BAPTISM, THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION REPORT

Since the last St. Mary's APCM, no children have been brought for Dedication. There has been one Thanksgiving service for the birth of a child, and he was baptised a short time later.

Altogether, after two years of there being no baptisms at all, there have been four children baptised, two girls and two boys. We praise the Lord for this, and praise Him again for the seven adults who have baptised by full immersion - four women and three men. Our thanks go to the people who transported and set up the portable baptistry.

There has also been one man confirmed at the service at Rothley. Please continue to pray for more people in our village to respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in the way that these recently baptised adult brothers and sisters have, by first coming to church, and then coming to Christ our Saviour. Their names are now written not just in the parish Baptism Register, but in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Celia Dewey.

Men's breakfast

For some months now, we have been meeting on the first Saturday of the month for a men's breakfast which includes sausages, bacon, eggs, hash browns, beans, mushrooms, and, on occasion, black pudding. It's been a great occasion for men to get together and chat, spending time looking at the Bible and what it means to be a biblical man.

I'd like to thank James, Bones, Peter Ward and Will for helping me cook for this wonderful event. We've had between seven and 12 men attend regularly, and it's been a really good opportunity to build friendships.

Sileby Parochial Church Council
Annual Reports
April 2025 - April 2026



Index

Rector's report	3
Churchwardens' reports	
Fabric	8
Pastoral	10
Secretary's report	12
Treasurer's report	15
Safeguarding	16
Friends of St. Mary's	21
Deanery Synod	22
Benefice Council	22
Electoral Roll	22
Foodbank	23
Ladies Fellowship	24
XTB	26
Deep Impact	27
Young Saints	28
Momentym	29
Baptisms and Thanksgivings	30
Men's Breakfast	30

MOMENTUM

The number of young people attending remains at just 5, they are however a committed and enthusiastic group turning up each week and really engaging and thinking about what Jesus means in their lives. It has been an awesome privilege to be walking with them through their faith journey. They are a bonded group who enjoy fun and laughter in an environment that is safe and inclusive.

However, with two members possibly leaving at the end of this academic year, the viability of the group will have to be carefully considered.

This year we completed our studies on the Ten Commandments and then had a look at the calling of Moses, the plagues and the escape of the Israelites in the book of Exodus.

The Summer Term ended with the traditional LaserQuest game in Loughborough. There was the usual levels of competitiveness from the adult leaders who seemed determined to "get their own back" on the youngsters!!

At Christmas we held our family get together with food, a quiz and some willing adults telling the nativity story through poems. If you missed Matt Handford dressed up as Mary then you missed a real treat.!! .

It would be great if more people supported the events we put on to show our young people that they are loved and important and of course they are a terrific opportunity to invite nieces, nephews, grandchildren or friends and neighbours to.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders who give up their evenings so willingly to serve in this vital mission field. So thank you to Peter Scott who comes every week and makes much needed cups of tea; to Carolyn Jones, Steve Hall, Dave Hulett, Jon Hunting, Pete Cotgreave and Duncan Beet, thank you, good and faithful servants.

Thank you also to Iris Stevens for cooking delicious meals for us.

Joy Wood
Youth and Children's Worker

YOUNG SAINTS

The young Saints group, led by Rev'd Heather Hall, have continued to meet, on a monthly basis, to study the Bible and pray together. During the year it has been good to see how the members of the group have become more confident and stronger in their faith. They again planned and led the Christingle service this year. Members of the group are now on the reading and intercession rota and are able to write the intercessions they use without needing support. It has been a privilege to see how these young people have matured during the last year. It is possible that this group might close in the Autumn term as the members get older and move away.

Revd. Heather Hall

RECTOR'S REPORT

I have been in ministry since 2000, and I've never seen a period of renewal and revival like the one I've seen in the last 12 months. This was mainly focused on the life of the church at Saint Mary's, but we have seen blessings across the benefice.

Over the last 12 months, we have seen 9 total-immersion baptisms for adults, 1 confirmation, and 3 baptisms for children. We have heard of God's work in people's lives in the most profound way. We have seen deliverance ministry work in powerful ways, and we have held a prayer vigil for a family facing a terrible trial. We have heard how people in desperate situations have found the peace and love of God, transforming their lives. The testimonies we have heard have reflected how God meets us in the darkest moments and brings light and hope.

We have seen the well-being café blossom, Jo start doing crafts, and people find great support through the food bank, which is blessed with a fabulous team. Then there is a ladies' fellowship who keep up a faithful ministry on Tuesday afternoons.

We have also started the men's breakfast, which regularly sees numbers between eight and 15, who are treated to a full English breakfast. I would like to thank James, Will, and Bones for helping me cook.

In the life of one family, we have lived with the challenge of cancer, but by God's glorious grace, we have seen faith blossom and hold firm in the face of great challenge. And week by week at St Mary's, God has blessed us with new people, and when I speak to them, they're not looking just for a church to belong to; many of them have been reading their Bibles and are seeking an active and real relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This has taught me one valuable lesson: that the Lord is close to his church.

We have not held any obvious evangelistic events, yet the Lord has been gracious and brought many to the church. A few highlights of the year include:

* The flower festival at Seagrave
* Concerts at Seagrave
* James Carey paying another visit to Sileby
* The men's breakfast
* Crafting at the well-being café
* The memorial service
* The painted crib, built so beautifully by Sam and Jo, travelled around the village and spent 10 days in front of the church in Sileby
* The Christmas services and a Christmas lunch club
* The use of art in the services

At Christmas, the number of people attending services was up, and we were blessed by Young Saints leading our Christingle service at Sileby. We had a wonderful engagement with all the schools in our benefice, and I would like to thank the children from Redlands Primary School for helping at our Christmas lunch club.

I now need to thank the many people who make our church such a special place, people like Rosemary and Roger, who make coffee for us every Sunday morning, Lesley and Luke, our churchwardens, the team that cleans the church, and the most wonderful group of people who work with the children and youth at XTB, DEEP IMPACT and Momentum. You are planting seeds for the future of the church. Then there is our new assistant wardens, the welcoming team, the people who read and pray week by week. Iris and her team need a mention for the wonderful work at the lunch club. And there is Joy who works behind the scenes, Will and my curate Heather, who are both excellent preachers; in fact, there are so many I could name them all here, but whatever role you play in the church, you make the church the body it is by playing your part.

DEEP IMPACT

This year has been a year of consistency in terms of our attendance at Deep Impact. We have four regular attendees along with several who attend periodically, meaning some Sundays we can have about 6 young people in attendance.

For the duration of 2025, we continued to operate with two volunteer leaders, meeting two times a month. We took a short break for the summer as usual but continued with our fortnightly sessions in the Autumn term. Following the Christmas holidays, Micki felt the need to step back from planning twice a month as we had kept this pace for nearly 4 years. Thankfully, Matthew stepped up and was willing to take over the other sessions so that the young people could continue meeting twice a month as they were used to doing. He started doing this in February with Annette agreeing to continue to support the two sessions each month. Please continue to pray for more volunteers to step forward to help sow into the lives of our young people as it is very difficult to put a session on when unforeseen circumstances arise when there are no back-up volunteers.

We have continued with the Scripture Union curriculum this year called ‘The Grid’ and have found this to be a simple but useful tool for the sessions. We have worked through the Blue Compendium this past year. Topics we have covered in the past year include a journey through Genesis with a focus on Jacob and his life and lineage, a Christmas focus on the wise men and a look at some of the miracles of Jesus. This year Matthew will focus on guiding the young people to think more critically about modern cultural issues and what Scripture has to say about them.

We continue to persevere in providing consistent teaching and fellowship for our young people every other Sunday. Please pray for guidance for the leaders as we continue to press on and that we can find ways to make the scripture relevant to those we teach. As we have said every year, we are continuing to believe that no matter how small, every seed sown will reap a harvest.

With prayers
Matthew, Micki & Annette
Deep Impact Team

XTB

Numbers attending XTB remain low with only 2 children regularly attending, although this number can increase when the 6 or 7 not so regulars are able to come.

Although numbers are low, every XTB leader is passionate and committed to sharing God's good news with the children and each of the children bring something different to the session and it is a true privilege to be guiding them in their spiritual journey.

We still only have the same 4 leaders that have willingly and sacrificially spent the last 8 or so years teaching or supporting at XTB on a fortnightly basis. We would again beseech anyone that feels that children's work might be their calling to approach either a member of the current children's teaching team or Duncan. It is a deep privilege to witness a child's faith and to be part in 'growing' our next leaders.

This year we have continued to work through a series called "The Kingdom of God" in which we have studied Jesus' power over nature, evil and death and what that means for us. We had a look at Pentecost and a cheeky little dip into the book of Esther. Lately we have of course, been looking at the Easter story and reminding ourselves of just what a price Jesus paid in order that our sins could be forgiven.

All lessons were well received by the children and enthusiasm for learning was high. We have seen our youngsters grown in confidence and knowledge with all children actively participating in reading the bible out loud and answering questions.

We will continue to use our leadership resources and our teaching programmes, as well as thinking creatively on how best to cater for the limited number of children, and if there are measures that we can take to encourage more children.

The XTB Team

At Seagrave, I wish to thank Glen and Mervyn, who has now retired, for their support as my wardens, and at Seagrave and Sileby, I would like to thank the PCC's for their prayerful support and encouragement.

We have seen something very spectacular happen in the life of our church especially at St Mary's. God has been moving with and great power, we have rarely gone a week without welcoming a new face, and it was not because we are doing anything particularly spectacular evangelistically, it has been a movement of God's spirit. Our next challenge is to ensure people feel welcome enough to attend church regularly. Although we have approximately 95 people on the contact list at St Mary's, we regularly have congregations of 38-42, with 4-9 children, and we see people once every 3 weeks, which is very sad. The average size of a congregation in the Church of England is 54 people, which means our weekly attendance is below average, but if everybody attended, we would be considered a medium-sized church. We may have people coming through the front door, but as a loving family, we need to make sure we do not lose them through the back door. We need to help people see that.

* Church attendance pleases and glorifies God
* Church attendance is an act of love towards fellow members of the church
* Church attendance disciplines you in wisdom
* Church attendance effectively improves your physical, spiritual and mental health

Let's just imagine how wonderful and encouraging it would be if our regular congregation attendance figures were up in the mid 90s. It is also important to come to church because, when a lion hunts, the victim is isolated from the larger group before it is attacked. Satan works in the same way; if we do not remain active members of the congregation, it is easier for doubts, sinful habits, and other issues used by Satan to make us ineffective as Christians.

We must remember the bible teaches us in Hebrews chapter 10

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

A different challenge faces Seagrave church: stabilising attendance and reaching out to the village's members through pastoral care.

We live in exciting times, and I believe God is moving in our nation. I believe the key things we need to do over the next 12 months to grow our churches and the kingdom of God are:

* Commit to regular prayer for your neighbours, your friends and the village you live in.
* Make attending church on Sunday a top priority.
* Be prepared to invite strangers and neighbours to actually engage with the church and even come to church, just make that invitation.
* Get excited about what God is doing in our community.
* Get involved in the life of the church through volunteering, whatever that might look like for you.

You might ask what my vision for 2026/2027 is. It is quite simply keeping the main thing the main thing, and by that I mean keep preaching the gospel faithfully, give a warm and moving welcome to any enquirers, disciple the flock, care pastorally for anybody and everybody who needs that love. But the main thing is to keep a church that prays and stays in step with God.

For me, it has been a challenging year on several levels. I continue to be deeply saddened that there is no reconciliation with the congregation at Cossington. Matthew 5:23-24 reminds us, "*So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

Other work which goes on behind the scenes is arranging the termly programme, which Dorothy Astill so ably does; Iris Stevens has taken over from me, the assembling of the programme from Dorothy, getting them printed and then folded and illustrated by Rosemary & Roger. Iris also now keeps records of our members so that we can contact them as and when necessary. Members regularly support the Food Bank, the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, and Jean Calder does a lot of knitting, which brings in more money to support different causes.

Bonita Stukey has once again, watched over our finances with a turnover of over £2,500 as opposed to £1,600 last year…. details of which I will be giving you shortly.

One of the most important jobs is to welcome ladies as they come through the door. Nearly every one of you has done this during the year as welcoming and accepting everyone is at the heart of our Fellowship. I hope that from hearing all this in detail, you will realise that we are a very active group in many diverse ways, but once again, I can only conclude by saying that every one of you is valued and appreciated no matter how big or small a part you play in this group. We all have times when we feel vulnerable, unwell, or anxious but a smile. or simple "Hello" can transform a feeling of sadness and despair into one of encouragement and hope.

May I say "A BIG THANK YOU" for upholding our Motto of:-

Time for God
Time for each other
Time for things which matter to us

Marian E Smith

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Once again, it's my privilege and pleasure to give the Annual Report for the Sileby St Mary's Ladies Fellowship. Again, it's with confidence to say that we have enjoyed another full and exciting year with a wide variety of speakers and activities.

We met on 38 occasions during the year, having 5 services, 3 of which were Songs of Praise, a Harvest Thanksgiving, and a Carol Service. We had 2 afternoon teas; and our Christmas Dinner this year was at Longcliffe Golf Club. Our only Outing was to the Shuttlewood-Clarke Foundation at Ulverscroft. We had 14 Outside Speakers, and 5 of our own members also gave us some most interesting talks. We also had 9 Members' Days when most of us take part; a popular one is when we share Poetry or Readings covering lots of different topics.

Over the year, 46 different ladies attended our meetings: the most at any one meeting was 30, and the least 17. The average attendance was 24 per meeting, which again, is another increase from the average of 21 last year.

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Sadly, one of our long serving and faithful members, Pat Walsom went to be with Our Lord, also a former member, Christine Toone passed away. Jan Dean is still unable to come to our meetings, as she needs to care for John, but several ladies keep in touch with Jan.

Organising and running the Fellowship is still essentially a "Team Effort": with different members sharing the load of work with Dorothy Astill and supported by Anne Blount; Mary Ladkin, Christine Thompson; leading meetings; Sandy Lewis and occasionally Janet Howe playing the keyboard; Rosemary Rawden and Iris Stevens opening and closing the church as well as serving the all-important cuppas and cakes; Christine Thompson also looks after the pastoral side, contacting and taking a card or flowers to anyone when they are ill. Joan Gamble and I are doing less but always have a listening ear for anyone who has a need to share their situation. During our Summer break, once again Christine and Dave Thompson opened their garden to us and provided delicious homemade cake. This raised £100 which Christine & Dave gave to Rainbows.

We usually meet in the Church, but occasionally we have had to meet in the Pochin Hall, and Duncan has kindly organised the chairs etc for us, for which we were very thankful.

On a personal level, I've been deeply changed by my diagnosis of Parkinson's, but I know the bible speaks truth when it says in Romans 8:28-30, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."* And I know God will bless me through this situation. I also hold fast to the truth in Romans 8:18, where I am reminded, *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*

I want to thank you all for your prayers, love, and care, and reassure you that I pray for you regularly and that I'm available whenever you need me.

Duncan Beet

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT - Fabric

St. MARY'S CHURCH – CONTRACTORS

May-25 O Heap – Annual Service of Fire Extinguishers, 1 new Extinguisher (9Ltr Hydrex Eco Water) in Church near West Door, and new Fire Blanket (1.2 x1.2) in Kitchen installed.
Jun-25 Metric Services – Portable Appliance Testing – all passed.
Jun-25 E-Bound AVX – Investigate Nuisance Alarm Notifications 13-May-25. Suggested branches overlapping north roof could be the fault.
Jul-25 The Cumbria Clock Company – Clock hammer on the 4th bell rubbing on the bell rope. Hammer adjusted and also hammer on the 4th large bell adjusted.
Sep-25 John Fox – Staining West Door and the two North Doors, and cleaning the Main South Door.
Nov-25 H&V Services – Annual Service of Boilers. Note: Boilers not working, new Pump required.
Nov-25 H&V Services – New Pump fitted but found to be faulty.
Nov-25 H&V Services – Second New Pump fitted and Boilers serviced. New Ballcock fitted in Water Tank.
Dec-25 The Cumbria Clock Company – Annual Service of Church Clock. Hands on Clocks also aligned.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN HOUSE TASKS & JOBS

Apr-25 - Aug-25 Paths and blue brick gutterings regularly weeded
Apr-25 Glass cleaned above Creche and Kitchen.
May-25 Tower Gutterings and Buckets swept and cleaned.
May-25 Tower Steps swept.
Jun-25 Cutting back beech tree branches protruding over north side of Church roof and taking to tip.
Aug-25 Chancel Gutterings and Buckets swept and cleaned.
Sep-25 – Oct-25 Paths and blue brick gutterings regularly weeded
Sep-25 Clearing Drains North Side of Church.
Sep-25 Clearing North Path of Acorns and Moss. Cleating West Path of Acorns.
Sep-25 – Oct 25 Cutting back and edging Main Path.
Oct-25 Cleaning of North Aisle and North Chancel Gutterings and Buckets.

FOOD BANK

The food bank at the St. Mary's Centre provides weekly packages containing, food, toiletries, sanitary products and occasionally other household items to clients in Sileby. It has been operating since May 2020 and is run as part of the wider Soar Valley Community Food Project (SVCFP), which also includes provision of support for such things as claiming of benefits, debt counselling and grants towards energy bill payments. The food bank operates every week except Christmas and Easter weeks. To compensate for this, the packages the week before these closures contain additional food.

Clients can be individuals, couples or families with children and are referred to the food bank via various agencies and direct approaches to Duncan. Some have been supported over extended periods, whereas others only require support for a few weeks to help them over short-term problems. Clients collect their packages between 10:00 and 11:00am on Tuesdays, from the St. Mary's Centre.

The food bank is run by a team of volunteers – currently 16 in number who are on a rota to carry out tasks associated with the food bank, typically once or twice per month. In addition to collecting and distributing food packages prepared by the SVCFP hub, the food bank keeps a small stock of tinned and other 'long life' food, toiletries, etc. at the St. Mary's Centre in case issue of an 'emergency package' is required.

Currently, the food bank typically supports 10 – 12 clients with food packages each week. Over recent months, the number had been slowly reducing, but several previous clients have since returned requesting further support from the food bank.

Steve Hall, Food Bank Administrator

Deanery Synod

No meetings have been held this year as focus has been on the formation of our Minster Community. Nominations for Deanery Synod representatives are welcome before the APCM**.**

Benefice Council

Report to be given verbally

ELECTORAL ROLL Report 2026

This year we have 44 names on the electoral roll as at 31st December 2025.

Having encouraged our newer members to add their names to the roll, numbers have increased to 51 since .

Oct-25 Cleaning of South Aisle and South Chancel Gutterings and Buckets. Cleaning of East and West Drain Buckets of Porch.
Nov-25 Clearing Beech Leaves from North Side of Church and taking to Tip.
Nov-25 Clearing Oak Leaves from Gravestones Area and taking to Tip.
Nov-25 Clearing Beech Leaves from North Side of Church. Two Building Bags of Leaves taken to Tip.
Dec-25 Christmas Lights put up.
Jan-26 Christmas Lights taken down.
Jan-26 Clock Reset.
Jan-26 Clearing Oak Leaves from Gravestones Area and taking to Tip.
Jan-26 Removing Drain Covers West Door and Clearing Leaves.

ST. MARY'S CENTRE CONTRACTORS

May-25 O Heap – Annual Service of Fire Extinguishers, 1 new extinguisher
(2 KG CO2) installed in Pochin Hall.
Jun-25 Metric Services – Portable Appliance Testing – all passed.
Jun-25 Fireserve Uk – Six monthly Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Maintenance.
Aug-25 Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service – Audit of Fire Rescue Procedures.
Sep-25 Wilson Alarms – Annual Maintenance of Intruder Alarm.
Nov-25 Charnwood Lock & Key – Extract broken key from front entrance door.
Jan-26 Andy Bradley – View lights not working in Pochin Hall to assess replacement.

ST. MARY'S CENTRE IN HOUSE TASKS & JOBS

Apr-25 – Aug-25 Entrance and rear of centre regularly weeded. Refuse bins sorted weekly.
Sep-25 – Oct 25 Entrance and rear of centre regularly weeded. Refuse bins sorted weekly.
Nov-25 – Jan 26 Entrance area cleared of leaves. and rear of centre regularly weeded. Refuse bins sorted

John Burton, Keith Surch, Paul Linggood, Beverly Burton
January 2026

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT - Pastoral

Since being appointed as churchwarden, the weeks seem to have gathered momentum and flown by.

I'd like to give my thanks to Luke for his support during last year, and to Iris who is always willing to help me as new situations present themselves and I have to learn how to deal with them.

I was really pleased that James Faulkner and Pete Ward were interested in exploring the possibility of being Assistant Wardens, their help was greatly appreciated particularly over the Christmas services. James has continued to help but Pete has realised he hasn't got the capacity at the current time, so any other offers of help would be welcome.

My thanks also to Rosemary for helping to open and close the church and providing tea and coffee after the services and to Roger for cheerfully assisting with the washing up. To all those who have offered to clean the church, do the brasses, read lessons, prepare and lead intercessions and provide a warm welcome, your support and loving service does not go unnoticed, and all are needed to keep our church running smoothly.

During last year, the administration to obtain the new boiler was quite considerable and thanks are due to Noreen and John who both helped facilitate and keep us pressing on until our goal was reached and again when the pump failed. Plans then commenced around replacing the sound system, which at the time of writing has now been installed and has made a considerable difference to enable our worship during services.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S TREASURER'S REPORT 2026

In the twenty-six years since the Friends of St Mary's formation £205,283 (£202,769) has been raised through fundraising activities and £103,456 (£103,456) received in grants, totalling £308,739 (£306,225). A total of £304,520 (£304,385) has been contributed towards major repairs to the Church

Our sources of receipts for the year have been Tower Tours & Table Top Sale £921.65, Church Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale – March £491.14, Church Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale – November £423.19, Donations £382.00, Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed £123.75, FOSM Membership Subscriptions & Donations £90.00, CBF No 2 Account Interest £82.96.
A grateful thanks for the generosity of all who have made donations.

A payment was made to J Fox of £135.00 for Cleaning & Staining Church Doors.

In summary at the beginning of 2025 (2024 figures in brackets where applicable), we had total balances of £1,317, (£36,466), Total receipts for the year were £2514, (£6,440). There were payments of £135, (£21,588).
This leaves balances at the end of the year of £3,697, (£1,317).

I would like to thank John Harrison for once again auditing the Friends of St Mary's accounts.

John Burton
Treasurer
February 2026

Narrative

Safeguarding in the Diocese has been improved significantly, we have a much better grasp on this area now, and as per our 2023 report we are continuing to aim for improvement month on month by following Diocese guidelines and support where offered. There are still many training courses available, some face to face, many more online and available at a time to fit in with our busy lives.

Safeguarding in the church is not a box to be ticked but rather a heart issue that we *all* need to engage with and nurture. It is a way to show love and care for our church family and wider community. We want everyone who comes to us to feel safe and loved, listened to and valued. We all have a responsibility to one another, to protect and care for, especially but not limited to those we see as vulnerable. Please see Annette Bowdrey (Netty) to find out more about available training (nettyb77@gmail.com).

There is an online portal which guides us through and helps us to get safeguarding right, this is a fairly new resource which Joy has been using to help us engage and do a great job at safeguarding our church family and wider communities.

Safer Recruitment guidelines MUST be followed consistently, including attending relevant safeguarding training from the outset.

Safeguarding training has been accessed by many more of our PCC members and other volunteers, for which we are very grateful.

Terrier and Inventory

I have checked and updated the terrier and inventory (including the recently acquired sound system) and am satisfied that all items detailed within it are correct to the best of my knowledge.

The existing Terrier and Inventory document is now full, so it is my intention to prepare a new document including an electronic version with photographs by the APCM in 2027.

Future work

We were unable to carry out the Quinquennial in November 2025, but it has now been ordered which is in line with DAC advice to carry out the inspection in a different season.

It has been noticed that some areas of plaster, particularly at high level need attention so permission is currently being sought to proceed with that work and to check the roof for water ingress.

Finally, where would we be without our teaching team, we give thanks to Duncan, Heather and Will for their dedication to prepare their sermons week by week and to their families who support them. We pray for them all that God will enable them to find refreshing waters by which they can be strengthened so they can continue offering pastoral care to those in need.

May God Bless us all in the year ahead and may His Presence be felt in our church and spread through our village.

Lesley Whitwell

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated at the junction of High Street and King Street, Sileby. It is a member of the Benefice of Sileby, Cossington, and Seagrave in the Diocese of Leicester. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 11 Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 7NF.

PCC members who have served from 30th April 2025 until the date of this report are:-

Incumbent: The Revd Duncan Beet
Ministry Started 15th May 2017
The Revd Heather Hall
Ministry started 30th June 2024

Wardens: Luke Miller (until October 2025)
Lesley Whitwell

Representatives of Deanery Synod: Arthur Neal

Elected Members:
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Noreen Warner
Janet Howe, Joy Wood
William Bowdrey, Matt Handford
Beverly Burton, Jo Starkie

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity excepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

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

Reports made to Coordinators in previous year

Number of reportable situations alerted to Coordinators in previous year: 0.

A reportable situation is a situation which represents an exception from established practice. Examples would be where a leader or helper gives a lift home to a child with no other adult present, or where a group has to be cancelled because the staffing ratio is insufficient.

Number of disclosures/concerns/allegations referred to Archdeacon/ Safeguarding Advisor in previous year: 2

Training

What safeguarding training has been offered in the last year for those working with children and young people under 18 and/or vulnerable adults? List courses and number attending.

Internet, Social Media and Texting

Course	Duration/Platform	Number attending
Basic	Online + face to face	9
Foundation	Online + face to face	9
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Online + face to face	11

Facebook or other social media groups exist for the following activities: None used to contact children or young people.

Texting to under 18's is used in the following contexts:

Activity	Name of online group	Administrator of online presence
Meeting dates & reminders of actions	Young Saints	Heather Hall & Duncan Beet

DBS checks and Safer Recruitment

How many of those currently authorised to work with children and young people under 18 have been DBS checked for work in the church within the last 5 years: 21

In the last 5 years everyone authorised to work with children and young people under 18 have been DBS checked and Safely Recruited.

How many of those currently authorised to work with vulnerable adults have been DBS checked for work in the church within the last 5 years: 3

In the last 4 years everyone authorised to work with vulnerable adults have been DBS checked and safer recruited.

Number of DBS checks undertaken in previous year: 16

Number of DBS checks due for renewal in the coming year: 2

Number of new leaders/helpers appointed during previous year: 2.

Number of new leaders/helpers who were interviewed: 2.

Number of new leaders/helpers for whom references were taken up: 2

Objectives and Activities

The PCC's objectives and operations are framed in the context of the church as a fellowship of believers who belong to Christ and who worship him as Lord. We seek:
To come closer to God through the study of the Bible and prayer.
To serve the local community and the wider world in the power of the Holy Spirit.
To help others to belong to Christ through caring and sharing in God's Good News and love.

The last APCM was held on 24th April 2025. Since then, there have been 4 PCC Meetings held.

In the past year the number of people attending our services has continued to be small with an average of 35-40 adults and 6-10 children, although we have seen an uprise in the number of visitors, on a Sunday morning which is most encouraging, especially when they return.

We are thankful that our Sunday Schools (XTB and Deep Impact) and our two youth groups continue to meet regularly sharing the good news of the gospel with our youngsters. We give thanks for the leaders who faithfully prepare material to share with all those children and young people that attend.

We have several other groups meeting regularly providing welcoming spaces to share fellowship. These include House Groups, Ladies Fellowship, the Start Prayer Meeting, the Wellbeing Café and crafting session and the Men's Breakfast Club. Our thanks go to all those who facilitate and generously dedicate their time.

Sadly, Squeals on Wheels was formerly closed last autumn and a service was held recognising and giving thanks for all the mothers, grandmothers and children who enjoyed fellowship together and receive support and encouragement. With love and prayers and grateful thanks Duncan presented some floral tributes to Beverly, Rosemary, Iris, Lesley Fogg and Kate in appreciation of their hard work and dedication over many years in giving a warm welcome to those who attended.

We also give grateful thanks for the monthly Lunch Club and all who are involved in helping to prepare and cook the meal, set tables and clear away. We particularly thank Iris for her lead in undertaking the cooking, assisted by Rosemary and Noreen.

The Food Bank has continued to support families within the village and has been a real outreach to all these people, showing love, concern and practical help. This has been a real blessing for those who are in need and has given opportunities to share support with these families. We are very grateful for all who provide the food week by week and for the team that administer it. We give thanks for those who volunteer each week to support the Food Bank.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage and guide members of our church family to consider if they can support any of our groups. If you feel you are being called to help in a specific area, please speak to Duncan or Heather.

We can now confirm that Bishop Martyn has written to us recently advising that our Minster Community (to be known as "Vale of Charnwood Minster Community") has been approved. Some of the finer details need to be worked on and roles allocated, so it is still a work in progress, but we are looking forward to seeing how each of the parishes involved can share expertise and support one another.

We continue to pray for Duncan, Heather and the preaching team and give our heartfelt thanks that services have been provided each week. May God continue to guide and sustain all who faithfully preach God's Word and give them health and strength in supporting one another and members of our church family.

We praise our loving and constant Lord for his presence and guidance in all areas our lives. We pray for our church families for 2026/27 that we, his children, will be true disciples of Jesus, working together in unity in our community to bring more people to know of his love, forgiveness and hope of everlasting life.

Publication and display of safeguarding information

The Safeguarding Policy statement is displayed in the following location (s):

St. Mary's church Sileby & St. Mary's centre Sileby
(Pochin Hall & Wallace Room)
Seagrave church
Cossington church & Cossington Vestry

The Childline number is displayed in the following location(s): as above.

The Parentline number is displayed in the following location(s): as above.

Leaders and helpers

The number of people currently authorised to work with children and young people under 18 years of age is 21. This number is for all children and young people's groups across the benefice, and whilst it may seem like a large number there are still often not enough volunteers to call on to meet safeguarding needs. It is a requirement to have at least 2 DBS checked workers who have completed their training for each class/group and at times there is not enough leaders for the Deep Impact group.

Is the current number of authorised leaders and helpers sufficient to cover the need? Yes (but refer to comments above)

The number of people currently authorised to work with vulnerable adults is 4

Is the current number of authorised leaders and helpers sufficient to cover the need?
NO. There are times throughout the year where trained wheelchair pushers are not available.
.

Number of leaders and helpers who are qualified First Aiders: 4.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Diocese of Leicester

Safeguarding report to PCC April 2026

Safeguarding policy

The Safeguarding Policy adopted in accordance with model diocesan policy as at 25th November 2019 and last reviewed:

10th June 2024

Safeguarding Coordinators

The Benefice Safeguarding Coordinator is Annette Bowdrey
The Benefice Safeguarding Administrator is Joy Wood

Groups and Locations

The following activities with children and young people under the age of 18 are run under the auspices of the PCC (this includes groups such as Parent & Toddler or Messy Church where children come with their parents):

Name of group	***Location***	***Total number registered to attend***	***Name of leader***
Momentum	St. Mary's Centre, Sileby	5	Joy Wood
XTB	St. Mary's Centre, Sileby,	10	Joy Wood
Deep Impact	St. Mary's Centre, Sileby,	7	Micki Handford
Young Saints	The Rectory, Sileby	3	Heather Hall

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report for the Year to 31 December 2025

The total receipts on unrestricted funds was £62676.54. A total of £49,130.36 was used to provide Christian Ministry from St Mary's Church, the Parish Share of £21,780 and the running costs of the Benefice.

Receipts on restricted funds for the year to 31/12/25 was £24797.88, Also included in this is the Fee Account, which is for the parishes of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave, on the advice of the Diocese we only show the excess of receipts over payments relating to St Mary's in the account. From 1/1/25 St Mary's incorporated the funds of the United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave, which is now shown as a restricted fund of "Benefice Council General" and can be seen in the Movement of Funds Report.

Gift Aid has been received from HMRC for all qualifying donations to 30th November 2025.

Noreen Warner
Treasurer

CC Receipts & Payments Report

Charity name: St Mary's Church

Charity number: 1166714

For the period from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts	59,352.76	20,636.98	0.00	79,989.74	60,847.70
Fundraising Activities	0.00	2,590.79	0.00	2,590.79	70.55
Investments	1,477.78	1,570.11	0.00	3,047.89	3,631.01
Charitable Activities	1,846.00	0.00	0.00	1,846.00	9,819.20
Other Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	62,676.54	24,797.88	0.00	87,474.42	74,368.46
Asset and Investment sales etc					
Total receipts	62,676.54	24,797.88	0.00	87,474.42	74,368.46
Payments					
Voluntary Income Costs	35.18	0.00	0.00	35.18	81.16
Fundraising Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charitable Activities Costs	47,759.18	30,392.53	0.00	78,151.71	120,957.17
Governance Costs	1,336.00	40.00	0.00	1,376.00	2,231.94
	49,130.36	30,432.53	0.00	79,562.89	123,270.27
Assets and investments gains/losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments	49,130.36	30,432.53	0.00	79,562.89	123,270.27
Excess of receipts over payments	13,546.18	-5,634.65	0.00	7,911.53	-48,901.81
Transfers between Funds	-1,158.63	1,158.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash Funds Last Year End	21,375.14	47,547.04	0.00	68,922.18	106,795.28
	132,023.41	103,936.08	0.00	235,959.49	304,434.01
Cash funds this year end	33,762.69	43,071.02	0.00	76,833.71	57,893.47

Charity no. 1166714
St Mary's Church **Printed: 24/03/2026**

Year to 31/12/2025

Fund name	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
General fund	19,689.07	57,824.30	-49,130.36	-1,158.63	0.00	27,224.38
Boiler Fund	1,282.81	4,852.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,135.05
Quinquenial	403.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	403.26
Benefice Council General	11,028.71	11,908.94	-12,101.92	-7,989.25	0.00	2,846.48
Benefice Salary	-20.66	0.00	-9,526.89	9,497.88	0.00	-49.67
Bookstore	84.12	65.70	-63.22	0.00	0.00	86.60
Children's Society	33.71	146.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	179.71
Chris & Kesia Pain	151.36	507.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	658.90
Food Bank	310.00	1,774.44	-855.00	0.00	0.00	1,229.44
Friends of St Mary's	1,317.41	2,392.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,709.60
Ladies Fellowship	847.50	509.15	0.00	-350.00	0.00	1,006.65
Lunch Club	821.87	1,529.86	-1,307.50	0.00	0.00	1,044.23
Mums & Todlers	970.41	211.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,182.13
Organ Fund	262.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	262.20
PCC Fee Account	550.00	118.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	668.40
Pew Pad Funds	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Rainbows	0.00	1,470.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,470.42
Relief Fund	1,397.05	0.00	-155.00	0.00	0.00	1,242.05
Shoe Box	-90.15	589.14	-705.96	0.00	0.00	-206.97
Sileby Food bank	302.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	302.07
SMF-general fund	29,531.44	3,574.38	-5,717.04	0.00	0.00	27,388.78
Totals	68,922.18	87,474.42	-79,562.89	0.00	0.00	76,833.71

CC Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Charity name: St Mary's Church

Charity number: 1166714

At the period ending 31/12/2025

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
CASH FUNDS	33,762.69	43,071.02	0.00
Total cash funds	33,762.69	43,071.02	0.00

B2 Other monetary assets

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS			

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

	Funds to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
OFFICE EQUIPMENT FIXTURES & FITTINGS			

B5 Liabilities

	Funds to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
LIABILITIES			

Liabilities

The Benefice Council funds are all held within St Mary's accounts for completeness, but the following is owed at 31/12/25

Seagrave	39%	£1,110.12
Cossington	22%	£626.22

The attached notes on pages 2-4 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on 27th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Duncan Beet (PCC Chairman) .....

(PCC Secretary).....
Proxy Churchwarden

NOTES to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. FUNDS

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes and monies assigned to Quinquennial report (CARRIED OUT IN 2020) and towards future repair/replacement of church boiler.

Restricted Funds represent accumulated funds from donations and appeals, plus apportioned interest, which can only be spent for those specific purposes.

The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year are shown on page 2

Independent examiner's report to the members of St Mary's Church, Sileby, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner
As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ruth M King

Ruth M King, BSc FCA
48 King Street
Seagrave

Date: 1st May 2026