicci Jones is our named benefice Safeguarding Officer.

By 2025 Nicci & Graeme had completed all required DBS checks across the four churches. However, the company that the Diocese had been using to undertake the checks had a data breach during the summer of 2025. There was then a delay of a few months while they waited for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to inform them of the new company to be used moving forward. There is now a new company called UCheck which facilitates all the DBS checks across the Diocese. Nicci and Graeme will be working through the DBS checks that are now coming up for renewal. The benefice will continue to use the Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Dashboard for monitoring and recording safeguarding practices required of each church community. Nicci and Graeme endeavour to keep up-to-date and deal with any action requests from Ely Diocese.

Every three years, all Church officers are required to repeat their highest level of training course completed and training has continued to take place across the benefice during 2025. Safeguarding is on every agenda of all benefice PCC Meetings and APCMs to ensure we are all very conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our benefice churches. It is a requirement of all PCC members and Church Officers to undertake the Basic & Foundation training. This can be done online or within a training course. Nicci and Graeme endeavour to run training courses for all benefice PCC members and make it as convenient as possible. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicci Jones and Graeme Anness for their work in the essential roles of Benefice Safeguarding Officer and DBS Administrator.

As we move forward to the possibility of a new incumbent, Nicci would like to ask whether there is anyone else across the benefice that would like to step up and assist in this important work to create a safeguarding team. Do contact her directly if you would like to know more.

Parish Giving Scheme
A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit - and we are hoping to continue this during 2026 by continuing to push our £1 Challenge promotion. We have been trying to make people within the Village, who don't use the church regularly but do still enjoy the benefits of our community space, aware that we require continued funding to maintain the space and to provide all the wonderful events and services on a regular basis. We have made a positive start so far. All applications can now be completed on-line.

Church Fabric Report
Thank you to Ken Heley, Eric Young, Graeme Anness & Mary Parnham for their help in keeping the church building running efficiently.

Item(s) inspected	Inspection Frequency	Inspection Date/Installed	Notes
Clock	Annual	26 May 2025	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley and Eric Young. PCC keeping under annual review the possible need for a professional inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	16 Jan 2025	Due in 2030. SPS Pumps & Engineering
Bells and Bell Frame		25 May 2022	Service due by Taylors in Dec 2025. Cancelled. TBC. Annual service not needed. Ropes replaced 21 March 2025.
General maintenance	Ongoing	Ongoing	Light replaced in Vestry/Broken ceiling panel replaced in Vestry/ Porch Door catching, adjustment made/Replacement of outdoor motion sensor/Mastic replaced behind kitchen sink
Gutters	Annual	Autumn 2025	Checked outside soakaway drains
Electrics	5 yearly	12 June 2023	Due in 2028
Boiler Service	Annual	17 Feb 2025	New boiler installed 6 February 2021
Lightning Conductors	5 yearly	23 Jan 2025	Due in 2030.
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	3 Feb 2025	Fully serviced.
Drains, Gulleys & lighting	Unofficial	Not inspected	Drains and accessible gulleys cleaned Oct 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2026.

Benefice Administrator, Nicci Jones, was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

Following Annette's retirement, Nicci has taken on all administrative duties across the four churches.

The Community Space Manager for St James' Church, Graeme Anness, was appointed in April 2021 and is a strategic member of the St James' team.

In 2025
PCC meetings held on:
13th January 2025
4th March 2025
22nd April 2025
23rd June 2025
24th September 2025
24th November 2025

Electoral Roll
The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). As at 31 December 2025 there were 85 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people required to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting. Every six years the Roll has to be renewed. The Roll was renewed in March 2025 which was the six years since the roll had been renewed. As at the meeting in April 2026, there were 82 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones for her work as Electoral Roll Officer in 2025.

Church attendance

The total footfall for 2025 was at 3,086. The numbers at All Age Worship are still particularly encouraging. We continued to provide live streamed services during 2025 which are well received. Despite going into vacancy during the summer of 2025, our attendance numbers remain positive moving into 2026.

* **Attendance which was limited by various Covid restrictions**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	2024	2025
Number of services	*64	*91	120	91	82	84
Total footfall of adults attending services	*1503	*2232	3734	3384	2784	3,086
Total footfall of children attending all services	*54	*359	719	723	461	528
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service (*only 5 were held in 2021*)	*31	*26	29	31.5	31.9	28
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	*31	*19	28	30.5	30.2	27.6
Number of home communions	5	*0	0	3	4	0
Number of weddings	4	*1	5	4	1	4
Number of funerals	9	9	13	8	6	8
Graveside service	-	1	0	0	2	0
Services held at crematorium & FD Premises	-	5	11	7	5	NK
Interment of ashes	-	7	7	10	5	4
Memorial Services (*for the Queen 2022)	-	-	1	1	2	2
Number of children baptised	1	10	15	6	5	4
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday All Age Worship) (only 2 held in 2021)	*40	*30	39	41	38	31.8
Average number of children at All Age Worship	*7	*0	3	4.5	4	2.5
Number of Morning Prayer services on Sundays	-	27	13	12	17	11
Average number at Sunday Morning Prayer services	-	23	28	28.25	28.4	36.3
Christingle, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day in-person services **(*2020 & 2021 include viewing figures for YouTube Christmas services and 2022/2023 for Outdoor carols)***	260	213	270	276	225	231
Easter Day attendance **(+ *viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020 & 2021. (2022/2023 without YouTube)***	231	213	72	53	45	38
Wed a.m. Holy Communion average attendance (2021 from June) (monthly in 2023/2024)	5	5	6	5	4	6.5

No church community can thrive without steady financial support.

Kate reported that at the beginning of 2025 our financial position was holding steady but we would need to keep a close eye on things throughout the year, particularly with Annette's retirement coming half way through the year.

Kate confirmed that although at first glance it would look as if we are in a healthy position financially, most of the money we have is tied to other uses other than general. We are currently trying to pay just under £4,500 per month towards the Ministry Share.

Kate confirmed that the church had received £20,000 in 2025 from the National Lottery Awards for All Funding. Kate had applied to the charity on the basis of help with our community events, particularly the Souper Mondays. This money was to be used over a period of 24 months and would in no way be able to be used towards the Ministry Share.

Kate reported that the Parish Giving Scheme was currently bringing in around £700 per month. It was agreed by the PCC that it would be worth re-advertising the £1 challenge during 2026.

By the end of the year it was very clear that the money coming in from our special events during 2025 had made a huge contribution to our ability to pay our share of the ministry costs to Ely. We could not continue to function without the help of our fundraising and events leaders.

The 100 Club was looking very healthy at the moment, which was also a fantastic source of income and thank you to those that continue to contribute.

The accounts up to 31st December 2025 were agreed at the March PCC meeting

The PCC thanked Kate for all her hard work over the past year and for her continued work and assistance in maintaining our financial position.

We do want to also say a big thank you to:

Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.

Helen Young for running the 100 Club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building, appliances and equipment. The 100 Club had 101 members by the end of 2025.

Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

Events cont...

9 November	Annual Remembrance Service
12 November	Deanery Synod Meeting
22 November	Music Bingo
25 November	Film - The Holiday
6 December	Simply Saturday Christmas Meal
13 December	Southonian Singers Christmas Concert
14 December	Carols by Candlelight
16 December	Local History Group - Little Paxton
17 December	Scouts Christingle
24 December	Christingle
24 December	First Communion of Christmas
25 December	Christmas Communion

Church Attendance Cont'd ..
Some random examples of YouTube statistics for numbers engaged with our livestreaming/ recordings during 2025. You will see from the figures that our on-line presence is highly valued. Most of these views take place subsequent to the services.

Date	Service	YouTube Viewing
12th January 2025	Holy Communion	60
16th February 2025	Morning Prayer	64
18th April 2025	Devotional Hour (Holy Week)	39
4th July 2025	Memorial Service	88
6th July 2025	All Age Worship	234
13th July 2025	Holy Communion	214
28th September 2025	Holy Communion	29
26th October 2025	All Souls Service	77

During 2025 our livestreaming facility continued to be used frequently for Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings together with many services having photograph presentations being projected onto a screen.

Social Media outreach

The Paxtons Benefice Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/thepaxtonsbenefice

The Benefice Facebook page was created on 21 October 2012 and carries a lot of great benefice news. Since then, the Facebook page has reported on hundreds of benefice events and services, offered some prayer space and reflections and frequently shares thoughtful pictures from across our four churches.
We now have 820 followers and have to be mindful of obtaining permission from people to post their picture and hope that we are always sensitive to this important safeguard.
We are always pleased when we receive positive comments about the page. It is a very good vehicle to use when commending our YouTube videos and we are grateful that there is no cost in having a Facebook Page account.

During the vacancy, Nicci has taken over management of the Facebook page and our various events continue to be advertised. Nick Gellatly has provided weekly reflections and these have also been well received.

The Benefice Website
Another source of news about events is the benefice website which is maintained by our administrator, Nicci Jones. There is a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. Among the pages, you will find a calendar with benefice events and a library of the Keeping in Touch weekly newsletters and back issues of the Quartet magazine.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter

Despite the vacancy, we have continued to provide our monthly benefice magazine. Nicci now liaises with all four churches about content and edits and then arranges printing. Several people from across the benefice contribute regularly to the Quartet magazine across for which we are again grateful. Our thanks go to Ken and Alison Bowles who kindly distribute Quartet to the deliverers and for the efforts of those delivering around Little Paxton. Quartet is delivered to folk in Little Paxton who have signed up to receive the Newsletter at a cost of £5 per year. It can also be read on our benefice website. It is also sent out to households in our other three church communities and 400 copies are produced each month.

Community use of Church building

Throughout the year St James' Church continues to be used by many different groups and we frequently receive requests for new bookings.

<u>The Groups who benefit from use of the church are</u>:

Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)
Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)
Chair Pilates (Monday evenings & Tuesday mornings, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)
K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)
Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)
Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)
Souper Monday (Community food - second Monday of the month)
Local History Group (monthly)
Fish and chip lunches (monthly)
Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
Little Paxton School Concerts and Harvest services
Occasional choir practice nights
Guitar Practice
Flower arranging
U3A Singing Group
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownie events
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese meetings and trainings
As you can see from the extensive list … our church is busy on most days!

All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) with assistance from the Community Space Manager (Graeme Anness) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed on our benefice website.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2025

28 January	Film - Gosford Park
5 February	Deanery Synod Meeting
25 February	Film - Castaway
25 March	Film - Ever After
29 March	Benefice Safeguarding Training
30 March	Mothering Sunday Service
13 April	Lent Discussion Group
17 April	Passover Meal
18 April	Devotional Hour for Holy Week
19 April	Children's Easter Activities
20 April	Easter Sunday Service
27 April	Annual Parochial Council Meeting
29 April	Film - Erin Brockovich
7 May	Deanery Synod Meeting
8 May	Archdeacon's Visitations
13 May	Local History Group - Little Paxton
24 May	Plant Sale & Ploughman's Lunch
27 May	Film - Les Miserables
29 May	Guitar Practice
31 May	Private Celebration
14 June	Wedding
24 June	Film - Legally Blonde
28 June	Wedding
29 June	Songs of Praise 5th Sunday Service
4 July	Memorial Service
12 July	PAXFEST
19 July	Huntingdon District Ringers AGM
27 July	Benefice Celebration for Annette's Retirement (Quarter Peal Attempt)
29 July	Film - West Side Story
31 July	Guitar Practice
26 August	Film - Pride & Prejudice
3 September	Deanery Synod Meeting
29 September	History Talk
30 September	Film - Robin Hood Prince of Thieves
7 October	Little Paxton Primary School Harvest Services x 3
11 October	Quiz Night
26 October	All Souls Service
28 October	Film - War Horse
30 October	Guitar Practice

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2025

Income		2025			2024		
Collections				5,027.86			4,798.04
Donations				2,683.08			5,445.27
Covenants /Regular Giving				12,269.05			12,565.81
100 Club				0.00			10,000.00
Loans received				0.00			0.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				5,248.60			5,943.56
CBF Income Fund				2,160.06			2,060.57
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Garden Plants Sale & Ploughmans	1,198.00	1,198.00		1,238.00	1,238.00	
	Soup Kitchen	3,019.79	3,288.20		3,592.14	3,657.14	
	Paxfest	818.55	818.55		1,706.53	2,067.18	
	Autumn Fair BBQ	94.52	94.52		0.00	0.00	
	Quiz Night	317.35	339.00		0.00	0.00	
	Books, Cards, Preserves, Puzzles & Tower	604.72	604.72		302.05	302.05	
	Race Night	0.00	0.00		438.65	438.65	
	Lone Chair Arranger	1,020.00	1,020.00		0.00	0.00	
	Music Bingo	495.50	516.50		0.00	0.00	
	Open Day	0.00	0.00		196.71	196.71	
	Film Shows	915.70	1,232.93		712.07	1,049.92	
	Book & Puzzle Sale	0.00	0.00		553.06	553.06	
	Carols Around the Tree	0.00	0.00		(38.27)	0.00	
	Total	**8,484.13**		**9,112.42**	**8,700.94**		**9,502.71**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			2,322.57			2,204.27
	Grant			20,000.00			4,550.00
	Grave reservation fee			600.00			600.00
Fees	Diocese fees		3,353.00			3,633.00	
	Statutory retained fees		3,599.70			1,730.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		880.00			470.00	
	Total			**7,832.70**			**5,833.00**
Parish Council				728.67			837.16
Rent				1,522.90			1,522.90
Quartet/printing/stall				450.00			584.00
Church Use				8,120.31			8,324.59
VAT Reclaimed				0.00			2,386.65
Sub total				**78,078.22**			**77,158.53**
General account balance at 1st January				5,655.19			10,661.87
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
General a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		5,000.00			19,921.57	
	Transfer out		(15,000.00)	(10,000.00)		(12,426.48)	7,495.09
CCLA General Account balance at 1st January			0.00			2,565.68	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		15,000.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		(5,000.00)	10,000.00		(2,565.68)	0.00
Restoration account at 1st January			26,310.62			31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		0.00			12,426.48	
	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		0.00			(17,355.89)	
	Interest		0.00	26,310.62		0.00	26,310.62
100 Club balance at 1st January			3,736.66			10,612.67	
	Donations		5,665.96			4,673.99	
	Transfer out		0.00			(10,000.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence		(20.00)			(20.00)	
	Draw payments		(2,980.00)	6,402.62		(1,530.00)	3,736.66
Bell Ringers money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Total				**116,446.65**			**125,362.77**

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2025

			2025			2024	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		41,891.28			41,288.91	
	Vicar's Expenses		819.91			1,409.04	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		0.00			153.20	
	Copying/admin		1,470.69			1,110.34	
	Quartet magazine		1,521.00			1,480.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		316.98			300.68	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		6,301.25			4,928.13	
	Total			**52,321.11**			**50,670.30**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		(1,424.84)			17,639.09	
	Caretaker		5,257.38			4,814.14	
	Insurance		2,148.74			2,094.62	
	Churchyard Maintenance		128.18			865.25	
	Electricity		1,322.73			2,329.26	
	Gas		2,591.93			2,908.19	
	Anglian Water		469.16			237.39	
	Boiler		216.00			204.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		2,454.66			415.50	
	Housekeeping/Consumables		1,621.63			1,041.71	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		0.00			0.00	
	Flowers		238.49			386.14	
	Total			**15,024.06**			**32,935.29**
	Fund raising expenses		667.01			801.77	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		0.00			300.00	
	Royal British Legion		0.00			200.00	
	Children's Society		120.00			175.00	
	Sue Ryder Hospice		131.15			175.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Parish Giving		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**968.16**			**1,701.77**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		3,353.00			3,633.00	
	Defib Pads & Battery		171.54			0.00	
	Tots Group Equipment & expenses		487.54			692.10	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		18.99			27.84	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**4,031.07**			**4,352.94**
Sub total				**72,344.40**			**89,660.30**
Barclays General				8,741.20			11,765.83
CCLA General				10,000.00			0.00
Accruals				(7,352.19)			(6,110.64)
CCLA Restoration				26,310.62			26,310.62
100 Club Account				6,402.62			3,736.66
Total				**116,446.65**			**125,362.77**

	Check Total:	0.00	0.00

CCLA Account CB3025111-001 / 6141420015 - Church Lands

1,031 shares at 2219.83 pence per share £22,886.45

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

Total income for the year			78,078.22
Barclays General account balance at 1st January		5,655.19	
	Transfers in	5,000.00	
	Transfer out	15,000.00	(4,344.81)
CCLA General account balance at 1st January		0.00	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	15,000.00	
	Transfer out	5,000.00	10,000.00
CCLA Restoration account at 1st January		26,310.62	
	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	26,310.62
100 Club balance at 1st January		3,736.66	
	Donations	5,665.96	
	Transfer out	0.00	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw payments	(2,980.00)	6,402.62
Total			**£116,446.65**

Total expenditure for the year	72,344.40
Barclays General Account balance at 31st December	1,389.01
CCLA General Account balance at 31st December	10,000.00
Restoration Fund	26,310.62
100 Club at 31st December	6,402.62
Total	**£116,446.65**

CCLA Account CB3025111-001 / 614142001S - Church Lands

No of shares @ 31.12.25
1031 @ 22.1983 = £22,886.45

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

K Bywater

Signed and dated 16th February 2026

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 18th February 2026

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Symonds

Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 18th February 2026