

2025 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church, Babraham, Cambridge

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Peter's has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Kathryn Waite to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Babraham. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Peter, a Grade 1 listed building and of the churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Peter's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for those living in Babraham
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Peter's Church.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services continued on the same basis as 2024 with a Service of Morning Worship on the first Sunday of the month and a service of Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month. Morning prayer is also said in the church on most Wednesday mornings. We are fortunate to have the help of The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, who is licensed to the parish as an Associate Priest, and The Reverend Gordon Harper. The Reverend Will Lyon Tupman served as assistant curate until October when he moved to be Team Vicar in the Cottesloe

benefice in the Diocese of Oxford. The Reverend Ian Henderson continues as assistant curate and was priested at Petertide 2025 celebrating his first service of Holy Communion at St Peter's on 29th June 2025.

At the close of 2025 there were 11 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 3 are not resident in the parish. The average attendance at church services, counted in October, was 14 adults and 6 children (this was higher than the usual monthly average as it included the Harvest Festival service). There were 18 communicants at Christmas and 14 communicants at Easter.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. There were 3 funerals but sadly no baptisms or weddings last year at St Peter's.

Wednesday@ continues as a reflective space on Wednesday lunchtimes primarily aimed at the Babraham Research Campus staff. A member of the ministry team is present and hot drinks are available. A small number of people coming into the church to chat or simply just to sit. A Campus Carol service was also held. A Chaplain to the Research Campus is currently being appointed by the deanery. This would build on what is already happening in Babraham.

Deanery Synod

No one was elected as a Deanery Synod representative at the 2025 APCM. However, the Vicar and other clergy attend Deanery synod, and the Vicar is a member of Diocesan Synod which provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church.

The Church Building and Grounds

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The St Peter's Babraham Management team continues to meet regularly to plan work required on the church building and churchyard. The team continues to make huge progress in tidying the churchyard. The PCC is very grateful to Matthew Punshon, who has done a huge amount of work on progressing the much-needed work on the south aisle roof and drainage work on both north and south sides of the church. Lottery funding will be required for this project to take place, and it is hoped that an application will be put in during 2026. We are grateful to the Parish Council and the Babraham Institute who also continued to help maintain the churchyard during the year.

Pastoral Care

Regular contact with all members of the Church family has been maintained by the vicar and a small team. The vicar (or one of the curates) has continued with their weekly visits to Babraham Primary School which includes taking collective worship. The Vicar is also on the Local Governing Body of the school. The school attends the church for special services including the school Carol Service and a pre-Easter 'Way of the Cross' service, both of which were also well attended by parents. Babraham Nursery visited the church once again for their Nativity and a member of the ministry team has visited the nursery during the year on several occasions to talk to the children about Christmas/Easter etc.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support The Children's Society at the Christingle service.

A number of activities were held in the church including monthly Saturday afternoon teas during the summer, Easter and Harvest treasure hunts and a hugely successful Art Exhibition. The Summer Concert and Strawberry teas were also popular with several children from the local primary school/village playing as well as other musicians.

Financial Review - Financial Year Ended 31 December 2025

Total receipts were £9,510.34 of which £7,098.17 was from voluntary donations and a further £1,598 was from Gift Aid. Fundraising which included afternoon tea, art exhibition, strawberry tea and treasure trail, totalled £318.70.

Total expenditure for the year was £12,593.96 and included £2,949.67 on repairs.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £3,083.62.

The balance in the Barclays Community account at 31st December 2025 was £3,037.03.

The balance in the Barclays number two account at 31 December 2025 was £5,096.20.

Therefore, total church funds as at the 31 December 2025 was £8,133.23.

Rosemary Walker

Curate

Elected members were:

The Reverend Ian Henderson

Denise Dear, Alison Morris, Carol Todd (Co-opted)

The PCC appointed Rosemary Walker (from APCM) as treasurer and gift aid officer, Denise Dear as secretary. The vicar is the electoral roll officer. Rosemary Walker is not a member of the PCC.

The PCC appointed Barbara Hylton as Safeguarding Officer and she put in train measures to ensure compliance with the latest guidance. The PCC adopted a Safer Recruitment Policy and is gradually implementing this. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Approved by the PCC on

Signed on their behalf by Kathryn Waite, chairman.

Safeguarding Report
St. Peter's Church, Babraham
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 19th April 2026

Following my appointment as Parish Safeguarding Officer(PSO) for St. Peter's in March 2025, completion of the mandatory training modules and Safer Recruitment Process, I was subsequently commissioned by Kathryn at St. Mary's on Safeguarding Sunday in November 2025 and attended the Safeguarding Service at St. Peter's the same day. The fact that Safeguarding Sunday is acknowledged and celebrated at both at St. Peter's and St. Mary's demonstrates that Safeguarding within in our parishes is taken seriously, is ongoing and active to ensure that we provide a safe, caring and supportive environment and culture for all who work, volunteer and attend our church services and activities.

There are Safeguarding notices displayed in church, which include a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, posters, information signposting outside agencies and various contact details for anyone with concerns or feel the need to talk and/or to seek additional advice and help. Safeguarding is an agenda item at all PCC meetings.

The Parish Dashboard is a very useful tool in giving the PCC an overview as to where the parish sits in terms of DBS checks, Safeguarding training together with guidance on how collectively we can create and promote a safe and caring environment for all. St. Peter's is Level 3 on the Dashboard with 81% of mandatory requirements being met. The PCC are currently reviewing how they can further develop a Healthy and Safe Culture.

Safeguarding is not one person's responsibility – it is a collective and shared responsibility; we can all play 'our' part in ensuring we have a safe, supportive and caring environment for ourselves and others. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or wish to discuss Safeguarding, please do come and talk to Kathryn, Ian or myself – contact details are on the safeguarding notices in church.

Barbara Hylton. PSO

Granta Deanery Synod Report 2025

Introduction

Granta Deanery Synod meetings during 2025 were held on 1 April, 1 July and 6 November at St. Mary's, Linton; St. John's, Pampisford and St. Mary's & St. Andrew's, Whittlesford.

Mission and ministry

Youth ministry (YouthInc)

Youth ministry continued to be a focus for the Deanery during 2025, building on commitments made in the previous Synod year. Parishes were encouraged to engage with YouthInc communications and fundraising, and to consider how Deanery-wide support can best strengthen local youth work and links with families.

Science chaplaincy and local engagement

The Deanery continued to explore the development of a chaplaincy to the local science and research communities. Work in this area has been shaped by relationships already established with local campuses, and by a desire to offer a hospitable, outward-facing ministry that is appropriate in a multi-faith and multi-background context. The establishment of a voluntary chaplaincy post, 2 days a week, based at St. Peter's Church, and the Babraham Research Campus has now been approved and advertised.

Diocesan Synod

At the July meeting, concern was expressed by the Diocesan Synod representatives concerning a report of £600,000 deficit in the Diocesan budget and the suggestions of abolishing the 2.5% Ministry Share discount for payment by direct debit and the introduction of more and larger multi-parish benefices. This was followed by a slide presentation promoting four proposed projects including the creation of 'hubs' to promote new worshipping communities and the appointment of pioneer ministers in new housing developments, at a cost of £1M to be funded from Diocesan reserves. Concern was also expressed as to the extent to which the financial situation and the proposed projects would limit Diocesan support for Deanery initiatives.

It was agreed to write to the Bishop's Council to express Granta Deanery's concern regarding the financial situation and the proposed spending projects.

Peter Leech attended the November meeting to respond to the questions raised and to explain the proposed initiatives in greater detail. He stated that the Diocese, having reviewed the Deanery Development Plans recognised four priorities:

1. The Growing Younger Project Plan (the Hubs),
2. Growing New Worshipping Communities within areas of new housing (The new Developments Pioneer Minister),
3. Strengthening Multi-Parish Benefices (Administrative Provision for Multi-Parish Benefices)

4. Giving (Stewardship).

These four priorities arose out of a series of consultations. He accepted that it was a huge consideration to use £1M of reserves to fund them.

Peter encouraged parishes to think what 'assets' (volunteers, ministers, existing schemes etc) each has prior to any financial need, and then to seek support from the Diocese. There were many requests, and the aim was to provide sustainable funding, rather than time-limited short projects. There then followed a discussion during which Deanery members put further questions to Peter.

At the end of this session Michael Wilcockson thanked Peter on behalf of the Synod for attending.

Finance and stewardship

Finance updates during 2025 recorded the Deanery's three funds (Deanery Development Fund, Parish Grant Fund and Parish Loan Fund) and progress in paying Ministry Share. The protected reserves figure reported during the year was £25,000. There was a discussion on whether any refund due from the Diocese for meeting the Ministry Share in full should be retained by the Deanery to fund Deanery projects or returned to the parishes. It was agreed to retain the present system of returning the refund to parishes *pro rata*.

Ministry Share: In the October update, all apart from two parishes were on target. The Deanery was subsequently able to meet its 2025 annual share in full. The 2026 Ministry Share would be capped at a 4% increase on 2025, with parish-level details to follow.

Conclusion

The Deanery Synod continues to provide a forum for clergy and lay representatives from across the Deanery to pray, reflect on Scripture, share information from Diocesan and General Synod, and to coordinate mission initiatives and shared resourcing. Parishes are encouraged to keep their Synod representatives informed of local priorities and to ensure that deanery communications reach PCCs in good time.

David Bard, Deanery Representative