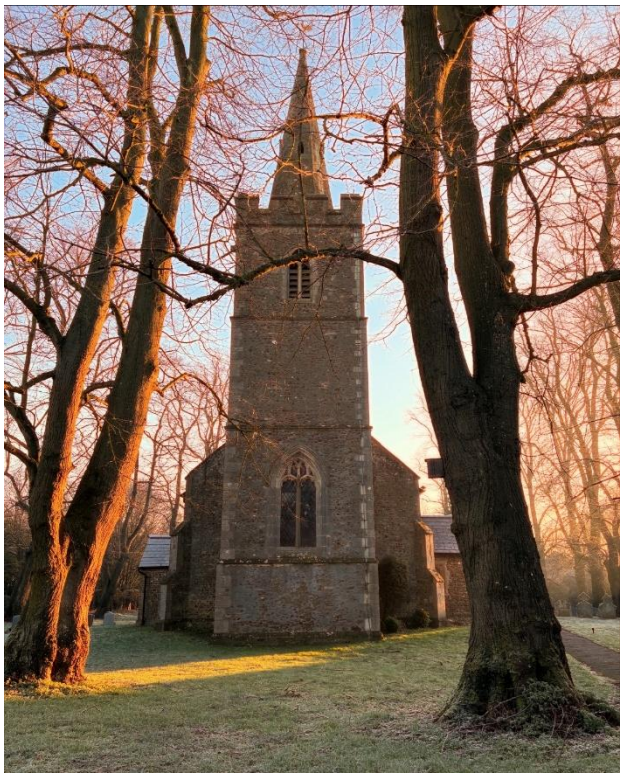
ST. MARY'S HARDWICK

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES

The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Dry Drayton, Great and Little Eversden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

St Mary's Church



Hardwick

APCM

Sunday 26th April 2026

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026, 11 am
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, HARDWICK
AGENDA

Opening Prayers

I. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th April 2025
2. To elect the churchwardens

II. THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Present & apologies
2. Minutes of the annual meeting held on 13th April 2025
3. Matters Arising
4. Notice of items to be raised under AOB
5. Review of 2024
    a. Vicar's Report
    b. Finances 2025
    c. Proceedings of the Parish and the PCC
        - Worship, Prayer and Spiritual Life
        - Church Community and Pastoral Care
        - Mission, Outreach and Contribution to Village Life
        - Pippins
        - Community lunches
        - Colour Wheel
        - Events Committee
        - The Cabin
        - The Cabin Financial Report
    d. Fabric and Churchyard
    e. LOTS
    f. Safeguarding
    g. Lordsbridge Team Council Report
    h. Deanery Synod Report
    i. Eco Church and Wildlife Management Plan

6. Report on the electoral roll

7. Elections and appointments
    a. To elect three representatives to the PCC
    b. To elect a representative to the Deanery Synod for the next three years
    c. To appoint an independent examiner to the Council

8. Any other business

III. PCC MEETING

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and Standing Committee
2. Budget 2026
3. AOB
4. Confirmation of next PCC meeting

Note: the composition of the Standing Committee will comprise Parish Priest, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer to be elected and approved.







Minutes of the Annual Meeting of St Mary's Church, Hardwick

Held on 13th April 2025 in the Cabin

Minutes of the APCM, St Mary's Church, Hardwick

Sunday, 13th April 10.30am in the Cabin.

Opening Prayers

A. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. To receive the minutes of the last APCM, 14th April 2024.

2. To elect the Churchwardens. Ali Marcus was proposed by Peter Cornwell and seconded by Pauline Joslyn and Janet Hayman was proposed by Sue Cornwell and seconded by Jane Muncey. Both were elected unanimously and were thanked for everything they do.

B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Present: Rev Clare Coates, Lois Frettsome, Thelma Westbury, Janet Hayman, Michaela McNeil, Joan Segrave, June Everitt, Theresa Soley, Chris Ford, Ali Marcus, Kate Riley, Liz Entwistle, Liz Tinkler, Mary Wilkin, David Coates, Julie Coates, Brian Coxall, Peter Cornwell, Ian Giddings, Jand Muncey, Carol Butler, Sue Cornwell, Naomi Roy, Jorge and Diana Rodrigues, Sonya.

Apologies: Jeff and Anne Jones. Sue Chase

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed off.

3. Matters arising. Michaela commented on her online training - The ALM course in Pastoral Awareness. She felt that there were too many intrusive questions. Clare will pass this feedback to the diocese.

4, Items to be raised under AOB. None suggested

5. Review of 2024.

a. Vicar's report. This had been circulated

b. Finances 2024. This report has also been circulated. Kate was thanked for taking on the Treasurer's role from April 2025 and Sue Chase was thanked for taking on the role following Clare Bigg's death. Thanks were also expressed to Chris, Ali and Thelma for their help in this difficult period. It was noted that, thanks to a lot of fundraising for the necessary, very expensive repairs to the Church, the Fabric fund was only down by £9,500.

c. Proceedings of the Parish & PCC. It was noted that the fundraising events had also made connections with the village community. There is a lot of very good children's work going on - Sunday Club, Wild Church, Toddlers and Bumps and Babes. Michaela's course for ALM's in pastoral awareness ends in June. It was felt that whatever has been thrown at us, we as a congregation have always been here for each other.

d. Fabric & Churchyard.

e Thanks were expressed to the LOTS group. It was pointed out that as there were now 9 members, more equipment was needed and the possibility of grants for this would be investigated.

f. Safeguarding. Thanks to Jane who makes sure we are up to date with all the necessary paperwork and training.

g Lordsbridge team report. Unfortunately, a new Team Rector has not yet been appointed. Clare is now Acting Team Rector and hopefully, interviews will be held again on 9th June. The full report has been circulated as have

h and i The Lorsbridge Team Council report and the Deanery Synod Report

j. The Eco Church and Wildlife Management Plan have been completed and we hope to gain the Wildlife Trust Silver Award soon. The next Eco event is planned for September 27th.

6. The new electoral roll has been completed and displayed on the notice boards. Thanks were expressed to Janet for this.

7. a. Elections to the PCC. Jeff Jones was happy to serve again. Proposed by Jane Muncey and seconded by Ali Marcus. Unanimous agreement.

There were no other offers.

b. Lois was happy to serve as Deanery Synod representative for the next 3 years and was duly elected.

c. Mark was happy to be the independent examiner to the council once again. Clare proposed and Kate seconded - elected unanimously.

The standing committee will be Clare (Chair). Ali (Vice chair) plus Kate, Chris.

8. AOB. Thanks were expressed to Clare for all her work here and for her encouragement - and her smile!

The next meeting of the PCC will be on June 30th.



Vicar's Report

Revd Clare Coates



There have been continuing signs of growth over the last year, with those coming to church increasing. My thanks to the wonderful Ministry Team here: Ali, Janet and Peter, who have been incredibly supportive and encouraging, and who continue to be a joy to work with. A big thank you, too, to the PCC and to the wider church community for your continuing support and friendship.

I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know more people in and around the parish, whether at church services and events, during my school visits, or through dog walking in the village and surrounding countryside. Being a presence in the community is at the heart of our vision of being a church for the whole community here in Hardwick.

We continued to face financial challenges in 2025 and we are committed to continue working hard to meet the increasing financial demands. My grateful thanks to our Treasurer, our PCC and to all who have helped with the year's fundraising events and to all who have come and supported us. We are so grateful for that support. It has made a big difference.

At the beginning of 2025 I invited our church community to 'keep our eyes fixed on Jesus' (Hebrews 12:2). This was with the expectation that as we focused on Jesus we would draw inspiration and strength from him, enabling us to change and grow, and deepen our faith. Keeping focused on Jesus means stepping out of our comfort zone and into the unknown, trusting that he will be with us on our continuing journey of faith. Focusing on Jesus means following his example and sharing his message of love, which is one for all people, regardless of their background. We cannot know where our continuing

journey with God will take us but we can be certain that God who calls us is faithful. He has promised to be with us no matter what. There may be unexpected surprises – both good and bad. Anything is possible. But we can face everything together.

I feel very positive about everything we are doing together and I believe we will continue to grow and thrive. I am excited about what lies ahead for us in the years ahead!

God Bless,

Clare







Financial Report

Kate Riley

St Marys Church Hardwick

Accounts for 2025

Introduction to the accounts

The accounts have been prepared by Katharine Riley, Treasurer for St Mary's Church Hardwick. Katharine took over from Sue Chase of Simple Solutions in June 2025.

The accounts have been examined by Mark Taylor who continues to be the nominated independent examiner.

The PCC uses Natwest for everyday banking. They hold both a current and a deposit account.

There are also two deposit accounts held with the CCLA: the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund CB3025074-001 which holds monies designated for the Church building and churchyard and the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund CB3025075-001 which holds monies designated for the Cabin.

There are three main funds within the remit of the PCC – the general fund, the fabric fund and the cabin fund. Each fund has a separate financial statement.

There are also several mini restricted funds. Some of these are not owned by the PCC but they are held within the PCC bank account.

	01-Jan-25 31-Dec-25		01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24
General - General Fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
INCOME			
Ministry share rebate	294.96		282
Parish giving	15,124.27		14,910
Open plate giving	1,521.89		383
Non specific donations	2,730.02		346
Other planned giving	3,595.00		4,725
Gift aid	3,313.83		3,871
Funerals, weddings and baptism	4,025.00		3,466
Summer afternoons - families work	169.75		141
Fete	2,756.98		2,728
Harvest supper	311		2516
Xmas tree festival	265		0
Book sale	307.92		0
Eco event	308.5		0
Interest	68.44		0
Misc income	77.97		0
TOTAL INCOME	**34,870.53**		**33,368**
EXPENDITURE			
Eco event	205.87		0
Charitable giving	156.19		120
Incumbent office costs	418.24		1,895
Church consumables	65.47	-	
Accountancy	644		1,009
Church stationary	75.96		54
Pastoral care	328.8		55
Church general equipment	39.99	-	
Ministry and services	2,672.16		327
Incumbent travel costs	114.3		525
Insurance	1,588.14		1,167
Church and grounds routine maintenance	919.1		192
Ministry share	24,829.78		23,609
Church electricity	882.59		706
Funerals, weddings and baptism	2,582.00		150
Families work			337
Youth ministry			42
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**35,522.59**		**30,189**
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-652.06		3180
Brought forward balance	10,124.45		6,945.00
TOTAL BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	**9,472.39**		**10,124.45**

Fabric fund - Fabric Fund (Restricted) Fund

	01-Jan-25 31-Dec-25	01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24
INCOME		
Fundraising		**7,736**
Cheese and wine	635.21	
Harvest supper	311	
Book sale	1,058.52	
Afternoon tea	215	
Safari supper	467.4	
Quiz	1,310.58	
Summer concert	338.24	
Donations	0	7,762
Gift aid	0	34
Grant	0	11,101
Insurance claim	0	12,564
Interest from investments	634.7	1,034
TOTAL INCOME	4,970.65	40,231
EXPENDITURE		
	0.00	49,671
Brought forward balance	20,243.25	29,684.00
TOTAL BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	**25,213.90**	**20,243.25**

Summary of fund raising

Fete	2,756.98
Cheese and wine	635.21
Harvest supper	622
Book sale	1,366.44
Afternoon tea	215
Safari supper	467.4
Quiz	1,310.58
Summer concert	338.24
Xmas tree festival	265
Total fundraising	**7,976.85**

Cabin Fund - Cabin Fund (Restricted) Fund

	01-Jan-25 31-Dec-25	01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24
INCOME		
Cabin grounds	110	0
Non specific cabin donations	4.5	130
Cabin rental	9,031.51	9,440
Cabin bank interest	176.82	197
TOTAL INCOME	**9,322.83**	**9,767**
EXPENDITURE		
Cabin maintenance	339.87	713
Cabin grounds	1,199.83	0
Cabin insurance and fire	1,368.98	1,167
Cabin consumables	828.37	319
Cabin rental	436	0
Cabin cleaning	1,669.00	1,396
Cabin utilities	1,580.90	1,411
Inside fitments	0.00	342
Fees and licences	0.00	659
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**7,422.95**	**6,008**
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	1,899.88	3,759
Brought forward balance	5,967.31	2,208.00
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	**7,867.19**	**5,967.31**

Mini funds

	01-Jan-25 31-Dec-25	01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24
Toddlers - Toddlers (Restricted) Fund		
Income	469.02	
Expenditure	107.03	
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	361.99	
Total carried forward balance	**361.99**	
Wild church - Wild Church (Restricted) Fund		
Income	0	
Expenditure	40.95	
Total carried forward balance	**-40.95**	
Sunday club - Sunday Club (Restricted) Fund		
Income		
Expenditure	59.35	
Brought forward balance	39.87	39.87
Total carried forward balance	**-19.48**	**39.87**
Pastoral fund - Pastoral Fund (Restricted) Fund		
Income	0	
Brought forward balance	10.01	10.01
Total carried forward balance	**10.01**	**10.01**
Launde Abbey - Launde Abbey (Restricted) Fund		
Income	1,146.50	
Expenditure	995.32	
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	151.18	
Total carried forward balance	**151.18**	
Community lunch - Community Lunch (Restricted) Fund		
Income	367.05	
Expenditure on charitable activities	486	
Total Expenditure	486	
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-118.95	
Brought forward balance	1,324.53	1,324.53
Total carried forward balance	**1,205.58**	**1,324.53**

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
	CCLA cabin fund: CCLA cabin fund	4,083.85	3,907.03
	CCLA fabric fund: CCLA fabric fund	14,659.63	14,024.93
	Current Account: Nat West Current account	19,479.44	16,908.27
	Reserve account: Nat West Reserve account	6,198.13	6,129.69
	Total Current assets	44,421.05	40,969.92
Liabilities			
	Z04: Accounts Payable	199.24	3,260.50
	Total Liabilities	199.24	3,260.50
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	44,221.81	37,709.42
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	6,512.39	-
	Z01: Starting balances	37,709.42	37,709.42
	Total Reserves	44,221.81	37,709.42

Represented by Funds

	General (Unrestricted)	9,472.39	10,124.45
	Restricted	34,749.42	27,584.97
	Total	44,221.81	37,709.42

Notes to the accounts

It was felt that the increased cost of living has affected the income generated by the Church. It was clear that while some fundraising activities did well others were not as well supported as usual. The events committee continued to work tirelessly to fundraise and the PCC thanked them for all their hard work.

We ended the year just about in equal balance to last year which was positive and better than many Parishes, but we did not manage to accrue any further savings.

GENERAL FUND

This has been a difficult year for the General Fund.

Parish giving increased slightly but other regular giving reduced. There was a significant increase in open plate giving. Transient increases in congregation due to events such as baptisms contributed to this.

In the past all fundraising apart from the fete has been allocated to the fabric fund. To boost the general fund it was decided at PCC to split all fundraising equally between the general and fabric funds except that from the fete and the quiz which were allocated 100% to the general and fabric funds respectively.

The total income for the general fund in 2025 was £34,870.53 and expenditure of £35,522.59 resulting in a small loss over the year of £652.06.

The balance on the General Fund stood at £9,472.39 at the year end.

FABRIC FUND

We were fortunate not to have any major expenses this year and as a result did not incur any expenses from the Fabric Fund. The income at the year end was £4,970.65. With funds carried over the Fabric Fund balance stood at £25,213.90.

CABIN FUND

The Cabin continued to bring in a significant amount of income virtually equalling last year at £9,322.83 the majority of which (£9,031.51) came from cabin rental.

Our surplus this year of £1,899.88 was not as great as last year but is still a good positive amount and clearly supports our belief that the cabin is self funding.

MINI FUNDS

Some of the mini restricted funds are supported by the PCC such as all the childrens Church activities and the summer afternoon. Others such as the Community Lunch and Launde Abbey are just held in the Natwest account on a temporary basis. Details of the monies held in these mini funds are readily available at any time and are included in the annual accounts.

ADMINISTRATION

Since taking over as treasurer in June 2025 I have introduced some changes to the record keeping in order to try to make things more robust and straightforward.

We are now using the accounts package Myfundaccounting run by Data Developments. This did take a while to set up and there were some teething issues. Hopefully the majority of these have now been ironed out and the package should make the annual reports much easier to produce.

In using this package some of the headings are not directly transferable to the previous headings which may lead to a little confusion for this year only. These are as follows:

1. Families work which was under the heading of the general fund now is a separate fund encompassing Sunday club, Wild Church, Tuesday toddlers, bumps and babies, Christingle and summer afternoons
2. Incumbent expenses are now divided as incumbent travel and incumbent office costs. Previously this came under a mixture of incumbent expenses and secretary expenses.
3. There is a separate Church stationary code for other miscellaneous general stationary

Cabin rental receipts are now forwarded to me as they are sent out which helps with timely bank reconciliation. Petty cash details are also going to be given monthly rather than at the end of the year, again to give better clarification of costs and to ease bank reconciliation.

CCLA ACCOUNTS

It was only when I came to put the accounts together that I realised I do not have access to the CCLA accounts. I have been in contact with them and am in the process of changing the contact details.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary's, Hardwick

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 3 - 6 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43(2) of the charities Act 1993 {'the Act'}

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulation.

Basis of this report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charities Commission under section 43(7) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance,* 2006 edition, issued by the finance Division of the Archbishop's Council. 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 you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express and 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 to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and to prepare financial statements' which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have not been met or

2 To which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

(Signed) MARK A. TAYLER ACMA

Date 12/3/2026

Parish Reports

Worship, Prayer and Spiritual Life

Revd Clare Coates, Michaela McNeill and Peter Cornwell

Worship, Prayer and Spiritual Life – Revd Clare Coates



My thanks to Ali, Kate and Peter, and Michaela for their continuing support and help throughout the year. I am incredibly grateful to them.

We maintained the monthly pattern of four Sunday services: Holy Communion on the first, second and third Sundays, with Sunday Club available on first and third Sundays if children attended with their parents; and Morning Worship for all ages every fourth Sunday, led by Ali and Peter. Wild Church continues to be a popular service for families and children, meeting outdoors whatever the weather and exploring God's creation together. In September our pattern of services changed to: Holy Communion every first, third and fourth Sunday and Morning worship for all ages on second Sundays and with Sunday Club outdoors every other week.

Fifth Sundays provided us with the opportunity to participate in a Team-wide service. Dry Drayton hosted the Lordsbridge Team in June for a special sung communion service, led by Revd Claire Robertson and with guest preacher, Becca Herrick, and with a combined Lordsbridge Choir, led by Jeremy Wong. It was a good opportunity to thank Becca for her hard work and dedication as our Team Administrator and to wish her well for her continuing ordination studies before she left the Team in July. St Mary's hosted a special service for the Team on Advent Sunday, falling on 30 November which was a fifth Sunday.



Our annual Remembrance Service in November was very well attended and started with a moving ceremony of remembrance by the village sign, with young and old participating. An Ecumenical, area-wide service to mark Christ the King was delivered both online and in person at the end of November and was this year by Revd Clare and the Lordsbridge Team at Comberton Leisure Centre.

During Advent we followed a sermon series inspired by Handel's Messiah, focusing on Jesus's birth. Each week we heard a piece of music from Handel's most famous Oratorio and the Bible passages which inspired his beautiful and moving music. The series resumed in Lent 2026 and focused on Jesus's passion.

The joys and sorrows of life were marked by baptisms and funerals throughout the year. Some of these services were held for families who now live outside the parish but continue to feel a strong connection with this church, and others for parishioners and friends: Graham Southon in May and Howard Bigg in June. In late April, members of the church community were involved in searching for missing teenager Mihran Khachatryan, a resident of the village. With great sadness his funeral service was held in May and attended by many friends and his devastated family. There were no weddings in 2025.

Our beautiful churchyard is a special place for walkers and passers-by. My grateful thanks to Jeff, Peter and all the LOTS team for their hard work and dedication, it is hugely appreciated. Special thanks must go to all who kept the church as a welcoming and safe space, notably to Ali, Janet, Lois, Naomi, Anne and all who quietly served us, through either cleaning or flower arranging throughout the year.

Midweek and Friday Night Prayers – Michaela McNeill

The midweek prayer group meets once a week on Wednesday mornings during term time. Three times a month we are on Zoom and on the first Wednesday of the month we meet in person in the Cabin. The group consists of members from St Mary's and the Evangelical Church in Hardwick plus another person in the village who attends a church in Cambridge. We use a simple form of service depending on the time of year and pray for about half an hour. We take turns in leading. We read out a Psalm and a passage from the New Testament. We also focus our prayer on various issues throughout the world, as well as national and local issues or any other topic that may concern us.

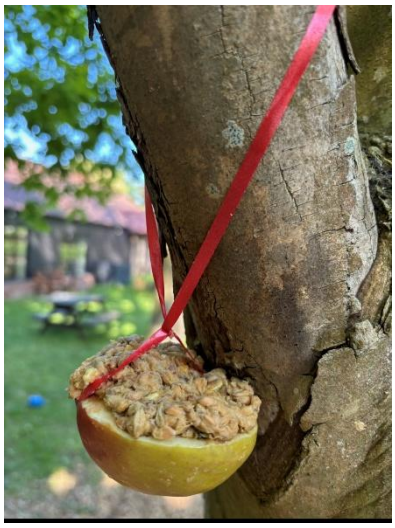
The Friday Night Evening Prayer Group started during the pandemic and has continued on Zoom. We meet every Friday evening from September to June with a break at Christmas. We have been using a short form of Evening Prayer again depending on the time of year and we are online for about half an hour. The group consists of a small but steady group of loyal and faithful worshippers. It originally started with just members from St Mary's, but I have opened it up to others within the Lordsbridge Team.

Sunday Club – Peter Cornwell

Sunday Club has continued to be recognised as two different entities: Sunday Club outside and Sunday Club in church. Sunday Club outside meets fortnightly. Highlights this year have been whittling, and a charity run in April for Jimmys. We have also enjoyed meeting for breakfast by the camp fire! We have a regular core of children attending, from toddlers to older children to young teens.

Wild Church – Peter Cornwell

Wild Church met on the second Sunday of the month until September, when we switched to the fourth Sunday on a trial basis. The flavour and character of Wild Church is very different to the Sunday Club. The most noteworthy difference is that while Sunday Club is for the children without their parents, Wild Church is for families spending time together. The average age of the children for Wild Church is considerably lower than that of Sunday Club.



At Wild Church we look to grow closer to God through the natural world. We usually begin with an introductory activity which leads into the main theme and we finish with a prayer and a session called 'going deeper'.

Our afternoons always start with the prayer:

'***Enter in as if the bark beneath our feet were gold***
and all the trees all of wealth untold,
As if a choir, in robes of fire, were singing here,
Nor shout, nor rush, but hush for God is here.'

Both Sunday Club outside and Wild Church reflect the movement in the Church of England towards 'fresh expressions'. What we are doing is still in its infancy but there are growing signs of success. Thanks to the team: Ali Marcus, Lucy Gardner, Clare Coates, Charlotte Kalinsky, Sarah Reynolds and Peter Cornwell.



Away Day at Launde Abbey in July: seeing God in the small things

Away day report, Launde 2025



It was a day of love and hopefulness, it was a day of rain and dullness, it was a day of finding out about oneself , it was a day of staring into the pond and watching the raindrops landing.

An abiding memory will be of our group sitting under the gazebos with rain all around, totally intent upon writing various poems together. How strange was that!

Wasn't it great to be together in those amazing surroundings , from the start of the day, meeting up with Alison, Boyd and Jacob, to the very successful plenary at the end.

Floreat Launde







Ordinand's Report

Charlotte Kalinsky



As I am nearing the end of my second year of studies at Westcott House and nearing the end of my placement with the Lordsbridge Team. I would like to thank you all for your encouragement, patience and support you have shown me over the past couple of years. My placement with you at St Mary's has been a vital part of my ministry, journey and formation, it has truly been such a joy and a privilege to worship along side you this past two years.

This year one thing I have enjoyed this year is wild church, wild church was new to me before I started my placement with the Lordsbridge Team. Seeing how God works each person's God given gifts through those leading and attending wild church to connect to God through his creation.

One thing that I found challenging this year is to navigate how to worship God and be spiritually fulfilled when taking part in a service or leading a service. But when looking out at all the faithful congregation members, seeing them all worship God is the most beautiful sight to witness. A family community who support and encourage one another and deeply care for their local community of Hardwick.

As I move into my final year of training at Westcott next year, I will carry the lessons learned with you. I pray that the Parish continues to grow in faith and in its service to the wider community.

I want to personally thank Reverend Clare for being a gracious and wonderful mentor which through her guidance, support and encouragement I have learnt so much in which I will embody for my personal spiritual growth and for my future ministry within the church.

Church Community and Pastoral Care

Ali Marcus, Revd Clare Coates and Michaela McNeill

Church Community – Ali Marcus

Despite being a relatively small in terms of the size of the building and number of congregants, St Mary's Church strives to be a "a church for everybody in the community" whilst we demonstrate the love of God by our actions. Our support groups and community activities are detailed in other reports, but it is noted here that there are many: including Bumps and Babies, Tuesday Toddlers, Wild Church and a thriving Sunday Club, Community Lunches, Coffee mornings and afternoon teas, an art group, Colour Wheel, supporting the Friendship Club, LOTS and playing our part in Pippins and the Eco event. Additionally, thanks to the Events Committee, all the fundraising activities that we do create a strong community feel within the village i.e. the fete, quiz, cheese and wine evening, Giant Book Sale and Safari Supper.

We maintained our numbers during our regular Sunday services, and both of our Fresh Expressions, Wild Church and Tuesday Toddlers thrived. Rev Clare, and Michaela provided home communion and pastoral support throughout the year. Unfortunately, we did lose Tricia from the pastoral team when she moved up North but we were delighted and proud when Micheala achieved her ALM Pastoral licence during the year.

We continued to rejoice that Rev Clare Coates is our incumbent and say a big thank you to her for leading us through 2025 despite the stress and trauma to her and Stephen of dealing with a dangerous individual who liked to spend time in and around the church yard and village.

As your Church Wardens, Janet and I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to each one of you in our congregation. So many of the things Church Wardens are responsible for has been shouldered by you. Jeff takes the primary responsibility of maintaining the church and Cabin buildings and keeps tabs on the graves, the Cabin management team run the business of the Cabin, Chris creates the rotas and is a whiz with the sound system and along with Sue plays the organ for us. Lois does our flowers, LOTS maintain the Church yard, Kate is our treasurer, Jane is our Safeguarding Officer and Sue is the PCC secretary.

Time after time, the Events Committee, led by Sue, organise and work hard at fundraising and social events. You all support each other and participate in or help at events. The strength of St Mary's is in the faith, vocation and teamwork of the individuals that make up our community.

Pastoral Care – Revd Clare Coates

Pastoral contact amongst the church and wider community continued to be made both by the clergy and through an informal network of support. Home communion is available for those who would like to take it.

Michaela McNeill

I have continued to visit both Hazel Basham and Nora Nunn to give them Home Communion so that they know that are still connected to the church. Both Hazel and Nora appreciate this and as last year I have continued to develop a rapport with them which has flourished.

I am still visting Gracefields Care Home to give Home Communion to a resident there and on occasion her husband has been visiting and we have all shared Communion together. I have also developed a connection with both the lady and her husband and they appreciate my visits. I also discovered that the lady had a deep religious faith and despite suffering from dementia I understand that this still means a lot to her.

Last year also saw me complete my Authorised Lay Ministry specialism as a Pastoral Assistant. This course looks at ten different pastoral models which included wellness and flourishing through to transition and moving on. In particular I found the modules developing healthy relationships and mental health particularly helpful. The former was relevant to me as I continued to develop a relationship with the care home as well as focusing on mental health issues as I was also visiting friends in hospital during my time on the course and I also have an interest in mental health and illness. I also took on a pastoral project which I wrote on with regard to my visit to Gracefields and I wrote a reflection on it. I was also encouraged to keep a journal which I have continued to do mainly reflecting on my visits to Gracefields as well as other spiritual matters. The course

was mostly run through Zoom but we did meet up in person twice at Etheldreda House in Ely.

Mission, Outreach and Contribution to Village Life

Ali Marcus

Brief Summary of groups that are run by or supported by St Mary's Church

Bumps and Babies in the Cabin (led by Ali)

The aim of the group remains to support families during the "transition to parenthood" providing a comfortable and secure space for new parents to become confident caring for their babies whilst promoting the development of new friendships and a robust support network within and around Hardwick. There was a broad range in numbers attending over the course of the year as new families join and others move on to toddler groups or the parent returns to work. However, on average, sessions have an attendance of 6 babies. Each year has its own What's App group and it has been interesting to see that those who have had their second baby in 2025 are now sharing information with a previous year's What's App group and wider networks are being made.

Word of mouth continues to be the way that most new recruits come to us, but here is now an increased awareness in the local midwifery team and this generated some new recruits in 2025

There is good evidence that the group continues to be a loved and valuable resource for local families:

- "The Bumps and Babies group has by far been our favourite group this year! .... I will forever be grateful for this warm and welcoming space you create for new parents every Thursday at the Cabin"
- "I wanted to thank you so much for making us feel so incredibly welcome with you as well as offering an hour or two of blissful respite each week" (mother to a baby with a physical disability)

- “You never fail to be a wonderfully calm and reassuring host whilst letting the babies and parents explore the space together. Your wisdom, knowledge and care are so evident”
- “Coming to the group has really supported me and my mental well being as I became a Mum” (young parent)

Over the course of 2025, income has dwindled and as of the end of 2025 there was just £5 left in the kitty. Ali now displays posters with details of how to donate online or pay by sum up in case the recent decline in the use of cash is the reason for the decrease in donations. However, the importance of the group being free was highlighted by the comments from two members who said that the group was the only baby group they could attend because they do not have any spare money.

Cabin Art Group (Caroline Edgley)

This well-established group continues to meet in the Cabin every two weeks to practice either their own creative projects or something offered to the group on the day. Between 3 and 7 attend.

Summer afternoons

This well-established outdoor café with children’s activities during 6 sessions in August, Summer Afternoons was again very successful again in 2025. Sue headed up the team this year and we need to ensure that we plan well for 2026 so that we can sustain Summer Afternoons in the future.

Events Committee (led by Sue)

How can we even start to thank our events committee for doing the planning and donkey work of all our church events? They work tirelessly whether for fundraisers for the Church (Fete, quiz nights, cheese and wine evening, book stall) or “not for profit” community events (Bonfire night party, Carol singing around the fire, coffee mornings, summer afternoons cakes and drinks) to name a few. These people are, alongside Rev Clare, the faces of St Mary’s church- welcoming, caring and inspiring. They form the core of our community outreach and are great bakers too!!

Tuesday Toddlers – Clare Coates

Revd Clare and Janet Hayman continued to lead Tuesday Toddlers in 2025. The group has continued to thrive with on average seven children a week during term time, and many new families have joined the group. Each week we have bible themed craft, a Bible story and lots of time to chat and play. Children and adults enjoy singing together and the morning is rounded off with a snack! The Toddlers especially enjoyed making Christmas decorations for this year's Christmas Tree Festival taking inspiration from the wildlife in and around the church and the Cabin.



Hardwick Friendship Club

Hardwick Friendship Club is a community-based social club designed to reduce loneliness and social isolation, especially for the elderly. At the end of 2025, the average attendance was 7-8; a group of friends who organised themselves to meet on Wednesday afternoons to play tabletop games and socialise. Although Ali Marcus continues to be their Treasurer, they have not had a formal leader for many years.

In 2025, they were requested to demonstrate they have insurance and safeguarding measures in place to continue meeting for free in the Sports and Social Club, and they had to find an alternative venue.

Friendship club now meets in the small meeting room in the Cabin and it was proposed that the church take on the responsibility of insurance and running the group.

Brian Cox kindly came forward to lead the group on behalf of the PCC and has performed the necessary Safeguarding training

Once a formal role description is generated, the church will take full responsibility for the running of the group and the group funds will be transferred to a restricted fund in the St Mary's accounts. This will provide relief for the group from the bank fees they incur currently with their bank account.

Pippins – Anne Jones

Pippin's opened in June 2014 and we continue to open on the first Saturday of every month from 10am – midday and it is very popular, as we cater for all ages. There is always a good atmosphere, friendliness and a real buzz, with lots of chatter and an opportunity to swap jig saws too. It certainly is our way of serving the community! It has gone from strength to strength and it has been known for people to be queuing outside the door to come in.

We have a very keen and supportive team of 14 bakers and 27 helpers (although not all the helpers are 'regulars') who offer their services each month. We pride ourselves with our wide selection of homemade cakes, cookies and biscuits, all at a very reasonable price. We try to have seasonal refreshments for Christmas and Easter. The bakers are reimbursed for the cost of the ingredients only, which enables us to keep our costs down as we are a non-profit making enterprise.

Any profit that is made is used to further improve our facilities and donated to groups or individuals in the village or further afield, worthy of our support. This year (January - December 2025) we made the following donations, totalling £600.

£147 towards equipment to set up a new Table Tennis Club which is held twice a week at the Cabin.

£250 towards equipment for the Pre-School

£100 towards the costs involved for the VE Day Celebrations at the Cabin

£100 towards the Christmas lights which we all enjoyed in front of the school.

The assets for the year ending December 2025 were £2186.19 in the bank and £84.55 cash in hand.

The Management Committee consists of Kate & Steve Gaze (Evangelical Church), Anne Jones (Community Association), Clare Coates (St Mary's Church), Julie Coulson, Jane Chudleigh and Gino Starace, our Treasurer.

"Pippins is a real success story and a welcome addition to the things that go on in the village."

Hardwick Community Lunches

Anne Jones

The Community Lunches, held in the Cabin four times a year, were started at the beginning of 2023 and they continue to be very popular and successful with 40 - 50 people attending. We provide a two-course meal with coffee and at Christmas, we provide a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. We advertise in the Hardwick Happenings. We have an increasing band of supportive volunteers and two co-opted husbands. We are registered with SCDC and we have been awarded a 5* rating for food hygiene. Most of the volunteers have a valid Food Hygiene qualification.



We do not charge for the lunches but ask for a donation. The money raised has been used to purchase equipment to improve the facilities and we have a healthy reserve which we have not decided what to do with at the moment. As in previous years, we continue to have a raffle and all the proceeds have been donated to various charities. This year we have donated to the following:-

March 2025 – Help the Heroes

June – Papyrus (suicide in young people)

September – Arthur Rank

December – Winter Comfort

March 2026 - Cambridge Cancer Help Centre

This leads us on to our next lunch which is on June 24th. So, if you want to join us for our Community Lunches, you have to get in early as news travels fast and it is becoming a popular event in the calendar.

The Colour Wheel Report

Nicky Kerr

The Colour Wheel has now been running successfully for seven years since its inception in 2019, continuing to provide a valued and welcoming space for members of the community.

The Cabin remains an excellent venue for hosting the group, offering a secure, safe, and accessible environment. Its peaceful surroundings contribute to a sense of tranquillity and mindfulness, which greatly enhances the experience for attendees.

At the heart of the group is a commitment to reducing loneliness and isolation within the village. Open to all members of the local community, the Colour Wheel provides a relaxed space for social connection alongside mindful colouring activities and primarily consists of residents from Hardwick, with some attendees from Comberton and Toft.

Over the past year, we have seen an increase in participation, including a noticeable rise in walk-in attendees. On occasion, as many as 15 people have joined a session at one time. Some visitors attend during holiday periods, while others drop in simply to take a break and enjoy the calm, supportive environment. Regular attendance continues to average around eleven participants per session.

A voluntary £4 donation is suggested to help cover the cost of venue hire, refreshments, and general running expenses. We now pay a small rental charge for use of the Cabin, and we are pleased to report that we are generally able to break even in most months.

We were deeply saddened to lose our long-time member, Angela Berry, in late 2025. She was a valued part of the group and is greatly missed.

The Colour Wheel remains a positive, inclusive, and uplifting space, and we look forward to continuing its growth and impact within the community.

The Events Committee Report

Sue Cornwell, Events Committee Chair

As always, this report has to start with a very big thank you to the many people who have supported the fundraising events this year, all of which were very successful both in terms of reaching out to the community and in helping to fill the church coffers.

The year began with the Quiz night in March and we were again indebted to Shirley, John, Debbie and Graham who run it so efficiently for us and compile all the questions - no simple task! Over £1300 was raised for the Church Fabric Fund.



This was followed by a very successful cheese & wine evening with a really entertaining and informative talk by Topun Austin on babies' brain development before birth.

The Fete in May, which is our biggest fund raiser, was blessed with good weather and we were entertained by Caxton Swing. Live music is always good! Over £2,500 was raised.

In June we held a picnic concert with Linton Jazz. This time we were not so lucky with the weather, but the band are coming again in 2026 and we live in hope!

An afternoon tea was planned for June. This was unfortunately not well attended, but those who came did enjoy it. However, the Safari Supper in July was well supported and attracted several new Hardwickians who felt it was great fun -they have said they will come again and one or two have offered to host in 2026.

The Summer afternoons, though not really a 'Church Event', again proved popular, opening up the Cabin and grounds to the wider community.



The Harvest Supper with the Cambridge University Ceilidh Band is always a great evening but it would be good to see a few more younger people. We did wonder whether they know what a Ceilidh is!

This was followed by another very successful book sale. We are now planning two for 2026- one in April and one in October. November saw the Bonfire party - again, much appreciated by the wider community.

And then it was the Christmas Tree Festival. This year there were 17 decorated trees and the Church looked very festive. Profits were shared between St Mary's and Jimmy's Night Shelter.

St Mary's has, for several years, been the drop off point for the Cambridge food bank. Contributions are usually taken to the 'hub' in Cambridge every 2/3 months and are always very gratefully received. Unfortunately the need for our donations is still very much ongoing.

We also run the Plant & Produce stall opposite the Church porch from May to September and although it doesn't raise a lot of money it does allow sharing in the community. Most of the produce is from the local gardens/allotments so has a very low carbon footprint and is often organic and plants (which are often very expensive in garden centres) grown from seed or cuttings are eagerly taken. Customers are asked to make a cash donation to church funds.

Finally, a very big thank you to Joan Segrave who has retired from the Events Committee after at least 7 years (my records only went back to 2019). Joan has always been a huge help at events and we will miss her.

The Cabin

Jeff Jones, Cabin Management Team Chair

Hospitality, Wholeness, Encounter

Cabin Management Team: Jeff Jones (Chair), Anne Jones (Booking Secretary), Sue Cornwell (Minute Secretary), Kate Riley (Treasurer), Peter Cornwell, Ali Marcus, Nicky Kerr, Rev Clare Coates.

2025 was again a very successful year for the Cabin, being so well used, virtually every day. All users are so complimentary about the building and its facilities and how welcoming it feels. People find the surrounding area and the pond, which is so well maintained by LOTS, both pleasant and tranquil, as well as being so functional.

There has been an extensive list of users during the year, such as family parties, funeral wakes, exercise classes and art and craft sessions. The Cabin is also used for several other activities including the newly formed crochet club, hearing aid maintenance and our MP's surgery (see list of users below). It has also enabled the events committee to run numerous church fundraising activities and functions.

Fortunately, 2026 was relatively uneventful, in terms of problems; no car crash and no ants.

Cabin users in 2025

Voluntary Village Groups

Bumps & Babes

Colour Wheel

St Mary's Church Groups

Tuesday Morning Toddlers

Wild Church

Cabin Creative Arts

Brownies

LOTS Coffee

Friendship Club

Table Tennis

Crochet Club

Exercise Classes

Pilates

Zumba

Yoga

Dance

Ballet

West Coast Swing Training

Gong Sound Bath

Taiko Drumming Workshop

Village Group Committee Meetings

Hardwick Women's Institute

Wednesday Morning Prayers/Coffee

Parochial Church Council

Ministry Team Meetings

Cabin Management Meetings

Lordsbridge Team

Lordsbridge Core Team Council

Marriage Preparation Day

Families

Baptism Celebrations

Funeral Wakes

Children's Parties

Family Gatherings/Adult Parties

Baby Showers

All Souls Tea & Christingle Tea

St Mary's Events

Hardwick Allotments

Hardwick Community Lunches

Hardwick Parish Council

Hardwick Eco Group

Hardwick Community Centre Working Group

Village/Church Socials

Talks

Church Fete

Music Evening

Coffee Mornings

Safari Supper

Guy Fawkes Party

Cheese & Wine

Summer Afternoons

Workshops & Business Meetings

History off the Page

Christmas Wreath Making

Community Lunches

Giant Book Sale

Afternoon Tea Event

Cambridge Deaf Association (hearing aid maintenance)

Cambourne U3A Genealogy Group

2025 Eco Event

Village Groups Socials

CPR & Defibrillation

WCCYM

Pippins

Hardwick Women's Institute

Liberal Democrats/Pippa Heylings MP even

Fabric and Churchyard - Jeff Jones

Church Fabric

Compared with the previous year when extensive repair work took place on the church, 2025 was fortunately much less eventful. The bee infestation problem experienced in 2024 unfortunately reoccurred and their access point to the church was eventually found and the problem resolved by employing a professional apiarist.

Graham Pledger, a retired surveyor, continued his work on monitoring any movement in the structure of the church. His report indicated that there was very slight movement, measured in millimetres, but with this was enough due to the very dry summer of 2025 for the large plaster crack adjacent to the vestry door to reappear.

Illuminated stars on the church tower and the lychgate for the Christmas period has become a village tradition and again was well received.

Churchyard

Once again, the churchyard has been admirably cared for by the LOTS team, for which numerous favourable comments have been received.





LOTS

Peter Cornwell

The LOTS team has grown to eight this year. The team meet weekly on Thursdays and still make time for drinking plenty of coffee.

During the year they have cleared the site of rubbish, using a skip, built a brush fence, stripped out ivy from the north facing hedge, planted several hundred daffodils, put up a new owl box, as well as the usual maintenance jobs. They failed to gain a silver award from the Wildlife trust because of the difficulty of creating wild flower meadow environments but will continue to work on this and will reapply this Summer. All are extremely pleased with the new mower, thank you Parish Council for covering the total cost of its purchase.
Thanks to Jane Humphries for leading on the daffodils. With help from the wider community they managed to plant a display around the village sign which has been appreciated by a huge number of people.

Thanks to Lois for her donations of aconites and bergenia.

Thanks to Peter Webb for his donation of a tawny owl box. This has been mounted on one of the trees nearest to the Cabin and subsequently some of the children have experienced dissecting owl pellets.

Thanks to Craig Harding and Tom Banks of 'Bankside trees and landscaping'. Craig and Tom very kindly came to put in posts for us for the brush wood fence, free of charge.

James Barnard shared his pleasure in the fritillary flowers which have come up strongly this year. Thanks to James for his donation.

Thanks too to Pauline Joplin for her many donations this year including lots of dahlias. They will go in the bed beside the cycle store and the bed running down towards the gate.

James Wakeling continues to support all that is done at the Cabin. His most recent contribution has been a very competitive quote for putting in the gate to the pond.

Whilst transplanting snowdrops this year one of the children asked how much it would have cost to buy the snowdrops which had been transplanted. Using the price from the Botanic garden this was the sum: 100 new bunches of snowdrops with an average of ten in each bunch times £4.80 per bulb. If they had been bought them from the Botanic it would have cost £4800 just for the ones transplanted this year!

Thanks to the Sunday club and the Wild church families for collecting fallen leaves again this year. The quality of the leaf mould from last year is superb. It will be used on the beds as a mulch.

The LOTS team were most proud of the brushwood fence which was created using the trimmings from the pollarded willow trees. The fence not only looks good, it hides the compost heaps and will provide excellent winter cover for ladybirds etc.

The HOTBIN continues to thrive, but it has not yet achieved the temperatures which are expected. The bin is running at a fairly constant thirty degrees c. If we keep feeding it we can expect it to get nearer to sixty. In spite of the (lowish) temperatures good compost was harnessed for the new shrubs bed near the church porch and it will also be used for giving the dahlias a good boost when they are planted. (The shrubs by the porch were all chosen for their berries.

It was a good Spring for spotting last year. There have been early Peacock butterflies, tree creepers, nuthatches and lots of ladybirds as well as the usual family of moorhens.

Finally a tale of bravery. It was just a few weeks ago in early 2026 that Jane Humphries was walking by the new daffodils when she spotted a white van man picking from the glorious display. ‘Excuse me,’ she said, ‘I was part of the team who planted these, they

are for everyone, not to take home.' ' Sorry,' said white van man, 'I don't know what came over me, I don't usually do things like this. I was just picking a few to take home to my four year old daughter.'



Safeguarding Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Jane Muncey

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is a way to support the mission of the Church. It is not just DBS checks and trainings, it is how we react to other people, how we look after them. We think of safeguarding often, in respect to children, but it also refers to adults who may be vulnerable, either permanently or temporarily, due to some crisis in their lives. We have agreed to comply with the House of Bishops safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'

We continue to use the safer recruitment process, even though the process is not designed for use in a small church community.

Those of us who have already had our first DBS and training sessions have continued to renew the training and update the DBS check as required. The use of the Safeguarding dashboard, which keeps track of policies and when they need to be reviewed, and the Safeguarding hub, which records when DBS and training records were completed and issues reminders.

Unfortunately, in August 2025, a third-party data digital ID storage provider used by APCS, the organisation that has been used by the church to administer the DBS checks had a data breach which sadly affected three members of our congregation, which was a difficult time for them. Support was offered by the Diocese, and a different company, U check, is now used to administer the DBS process for the church.

The Lordsbridge Team – Report for 2025 APCMs

by Sue Nelms, Lordsbridge Team Council Secretary

In 2025 the Lordsbridge Team Council met four times instead of the usual three due to an extraordinary meeting in December to discuss finance and recruitment challenges. Finance is discussed at each meeting and its oversight is undertaken by Team Treasurer, Sue Chase.

At the February AGM Acting Team Rector Claire Robertson stood down and Clare Coates took over. The subsequent business meeting approved a suite of policies which were then delegated to the various PCCs. After the business of the meeting Rev Peter Leech, Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry did a presentation on 'Leading Your Church into Growth', a course which was undertaken during the year by various members of the Team, both clergy and lay.

At the June meeting the main topics of discussion were the Team Rector vacancy, which continued across the whole year and the conclusion of the Local Ecumenical Project in Toft. Whilst the project has ended, the Methodist Church members have been welcomed into the St Andrew's parish family.

At the October meeting Archdeacon Alex Hughes led a conversation in which we discussed various options for the team following the general lack of interest in the Team Rector post, despite several rounds of advertising, combined with a shortfall in funds in some of the team's parishes. Following this meeting Archdeacon Alex consulted with the Diocese and going forward the Team has agreed reduce the number of stipendiary clergy to 2.5, with the Comberton and Toft post representing the 0.5.

At the December meeting Archdeacon Alex confirmed the Diocesan acceptance of the reduction of stipendiary clergy to 2.5 and the knock-on financial implications of this change. He also said, that it was hoped to confirm the Team Rector position early in

2026 which would then lead to a recruitment process for the new Team Vicar on the new terms.

The Core Team, which comprises stipendiary clergy Rev Clare Coates and Rev Claire Robertson, SSM Rev Charles Fraser, Team Curate Rev Barnabas Leeke, Rev Priscilla Slusar and the Team Administrator meets weekly. During the year our Team Administrator Rebecca Herrick left in order to pursue her ordination training. During her time she transformed so many of our processes and supported so many different roles across the Team and she has been succeeded in this role by Emily Griffiths.

With hindsight it has been a challenging year but it has also given us the opportunity to work together and strengthen our existing links and relationships. We look forward to welcoming the new Team Vicar for Comberton and Toft during 2026 and working alongside them as we continue to focus on serving our communities.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of the Team in whatever role, whether large or small. We achieve so much more as a Team and look forward to the next year.

Bourn Deanery Report

The Deanery Synod focussed its attention on two key areas during 2025 – how we can share the good news of Jesus with families, children and young people within our communities and in our schools, and a look at alternative ways of coping with the challenges of large, multi church benefices which have few paid ministers and have some parishes that may lack one or more churchwardens, a treasurer and/or PCC members.

During the year there were a number of staff changes across the Deanery, with a new Team Rector for the Papworth Team (the Rev'd Matt Philips), a short-term secondment from the Lordsbridge Team to Cambourne Church, and vacancies for children and young people's workers at Cambourne Church and the Lordsbridge Team. The

Lordsbridge Team Rector post was vacant throughout 2025 but is now filled. A Deanery Treasurer is also being sought.

New developments within the Deanery included the establishment of a Deanery Standing Committee and progress with the changes in parish boundaries between Caxton Parish and Cambourne, to bring the West Cambourne development within Cambourne. Regular updates were provided to Synod by Cambourne Church, the Lordsbridge and Papworth Teams, and WCCYM, and by representatives on Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

Further details of the 2025 meetings can be found in the Deanery Synod Minutes. We are very grateful to all the Deanery Synod representatives who have faithfully served on Bourn Deanery Synod this year.

A number of churches within the Deanery do not currently have a representative on Deanery Synod. Please can we encourage you to nominate one at your Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and to join us as we seek to encourage one another and to share the good news of Jesus across the Deanery. In addition, this autumn there will be elections to the General Synod of the Church of England - each member of Deanery Synod will have a vote as to whom they would like to represent their parish on General Synod. Please do not miss this opportunity to have your voice heard by the national church! Please contact Rebecca Cowburn (Secretary, Bourn Deanery Synod) if you have any questions about becoming a Deanery Synod member: rcowburn@googlemail.com.

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Bourn Deanery Synod - 2025 Meetings and talks:

Bourn Deanery Synod met three times during 2025 (in Eltisley in April, Caxton in June and Cambourne in October 2025), with two presentations at each meeting.

The main focus of our meetings was on how we can share the good news of Jesus with families, children and young people, within our communities and our schools. The talks included details of ongoing initiatives, ways in which we, as churches, can be more

welcoming to young families, and plans for future children and young people's work, as well as discussion/question sessions on how to start reaching children and families and on working with young people.

We again considered alternative approaches to church governance and working together across parishes in multi-parish ministry, including a presentation on how 14 parishes had been brought together within a single benefice, with the funding for a second ministerial post being used creatively to provide support instead for a children and families' worker within the Team, and another presentation which included plans to involve lay members to a greater extent in the governance of the Team's parishes, and to promote local lay ministry pathways. In addition, the Rev'd Nigel di Castiglione, prior to his retirement, spoke about his call to ordination and his observations, from 40 years of service and learning, on a godly approach to Ministry, and Canon Sarah Burles, spoke of how Ely Cathedral seeks joyfully to proclaim the love of God in worship, outreach, welcome and care.

Regular updates on the work of both Diocesan Synod and General Synod have also been provided to Deanery Synod. News from the Deanery: The Teams and Cambourne church provided updates on their activities through the year. New developments included the establishment of a Deanery Standing Committee that is responsible for arranging the content of future meetings; Deanery Synod members are encouraged to suggest topics/issues for discussion at meetings. There has also been progress with the proposed change in boundaries between Caxton Parish and Cambourne, that would bring the West Cambourne development site within Cambourne Parish. The Papworth Team's weekly phone based church service celebrated its 5th anniversary and the Lordsbridge Team is continuing to host a weekly Zoom call for those in their Teams (and beyond) that are unable to travel to church.

Deanery Finance Update Report – October 2025:

The Deanery Finance Update Report noted that the current financial position within the Deanery was positive, with the agreed Ministry Share payments expected to be paid in full by the Teams during 2025. However, a 4% increase in Ministry Shares was expected

for 2026; this would be a potential challenge for some parishes and could lead to a short-fall in Ministry Share payments in Bourn Deanery during 2026. It also noted that the ongoing deficit within Ely Diocese, which is projected to be c.£0.5m in 2026, is expected to increase further with the planned rises in clergy stipend, National Insurance and other costs. This means that future financial support from the Diocese for deaneries will, by necessity, be expected to be limited.

Personnel changes: There were a number of staff changes across the Deanery, with a new Team Rector for the Papworth Team (the Rev'd Matt Philips), the short-term secondment of the Rev'd Barnabas Leeke from the Lordsbridge Team to Cambourne Church, and vacancies in both the Lordsbridge Team and Cambourne Church for children and young people's workers. A Deanery Treasurer is also being sought. The Rev Clare Coates was appointed as Lordsbridge Team Rector in early 2026. Forward look: The proposed focus for meetings in 2026 is on the future use of our church buildings (including the REACH project), and on engaging with our communities and sharing the Gospel with them.

Electoral Roll

Janet Hayman, Electoral Roll Officer

2025 was a year when church members re-applied to be on the electoral roll.
At the end of December 2025, we had 41 people on the roll.
If anyone would like to join the roll, please let Janet know.

Current Electoral Roll

	Surname	Christian Name	Resident or non resident
1	Austin (Riley)	Kate	R
2	Barnard	Anthony (Jim)	R
3	Bennett	Elizabeth	R
4	Butler	Carole	R
5	Cardoso de Freitas Rodrigues	Diana Luisa	R
6	Coates	Stephen	R
7	Coates	Julie	NR
8	Coates	David	NR
9	Cornwell	Peter	R
10	Cornwell	Susan	R
11	Coxall	Brian	R
12	De Jong	Gisela	R
13	Dowman	Jane	R
14	Entwhistle	Elizabeth	R
15	Everitt	June	R
16	Farmer	Vicki	R
17	Ferguson	Laura	R
18	Ford	Christopher	R
19	Frettsome	Lois	R
20	Gavazzo Bailey	Diana Rebecca	R
21	Gavazzo de Freitas Rodrigues	Jorge Manuel	R
22	Giddings	Ian	R
23	Harding	Helen	R
24	Hayman	Janet	R
25	Jones	Anne	R
26	Jones	Jeffrey	R
27	Joslin	Pauline	R
28	Lankester	Charlotte (Charlie)	R
29	Manning	Mark	R
30	Marcus	Alison	R
31	McNeill	Michaela	R
32	Muncey	David	R
33	Muncey	Jane	R
34	Parker	Sarah	R
35	Roy	David (Tom)	R
36	Roy	Elizabeth Naomi	R
37	Segrave	Joan	R
38	Tinkler	Elizabeth (Liz)	R
39	Webb	Liz	R
40	Westbury	Thelma	R
41	Wilkin	Mary	R
42	Williams	Anne	NR
43	Yepes	Maria Patricia	R

Eco Church and Wildlife Management Plan

Peter Cornwell

2025 saw the completion of the St Mary's Eco Management report. The report is available to read at the Cabin and on the web site. This coming year we will be applying for the Wildlife Trust Silver award. Earlier in the year we were awarded the A-Rocha Silver Award. The A-Rocha award covers such things as ministry and buildings as well as eco matters.

A steering committee was formed in 2024 to plan the third Eco Event in the village. This time we have joined forces with Dry Drayton.

Eco event 29th September 2025

This was the first Eco event with Dry Drayton church. The organising committee was therefore comprised of members from: St Mary's, St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton, Hardwick Evangelical church and the Hardwick Climate champions. The event was similar to the two previous events, with talks in the church and stalls and refreshments around the Cabin.

The talks included such things as the reduction of carbon footprints, experience of domestic heat pumps and grants and experience with electric vehicles. There was also input from CVC and a wonderful display about bee keeping. Stalls and activities completed the line up.

Thanks to the events committee for providing drinks and coffee throughout the day.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the development of the site during the year: the LOTS team, the congregation, Wild Church and the Sunday club.

Members of St Mary's Hardwick PCC

Team Rector: Revd Clare Coates

Church Wardens: Alison Marcus and Janet Hayman

Treasurer: Kate Austin

Deanery synod rep: Lois Frettsome (until APCM 2026)

Team Council rep: Jeff Jones (until APCM 2026)

Elected members:

Michaela McNeill (until APCM 2026)

Jane Muncey (until APCM 2026) Safeguarding Officer

Chris Ford (until APCM 2027)

Peter Cornwell (until APCM 2027)

Jeff Jones (until APCM 2028) Vice-chair

Sue Cornwell Secretary (until APCM 2027)

