

Annual Report

**St Mary's Burwell
St Etheldreda's Reach**



Loving God, Loving People

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, April 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH AND TO THE REPORT

Who are we? What has God called us to do?
Loving God, Loving People

Our Mission Statement

As the parish churches of Burwell & Reach we gather as people of all ages seeking to grow together in faith, hope and love, sharing the good news of God's love through:-

- Our prayer and worship
- Our daily lives
- Our service in our communities and in the world
- Our buildings being warm and welcoming centres of prayer and community life

A SUMMARY OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF OUR CHURCHES IN 2024 Prepared for Annual Meeting – April 2025

This Annual Report includes the reports which are required by the rules, and a few others. Please also see our website, which includes an introduction to the different groups and activities in our church community.

For **information** about the parish, visit: <http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/>

The **Parish** of Burwell with Reach is in the Deanery of Fordham and Quy and the Archdeaconry of Cambridge in the Diocese of Ely.

The full, formal, **name of the parish** is: The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Burwell with St Etheldreda and the Holy Trinity, Reach.
Registered charity number: 1129567

Correspondence should be addressed to the Vicar, Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams:
22 Isaacson Road, Burwell, CB25 0AF Telephone: 01638 741262
email: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

CentrePeace, our parish outreach centre run entirely by volunteers, is at:
38a The Causeway, Burwell, CB25 0DU Telephone: 07542 828801
Opening times 10.00am–12.30pm on Tues, Thurs, Frid, Sat; 2.00pm–4.00pm on Weds, Thurs.

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WHO'S WHO

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| VICAR | Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk |
| ASSOCIATE PRIEST | Revd Paula Spalding, associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk Duty days Wednesday, Friday, Sunday |
| PRIESTS IN RETIREMENT | Revd David King Revd Dr Roger Williams |
| LICENCED LAY MINISTERS | Jo Proctor, llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk Kevin Powell |
| CHURCHWARDEN | Wendy Smith, wendyangele.smith@hotmail.co.uk |
| CHURCHWARDEN'S ASSISTANTS | Caroline Smith, Steve Martin, |
| BELLRINGERS: TOWER CAPTAIN | Dee Smith, dee.fsmith@ntlworld.com |
| "CENTRE PEACE" MANAGEMENT GROUP | Hazel Williams MBE, HWill66@aol.com |
| CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR | Kathy Ogilvie administrator@stmarysburwell.com |
| CONTACT EDITOR | Pat Chalmers, |
| HOUSE GROUPS - new enquiries | Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams, vicar@stmarys.org.uk |
| MOTHERS UNION | Philip Baker philip.bakerhome@ntlworld.com |
| PCC SECRETARIES | Jo Proctor llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk Kathy Ogilvie |
| PCC TREASURER | Sue Chase sec@simplesolutionscambs.co.uk |
| PRESERVATION TRUST | Rob Harwood |
| PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER | Jo Proctor llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk |
| SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATOR | Dee Smith, deesmith@stmarysburwell.org.uk |

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Looking back at 2025, there have been some encouraging signs of new shoots of growth, and consolidation in other areas. Attendance at Sunday services has been maintained from 2024 – 2025, with a number of new faces, and others moving away. The full revision of the electoral roll took place this year, with an increase over previous years. The number of people now watching the livestream on Facebook has continued at about 4 each service. The Wednesday midweek service continues to have very good attendance. Refresh Café has continued on Friday mornings, supporting families with young children, and a number of families join us at Café Church, on the first Sunday of the month. A new venture for 2025 was Connect Café, a monthly after school event for families, which has enabled us to maintain contact with parents with children who have moved to primary school. Christmas and Easter events and services were well attended, and our thanks go to Becky Wilkes once again for working with the choir for the Carols by Candlelight.

Parish administration has settled into new routines, with Sue Chase, our paid part-time treasurer and Kathy Ogilvie as volunteer administrator, and other volunteers taking on additional roles. Revd Virginia Moggridge moved on in September 2025 to finish her curacy in a nearby multi-parish benefice, and was appointed in November to be rector of the Raddesley benefice.

Assisted by local volunteers, we continued to manage a weekly Pop-Up Pantry, based at Burwell Day Centre, which distributes excess food from the local supermarket as well as garden produce and donated items. This has provided valuable support to people in need. In July, with a change of team, the Pantry moved to monthly. The church fete was held in June 2025 with good attendance and community involvement – a big thank you to Jo Proctor for overall coordination and planning.

A PCC sub group has been researching options for replacing the current heating system in St Mary's with a more sustainable system, to help us move towards reaching Net Zero Carbon. An open meeting in July was addressed by the church architect and was well attended by parishioners. The nave window that had been broken during a break-in during December 2024 was repaired. There were further episodes of minor vandalism during the summer, and additional security measures were put in place.

St Etheldreda's church has continued to be used for more services, and occasional lettings to other organisations for meetings and Quiet Days. Cream teas were served in the church at the annual Reach Fair. A significant amount of work was undertaken to repair and conserve front and side boundary walls of the churchyard.

I am grateful to those who serve alongside me in the mission and ministry of this parish, for their dedication, commitment and friendship. Thank you to our churchwarden, Wendy Smith, and to Sue Reynolds, who fulfilled the role for part of the year. To our assistant wardens, working hard at practical aspects of parish life: Steve Martin and Caroline Smith. Thank you to Ian Richards and Sally Swann, for help with finances. Thank you to the PCC members, and PCC secretary Jo Proctor.

Thank you to the ministry team for all you have brought to so many other areas of church life: Revd Paula Spalding, LLM Jo Proctor, curate Revd Virginia Moggridge, and LLM Kevin Powell. Thank you to Simon Ogilvie, Peter Hall and Rob Proctor, for the music and the tech. Thank you to Jo Proctor and Dee Smith, for the hard work on keeping us up to date with safeguarding.

Thank you to the PCC and deanery synod reps, to Hazel Williams and CentrePeace volunteers, and Val Badcock for compiling the pew sheet, Pat Chalmers, as 'Contact' editor, and Avril Plume as Electoral Roll Officer and helping with rotas and weddings. This is also an opportunity to say thank you to so many who give of themselves to the mission and ministry of our parish, often behind the scenes. Thank you to the refreshment helpers, bell-ringers, flower ministry, small group leaders, Mothers' Union and all who enrich our life together. Thank you to Ken and Dawn Hurrell, for helping with burials of ashes and maintaining the churchyard.

On behalf of the whole church family, I would like to thank those who contribute financially, faithfully giving to support our mission and ministry, without which it would be very difficult to continue.

And finally, words from Ephesians 3: 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

Eleanor Williams
Vicar of Burwell with Reach

DIOCESE OF ELY VISION – PEOPLE FULLY ALIVE

ely2025

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ

Believing that God calls us to discover together his transforming presence in our lives and in every community, in Jesus Christ we pray:

- To **engage** fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally
- To **grow** God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders
- To **deepen** our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer

STRATEGY – FIVE LEVERS FOR CHANGE

1. Nurture a confident people of God
2. Develop healthy churches and leaders
3. Serve the community
4. Re-imagine our buildings
5. Target resources to key areas

DIOCESAN STRATEGY PRAYER

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.

We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.

Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;

give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;

and grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2024

The table below summarises progress towards achieving our aims and more details are given in separate reports elsewhere in this document.

| Aim | Objectives | Progress | Review of 2025 |
|---|--|--|--|
| To equip and support a new team for the work of ministry in the parish | Set up new financial arrangements. Train new administrator. Recruit new volunteers for other administrative roles. | Good progress has been made in making the transition to a part-time paid treasurer, and other volunteers managing day to day finances. New volunteer administrator has taken on significant parts of the administrative workload. The PCC secretary and Vicar have taken on other tasks. | The new team has been working well, however additional volunteers to manage the day-to-day work-load would not go amiss. |
| To make progress to become Carbon Net Zero by 2030 | Small group to research options for heating and other ways of reducing carbon footprint. | A small group has looked at options for the future replacement of the current gas heating system, and has consulted with the church architect. Energy bills have been examined in detail to identify causes of additional usage. | New heating systems have been explored and the consensus is that we will go with a halo radiant system. A small group have visited other churches where this system has been installed and a working group has now been formed to take the project further |
| To review learning from the Partnership for Missional Church process | Continue to work in partnership with other village organisations. Consider how to offer hospitality as the Newmarket Road housing development progresses. | We have continued to manage the Pop-Up Pantry, in partnership with local volunteers and the village food stores. No progress on Newmarket Road development. | Pop-Up-Pantry is now monthly and is at the Day Centre and continues to be a valuable resource. The Newmarket Road development is now open and one idea is that we put New to Burwell packs in the Sales Office. |
| To share ideas and experience within the deanery | To take opportunities to share at Deanery Synod and at parish level. | Encouragements and challenges have been shared at Deanery Synod and with specific needs of individual parishes. | This has become a regular item on the agenda and the highs and lows of parishes are shared at each meeting. |

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORT

It has been another fulfilling year at St Mary's and St. Etheldreda's. I have done my utmost to ensure that the buildings have been kept in good repair and that all equipment is checked for safety. We have received, from Trinity Church, a new blue velvet curtain as a backdrop to the Lady Altar and some china for special events.

We unfortunately suffered another act of vandalism and, as a consequence, closed St Mary's for limited times during the summer months. On this occasion we had already taken proactive measures and minimum damage to the organ loft and equipment was the sad result. All electrical equipment used within the church has been PAT tested, including items used in the Guildhall and the fire extinguishers have been checked and certificated. The sound system has been upgraded. The water boiler in the kitchen, has been repaired and serviced, the fan has been adjusted to remain switched on 20 minutes after it has been turned off, to reduce the effects of damp and all kitchen volunteers have had their Food Hygiene training updated and completed their assessment. The roof of St. Mary's has had the camera and alarms repaired and serviced and the gutters and drains underwent their annual service. The heat pump was repaired and serviced as was the clock.

Throughout the summer months work was carried out in the Guildhall. Spaces were assessed and reordered before various works were carried out. These included repairs to the hot water system and extractor fan, kitchen cupboards realigned, the garden gate repaired and painted and the radiators were boxed in.

St Etheldreda's itself has been free of major works but has had the clock maintained and the fire extinguishers checked and certified. The boundary walls to the front and side of the church have been rebuilt.

Following on from the heating forum held with the congregation and led by an Archangel representative, the heating group has been making extensive enquiries into the Halo system with a view to replacing our heating system. A working party has been looking at means to reduce the incursion of jackdaw nests in the bell tower and of some minor alterations to the ringing chamber.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to the volunteers that assisted in the deep cleaning of the church in September. I wish to express my thanks for the continued help throughout the year from Steve, Caroline, Scott, Dawn and Tony, who have willingly assisted with their talents. I am also grateful for the brief but beneficial contribution I received from Sue. My thanks to Paula, Jo and Kevin for the work they do. Lastly, I give thanks to Eleanor for her dedication to the church and wider community as she deals with the many and varied religious and pastoral needs she is presented with.

Wendy Smith (Churchwarden)

CHURCHYARDS

St Mary's, Burwell: As always, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the care of our beautiful churchyard, including the Hurrells and Lucases (ashes plots) and Wild Burwell (raking cut grass).

Last year I set up a WhatsApp group for "Churchyard Gardeners"; please let either Eleanor or myself know if you would like to be added to this (or if you would like to help but would prefer to be contacted in a different way). Tasks include weeding the circular beds and gravel paths, and pruning the roses and other shrubs.

We are still building on the good practice which gained us the Bronze Churchyard Conservation Award; we continue to work towards the Silver Award. To quote Bishop Dagmar:

"The predictions about the future of life on this planet make for alarming and depressing reading and the need to repent of the past and live more sustainably is abundantly clear. Treasuring creation is an implicit part of proclaiming the Gospel. And we can give expression to this with our churchyards which can be 'arks for vulnerable species'. I am delighted to support this Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme."

You may be aware that, since the 1930's, 97% of UK wildflower meadows have been lost; this clearly has knock-on effects for our wider biodiversity, including vital pollinators. Churchyards represent an important opportunity for a slight redress to this imbalance - careful management can maximise the number and quality of habitats, for the benefit of wildlife.

In order to achieve this, a variety of mowing regimes is needed; alongside more regularly cut areas, there are uncut areas (ideal for small mammals), spring flower areas (to be cut late May, July and October/ November) and summer meadow areas (to be cut in March and then not again until October/ November). In these latter two cases, it is important to remove and compost the cut grass; this reduces soil fertility and thus encourages wildflowers, by holding back the coarser grasses which would, otherwise, outcompete them.

There were no significant happenings in the churchyard over the past year. Only minor tree work has been necessary, under the guidance of the East Cambs. Trading Company Tree Officer.

St Etheldreda's, Reach: The work of developing the garden into an attractive space suitable for quiet reflection is still ongoing. We are mindful of our duty as stewards of this place - and work there follows the Scheme of Biodiversity Improvement (part of the planning application for the recent reordering).

The repurposed old pulpit, forming a raised alpine bed, has established well; the herbaceous border in the south-east corner has proved harder, due to the large weed seed bank. The sowing of locally collected wildflower seeds/ plug plants grown from such seeds, to enhance the meadow areas, is ongoing.

Since the rebuilding of the front (western) and southern boundary walls has been completed, we have been waiting to see what plants naturally appear in the disturbed ground in this area; we can then consider what enhancement planting may be necessary here.

The three large box bushes (two framing the entrance and one on the southern side) have suffered badly from the fairly recent arrival locally of box moth. These bushes should be monitored over the forthcoming growing season for signs of recovery, and advice sought as necessary.

We would very much like this garden improvement to be a project by and for Reach. Robert Keutgen is carrying out routine maintenance, as before, and one local volunteer has come forward over the past year. But more helpers would be useful to spread the load: to monitor regularly and carry out light gardening tasks.

Caroline Smith, assistant to the Churchwarden with particular responsibility for the churchyard

FORDHAM AND QUY DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod met twice last year, once in April and then again in November. On both occasions we had a guest speaker.

At the April meeting we welcomed Francis Burkitt, a member of the Cathedral Chapter who had come to talk about the Cathedral and its ministry within the Diocese. He told us that there is a congregation of 100 – 200 for the Sunday communion services and 30 – 40 for Evensong which increases dramatically at Christmas and Easter when 20,000 visit over the Christmas season and 10,000 at Easter. He said, there are four residentiary Canons and a mixed choir of boys and girls and the cathedral welcomes 100,000 visitors every year. The Cathedral is a very thriving, buzzy place, he says, and the aim is to make the cathedral attractive without commercialising it. He also told us of the ongoing programme of refurbishment, repair, and maintenance. He encouraged us all to apply for a pass so that we can visit the cathedral freely.

Our visitor to the November meeting was Revd Canon Chris Childs, Vicar of the Kennett Valley Group who talked to us on 'Rural Ministry Realities' He said that rural parishes faced a number of difficulties: Fewer clergy; Bigger Benefices; fewer services; increased parish share; increased cost of building repair; reduced interest in organised religion; cold buildings; more admin and more legal stuff. He felt that we had to keep local churches going despite the difficulties. As he saw it:

- Place was important – People often went into church for quiet contemplation, to visit the church where their ancestors had been married etc.
- We should hold as many services as possible - People will come to church for fellowship before they come to faith.
- We must be as inclusive as possible - try to include more people, ask them to read, etc.
- We must get more people on board somehow

The business side of the meetings then follow and each Parish present is encouraged to share something of what has been happening within their own context. Other initiative from the Diocese are shared and a review of the finances is given by the treasurer, Simon Ogilvie.

Simon reported that he was close to being able to open a bank account and that a lot of the parishes were up to date with their parish share payment although there was likely to be a substantial shortfall this year as some parishes struggled to pay. He said the Deanery would not therefore be making 100% payment of the parish share for this year. He expected the Parish share to increase by 4% in 2026.

Christine Fleming and Jo Proctor (Deanery Synod Representatives) and grateful thanks to Lily Whymer for her comprehensive minute taking.

CENTREPEACE

We had a wonderful celebration in February, to remember the 20 years that CentrePeace has been part of the Burwell community. It brought together volunteers both past and present, as well as customers and visitors. The service also included a presentation of the journey from when we first started until the present day.

After the service we had tea and cake together. It was a great opportunity to catch up with Gill and Bob Smith (1st chairman of management group) and Abi and Revd. Stephen Earl (our minister in 2006) and Revd. Olivia Cole, who came to join us for the afternoon.

Last year, for the first time in 20 years, we had to put up the price of books to help cover our costs, particularly those for heating and maintenance. This was reflected in our finances with only a small deficit last year. Jigsaws and cards played their part too. We also ran the book stall at Reach Fair for the first time, had one stall for jigsaws outside the Co-op, and sold children's books in church at Refresh café.

We continue to welcome customers and visitors for a free cup of coffee or tea, a chat and a rest too if needed. Thanks must go to the volunteers who make it all happen in the shop and the committee who keep an eye on anything that needs to be done as well as thinking up new ideas.

Hazel Williams
Chair of Management Committee

MOTHERS' UNION (MU)

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH REPORT

We have had a successful year in 2025/6 and have plans for a memorable series of events and opportunities this coming year, which is the 150th year of the Mothers' Union. Mary Sumner would be amazed at what the organisation she founded in 1876 in Hampshire has achieved, and continues to achieve, at home and in 84 countries worldwide. We play our part in Burwell by supporting the worldwide aims ("to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service, to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children and to help those whose family life has met with adversity") where and how we can, and also by directly involving ourselves in local initiatives in the parish, the diocese and the country.

These local initiatives include support for women's refuges, prisoners and their families and diocesan objectives such as aiding families in crisis, sending the most

under-privileged families on seaside holidays and being ever-vigilant for indicators of modern slavery and any form of abuse, be it gender-based or domestic or both. Mothers' Union provides support, companionship and prayer for members and anyone in need, member or not, equally. We support international campaigns and work by responding to appeals and lending our voices wherever their added weight might make them heard. With over 4 million members worldwide, governments take notice when we campaign! We maintain links with parishes in Africa and regularly exchange news and prayers.

We meet as a Branch once a month and cover a range of topics and activities, but always including prayer, shared food and conversation. Those of us who can also meet once a month for Holy Communion followed by a fellowship lunch at the Day Centre, to which all in the church are welcome. We have also started joining with neighbouring Branches for special occasions, such as Advent services and Lady Day, and it has been very pleasant and rewarding to meet likeminded people from other parishes. The Diocesan Mothers' Union holds prayer services in Ely Cathedral (and other churches in the diocese) and, I and some of the Branch members participate and lead these.

During the year we continued to recruit new members but, following her assignment to her own parishes we lost Virginia. . Membership is open to any baptised Christian and anyone, male or female, who cares about Christian care of families and support of family life is very welcome.

I am very willing to discuss membership, our aims or our work with anyone who is interested. Our meetings are lively, engaging and always good-natured. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon with the added bonus of doing something good in praise of God.

Philip Baker (Burwell Branch Leader) 17th March 2026

ST MARY'S BURWELL BELLRINGERS ANNUAL REPORT



The bellringing band at St Mary's is thriving! We now have sixteen ringers, having welcomed three new members this year. There are several stages when learning to ring church bells and Burwell bellringers are making good progress by making use of the sessions on offer at the local Ringing Education Centre based in St James, Stretham on Saturdays as well as attending our very busy Monday evening practice. Burwell bellringers have rung for Sunday Services, weddings as well as other occasions. We were proud to be part of the 80th Anniversary Commemorations for the VE Day in May and VJ Day in August.

This year we have been focusing on making the ringing chamber more welcoming. The beautifully carved wooden bell-spider has been installed (kindly paid for by Ann Gilbert, wife of our late Tower Captain David Gilbert in his memory) to hold our ropes when they are not being rung. We are looking into opening the trap door in the ringing room ceiling to improve ventilation and for our hearing the bells. Seat covers are being renewed and boards to help with teaching are being erected. We are grateful to Caroline and Colin Smith for coming onboard to help us with the problems coming from Jays nesting under the louvres in the belfry. Kevin Powell has been helping with the updating of our Risk Assessments.

Finally, a big thank you to Scott Massey for meticulous keeping the church clock on time and to Tom for raising and lowering the flag. Future plans for the bellringers include getting ready for the 300th Anniversary of the Burwell Fire (September 8th 1727), when our back five bells would have ring out for the tragic loss of so many lives.



Dee Smith Tower Captain

VILLAGE GREEN PRAY-ERS

We meet every Saturday morning from 9am for about 45 mins for coffee, chat and sharing prayers. Some of the group have shared the following statements:

“I appreciate the openness, sincerity and acceptance from the group; the listening, sharing, our challenges, our UPs and DOWN - our celebrations and thankfulness are brought together in shared prayers, and structured readings. The Village Green Cafe and its staff in Burwell provides opportunity for outreach to all - an expression of church fellowship in the community.”

I have now moved away from the village and my reflections are as follows:- “Every Saturday I used to look forward to meeting with people I liked and trusted. Since we have been taking turns to lead it was exciting to see how every reading or reflection chosen spoke to someone in the particular.

Now I am away it's so comforting that I can ask for prayers for any particular challenge or joy and equally, that I can support others in prayer.

I feel the group has been a great witness in Village Green; we sit and pray quietly but it leaves on impact!”

“I appreciate keeping links with Christians locally. You are a very supportive, caring, group.”

“When I was very ill my family were so grateful to Village Green prayer group & others in different places in the world who faithfully lifted up prayers for my recovery.”

“The Village Green Prayer Group has witnessed to many people.”

“It is comforting to have the prayers and support of faithful friends and also return the support in unison and prayers, especially in times of need.”

“... tho my visits are sporadic in person it is a highlight when I visit that I always look forward to and knowing, from afar, that I have a faithful prayer family too. “

“We are non-judgmental; I feel safe expressing my concerns and feelings knowing that people will listen and accept me exactly as I am. Thank you everyone.”

You would be so welcome to come along and join us.

Janine Stewart

THE PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC Secretary role is currently split between 2 people. Kathy Ogilvie takes the minutes at each PCC Meeting and Jo Proctor who undertakes all the other aspects of the role.

At the April 2025 APCM there were 9 elected PCC members and 7 ex-officio (3 members of the clergy, 2 churchwardens and 2 Deanery Synod Representatives). The composition of the PCC did change over the year as Virginia moved on to complete her curacy at the Three Rivers Group last September, Kevin Powell was co-opted on and Sue Reynolds stepped down from the PCC and from her role as Churchwarden. Currently therefore there are 9 elected members, 6 ex-officio and 1 co-opted member.

Since the APCM in April 2025, at the time of writing there have been 10 PCC Meetings and 1 standing committee meeting. We had a month off in August and the Christmas social in December was hosted by Eleanor at the Vicarage. PCC meetings have been well attended over the year with an average attendance of 70%, meaning that a quorum has been easily reached at every meeting.

Each PCC Meeting follows a set pattern, beginning with prayer. Items for discussion as listed in the Agenda with an opportunity to discuss any other business under either “Matters Arising” from previous minutes or “AOB”. Financial reports are made regularly by the Treasurer and matters relating to the maintenance of each of the churches is given in a fabric report prepared by the churchwardens. There is also time set aside to review past events and to plan for future ones. Other items discussed have included policies and updates. Work continues to ensure that all our policies are kept up to date and that all voluntary staff have gone through the safer recruiting process to ensure we provide a safe environment for all that walk through the Church doors.

An important topic of the PCC, over the last year, has been finding a solution to our aged heating system. We have sought advice from our architect and other churches which you can read about elsewhere in this report.

Much of the Church activity in the past year is given in the individual reports and the PCC is indebted to everyone for their services to the Church and enabling it to be a vibrant place to come and worship.

26th March 2026

Jo Proctor (PCC Secretary) and Kathy Ogilvie (PCC member)

ST MARY'S PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 277633

The purpose of the Trust is to take care of the fabric of the church building of St Mary's, to relieve the PCC of this financial burden and thereby allowing it to concentrate on serving its Christian purpose in the Community of Burwell and Reach, and beyond. It is the intention that the Trust would draw on the resources in the wider community, as it would clearly be a huge task for the church community to care adequately for the building, and a distraction from its other functions. Since beginning the trust over £500,000 has been provided by the Trust.

The Trust has had a quiet year this year. Our financial year runs April to March, so differs from that of the PCC. The activity for the year ending 31st March 2025 is summarised as follows: (note that the current year totals are forecasts).

Work funded on the fabric of St Mary's: £0 in 25/26 (£0 in 24/25) (£37,766 in 23/24)

Regular income (total) £2420 in 25/26 (£2220 in 24/25) (£2184 in 23/24)

Other income (interest, donations, etc) £12297 in 25/26 (£15810 in 24/25) (£6,668 in 23/24)

Total reserves (forecast at 31st March 2026) £197210.23 (£182,493 in 24/25)
(164,486 in 23/24)

The amount paid out each year is very variable as we have no control over the needs that arise. We do always need to plan for works following the quinquennial report by the architect which is due again in 2027.

The Trustees are grateful to all who have helped the Trust and assure all who help that their support is greatly appreciated. Anyone who would like to consider adding their support in any way can find out more by contacting us, we would love to hear from you.

Chairman: Rob Harwood

Treasurer: Angela Bellis



**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL
WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH**

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31st December 2025**

Registered Charity No 1129567

PCC Members during the year

Ex-officio members

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams | Incumbent |
| Revd Paula Spalding | Associate Priest |
| Revd Virginia Moggridge | Curate (left September 2025) |
| Wendy Smith | Churchwarden |
| Susan Reynolds | Churchwarden (April – December 2025) |

Deanery Synod Representatives

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Joanna Proctor | Licensed Lay Minister and Secretary |
| Christine Fleming | Authorised Lay Minister |

Elected Members

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Stephen Martin | Churchwarden's Assistant |
| Caroline Smith | Churchwarden's Assistant |
| Ysanne Leadon | |
| Robin Proctor | |
| Katherine Ogilvie | |
| Simon Ogilvie | |
| Ian Richards | |
| Sally Swann | |
| Sarah Wingate | |

Co-opted Member

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Kevin Powell | Licensed Lay Minister |
|--------------|-----------------------|

In attendance when required (not an elected trustee)

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sue Chase | Treasurer |
|-----------|-----------|

Vicarage Address:

The Vicarage
 22 Isaacson Road
 Burwell
 Cambridge
 CB25 0AF

Registered Charity Number:

1129567



Independent Examiner: Mr Simon Rogers
1 Pound Close
Burwell
Cambridge
CB25 0EP

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Leicester CBF Church of England Funds
LE87 2BB 1 Angel Lane
London
EC4R 3AB

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin stands in a prominent position in High Street, Burwell, Cambridgeshire, CB25 0HB. It is in the Parish of Burwell with Reach, within the Fordham and Quy Deanery. St Mary's is a very fine Perpendicular building and is Grade 1 listed. St Mary's Church stands on a site previously occupied by an Anglo Saxon church in a conservation area at the south-western end of the village. It is part of a complex of ancient buildings including (the remains of) Burwell Castle, built by King Stephen in the C12th and itself on the site of a substantial Roman building, adjacent to a spring.

The Church of St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity, Fair Green, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JD is a Grade II listed Victorian church. It occupies a prominent position on the east side of the green in the centre of the village, alongside the Village Centre and the village pub. Its Victorian architecture is completely in keeping with the overall ambience of the village.

The parishes of Burwell and Reach were combined in April 2004 to form the benefice of Burwell with Reach.

Structure Governance and Management

The PCC confirm that the annual report and audited accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP 2015.

Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and the PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Recruitment and Appointment of PCC

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Risk Management

The PCC has carried out a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, policies have been adopted to mitigate the risks the charity faces. These policies are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity. In financial terms, the main risk appears to be the aging profile of the congregation and donors leading to a risk of a future reduction in income: currently the risk is not high but may rise with time. The PCC is aware of this and looks to increase other income and sets budgets accordingly. In other regulatory areas, the main risk comes from the potential for safeguarding issues: a statement covering the parish's compliance with its statutory duties is given on page 7.

Organisational Structure

In order to carry out its aims and objectives, the PCC sets up sub-committees, which may include other church members. Among these are groups to manage the church shop and the Guildhall.

Related Parties

St Mary's Preservation Trust

The Preservation Trust is an independent charity, set up by the PCC in 1979 with the sole responsibility of conserving the fabric of the building of the church for the benefit of future generations. It is non-denominational and draws funds from both regular supporters and grant-making bodies.

Feoffees

Burwell Church Lands Charity dates back to the 16th century when land was donated for the benefit of the Poor and the maintenance of the Parish Church. It now makes modest grants to assist children and young people living in Burwell to pursue their educational needs, and supports the upkeep of the Guildhall and grants the Church use of the building

Objectives and Aims

In accordance with The PCC Powers Measure of 1956, the PCC aims to co-operate with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Mission Statement

As the parish churches of Burwell & Reach we gather as people of all ages, seeking to grow together in faith, hope and love, sharing the good news of God's love through

- Our prayer and worship
- Our daily lives
- Our service in our communities & in the world
- Our buildings being warm & welcoming centres of prayer and community life.

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We aim to provide a welcoming building for use of the whole community, whilst also meeting the expanding needs of the church. Our buildings are open not only as places of worship, but also as venues for cultural events such as concerts and exhibitions, or for smaller community meetings. While recognising our rich heritage, we are moving forward with new facilities to enhance our buildings.

Achievements and Performance

Attendance at Sunday services has been maintained from 2024 – 2025, with a number of new faces, and others moving away. The full revision of the electoral roll took place this year, with an increase over previous years. The number of people now watching the livestream on Facebook has continued at about 4 each service. The Wednesday midweek service continues to have very good attendance. Refresh Café has continued on Friday mornings, supporting families with young children, and a number of families join us at Café Church, on the first Sunday of the month. A new venture for 2025 was Connect Café, a monthly after school event for families, which has enabled to maintain contact with parents with children who have moved to primary school. Christmas and Easter events and services were well attended.



Parish administration has settled into new routines, with a paid part-time treasurer and volunteer administrator, and other volunteers taking on additional roles. Our curate moved on in September 2025 to finish her curacy in a nearby multi-parish benefice, and was appointed in November to be rector of another benefice.

Assisted by local volunteers, we continued to manage a weekly Pop-Up Pantry, based at Burwell Day Centre, which distributes excess food from the local supermarket as well as garden produce and donated items. This has provided valuable support to people in need. In July, with a change of team, the Pantry moved to monthly.

The church fete was held in June 2025 with good attendance and community involvement.

A PCC sub group has been researching options for replacing the current heating system in St Mary's with a more sustainable system, to help us move towards reaching Net Zero Carbon. An open meeting in July was addressed by the church architect and was well attended by parishioners.

The nave window that had been broken during a break-in during December 2024 was repaired. There were further episodes of minor vandalism during the summer, and additional security measures were put in place.

St Etheldreda's church has continued to be used for more services, and occasional lettings to other organisations for meetings and Quiet Days. Cream teas were served in the church at the annual Reach Fair. A significant amount of work was undertaken to repair and conserve front and side boundary walls of the churchyard.

Financial Review

In total, Unrestricted incoming resources were slightly lower than in the previous year totalling **£128,340** (£129,947 in 2024). However, if we adjust for one-off donations which are always varied and unpredictable, there was in fact an increase of circ. £5,000 in income received.

Investment income rose slightly as did income from Centrepeace and the Guildhall. An increase in the letting charge will help to cover increasing overhead costs over the coming year. Income from occasional offices fell slightly whilst fundraising received a valuable boost from the Church Fete.

Unrestricted resources expended rose from £122,355 in 2024 to **£126,945**.

Ministry Share rose by nearly £2,600 and service running costs, including clergy and vergers expenses also increased although choir and organ costs fell.

Power costs continued to fall as did insurance and cleaning. Treasurer costs were higher as the new Treasurer completed their first full year in the post as did sundry administration which this year included new computer software. A new laptop was purchased and capitalised.

Restricted funds, which include the Buildings Fund and the Reach Legacy Fund, showed a total of **£5,219** in incoming resources. The interest and dividend income from the Legacy Fund is unrestricted income and amounted to **£8,963**.

Significant work was done to the Reach boundary walls at a cost of **£47,589**, the funds coming out of the Legacy Deposit account.

A transfer of £7,500 was made from the Reach Legacy Fund to the Reach General Fund to assist with the ongoing running costs.

Overall, there was a net movement in funds of **£52,483** having to be taken from reserves.

This can be divided into a net surplus for St Mary's of **£1,288**, a net deficit of **£7,199** for St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity for the running of the church (covered by a transfer from the Legacy Fund) plus **£37,612** spent from their Legacy Fund and an unrealised loss on investments of **£8,960**.

Reserves stand at **£727,903** and of this **£85,460** is unrestricted and **£41,935** has been designated for general use if needed.

The PCC will continue to monitor their finances closely and endeavour to keep running costs as close to annual income as possible.

Safeguarding Statement

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), as amended by The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Order 2022. Safeguarding matters are covered by the Parish Safeguarding Officer who may be supported by diocesan staff if necessary. The performance of the church's safeguarding efforts was very good as measured by the diocesan safeguarding dashboard.

Principal Funding Sources

The major regular source of income is charitable donations from a generous and committed congregation. Useful additional income is derived from restricted fund dividends and income from Guildhall lettings. The church shop is merely self-supporting.

Investment Policy

The PCC reserves and restricted funds are invested with the CBF Church of England Funds, and in appropriate deposit accounts which are reviewed regularly.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level of between six months and eighteen months average expenditure. At the end of 2025 unrestricted cash reserves were £127,395, with annual unrestricted expenditure of £126,945.

Approved at the Parochial Church Council meeting on 25th March 2026

Signed: 

Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams (Vicar)

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's Burwell and St Etheldreda's Reach

I report on the accounts of the PCC of Burwell with Reach for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out in the annual Financial Statement.

Respective responsibilities of Team Council and Examiner

The Team Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and considers that an audit is not required for this year but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept, 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 you as members of the Team Council concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accurate accounting records and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records



Simon Rogers
1 Pound Close
Burwell
CB25 0EP

Date: 24th March 2026.

Statement of Financial Activities

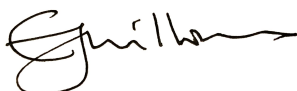
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Prior year total funds |
|---|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Incoming resources | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 78,409 | 1,590 | — | 79,999 | 91,619 |
| Activities for generating funds | 3,002 | — | — | 3,002 | 2,153 |
| Investment income | 20,387 | 1,673 | — | 22,060 | 21,737 |
| Other voluntary income | 137 | 1,955 | — | 2,092 | 918 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 25,831 | — | — | 25,831 | 16,389 |
| Other incoming resources | 572 | — | — | 572 | 768 |
| Total income | 128,340 | 5,219 | — | 133,559 | 133,587 |
| Resources used | | | | | |
| Grants | 4,346 | 2,281 | — | 6,627 | 5,147 |
| Charitable activities | 116,470 | 47,692 | — | 164,162 | 138,737 |
| Charitable activities - support costs | 6,022 | 163 | — | 6,186 | 3,851 |
| Costs of generating funds | 106 | — | — | 106 | 627 |
| Total expenditure | 126,945 | 50,137 | — | 177,083 | 148,364 |
| Gains / losses on investment assets | — | (8,960) | — | (8,960) | 11,348 |
| Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer | 1,394 | (53,878) | — | (52,483) | (3,428) |
| Transfers | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds - in | 7,883 | 175 | — | 8,058 | 6,000 |
| Gross transfers between funds - out | (7,675) | (383) | — | (8,058) | (6,000) |
| Other recognised gains / losses | | | | | |
| Net movement in funds | 1,602 | (54,086) | — | (52,483) | (3,428) |
| Total funds brought forward | 125,792 | 654,595 | — | 780,387 | 783,815 |
| Total funds carried forward | 127,395 | 600,508 | — | 727,903 | 780,387 |
| Represented by | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | | | | | |
| General fund | 36,421 | — | — | 36,421 | 47,410 |
| Reach Legacy Fund | 49,038 | — | — | 49,038 | 47,574 |
| Designated | | | | | |
| Capital Expenditure Fund | 41,935 | — | — | 41,935 | 32,940 |
| Restricted | | | | | |
| Bridgeman Trust Fund | — | 1,150 | — | 1,150 | 1,479 |
| Building Work Fund | — | 52,438 | — | 52,438 | 49,485 |
| Burwell Sunday School Fund | — | 3,954 | — | 3,954 | 3,756 |
| Reach Legacy Fund | — | 220,747 | — | 220,747 | 270,524 |
| Social Fund | — | 1,148 | — | 1,148 | 2,132 |
| St Andrew's Church Fund | — | 318,019 | — | 318,019 | 323,717 |
| Youth Work and Sunday School F | — | 3,049 | — | 3,049 | 3,497 |

Balance sheet

| Class and code | Description | This year | Last year |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| | Audio visual equipment | 283 | — |
| | Kitchen equipment | 120 | 120 |
| | St Andrew's mission church | — | — |
| | Bridgeman trust | — | — |
| | Burwell sunday school | — | — |
| | Reach Legacy Acc | — | — |
| | Reach Legacy Inc | 178,765 | 181,968 |
| | St Andrew's mission church | 318,019 | 323,717 |
| | Bridgeman trust | 1,420 | 1,479 |
| | Burwell Sunday school | 3,756 | 3,756 |
| | Total Fixed assets | 502,366 | 511,042 |
| Current assets | | | |
| | Barclays current account | 20,813 | 75,308 |
| | Barclays deposit account | 6,413 | 20,198 |
| | CBF deposit account | 144,190 | 124,017 |
| | Barclays current account - Bldg | 18,265 | 16,844 |
| | Floats | 260 | 260 |
| | CBF deposit account - Bldg | 33,841 | 32,375 |
| | Barclays Fees account | 2,327 | — |
| | Gift aid tax recoverable | 3,301 | 3,234 |
| | Stock - CentrePeace | 200 | 200 |
| | Accounts Receivable | 1,710 | 3,100 |
| | Total Current assets | 231,321 | 275,539 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| | Post Box Account | — | — |
| | Agency collections | — | — |
| | Accounts Payable | 5,784 | 6,194 |
| | Total Liabilities | 5,784 | 6,194 |
| | Net Asset surplus(deficit) | 727,903 | 780,387 |
| Reserves | | | |
| | Excess / (deficit) to date | (43,523) | (14,776) |
| | Starting balances | 780,387 | 783,815 |
| | Other gains/(losses) | (8,960) | 11,348 |
| | Total Reserves | 727,903 | 780,387 |
| | Represented by funds | | |
| | Unrestricted | 85,460 | 94,984 |
| | Designated | 41,935 | 32,940 |
| | Restricted | 600,508 | 652,462 |
| | Endowment | — | — |
| | Total | 727,903 | 780,387 |

Approved at the Parochial Church Council meeting on 25th March 2026

Signed:



Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams (Vicar)



Sue Chase (Treasurer)

Analysis of income and expenditure

| | | | | | Total | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Endowment | This year | Last year |
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income | | | | | | |
| Bank giving - Bldg | — | — | 1,320 | — | 1,320 | 1,320 |
| Bank giving | 43,435 | — | — | — | 43,435 | 42,180 |
| Envelope giving | 4,922 | — | — | — | 4,922 | 4,924 |
| Other planned giving | 600 | — | — | — | 600 | 930 |
| Plate collections | 4,572 | — | — | — | 4,572 | 6,106 |
| Gift aid tax recoverable - Bldg | — | — | 270 | — | 270 | 230 |
| Gift aid tax recoverable | 13,295 | — | — | — | 13,295 | 13,052 |
| Wedding / Funeral collections | 161 | — | — | — | 161 | 5 |
| Gift day donations | 1,460 | — | — | — | 1,460 | — |
| Donations | 9,962 | — | — | — | 9,962 | 22,871 |
| Total | 78,409 | — | 1,590 | — | 79,999 | 91,619 |
| Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds | | | | | | |
| Fete proceeds | 2,138 | — | — | — | 2,138 | — |
| Other fundraising events | 684 | — | — | — | 684 | 2,153 |
| Leaflet sales | 179 | — | — | — | 179 | — |
| Total | 3,002 | — | — | — | 3,002 | 2,153 |
| Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income | | | | | | |
| Dividends | 5,056 | 8,995 | — | — | 14,051 | 13,723 |
| Dividends - Sunday School | — | — | 208 | — | 208 | 235 |
| Bank deposit interest - Bldg | — | — | 1,465 | — | 1,465 | 1,219 |
| Bank deposit interest | 6,336 | — | — | — | 6,336 | 6,558 |
| Total | 11,392 | 8,995 | 1,673 | — | 22,060 | 21,737 |
| Incoming resources from generated funds - Other voluntary income | | | | | | |
| Social Support | — | — | 1,297 | — | 1,297 | 4,501 |
| Youth work and outreach income | — | — | 658 | — | 658 | 634 |
| Appeals | — | — | — | — | — | 108 |
| Wall safe | 137 | — | — | — | 137 | 174 |
| Total | 137 | — | 1,955 | — | 2,092 | 5,419 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | | | | | | |
| CentrePeace takings | 4,639 | — | — | — | 4,639 | 3,295 |
| Guildhall lettings | 8,461 | — | — | — | 8,461 | 8,289 |
| Wedding / Funeral fees | 12,730 | — | — | — | 12,730 | 4,805 |
| Total | 25,831 | — | — | — | 25,831 | 16,389 |
| Other incoming resources | | | | | | |
| Other income | 572 | — | — | — | 572 | 768 |
| Total | 572 | — | — | — | 572 | 768 |
| INCOME TOTAL | 119,345 | 8,995 | 5,219 | — | 133,559 | 137,088 |

EXPENDITURE

Grants

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|-------|---|-------|-------|
| Home missions and Societies | 4,346 | — | — | — | 4,346 | 5,828 |
| Social Support | — | — | 2,281 | — | 2,281 | 2,820 |
| Total | 4,346 | — | 2,281 | — | 6,627 | 8,649 |

Charitable activities

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|--------|---|---------|---------|
| Ministry Share | 65,678 | — | — | — | 65,678 | 62,843 |
| Clergy expenses | 2,586 | — | — | — | 2,586 | 3,709 |
| Verger and services costs | 2,480 | — | — | — | 2,480 | 2,296 |
| Choir and organ costs | 852 | — | — | — | 852 | 2,202 |
| Fees for occasional services | 8,426 | — | — | — | 8,426 | — |
| Electricity | 4,808 | — | — | — | 4,808 | 5,336 |
| Electricity - CentrePeace | 675 | — | — | — | 675 | 894 |
| Electricity - Guildhall | 1,200 | — | — | — | 1,200 | 1,694 |
| Fuel oil and gas | 3,346 | — | — | — | 3,346 | 3,530 |
| Gas - Guildhall | 2,882 | — | — | — | 2,882 | 2,381 |
| Water - CentrePeace | 228 | — | — | — | 228 | 225 |
| Water - Guildhall | 456 | — | — | — | 456 | 384 |
| Rent - CentrePeace | 4,160 | — | — | — | 4,160 | 4,160 |
| General rates - CentrePeace | 224 | — | — | — | 224 | 88 |
| Insurance | 7,075 | — | — | — | 7,075 | 7,363 |
| Insurance - Guildhall | 986 | — | — | — | 986 | 1,042 |
| Maintenance and cleaning | 4,959 | — | — | — | 4,959 | 7,182 |
| Maintenance - CentrePeace | — | — | — | — | — | 36 |
| Cleaning - Guildhall | — | — | — | — | — | 1,610 |
| Repairs and renewals | 4,843 | — | — | — | 4,843 | 3,883 |
| Maintenance - Guildhall | 389 | — | — | — | 389 | 2,921 |
| Reach Church Re-ordering | — | — | 46,574 | — | 46,574 | 23,393 |
| Depreciation | 170 | — | — | — | 170 | 380 |
| Youth work and outreach expenses | — | — | 1,117 | — | 1,117 | 657 |
| Stock purchases - CentrePeace | — | — | — | — | — | 154 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 40 | — | — | — | 40 | 306 |
| Sundry expenses - Guildhall | — | — | — | — | — | 58 |
| Total | 116,470 | — | 47,692 | — | 164,162 | 138,737 |

Charitable activities - Charitable activities - support costs

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|-----|---|-------|-------|
| Printing and stationery | 1,020 | — | — | — | 1,020 | 1,228 |
| Books and publications | 572 | — | 61 | — | 634 | 98 |
| Sundry administration costs | 4,429 | — | 102 | — | 4,531 | 2,525 |
| Total | 6,022 | — | 163 | — | 6,186 | 3,851 |

Costs of generating funds

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Costs of fundraising events | 106 | — | — | — | 106 | 627 |
| Total | 106 | — | — | — | 106 | 627 |
| EXPENDITURE TOTAL | 126,945 | — | 50,137 | — | 177,083 | 151,865 |
| GRAND TOTAL | (7,600) | 8,995 | (44,918) | — | (43,523) | (14,776) |

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted funds represent amounts given to the PCC where the donor has specified that the funds are spent on a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Gift Aid donations are administered directly by the Church and the Gift Aid is recognised as income at the same time that the donation is recognised as income, which is when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the ultimate receipt is virtually certain, and the monetary value can be measured reliably.

Amounts charged and raised at church events, such as money for food provided, and sale of books and craft items at the church shop, are recognised as income. Associated expenditure is recognised separately under Resources Expended.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value at the time of gift to the PCC, if material and feasible, or else at the amount actually realised from their disposal.

Rental income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rent is due in accordance with the arrangement, lease or licence.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as the legal or constructive obligation arises.

Grants payable

These are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to be met for entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or ministry share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Governance costs

These could include the costs of the preparation and audit of the statutory accounts and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Capitalisation of tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they will be used for more than one year and cost over £300.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets on a straight line basis calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful lives, as follows:

- Short-life electrical equipment – 4 years
- Other fittings and equipment – 10 years

No depreciation is provided on buildings due to their high residual value.

Stock

Stock is second hand books and craft items held for sale in the Church shop.
It is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, with no value given to second hand books.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents, grants or other income, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable, are shown as other debtors.

Taxation

The PCC is a charity and as such is not liable to taxation.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

REFERENCE SECTION

Mission Giving Report for APCM 2026

Each year, the PCC aims to donate 10% of its voluntary income (ie direct giving) to charity, based on the income for the current year. This includes regular giving through standing orders etc and sums donated at special services, eg Remembrance Sunday.

Twenty charities were supported this year. Some were UK based, while others operate worldwide. Many of the charities sent letters of thanks, which described ways in which the money would be used. These included: updating the computer systems at Burwell Print; opening a new hub for young people (Children's Society); supporting the poor in South America and the Middle East (Church Mission Society) and improving harvests in Zimbabwe with solar powered pumps and training in planet friendly farming skills (Practical Action)

The total available for distribution was £4,900 and the charities are listed below.

| Charity | Sum donated |
|--|--------------------|
| Burwell Print | £251.50 |
| Westcott | £282.00 |
| BRF Messy Church | £282.00 |
| Eastern Region Ministry Course | £282.00 |
| Ely Foodbank | £282.00 |
| Bible Society | £282.00 |
| Church Mission Society | £282.00 |
| Amos Trust | £282.00 |
| Burwell Day Centre | £282.00 |
| Prospects Trust | £282.00 |
| Solar Aid | £282.00 |
| Practical Action | £282.00 |
| Cambs, Beds, Northants Wildlife Trust | £282.00 |
| Refugee Council | £282.00 |
| Mothers Union worldwide | £282.00 |
| Christian Aid Week Collections | £312.70 |
| British Legion Remembrance Day Collections Burwell | £324.26 |
| British Legion Remembrance Day Collections Reach | £62.13 |
| Children's Society Christingle Collection Burwell | £118.30 |
| Children's Society Christingle Collection Reach | £45.00 |
| Total | £5,061.89 |

The members of the Mission Giving Group, which proposes charities for support, are: Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams, Ros Benwell, Jo Jones, Rob Harwood, Jo Proctor and Pat Chalmers.

**Pat Chalmers, on behalf of the Mission Giving Group
March 2026**

STATISTICS

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS 2023-2025

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Electoral Roll, Burwell and Reach | 111 | 113 | 124 |
| Average weekly 10am Sunday attendance at Burwell and Reach: adults/children | - | 61/4 | 61/7 |
| Average weekly 8.30am Sunday attendance at Burwell and Reach: adults/children | - | 9/0 | 8/0 |
| Refresh Café – October weekly average: adults/children | 18/21 | 22/21 | 17/13 |
| Average mid-week Communion attendance, Burwell | 12 | 16 | 14 |
| Average mid-week Communion attendance, Reach | 9 | 11 | 8 |
| Average mid-week Communion attendance, Ness Court | - | 5 | 5 |
| Baptisms at Burwell/Reach | 8/2 | 3/1 | 5/1 |
| Thanksgivings at Burwell/Reach | 1 | 0 | 1/0 |
| Confirmations (under 16) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Confirmations (over 16) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Children not confirmed admitted to Holy Communion | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Weddings at Burwell/Reach | 2/1 | 3/0 | 3/0 |
| Church Funerals at Burwell/Reach | 15/1 | 11/3 | 15/0 |
| Memorial Services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Entire services at Crematorium or Cemetery | 7 | 3 | 3 |

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We are very grateful to our Safeguarding team, for their hard work over the last year.

Dee Smith continues to fulfil the admin tasks, specifically in arranging DBS checks and held a group session in February for all her bellringers to complete the basic safeguard training.

Further group sessions are being arranged for those for whom doing it online may be difficult.

In line with diocesan policy, the parish has been registered with the Safeguarding Dashboard for several years, which prompts review of policies and procedures, and that relevant training is up to date. We are now using the Safeguarding Hub, which sends automatic reminders for renewal of training and DBS checks. At the time of writing there are two overdue safeguarding training and no outstanding actions. A number of volunteers are due to have their training renewed and plans are underway to organise at least one group session.

One important item to note was that a data breach occurred within the external agency that dealt with all the DBS checks. We were informed of this breach in August 2025 and the Information Commissioner's Office was notified. There were a number of people affected by this breach within our Parish and all were offered advice and guidance of how to manage this breach. The Diocese of Ely has since changed to a new agency and DBS checks are continuing as usual.

There has been a report to the PCC at each meeting this year. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), as amended by The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Order 2022.

Jo Proctor (Parish safeguarding Officer)

PCC MEMBERSHIP 2025/26

Parish of St. Mary's Burwell and St. Etheldreda's Reach

Ex-Officio:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Vicar | Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams | |
| Associate Priest | Revd Paula Spalding | |
| Curate | Revd Virginia Moggridge (left iSeptember) | |
| Churchwardens | Wendy Smith (<i>1st elected 2022 1 year terms max 6 years</i>) Sue Reynolds (April – December 2025) | |
| Deanery Synod Representatives | Joanna Proctor | (<i>Elected 2023 for 3 years</i>) |
| | Christine Fleming | (<i>Elected 2023 for 3 years</i>) |

Total ex-officio – 6 (Sue Reynolds is also an elected PCC member)

Elected Members:

| | | |
|------|----------------|---|
| 2023 | Susan Reynolds | (<i>Churchwarden from April to December 2025</i>) |
| | Caroline Smith | (<i>Churchwarden's Assistant</i>) |
| | Sally Swann | |
| 2024 | Kathy Ogilvie | |
| | Simon Ogilvie | |
| | Sarah Wingate | |
| | Ysanne Leadon | |
| | Ian Richards | |
| | Stephen Martin | (<i>Churchwardens Assistant</i>) |
| 2025 | Rob Proctor | |

Total elected – 10

TOTAL OF 16 EX-OFFICIO and ELECTED MEMBERS.

Co-opted Members

2025 Kevin Powell

PCC Secretary: Jo Proctor
Minutes Secretary: Kathy Ogilvie,

STANDING COMMITTEE:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Vicar (chair) | Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams |
| Secretary | PCC Secretary |
| Churchwardens | Two Churchwardens (if possible) or one Churchwarden and one Churchwardens' Assistant |
| Treasurer's Rep | |
| PCC member | (<i>any 1 elected member</i>) |

Total of 6 members

**MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
held on SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2025 at 11.20am in ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BURWELL**

The full Annual Report document had been distributed two weeks before the meeting, comprising all reports mentioned below.

The Vicar welcomed attendees and opened the meeting in prayer. There were 13 PCC members and 26 congregation attendees in church, totalling 39 attendees.

Present in church: Angela Bellis, Brenda Bellward, Ann Briggs, Pat Chalmers, Terry Chalmers, Sue Chase, Clive Davies, Scott Dwyer, Sue Evans, Sian Flanagan, Sharon Haworth, Vivien Honeyborne-Martins, Dawn Hurrell, Ken Hurrell, Ysanne Leadon, Pat Leah, Steve Martin, Scott Massey, Pauline Miller, Kathy Ogilvie, Simon Ogilvie, Anne Perkins, Avril Plume, Jo Proctor, Rob Proctor, Sue Reynolds, Ian Richards, Simon Rogers, David Sanders, Kathryn Sanders, Jonathan Smith, Wendy Smith, Paula Spalding, Janine Stewart, Sally Swann, Eleanor Williams, Hazel Williams, Roger Williams and Sarah Wingate.

Apologies for absence received from: Val Badcock, Philip Baker, Virginia Moggridge, Caroline Smith, Jackie Thacker and Tony Thacker.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – MINUTES

1 The Minutes of the last Meeting of Parishioners on 7 April 2024, as printed in the Annual Report, were approved and signed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Y Leadon

Seconded: P Chalmers

The minutes were accepted unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

2 Election of Church Wardens

Wendy Smith

Proposed: R Nunn

Seconded: S Massey

Susan Reynolds

Proposed: D Hurrell

Seconded: K Hurrell

There being no other nominations the candidates were declared elected unopposed.

The Meeting of Parishioners closed at 11.25am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – MINUTES

1 The minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 7 April 2024, as printed in the Annual Report, were accepted and approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: T Chalmers

Seconded: S Swann

2 Elections

Parochial Church Council

The following member was nominated:

Rob Proctor

Proposed: P Leah

Seconded: S Massey

The proposal was agreed unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

3 Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The new published roll has 3 members for St Etheldreda's (an increase of 1 member on the previous roll) and 121 members for St Mary's (which includes 29 new members). Since the previous roll for St Mary's, 5 members have moved away, 4 have died, 4 are in care and 6 did not reapply. This makes a total roll for St Etheldreda's and St Mary's of 124 members.

The Vicar thanked A Plume for her work and said that it is lovely that the roll has increased.

4 PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC Secretary confirmed that all the factual information required to be reported at the APCM was reported in the Annual Report Document for the meeting. The PCC had met monthly and was quorate at each meeting. Minutes are displayed at the back of St Mary's church. Questions were invited but none were asked.

5 PCC Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

The Treasurer gave an explanation of the different Funds (Restricted, Designated and Unrestricted). In 2024, income was lower than the running costs for the churches, so some of the Reserve needed to be used to cover these costs. Most of the Funds are Restricted and so cannot be used for running costs, but only for set purposes. The Unrestricted Funds are good, but will run low if the current under-funding continues. Questions were invited, and an enquiry was made about the Building 2 Serve fund (shown in the Accounts as Building Work Fund). This is a Restricted Fund. The PCC is considering using it towards the replacement of the current heating system. The PCC accounts for 2024, as set out in the Annual Report, had been signed following approval at the March 2025 PCC meeting. The Treasurer asked that the meeting adopt the accounts.

Proposed: S Swann

Seconded: S Evans

The Accounts were adopted unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

S Rogers was thanked for completing the 2024 examination of the accounts. He thanked S Chase for her work as Treasurer and said that he had wanted to help smooth the transfer to the new financial system, and that he is very comfortable with the transition and the current system. S Rogers had expressed his willingness to continue and therefore his re-appointment as Independent Examiner was proposed.

Proposed: Y Leadon

Seconded: I Richards

This appointment was unanimously accepted by those in attendance at the meeting.

6 Church Warden's Fabric Report

The Church Warden's Report was as given in the distributed Annual Report. Questions were invited, but there were none. It was proposed that the Report be adopted.

Proposed: S Martin

Seconded: H Williams

This was agreed unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

7 Deanery Synod Report

J Proctor advised that the information from the Deanery Synod was shown in the Annual Report. Three meetings had been held. S Ogilvie was thanked for his work as Treasurer. Questions were invited, but there were none.

8 Safeguarding Statement

J Proctor thanked D Smith for her help with DBS checks and emphasised the importance of safeguarding checks and training. The Parish is up-to-date with all that is required regarding safeguarding. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), as amended by The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Order 2022. Questions were invited but there were none.

9 Vicar's Report

The Vicar reported that it had been a year of adapting to new teams for the church wardens, administrator, finance team and treasurer and J Proctor with her many roles. Thanks were offered to all including D Smith for her work with safeguarding and as Tower Captain, and to P and T Chalmers for still assisting as needed. She said that we are in a season of growth, with new people and new opportunities.

Thanks were given to all the people behind the scenes who support the Vicar and Clergy team: the Parish could not manage without everyone playing their part.

Thanks were also made to all those who give financially.

The Vicar referred to the image of Christ knocking at a door. This is usually seen as Christ asking to come into our lives, but can also be seen as Christ asking us to come out into the world.

Unfortunately, the split chalice had broken recently, and the PCC will consider whether to replace it or not.

W Smith thanked the Vicar for her work and presented her with a gift.

10 Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

None were raised

11 The meeting closed with a prayer at 11.50am.