



APCM Pack 2025

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PARISH OF ELY, HOLY TRINITY WITH ST MARY

Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings of St Mary's Church, Ely
Sunday 26 April 2026, 12:00 noon in St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely

Agenda

1. MC – Prayer

2. Annual Vestry Meeting

- 2.1. VL - Introduction and Apologies
- 2.2. VL - Approval of the minutes of the 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting (white sheet)
- 2.3. VL – Election of Churchwardens

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 3.1. VL - Introduction and Apologies
- 3.2. VL - Approval of the minutes of the 2025 APCM (white sheet)
- 3.3. EA – Electoral Roll Report
- 3.4. VL – Elections to PCC
- 3.5. VL – Elections to Deanery Synod
- 3.6. VL – Resolutions
 - 3.6.1. MC – Laity retirements and election rules (white sheet)
- 3.7. PS - PCC Secretary's Report (pink sheet)
- 3.8. PC - Finance Report (green sheet)
 - 3.8.1. PC – Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts
- 3.9. LT, KR – Fabric Report (lilac sheet)
- 3.10. MC, PW – Deanery Synod Report (blue sheet)
- 3.11. MC – Christchurch Report (yellow sheet)
- 3.12. MC – Team Rector's address
- 3.13. VL – Election results (if necessary)
- 3.14. MC – Closing Prayer

Forthcoming dates (for information only):

- *Short PCC meeting immediately following this meeting – for election of officers only*

PARISH OF ELY, HOLY TRINITY WITH ST MARY
Annual Parochial Church Meetings of St Mary's Church, Ely
Sunday 26 April 2026

Agenda Item 3.6.1 Laity retirements and election rules resolution

1 Proposed Resolution

Laity terms of service are to revert to the Church Representation Rules default with effect from the 2027 APCM. This is rule M16(5) which states: "One-third of the members are to retire and be elected each year; but at an annual meeting at which more than one-third of the members are elected, lots are drawn to decide which third is to retire in the first year after that meeting, which third in the second year and which third in the third year."

2 Explanation:

St Mary's PCC is currently operating on the model where each member is elected for 3 years even if they replace a member who retires without completing their term. This has led to the current situation where 8 members retired last year, 4 are retiring this year and 3 are due to retire next year. This proposal will lead to 5 people retiring each year. A member who replaces one who retires part way through their 3-year term will only serve the remainder of the retiree's term before themselves retiring. Note that there is no restriction on a retiring member standing for re-election.

PARISH OF ELY, HOLY TRINITY WITH ST MARY

Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings of St Mary's Church, Ely
Sunday 27th April 2025, 12:00 noon in St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely

Minutes

(58 people were in attendance)

1. Opening

Phil Marsh began the meetings with prayer.

2. Annual Vestry Meeting

Chair: Vicky Lupson

2.1. Apologies for absence

John and Helen Dickinson, Ruth James, Margaret Leeke, Fiona Stern, Andy and Marilyn Sykes and Liz Taylor

2.2. Approval of the minutes of the 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting

Proposed: Vicky Lupson; seconded: Derek Tye; approved by all present.

2.3. Election of Churchwardens

Liz Taylor (continuing) was proposed by Janene Pike and seconded by Erin Coppin and approved by all present.

Keith Rawson (continuing) was proposed by Derek Tye and seconded by Piers Coutts and approved by all present.

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Minutes

(58 people were in attendance)

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Chair: Vicky Lupson

3.1. Apologies for absence

John and Helen Dickinson, Ruth James, Margaret Leeke, Fiona Stern, Andy and Marilyn Sykes and Liz Taylor

3.2. Approval of the minutes of the 2024 APCM

The start of Section 3.6 should have read:

3.6 Finance Report (Grey Sheet): Piers Coutts **presented** the financial report.

Not

3.6 Finance Report (Grey Sheet): Piers Coutts **resented** the financial report.

With this correction, approval was proposed by Derek Tye, seconded by Rod Watson and approved by all present.

3.3. Electoral Roll Report

Elizabeth Anderson presented the report:

Total Number on the New Electoral Roll April 2025 = 232

Those who live outside the Parish = 50

Those who attend ChristChurch = 11

Elizabeth stressed that new members could join the roll at any time during the year.

3.4. Elections to PCC

Eight Members retired at the APCM having completed their 3-year terms. Barbara Walker and Derek Tye did not seek re-election. Nominations were received for the other six, namely:

Amy Philips, Andy Sykes, Chris Watson, Lindsay Frost, Matt Whittle and Vicky Lupson.

In addition, a nomination was received from Janene Pike so that she could transfer from a Deanery Synod Representative to a lay PCC member. With no other nominations, all seven were duly elected. Thus, St Mary's currently has 1 vacancy for the elected lay members.

Separately we have Paul Woodbridge continuing as our Deanery Synod Representative. Roy Mould has stepped down. Together with Janene Pike's change of role, we have 2 vacancies.

Vicky Lupson gave her thanks, on behalf of all, for the contribution of Barbara Walker, Derek Tye and Roy Mould.

Vicky Lupson encouraged the meeting to give thanks to all and pray for all who had served and would continue to serve on the PCC.

3.5. PCC Secretary's Report

Paul Smyth summarised some key points from the year:

- The successful recruitment of both Matthew Creber as Team Vicar and Luke Davies as Children and Families Minister.

- The fellowship the PCC enjoyed with the meal that was intended to be shared with a potential Team Vicar recruit but proceeded anyway.
- The intention for the PCC to spend more time on spiritual matters over the coming year.
- LLF is down to the incumbent to determine the implementation but Phil has considered it to be logical to discuss this with the PCC. It is not a binary question: what if each congregation feels differently, can we all agree? It is important to keep unity so how do we navigate this challenge? A small working group has been formed to suggest an approach to achieving an outcome. Most importantly no outcome is pre-determined. Any thoughts from the meeting's attendees are most welcome.

Jean Woodman observed that we know who is being appointed to the PCC by this meeting but not the full complement of the PCC. The secretary committed to publishing the full list. The New PCC comprises:

Clergy (ex-officio):

Phil Marsh
Matthew Creber

Churchwardens (ex-officio)

Keith Rawson
Liz Taylor

Licensed lay ministers (LLMs, ex-officio)

Piers Coutts PCC Treasurer
Graham Biss

Elected Deanery Synod representatives (ex-officio to PCC)

Paul Woodbridge
2 vacancies

Elected lay members

Amy Philips
Andy Sykes
Anneri Sanger
Chris Watson
Dan Brown
Daniel Morley
Janene Pike
Katy Coutts
Lindsay Frost
Liz Sayers
Matt Whittle
Paul Smyth PCC Secretary
Sue Morley
Vicky Lupson PCC Lay Vice Chair
Vacancy

3.6. Finance Report

Piers Coutts summarised the year to 31 December 2024:

- Why are the figures different between the financial statement and the formal accounts ie a £6K deficit compared to a £6K surplus? The explanation is that the financial statement simplifies the numbers by ignoring transfers to reserves, depreciation and other formal accounting rules that complicate understanding for most of us.
- Thanks for help from: Rod Watson for his meticulous management of our cash banking; Paul Smyth for managing the gift aid claims; Elizabeth Anderson and Kirsty Smith for all their general help.

- Many thanks to all in the church for their giving, no matter how large or small.
- Our primary outgoings are: the Ministry Share which covers our clergy costs; running the Church Office and maintenance including our reserves.
- Explanation of categories: restricted/unrestricted – restricted donations/funds must be spent as specified by the donor. Unrestricted donations/funds can be spent on any legitimate church activity. Too many restricted pots is not good, as the reason for the expenditure may no longer be possible eg church clock.
- Designated funds have been ear marked by the PCC, eg reserves, but are not restricted and thus can be used for another purpose
- Heating was 7.5k below budget due to a combination of a better understanding of how to use the system together with a better deal and a donation of £3,125.
- CAP is hosted through our accounts but managed independently
- A key element of our 6K surplus was Luke only being with us for 5 months out of the 12 budgeted
- We have reached 101 people giving through PGS which is the preferred option. But, however you give your gift will be welcome

Erin Coppin queried the 20k remaining for BTP 1. Piers explained that at 31/12/2024 there remained: 3k for a cleaning machine; 8-9K for lady chapel ceiling painting which is covered in oil from a lamp so difficult to paint; furnishings; damp on the South wall. Piers expects a final 3-4K deficit. Income in 2024 was recovery of VAT which looks weird after the event.

Piers then looked forward to 2025:

- Tough year with a significant planned deficit to fund
- Luke now in post for a full year
- Parish share is up 8.5K due to: inflation: the Diocese deal to increase 4K per year to 2030 to cover our team vicar post plus salary increases
- Very grateful for an anonymous donation of 9K. However, we need to increase our regular giving – if you can please do, but if you can't or need to decrease that is of course fine
- BTP 2: we can proceed on the first part. The PCC had agreed to use reserves but this is now not needed, thanks to the generosity of our donors. The government has cut back on the VAT recovery scheme, it is restricted for 2025-26. We have already claimed for everything possible up to 5th April 2025. Some work does not attract VAT eg disabled facilities. Now targeting a January 2026 start.
- Charities supported this year are based on covering the marks of mission model. Last year we were short on charity fundraising and the PCC topped up the amount from general funds. We aim to give 10% of our unrestricted income. We have received a donation of 1k to date.

3.6.1. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Piers feels that Whitings LLP are much better than the predecessor. They offer 20% off their fee and provide a very human connection. Piers proposed continuing to use Whitings LLP to examine our annual accounts; Rod Watson seconded and the proposal was approved unanimously.

Phil March commented that Piers' work is massively appreciated, particularly his openness and transparency. Phil stressed that they are our collective finances.

3.7. Fabric Report

There were no questions on the report.

3.8. Deanery Synod Report

There were no questions on the report.

3.9. Christchurch Report

Graham Biss summarised his report:

- Church plant started at the Isle of Ely school 10 years ago.
- A small congregation, seeking to reach out to local communities.
- Great relationship has developed with the Orchards care home where we hold a monthly service.
- Personal development is very positive with a number of people training for LLM, ALM and discipleship training. We are developing leaders within and growing in confidence in faith.
- If you are interested in mission then please contact the team.
- Grateful thanks to St Mary's for all their support.

3.10. Team Rector's Address

A summary of Phil Marsh's address to the meeting:

Lots of change over the last year, some was inevitable and some unpredictable: Ruth Holmes moved to London; Luke Davies and Mathew Creber joined; Rob Henderson will be joining as a curate in the summer; it is possible that an army chaplain may also join. Thus, the ministry team is renewed.

The Benefice has changed from 6 parishes to 3. We need to embrace that change and include all the congregations with their wide range of people and styles. A number of volunteers are involved in all sorts of things beyond St Mary's. Many new members have joined us, particularly over Easter. Ely is growing in population from ~20k to ~30k. It is inevitable that this will include people looking for a church.

Congregational listening: how do we connect with the world around us? Has anybody got any instant answers of value to take off the shelf? That is the question to answer. We will not find the answer by sitting in a room but by trying and going outside to people not attending church. This leads to what God might be asking of us. Our shared vision is to share the love of God with every home, but what does that look like? We don't expect that every single member will be involved, but we are looking for groups of people to try new things. ChristChurch is ahead of the game in what does mission look like. We need to learn from ChristChurch. Developing what we do here is underway, tweaking things. We need to develop, both within and without.

Regarding safeguarding, we have over 100 people in different roles – many have several roles, real privilege to be part of such a church.

Paul Foster is running the Pilgrim Course, learning faith is not best achieved on Sundays, better in discipleship courses and home groups. I think that outreach is quite active amongst us. God's spirit at work within us.
[The meeting agreed that Phil is right.]

God is at work all of the time in his people, all that is required is do the work supporting how God is already working. Where will be in 5 years' time – don't know now? As an example: best plan given to Moses with the burning bush. Great plan as God says but Pharaoh changes his mind as the Israelis are caught on the banks of the Red Sea. For the

rest of that story they are led step by step. We need to discern step by step, not seeking the end game. Let's place our hand into the hand of God and follow Him step by step.

3.11. Election results (if necessary)

Not required.

3.12. Closing Prayer

Phil Marsh closed the meeting by leading everyone in the Lord's Prayer.

PCC Report

During the year the PCC have practiced active listening following along the principles of Dwelling in the Word. Starting each meeting in this manner has been a consistent reminder of our primary purpose to serve the will of God.

At the annual away day in October, we considered and discussed the fundamental questions:

- Why does the church exist?
- Why does the PCC exist?
- How then might we develop our meetings?

which led us to agreeing on several next steps. A key development point being: how we might each act as PCC members outside of our PCC meetings, from how that might shape our praying, as well as our acting and speaking alongside others?

The Living in Love and Faith working group continued to explore ways to present LLF to the different congregations via a future discernment process. With the change in the CofE's approach to LLF, the focus is now shifting to which prayers we might recommend as appropriate for use.

A new review of the different congregations' views was held regarding the return to the common cup. This has led to the re-introduction of the common cup at our nine⁴⁵ and eleven¹⁵ services, alongside the provision of intinction for those who desire that option. As in previous listening exercises, it remains a refreshing feature of St Mary's, that people are very concerned to maintain unity despite their differing views.

Specific meetings were held to discuss and agree the implementation of BTP2.0 concentrating on the renewal of the Toilets. As this project nears completion, we are very grateful for all who have contributed, whether financially or in managing the project. Having modern amenities to match our flexible church will be a great blessing.

Collectively the Staff, Church Wardens and members of the PCC have established a good practice of risk assessment reviews. We have supported the safeguarding team in ensuring that all active church members are appropriately trained and have up to date DBS clearance. We thank everyone for doing their bit.

Each regular meeting needs to discuss and agree all the many details that any set of trustees are obliged to manage. In order to ensure that we do not miss our higher calling, to promote the Gospel, each meeting during the year has included an explicit main topic, focussing on some aspect of this calling. A key aspect of this approach has been the concept of the Missional Engagement Group (MEG). "Stepping Out" in February and March started our community engagement. Watch this space for more!

I think you will agree St Mary's is very much alive and growing. We are looking forward to what comes next.

Updates are provided to PCC members at each meeting on:

- Ministry Matters
- Financial Status
- Safeguarding Status
- Health & Safety Update
- Building Update

Along with meeting specific topics. The following list illustrates the wide variety of topics discussed during the last year:

April 2025

- Piers Coutts was re-elected as Treasurer
- Paul Smyth was re-elected as Secretary
- Vicky Lupson was elected as Lay Vice-Chair
- Clergy, Church Wardens, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary were elected to form the Standing Committee

June 2025

- Approval of appointment of Debbie Man to vacant lay member position
- Circulation of PCC Members induction papers requiring the signature of each member
- Approval for Fiona Stern to undertake pastoral care training
- Approval of Welcomers, Sides people and Assistant Wardens

July 2025 (2 meetings)

- Proposed Storage Building:
 - Creation of building approved
 - Choice of supplier approved
 - Seeking both a Faculty and Planning permissions approved
- Approval to open a current account with Cooperative Bank
- Approval of Financial Controls Policy

September 2025

- Approval to reauthorise Sarah Lorden as an ALM
- Approval of new Safeguarding Hub Service Agreement following data breach
- Addition of further children's activities to the Safeguarding dashboard
- Ethical banking & Coop bank account: significant disclosure requirements were unacceptable to too many members.
- **Main Topic:** Communion Cup Questionnaire feedback and proposed actions

October 2025 Away Day

- Discussion Topics
 - Why does the church exist?
 - Why does the PCC exist?
 - How then might we develop our meetings?
- Next Steps

November 2025

- Approval for Josie Gabelman to help with Holy Communion distribution
- Approval of list of Welcomers together with permission to add more as required
- Approval to seek a faculty to instal a bench in memory of Bill Pearce
- Approval to place an order for the BTP 2.0 Toilet Project
- **Main Topic:** Finances
 - Approval of budget for 2026 despite concerns regarding planned deficit
 - Approval of Fees and charges for 2026
 - Approval to continue to support the charities from 2025 in 2026
 - Approval to support the CAP Charity for 3 more years up to 2028

January 2026

- Approval for all the actions required and consequences of the DBS checking provider change from APCS to uCheck.
- **Main Topics:**
 - Living in Love and Faith (LLF) plan
 - National Safeguarding Standards Awareness – Victims and Survivors
 - Follow up from Away Day: allocating the agenda to achieve a balance between mission and mandatory

March 2026

- Approval for Chris Tomkies as communion assistant
- Approval to seek the diocese's approval to replace the church hall lights
- Approval to seek the diocese's approval to place bench seats in or near the Garden of Remembrance
- Commend our support for Michelle Larcett for her ALM occasional Preacher's course.
- Consider revising our PCC election process to have equal numbers of members retiring each year.
- Approval of the 2025 Annual Report & Accounts
- **Main Topic:** Mission & Ministry: Missional communities, collectives and thinking beyond our current model.

Paul Smyth, PCC Secretary

St Mary's Ely Management Accounts at 31 Dec 2025

Month 12
31 Dec

Ln	<u>INCOME</u>	Budget Annual	Budget to 31 Dec	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance 31 Dec	Ln	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	Budget Annual	Budget to 31 Dec	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance 31 Dec
1	Giving terminal - inc visitors	1,200	1,200	2,580	1,380	1	Ministry Share & Staff				
2	Cash	5,000	5,000	5,917	917	1	Ministry Share	113,407	113,407	113,407	0
3						2	Clergy Expenses	1,400	1,400	688	-712
4	One-off gifts inc envelopes	6,000	6,000	14,449	8,449	3	Office Staff	30,013	30,013	36,023	6,010
5	Standing Orders & other regular	23,000	23,000	21,913	-1,087	4	Children & Families staff	21,400	21,400	21,662	262
6	Parish Giving DDs	126,000	126,000	126,069	69	5					
7	Income tax recoverable	34,000	34,000	34,401	401	6					
8	Facilities hire	17,000	17,000	20,960	3,960	7					
9	Donations for volunteer work	500	500	542	42	8					
10						9					
11	Interest - SME Reserves	5,000	5,000	11,505	6,505	10	Buildings - Church & Parish Room				
12	Transfer from Building Reserves		0	0	0	11					
13	Transfer from General Reserves	0	0	0	0	12	Transfer to Building Resvs	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
14						13	Transfer to General Reserves		0	19	19
15						14	Repairs & Maintenance - (net)	6,400	6,400	2,682	-3,718
16						15	Insurance	7,701	7,701	7,815	114
17						16	Gas	2,000	2,000	1,676	-325
18						17	Electricity	12,750	12,750	12,634	-116
19						18	Water	400	400	490	90
20						19	Cleaning - wages & materials	4,250	4,250	5,682	1,432
21						20	Administration				
22						21	Office Expenses (net)	4,000	4,000	3,544	-456
23						22	Bank charges	500	500	257	-243
24						23	Auditor	925	925	912	-13
25						24	Miscellaneous gifts	0	0	0	0
26						25	Miscellaneous purchases	250	250	0	-250
27						26	Worship & Pastoral				
28						27	General - wine wafers materials etc	1,200	1,200	854	-346
29	Misc - other income	0	0	0	0	28	Music		0	0	0
30						29	Licences	1,050	1,050	1,419	369
31	Wedding / Funeral fees (net)	10,000	10,000	6,522	-3,478	30	Honararium - Organist	950	950	1,048	98
32	Memorial Plaque income (net)	0		815	815	31	A/V System	250	250	560	310
33						32	Health & Pastoral Care	50	50	703	653
34	Collections for leaving gifts	0	0	0	0	33	Study Materials & Training (adults)	100	100	0	-100
35	Coach trip	0	0	0	0	34	Leaving gifts	0	0	0	0
36						35	Coach trip	0	0	0	0
37						36	Mission & Evangelism				
38						37	General	100	100	0	-100
39						38	Courses (net)	0	0	1,432	1,432
40						39	Christchurch running costs	3,250	3,250	2,928	-322
41						40	Childrens Outreach including JAM	800	800	570	-230
42						41	Youth Activities / Outreach	1,850	1,850	1,544	-306
43						42					
44						43	Bibles to baptism familes	300	300	428	128
45						44	Bursaries	0	0	0	0
46						45	Publicity	200	200	95	-105
47						46	Hospitality	3,750	3,750	4,030	280
48						47					
49						48	Charity: committed spending				
50						49					
51						50	Charity: Open Doors	2,196	2,196	2,196	0
52						51	Charity: Children's Soc	2,196	2,196	2,196	0
53						52	Charity: Tree Aid	2,196	2,196	2,196	0
54						53	Charity: CAP Debt Centre	2,508	2,508	2,508	0
						54	Charity: Wycliffe	2,196	2,196	2,196	0

55					55	Special Items: (net of VAT recovery)				
56					56	Laptop for Kirsty	600	600	600	0
57					57	Remaining special items	2,900	2,900		-2,900
58					58		0	0		0
59	Additional Income required	16,338	16,338	0	-16,338		0	0		0
60					60					
61	TOTALS	244,038	244,038	245,674	1,636	TOTALS	244,038	244,038	244,994	956
62					62					

64	'Planned fundraising'					64	'Planned donations'			
65	Charity: Open Doors	2,000	2,000	3,566	1,566	65	Charity: Open Doors	2,000	2,000	3,566
66	Charity: Children's Soc	2,000	2,000	674	-1,326	66	Charity: Children's Soc	2,000	2,000	674
67	Charity: Tree Aid	2,000	2,000	2,363	363	67	Charity: Tree Aid	2,000	2,000	2,363
68	Charity: CAP Debt Cent	2,000	2,000	2,130	130	68	Charity: CAP Debt Cent	2,000	2,000	2,130
69	Charity: Wycliffe	2,000	2,000	2,420	420	69	Charity: Wycliffe	2,000	2,000	2,420
70	Charity: Christian Aid	500	500	453	-47	70	Charity: Christian Aid	500	500	453
71	Charity: Special Appeal	0	0	0	0	71	Charity: Special Appeal	0	0	0
72	Charity: other	1,000	1,000	1,244	244	72	Charity: other	1,000	1,000	1,244
73		11,500	11,500	12,849	1,349	73		11,500	11,500	12,849
74						74				

77	Restricted and Designated Funds					77	Restricted and Designated Funds			
78	Income - Elderberries support fund			310		78	Spending - Elderberries Support Fund			534
79	Income - Mothers Union			789		79	Spending - Mothers Union			100
80	Income - CAP Debt Centre			21,282		80	Spending - CAP Debt Centre			27,789
81	Income - CAP Insolvencies fund			500		81	Spending - CAP Insolvencies fund			600
82	Income - Bell Repairs			176		82	Spending - Bell Repairs			0
83	Income - Buildings (designated)			481		83	Spending - Buildings (designated)			6,433
84	Income - BTP 1 (Donations, GA, VAT & Grants)			457		84	Spending - BTP 1			9,075
85	Income - BTP 2.0 (Toilets, Corridor, Old Office)			131,763		85	Spending - BTP 2.0 (Toilets, Corridor, Old Office)			16,098
86	Income - BTP 2.5 (New Office, Entrance, Store)			50,788		86	Spending - BTP 2.5 (New Office, Entrance, Store)			4,505
87						87				
88	Overall total:			465,068		88	Overall total:			322,976

NOTES - INCOME

Giving income:	
Budgeted giving income to date (top 6 lines)	161,200
Actual giving income to date (top 6 lines)	170,928

Charity & Mission projects:

Funds raised to date	12,849
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Income tax recoverable

PGS tax is received each month; tax on other giving is received each quarter

Wedding / Funeral fees

The figure shown is Income net of expenses and diocesan fees

NOTES - EXPENDITURE

Charity & Mission projects:

Committed funds transferred to projects to date	11,292
Raised funds transferred to projects to date	12,849
Other St Mary's Charitable Activity	750
Total given to charity & mission projects £	24,891
Total given to charity & mission projects as % of income	10.13%

General funds year-end balance	679,94
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Fund balances at 31 Dec

Working Capital - unrestricted				
General Purposes	£7,611.10	Unrestricted: Working capital used to pay everyday bills - this fluctuates substantially over the year		
Category total	£7,611.10			
General Reserves - unrestricted				
General Reserves	£38,000.00	Unrestricted: General Reserves which the PCC is free to use as it wishes		
Category total	£38,000.00			
Building Repair Reserves - Designated				
Work and repairs on Buildings	£90,744.12	Designated: PCC funds set aside as designated for work on buildings, but not formally restricted		
Category total	£90,744.12			
BTP 1 - restricted				
BTP funds in hand	£11,226.94	Restricted: funds donated for BTP 1 project		
VAT to be reclaimed	£0.00			
Category total	£11,226.94			
BTP 2.0 Fund (Toilets, Corridor, Old Office)				
Work on Toilets, Corridor, Old Office	£0.00	Designated: PCC funds set aside as designated for BTP 2.0, but not formally restricted		
Work on Toilets, Corridor, Old Office	£151,426.24	Restricted: Amount restricted to work on BTP 2.0		
		£3,587.88	Add Pledges	41 Pledges
Category total	£151,426.24	£155,014.12	Total (Funds + Pledges) available for BTP 2.0	96.65% received
BTP2.5 Fund (New Office, Entrance, Store)				
Work on New Office, Entrance, Store	£36,040.00	Designated: PCC funds set aside as designated for BTP 2.5, but not formally restricted		
Work on New Office, Entrance, Store	£60,282.70	Restricted: Amount restricted to work on BTP 2.5		
		£855.00	Add Pledges	16 Pledges
Category total	£96,322.70	£97,177.70	Total (Funds + Pledges) available for BTP 2.0	98.33% received
Elderberries Support Fund				
Elderberries Support Fund	£2,868.85	Restricted: to be spent in support of elderly people		
Category total	£2,868.85			
CAP Debt Centre - restricted				
CAP Debt Centre - General	£47,741.55	Restricted: Amount left out of money given specifically for CAP Debt Centre		
CAP Debt Centre - Insolvency	£1,997.42	Restricted: Amount left out of money given specifically for insolvency fees via CAP Debt Centre		
Category total	£49,738.97			
Mothers Union				
Mothers Union funds	£688.91	Restricted: Amount left out of money raised specifically for Mothers Union		
Category total	£688.91	Restricted: Amount left out of money raised specifically for Mothers Union		
Bell Repairs				
Bell repairs funds	£176.25	Restricted: Amount left out of money raised for Bell Repairs		
Category total	£176.25			
Total Fund balances:	£448,804.08			

Bank Account balances on: 31 Dec

Lloyds account (adj for outstanding payments)	£26,589.37
CCLA 614054001D "CAP"	£41,823.64
CCLA 614054003D "Buildings"	£380,391.07
Total money held	£448,804.08
Check: Money held minus Fund balances	£0.00

Annual Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments for the Calendar Year 2025

Thanks

As always, we are very thankful for everyone who gives up their time and energy to maintain our buildings and grounds so well. We are particularly grateful to Derek Tye who leads the building team, organising and overseeing the maintenance of buildings and grounds. However, it takes a team, and if you are one of the cleaning team, flower team, garden, or maintenance team who have carried out tasks so diligently, and largely unseen, this is for you. THANK YOU!

Quinquennial Inspection Report & Repairs

Next QI inspection is due in July 2026. Recommendations in the previous report included replacement of cracked ridge tiles on the nave roof, loose tiles on the chancel roof, repairs to mortar on walls and buttresses, and repairs to hoppers and downpipes. Some items have been completed as part of the original building transformation project.

Ridge tiles on the church hall were refitted, roof leaks in the office repaired. Routine maintenance has been performed including re-painting the outdoor church benches and removal of moss from the church roof.

Church Grounds

St Mary's church grounds are classified as a 'closed churchyard' which means that burials no longer take place. A small area of ground at the rear of the church building is set aside for the burial of cremated remains. The maintenance of the perimeter walls, trees within the grounds, and the grounds themselves is the responsibility of East Cambs District Council (ECDC).

In this year ECDC have continued to care for the church yard. The two Yew trees by the church entrance were pruned. We wish to place on record our sincere thanks to ECDC, and particularly their employees who maintain the grounds to such a high standard.

Church Property Register

The Church Property Register includes the inventory which records all items belonging to the church and a detailed record of all alterations, additions and repairs carried out. One of the duties of churchwardens is to check the inventory at least once a year. The Church Property Register is now digital, and we have added photos of items such as the silverware to make identification easier in the future. A new paschal candle was also acquired for use at every church service.

Plans for 2026

BTP 2.0 and 2.5 is ongoing. The remodelling of the WCs, including being more accessible for disabilities and new office with hatch is nearly complete. We hope to get the approvals required for a new storage unit situated between the wooden hall and the boundary fence. Plans to replace the hall lights with LED lighting and replacing the kitchen cooker are in progress.

We are also working with Eco Ely to improve the biodiversity in the church grounds and add a communal garden in the south east corner.

Liz Taylor and Keith Rawson, Churchwardens

Deanery Synod Report — March 2026

The Deanery Synod has met three times over the past year, and Phil, Matt, and Paul Woodbridge have attended these meetings on behalf of St Mary's.

The most significant news across the deanery has been the long-running vacancy in the Isle of Ely Villages Benefice, eleven churches covering the rural parishes around Ely, which has been without a Team Rector for some time. That vacancy is now coming to an end: the Revd Chris Hollinghurst will be instituted as Team Rector on 18th April, at Sutton at 2.30pm. Chris comes to the role having previously served as a Canon of Guildford Cathedral. Please do pray for him as he takes up this important and demanding role, and for the communities he will be serving.

During the vacancy, Phil has been involved in supporting the deanery through coordinating gatherings of Parish Safeguarding Officers and lay leaders and helping PCCs across the deanery understand their responsibilities around safeguarding. This has been a quiet but significant piece of work, and a good example of the wider contribution St Mary's makes to the health of the deanery as a whole.

The Deanery Synod also approved a new Deanery Development Plan in October, setting out a shared sense of direction for the deanery focused on growing together, supporting local leaders, and building financial sustainability across parishes of very different sizes. The deanery finished 2025 having paid its parish share in full, which is no small achievement in the current climate, and something to be grateful for.

A small group from the deanery also attended a rural mission conference in Bury St Edmunds, and their learning has been shared back with the synod a reminder that we are part of a wider church that is asking many of the same questions we are asking here.