



# Peterborough Parish Church

St John the Baptist with St Luke

Charity registration number 1127813

Annual Reports submitted by church groups to the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
at 12.30pm.

**Vicar:**

Reverend Michelle Dalliston

[www.stjohnsandstlukespeterborough.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukespeterborough.org.uk)



# **The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist, Peterborough**

**Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12.30pm  
at St John the Baptist Church**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Appointment of clerk

### **VESTRY MEETING**

3. Apologies for absence
4. Election of Churchwardens

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

5. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025
6. Report on revised Electoral Roll
7. Election to Deanery Synod (3 places)
7. Election of Parochial Church Councillors (5 places)
8. Nomination of Sidespeople (to be appointed by the PCC)
9. Annual Report of the PCC and Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the year to 31 December 2025
11. Other Reports – see booklet
12. Update from Revd Michelle Dalliston, Vicar and presentation by Jeremy Jepson, Director of Music and members of St John's Choir.
13. Any other business

### **FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW PCC - *to be 3rd June 2026***

1. Election of PCC Officers: Secretary, Treasurer

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16. Welcome Counter Sales Report
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21. Health and Safety Report
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23. A Good Yarn Report

# Peterborough Parish Church

## St John the Baptist and St Luke

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 12:30pm at St John the Baptist**

### MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction- The meeting began with a prayer for the blessing of the Holy Spirit reflecting on the words of the hymn 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here' which we had sung during the Eucharist.
2. Appointment of Clerk- Kajsa Gemmell was unable to attend and so Rhiannon Bradley-Stow was approved to take minutes.

#### **Vestry Meeting**

3. Apologies for absence were accepted from June and Vernon Bull and Chris Royle and there were 53 attendees were present.
  - . Minutes of the previous Vestry meeting held 18th May 2024 were approved, proposed by Sara More and seconded by June Swingler and agreed by all.
4. Election of Churchwardens- Postholders from the previous year were thanked for their service, as was Jim Reynolds for his deputy role, Margaret Lilliman for her service at St Luke's and Vernon Bull for his ongoing assistance as Churchwarden Emeritus. There are 3 nominations for Churchwarden this year:

**Alun Williams** proposed by Malikia Brewster, seconded by Jim Reynolds

**Judy Barsby** proposed by Di Sabel, seconded by Lai Julian

**Jim Reynolds** proposed by Judy Barsby, seconded by Di Sabel

All 3 were duly elected and this concluded the business for the Vestry Meeting.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This meeting then followed the Vestry meeting, chaired by Revd Michelle, with the same attendance and apologies.

5. The minutes of the last APCM were approved as a true record, proposed by Judy Barsby and seconded by Marjorie Hadnam and agreed by all.
  - . *The meeting unanimously approved Agenda items 9 & 10 to be taken next so that Michael Horspole (giving the finance report in Vernon Bull's absence) could give his report and then be able to leave.)*

6. Electoral Roll- June Swingler presented her report, telling the meeting that after the full renewal this year there are now 97 people on roll. From the end of this meeting the roll reopens and more people will be able to join, which may well happen as some people missed the deadline. If, and when, we reach 100 on roll we will be entitled to a further 3 PCC representatives. Revd Michelle thanked God for the continuing growth in our congregations and thanked June for her work on the Electoral Roll.

7. Election of Parochial Church Councilors- Due to Henry Mosey, Lyn Green and Margaret Lilliman stepping down, there are 3 spaces available on the PCC. These 3 people were publicly thanked for their service on the PCC and given gifts.

There were 4 nominations for the 3 spaces, Revd Michelle proposed that if the PCC are in agreement the 4<sup>th</sup> person could be co-opted on at the first meeting of the new PCC. The nominations were:

**Vernon Bull** proposed by June Bull, seconded by Judy Barsby

**Emma Gilbert** proposed by Wendy Dyer, seconded by Tony Pickering

**Petrus Toma** proposed by Judy Barsby, seconded by Di Sabel

**Rhiannon Bradley-Stow** proposed by Kasja Gemmel, seconded by Stuart Gemmel

Vernon, Emma and Petrus were duly elected and with Rhiannon's agreement the aim will be to co-opt her at the next PCC meeting, due to her role on the Safeguarding Team. All 4 were greeted with a round of applause.

8. Approval of Sidespeople- Appointing Sidespeople is the responsibility of the PCC, so at this meeting we noted that we are blessed to have the ministry of 14 people who welcome and assist those coming to our services. Revd Michelle thanked them for their ongoing work and the meeting recognised their contribution with warm applause.

9. Annual Report and Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - the annual report and end of year accounts have been circulated prior to the meeting. Michael Horspole gave a presentation on the accounts for the year, the highlights of the report being that the majority of income coming from planned giving, renting out St John's Hall, coffee mornings and the insurance claim from the damaged south door. The largest expenses being Parish Share, fabric maintenance and wages. Our investments are steadily growing. We are running in a deficit, but a better deficit than previously, and the reserves we have could last for 6 years as things stand. Income has been growing, but total expenditure has also due to our greater number of activities, to illustrate this Michael showed a series of pie charts to help people understand the general state of finances. Canon Bill Croft asked a question referencing the treasurer's report mentioning the "delicate" financial position we are in. Bill suggested an

annual stewardship campaign would be useful. Revd Michelle thanked Bill for his thoughts and suggested it be discussed by the PCC when they next meet. Michael recommended the Parish Giving Scheme as a helpful way to give, and encouraged people to join, detailing the ways they could.- The meeting voted to adopt the annual report and accounts previously approved by the PCC and circulated prior to the meeting, proposed by Margaret Lilliman and seconded by Ruth Veale and agreed by all.

10. Michael was appointed as the Independent Examiner for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The meeting voted in agreement unanimously and thanked him for all his invaluable assistance. Michael then left the meeting - and it was agreed to make our usual small financial donation to Michael in recognition of his efforts which he passes on to his home church at Werrington.
11. Other Reports - as recorded in the APCM Booklet. These reports show the wonderful work that is shared in by everyone across our church communities - we have so much to give thanks to God for and thanks and applause were offered in recognition of this. Alun raised a quick point about a typo in the vicar's annual report, namely that the Tuesday's till two concerts has two ls as opposed to one. Revd Michelle apologized for the oversight.
14. Update from Revd Michelle and Revd Lex- Revd Michelle gave a brief reflection on the diocese year of prayer thanking those who have engaged with the things we have done so far, and for Barry Swingler and Revd Becka for running prayer courses that happened during Lent. She then showed some photo highlights from the last year including but not limited to: the flower festival, Peterborough Pride, Christmas, Easter and Valentine's events, various concerts, holding the hustings for the general election and the Easter Confirmation service. She invited the meeting to offer any highlights they could think of. Revd Becka mentioned that the Gatland family had thanked the church for the welcome they had received and praised the children's corner and the inclusion and welcome of their children. Judy Barsby mentioned the licensing of Revd Michelle as permanent vicar of Peterborough and Canon Helen Dearnly as associate priest. Revd Becka added the recent eco award that St John's has been awarded, and St Luke's is working on the new allotment. Wendy Dyer mentioned the excellent response that people had to the Easter Sunday service.

Revd Lex gave a presentation about the work amongst children, young people and their families. She told the meeting that there is a core group of 10 young people who attend the youth group every week, 7 of whom were prepared and confirmed at Easter. There were some quotes given from the young people themselves about what they liked- they're very food focused, enjoy the family fun days, family church and youth group activities and love attending the junior choir. Revd Michelle shared some

feedback from Christopher, Ellen, Aurora and Orion Foglietta who said how much they appreciated the strong sense of community at St John's and St Luke's, mentioning the spirit of togetherness and how church fits the family and that the children are always welcomed. Revd Lex then gave a short presentation about the Growing Faith Foundation and the 4 areas of Voices, Relationship, Rhythm and Purpose which are a core part of how we are trying to work with children, young people and their families. Cards about these 4 areas were given to the meeting. Tony Pickering mentioned that trips used to happen to Wickstead Park for picnics etc. where the whole church family could interact. Revd Michelle and Revd Lex thanked Tony for the idea and are open to suggestions for trips to happen again.

Revd Michelle thanked the whole meeting for all their hard work in the past year and told everyone that as we continue to grow, we need to think about organizing and considering resources, balancing outreach with capacity well. She commended all of us to more prayer, more love, trust and faith. She highlighted the forthcoming Parish 'Rest and Refresh' retreat day and invited all to consider attending.

15. AOB- Wendy Dyer raised a point about confusion at the new St John's logo, moving away from the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo which had been commissioned. Revd Michelle explained that the new logo was more easily used via social media and was helping to standardize logos across church activities so as to help our publicity be more recognisable.

Alun Williams highlighted a need for additional support from new volunteers to keep the CIC events going and flourishing.

Alun Williams proposed a vote of thanks for Revd Michelle for all she does, the meeting gave a round of applause.

The meeting closed with the grace at 2:21pm..

## VICAR'S REPORT for the APCM 17th May 2026

The reports in this Booklet and our PCC Annual Report show how blessed we have been once again in the year that is past and how we are continuing to grow in numbers, as well as spiritually and in our mission – there is so much that is happening day by day, week by week and so many people involved in all our various ministries. It all makes for a very busy but joyous parish life and first and foremost I'd like to pay tribute to you all and thank you for being such brilliant co-workers in the Gospel!

If you are newer into the mix at St John's or St Luke's – it is such a joy to welcome you and please do ask if you'd like to know more about things that go on beyond Sundays, and of course you would be so welcome to help out or get involved with the various different activities so if you have a particular skill or gift you'd like to share then please speak to me, any of the Ministry Team or our churchwardens, or the Welcomers who welcome you in each Sunday.

Our Electoral Roll having increased to be over 100 means that at this year's APCM we can elect an additional 3 PCC members (up to a total of 12 elected members overall) - this means that we can be more representative of our congregation and bring a larger number of people into the life of our parish in roles that continue to support our ongoing mission and ministry.

This growth in our church family was especially evident at our Christmas services in December 2025, as well as our Holy Week and Easter services for 2026 – having been almost 200 at St John's for Easter Day 2025, we were over 200 for Easter 2026! Many Sundays we are now over 100 at our main service – and along with this growth has been once again a rising number of baptisms and confirmations as more people come to faith, take the first step on their Christian pilgrimage or confirm their baptismal promises.

Some are also exploring calls into licensed lay ministry, children's ministry or ordained ministry. This is all a sign of God richly at work among us and of the invitation to us all to share in building his kingdom which is being joyfully discovered as we grow together.

To be a missional community means we need to be grounded in prayer – and so prayer and worship is foundational to all that we are and all that we do. In June 2025 we held a Parish Quiet Day at St John the Baptist in Chelveston and enjoyed prayer resources, reflections and the beautiful rural setting and we are planning another Quiet Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June this year.

Do consider joining us for Morning Prayer at 9am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at St John's if you can, or use the Daily Prayer App from the Church of England with Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer daily on your phone or lap top! Link here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>)

Learning more about the Eucharist which is at the heart of our worship has been the focus of our Lent Courses in 2026 – and the 'Come & See' resources with reflections on the Eucharist by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, have been so excellent we may well run the 6 sessions again! My thanks to Canon Bill, Revd Lex and Revd Becka for sharing in leading these – which have been part of helping us explore our discipleship as part of the Diocesan 'Year of Discipleship' for 2026.

At both churches, providing accessible seasonal prayer resources is an important way to support our spiritual life and many visitors make use of these, as well as lighting prayer candles or simply spending a quiet moment in church or in the Lady Chapel. In August 2025

we stayed open on Saturday afternoons, and the numbers visiting then, and at any time that we are open throughout the day, demonstrate that there is much need for this and it is part of our ministry of welcome and role as the City Centre church. Our ongoing Saturday and Wednesday Cafes play such an important part in this – and so to pay tribute here once again to Judy Barsby for her management of the Café for 20 years! Also to thank the students from City College Peterborough who do a fantastic job with the Wednesday Café during term time.

Important too is the network of pastoral and prayer support that keeps those who can't easily come to church connected into the church family. Our Pastoral Team take pewslips, prayer resources and home communion out to Care Homes and family homes. Thank you to our Pastoral Team, and to Revd Becka, Reg Tomblin, Lyn Green and June and Barrie Swingler who have all played a key role in our Care Home services.

In addition, sharing our faith at home and at work when there are opportunities to do so is such important ministry that you all are doing – as well as praying for one another and simply living out the love of Jesus in daily acts of care and kindness – and all makes all the difference.

Some of the ways we are seeing God at work among us are in the amazing growth in our Choir and Youth Group. Jeremy, our Director of Music, is an absolute inspiration and the last year has brought ever more glorious music to enrich our worship as well as many new friends and families to join us. Jeremy will share his exciting vision as part of our APCM presentation – which has at its heart our shared understanding of our call to be an inclusive church in all we do. Music has power to touch our souls and meld us together with each other and with God – a way in which we all uniquely can play our part and yet together make a joyful noise! Deepest thanks to Jeremy and all our choristers for all you bring, and also to Helen Bates, who brings the joy of live music to St Luke's too.

In a similar way our ministry with children and families welcomes in everyone for worship as well as fun activities during holiday times. In Summer 2025 our August sessions were Woolly Window Wednesdays – picking up on the summer Shaun the Sheep trail at the Cathedral and continuing our tradition of making 'stained glass' windows to adorn the windows at the back of St John's! For all our family events, all are welcome as we learn, play and create together and many thanks to everyone who helps support these sessions, giving generously of time and resources too. Revd Becka and Revd Lex have been absolutely key to all this both in pioneering and establishing this ministry along with our monthly 'Together' Family Services and thanks to all who help support these events as volunteers.

Our links with local schools is key to growing this ministry too and as well as the regular visits and assemblies, we also take in cards, chocolates and gifts for the teachers and staff at various times as a way of blessing our schools – special thanks to Sue Conroy for making some beautiful gifts for our schools last year. If anyone would like to assist in this way of supporting the wonderful work our local schools do, please speak to Revd Lex.

The growth in our Youth Group has been remarkable, and Honour Smith, our Youth Worker, has created an environment of welcome for all who come, supportive of SEND children, and of a really wide age range from 7-14 years, where the older ones are now young leaders and there is an exciting variety of activities from week to week that meet different interests and ages. Please pray for Honour as she comes to the end of her degree course at Ridley Hall, and takes the next steps in her calling as a Youth Minister.

For the first part of 2025 we were also blessed with Liv-Astrid Cowne Gemmell as a Ministry Experience Scheme intern - Liv moved onto St Mary's, Peterborough for her second year as well as working with other parishes across the Deanery, in partnership with another MES intern, Roisin Kuruvilla and we look forward to some exciting developments in that programme for 2026-27 term too.

Revd Lex and Rhi Bradley-Stow are absolutely inspirational in their leadership and support of our youth ministry and all that we do with children and families too – my special thanks to them and for their support as colleagues and friends.

Fruits of all this ministry have been the number of people continuing to come for baptism and confirmation – in 2025 Ophelia Beaney and Kamran Karimi were baptized, and Kamran, along with 10 others - Ashraf Khan, Behnam Hoseyni, Laura, Riku & Milo Ozawa, Faustus Krasuckis and Gabriele Krasuckyte, Ivan Frusevych, Roy Hill and Kimberly Paterson were confirmed at Easter at the Cathedral.

In 2026 so far we have already had 9 baptisms - five adults – Reza Hajpour, Rianna Hamilton, Kate McDowell, Skye Evans, Aaliyah Khan – and four children – Avery Paull, Taylor Lawrence and Eleanor & Charlotte Mansfield and also at the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral this year eight adults were confirmed – Brian Bell, Kevin Fensome, Reza Harjpour, Rianna Hamilton, Taimi Mvula, Daryl Ward, Hayley Wilding, Corinne Williams and two received into the Church of England – Donatas Dvylys and Severina Dvyliene.

This year we are also having a Confirmation at Pentecost at St John's where Bishop Debbie will confirm nine adults and children, and also admit three children to their first communion. What a joy to have such a sparky group of 7 and 8 year olds who are so keen to be fed through the sacraments and this is the first time in the life of our parish that we have needed to take these steps to admit younger children to communion, before confirmation, something that the Church of England as a whole has made possible since 2006.

There was just one wedding in 2025 – but such a special one – Catherine Deans (Judy's niece and Elizabeth & Colin's daughter) and Chris Bond, and in 2026 we have two weddings – Matt and Lucia Silveri-Sowman in May and Chris Bailey and Charlotte Stokes in August.

There were 4 funerals in 2025 – Carole Ann Pollitt, Elsie Price, Roy Scott and Winifred Vincent, and in 2026 we have sadly lost two dear friends from St John's – Tony Malia and Chris Brooks. We remember them all with much love and thanksgiving - may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

There have been so many highlights from the last year that it's impossible to mention them all in detail but as a quick reminder we have had wonderful music at many of our Saturday Cafés provided by Gemma Doherty & Charlie Kisby, also Gemma & Geoff Hadman, also our special Bellringers Cafes with music from the St Botolph's Ukelele Band, and of course our Choir Cafes with music on piano and organ from Jeremy! At this point I have to mention our incredible 12-hour Music Marathon in April to raise funds for the organ work that is needed - £2,000 raised and still more to come – well done Geoff, Marjorie and friends along with Jeremy, our choir and many other performers!

Back in October 2025 we had an amazing exhibition of knitted Bible Stories in October - thanks to June Swingler for bringing that to us, (looking ahead we are planning a Poppy Cascade for Remembrance Sunday this year – talk to June if you'd like to be involved!)

Our many social events including our usual favourites and some new ones too – including a riotous Quiz Night at St Luke's in January 2026 and our Harvest Lunch in 2025 which included a wonderful celebration of all the different aspects of parish life and an invitation to join in as part of our many teams!

Our Online Service for the Church of England plus Patronal Festival with Bishop Debbie at St Luke's was completely joyous and a celebration of our whole Parish family and reflected our wonderful diversity and inclusion and focus on healing – living out the fullness of life that Christ promises.

Mothering Sunday 2026 coincided with Wyldbore Day – when we remember and give thanks for the life of Matthew Wyldbore, twice MP for Peterborough in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and whose impressive memorial is in the Lady Chapel. His story is linked with our bells and a legacy on his death to our bell ringers is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> March every year. It was wonderful to join with members of our Company of Ringers who shared in leading parts of our Mothering Sunday service – we always give thanks for our wonderful ringers and all they do, including their special Saturday Cafes.

We welcomed some good friends back to St John's in the course of the year – the Venerable Gordon Steele, our former Vicar and then Archdeacon of Oakham came to preach at St John's Patronal in June, and then at the end of the year it was great to welcome back Cards for Good Causes too.

We also said some farewells:

Lena Hartley moved to Newcastle to be with her family in June 2025.

Judy Barsby stepped down as Café Manager after 20 years of running our Saturday Café at the end of April 2026 – Judy, you have been amazing and we are all so grateful for you and the fantastic team of Café volunteers.

Vernon Bull stepped down as Treasurer in September and I want to pay particular tribute to him for such careful and reassuring stewardship of our finances for so many years – it is impossible to thank him enough for all that he has done for the Parish for so long.

June Bull too has been such a mainstay of our PCC, Deanery and Diocesan Synod, Health & Safety, St John's CIC and a myriad of other areas of Parish life. Sincere thanks and appreciation to them both for all this and more!

New things that happened in 2025 included:

From March 2025 we welcomed the 2 2 1 Support Group for people who have been through divorce which meets on the first Saturday each month at our Saturday Café.

At Rogationtide in May 2025 we began a joint Allotment project with St Jude's on the Grange allotments as part of our eco-church aims and to offer a way of engaging with the community. Whilst it hasn't been possible to continue this for now, we hope that we can return to this and our community quiet garden project at St Luke's as we go forward.

In August we supported the return of the Peterborough Carnival – with a new focus on celebrating our cultural communities and with a 'Rio' style parade and performers from local schools on stage in Cathedral Square.

We welcomed Sue Sharman as our volunteer lead for our Digital Hub, which launched in October 2025 and is part of a project from the Combined Cambridge Authority to address digital exclusion – Sue works with Sara More and Joseph Booker to offer the Digital Hub alongside the Community Support Hub on Tuesdays.

On Easter Day this year we were sad to say farewell to Revd Becca, who has now done what curates do – spread her wings and flown onto lead her own parish and ream of ministry!

Her pioneering and missional heart will now help spread the good news in the parish of West Grimsby, and to support urban estates ministry across the Deanery. She has left her special mark on us all and her joy in faith and passion for prayer and reminder to us all to 'lean into God' will continue to inspire and encourage us. I am personally so grateful for her special friendship and ministry – I have learnt a huge amount from her over the last four years and she will be such a huge miss for us all.

There is much though to look forward to – God is good! We pray for Chris Royle as she prepares for ordination and her curacy at Holy Spirit, Bretton. And of course we look forward to welcoming Carol Tarver as our curate this summer – Carol will be ordained deacon alongside Chris on 28<sup>th</sup> June and will begin her ministry with us as a self-supporting minister on a part-time basis – we pray for Carol, Alan, and all her family at this exciting new beginning.

There are some other exciting new developments to come this year too – and as God's call on us all leads us into new ways of being his people, there may be times of change and transition that stretch us – this is what it means to grow up into the full stature of Christ!

Looking to the future – one of our priorities last year was to grow our organisational capacity to secure the different areas of growth. In the course of 2025 with the much-valued support of Jonathan Jelley, President of PCVS, we were able to put together a Business Plan to look to address our financial deficit and to appoint an operations manager. I'm so grateful to Joseph Booker who has been helping as Interim Operations Manager and helping us reach

the point where we have now been able to make an appointment. I am delighted that Brian Bell will be joining us as our Head of Operations, beginning formally in that role in June.

I want to pay tribute to Sara More who gives so much of her time helping as volunteer steward and caretaker and is always on hand to help out when needed. Of course Duncan does so much for us all above and beyond his role as Administrator and we appreciate him enormously. Our thanks too to Ashley, our cleaner.

Since September 2025 we have also been reviewing our finances and exploring options for better management of our reserves in a challenging financial climate to improve our overall financial picture. We will need to hold a Stewardship Campaign this year as well as seek to improve hire income and grant funding to address our fabric needs especially.

So as we look back and look forward – a huge thank you for all you give of yourselves in care and service of others and to live out the good news of Jesus Christ – it is an absolute joy to be called to ministry here among you all and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the year ahead.

A special thank you to our Churchwardens – Judy, Alun and Jim are fantastic and give so much of their time and care for us all, along with Margaret at St Luke's and I owe so much to them all.

Finally, while we are thinking about prayer and worship – we are now in the special time of year between Ascension Day and Pentecost traditionally observed with a Novena (nine days) of prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement which you can join in with to pray during this time for others to come to know Jesus and grow in their faith and discipleship. Do check it out with the prayer booklets in church or via the link here: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Lord, may your Kingdom come on earth as in heaven and may all come to know the joy of your love.

With much gratitude for you all and every blessing in Christ,

*Michelle xxx*

*Revd Michelle Dalliston, Vicar*

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The usual maintenance has been carried out. We have a WhatsApp group which helps to get problems sorted promptly. We are grateful to Les Sabel, Malcolm, and Jim who do the bulk of the repairs. The annual check on the fire extinguishers was carried out in April.

The 5 yearly electrical check has been carried out and we are now waiting for the necessary work to start. PAT testing is still in progress. Ecclesiastical did a check in March to assess our valuation – still waiting for the report.

The boiler has been serviced. We are now able to control the heating using the “Hive” app, which is making it easier to adjust timings or temperatures during cold snaps.

The radio mic licence has been renewed.

We are still waiting for the void in the north aisle to be repaired. The DAC rejected the plans submitted and we are still waiting for new plans to be provided by the contractor and architect. The latest plans were again rejected by the DAC. We are now waiting for them to do an on-site visit with the architect.

We are soon to have the lighting upgraded to LED. A grant has been obtained and a contractor appointed.

Duncan Garfield continues as Administrator, Ashley Dawson as cleaner, and Jeremy Jepson as our Director of Music. We are grateful to them all for their work. We are also very grateful to Michael Horspole for his support in helping us to manage our church finances after Vernon Bull had to step down as our treasurer in the autumn. We are grateful to the flower team for providing beautiful flowers throughout the year, the bellringers for the joyful start to the services, and our adult and junior choirs for their wonderful contribution to our worship.

We are also grateful for Jan Sharman who has made a beautiful altar frontal, fall and chasuble in the purple colours and to Wendy Dyer for funding the chasuble. We are also grateful for the Sunday Warden teams who ensure the smooth running of the services all year. Thank you for all the volunteers who keep the church running and clean. We could not manage without you.

### **St Luke's**

The boiler and the fire extinguishers have been serviced. The 5 yearly Electrical check has been done and also the PAT testing. We are grateful to Margaret Lilliman who manages the running of the church.

The Church Hall is leased to the Mar Thoma church who are responsible for the upkeep. The churchwardens performed the annual inspection this year.

*Judy Barsby, Alun Williams, Jim Reynolds*

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

*See Annual Accounts*

## SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding remains a priority of the PCC, it has been a standing item on every agenda and we have started exploring safe and healthy cultures within the parish.

In November, the PCC agreed to the appointment of Rhiannon Bradley-Stow to the voluntary role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. Alun Williams continues to serve as part of the safeguarding team, which comprises nine members and meets every other month to review the Parish Safeguarding Action Plan. The team ensures compliance with church and diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures and regularly reviews training needs.

This year, Lex Bradley-Stow has completed a course qualifying her as a diocesan safeguarding trainer. As a result, we are now able to offer in-person safeguarding training for volunteers who require it.

We are encouraged that individuals have felt able to raise concerns, and all safeguarding matters have been handled in accordance with our policy. We have worked closely with the diocesan safeguarding team to share concerns, receive up to date training and remain informed about upcoming changes.

Our safeguarding policy is available on the website and you can find safeguarding contact information displayed in both churches. Following the migration to a new email server the safeguarding email address is now [safeguarding@stjohnsandstlukespeterborough.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnsandstlukespeterborough.org.uk).

*Rhi Bradley-Stow, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY REPORT

What a year we have had regarding our ministry among children and young people! We continue to see new families engaging with us at both St John's and St Luke's and as we can bless children and their families with the work we do, we are in turn blessed as a church congregation by their presence with us.

### **Family Services**

The Together Family service continues to be successful often having more than 30 children and their families in attendance. There is now much greater cohesion between the two services that run at the Cathedral and St John's each month, with clergy being shared across sites and the styles of service being much more similar.

During this last year the congregation of the family service, along with other families from St John's and the Cathedral have enjoyed two Sausage Sizzles at the Deanery, something we will hope to repeat in the warmer months.

### **Youth Group**

We have seen huge growth in our youth group during this past year; we have gone from a core group of 10 young people to now regularly having around 17 attending

our Friday evening sessions. This is, in part due to us slightly lowering the age of child who can attend, opening the youth group to all the choristers in junior choir; but also, wonderfully due to the young people themselves and their parents' telling friends about the sessions at school. We are thrilled to have gained a reputation lately as an inclusive and welcoming space for SEN children and young people. Financially, we are now charging £2 a session for youth on a Friday which means that we are generating our own funds and topping up the budget. With the budget we now stick to for monthly spending, and on an average weekly income, there should be just a little more coming in than going out, so we can be in a position of the children's and youth work being self-sustaining.

On Sundays with a fifth Sunday, we now also run a Sunday lunch club after the morning service which our youth group are invited to. This includes a light lunch a craft activity and the opportunity to go into greater depth with some Biblical teaching- our next meeting is in May.

### **Family Fun Mornings**

Our Family Fun mornings on the Wednesday of every school holiday have gone from strength to strength. During last year's summer holiday, we held "Woolly Wednesdays" in line with the Shaun the Sheep exhibition at the Cathedral and we saw over 80 children come through the doors during August. For many of our other family fun sessions we have teamed up with Peterborough Positive, which means that we are able to use their advertising and also receive some funding from them for running the events, which is a huge bonus.

### **Toddlers**

The majority of plans are now in place for the Toddlers group (Little Lukes), with volunteers keen to be involved and toys now in place in new storage at St Luke's. We are just waiting for some final pieces of training/ safeguarding to be in place before an official start date to be announced. We are indebted to Revd. Becka who got the group to this point before her curacy finished, we are just sorry she couldn't see it up and running before she left for pastures new.

### **Personnel**

As we all know Revd. Becka was pivotal in the development of our work with children and young people and their families, and I just want to officially voice here our huge thanks to her for her pioneering vision and ministry. Honour, our youth worker, is now in the final year of her degree and is going from strength to strength in her own ministry amongst our children and young people- the group we now have attending weekly services and youth group sessions are a credit to her hard work. As of August last year Liv-Astrid, who was with us for her first MES (Ministry Experience Scheme) year, moved placement and so we lost her invaluable input. Revd Michelle and Revd Lex are on the Deanery MES steering group however, and this next year

looks very exciting for the deanery scheme, so watch this space for the input St John's and St Luke's will have from these wonderful interns. I cannot end this section without also mentioning the wonderful work for our children and young people that Jeremy is doing through music- so many of the children we now have regular interaction with have come first through the junior choir and so we are so thankful to him for all he does.

*Revd Lex Bradley-Stow*

## DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

Diocesan Synod has variously presented reports and enabled discussion of the new Diocesan Vision and Strategy - governance structures are being reshaped to be more effective and accountable. During the year the Bishop also brought proposals for the appointment of a new Bishop of Brixworth following the retirement of Bishop John Holbrook in September 2025. In May the announcement of the new Bishop - currently the Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Ven. Alex Hughes, was made and he will be joining us in September 2026. In July 2025 a Synod met to explore the Diocesan Financial strategy and a Deanery Synod motion brought by Peterborough Deanery asking for Parish Share to be more missionally based has been received. A review of the way Parish Share is calculated is currently underway. Efforts to address the very significant deficit in Diocesan finances are also in hand.

*Revd Michelle Dalliston*

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Ascension Day service in 2025 was held in St Botolph's Church, Longthorpe.

The first meeting was held in Holy Spirit Church Bretton and was mainly finance and Parish Share discussion. The speaker was David Morton, Lay Ministries Officer.

The second meeting in July was held in St Botolph's Church Helpston. Sadly, Frank Smith the Lay Chair had died suddenly so the first item was to appoint a new Lay Chair. Jonathan Craymer was proposed by Sylvia Desborough, seconded by Elizabeth Medlock. Jonathan was elected.

The speaker was Revd Dr Judy Craig Peck, Bishop's Advisor for Spirituality. She started with a short meditation and proceeded to other exercises. Spiritual Directors help people with their spiritual journey.

A motion for the Diocesan Synod prepared by Revd Kier Dow re 'Request for Review of the Parish Share Processes' was voted on. Majority in favour, 8 abstentions.

The November meeting was held here in St John's. Again a long discussion re the Parish Share. The main event was about Prison Chaplaincy. Revd Saji, Revd Martin and Canon Helen Dearnley were the very interesting speakers. Unfortunately, our PA system broke down that evening so it was difficult to hear much of the discussion.

*Judy Barsby, Deanery Synod representative*

## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The current total on the Roll for 2026 after the annual revision (removals and any new additions) is 108 entries: 22 resident and 86 non-resident.

From 2nd May 2026 the roll closed to new applications until after the APCM completed its business on 17th May 2026. From that point on, applications for those not already on it can continue to be made. By way of a reminder, joining the Electoral Roll (ER) is compulsory if you wish to: stand for election as a Churchwarden, become a member of the PCC or other synodical council (such as the Deanery, Diocesan or General); and participate in voting at the APCM. Thus, from a total of 108 entrants, we can elect 12 PCC representatives.

You will find electoral roll application forms for those not already on it, plus the ER revision (display version) pinned to the noticeboard at each church. A copy is available at the APCM.

If you have any questions about how the ER is administered and the rules governing it, please do speak to Revd Michelle Dalliston or myself. The next revision of the ER will be in 2027.

*June Swingler – Electoral Roll Officer*

## CHOIR AND ORGAN REPORT

The choirs have enjoyed another super year, the adult choir has welcomed two new members within the last few months, a new Bass and Alto, both of whom hadn't experienced choral singing before but who have bravely dived in and enjoyed the challenges and support we offer, it's been a joy to see and hear. The junior choir has grown to 18 singers, almost doubling in size over the course of the last twelve months and we now have a total of 36 singers involved in our programme of weekly worship. It's been particularly pleasing to see increasingly regular attendance and commitment (with essential support from families and parents to enable this hugely appreciated). This has increased our contact time and therefore our ability to embrace new repertoire and to work in more detail on our voice and choral singing skills.

The choirs have been very fortunate this year to receive a gift from Christopher Gower, formerly organist of Peterborough cathedral, a beautiful communion motet written

especially for the choirs here at St John's, which we will premiere at our Patronal Festival on June 21st. Our weekly repertoire has grown further still, covering music from 9th Century plainsong to the present day and this growth has been aided by the financial support of the PCC and the fundraising activities of the choirs and others. At this point a huge thank you to Marjorie and Geoff Hadnam who, with the help of a fabulous team of friends, musicians and supporters, arranged a 12 hour Musicathon to help raise funds for our musical activity and organ repairs. As I write this, the amount raised appears to be well over £2000, which is quite an incredible achievement. To Marjorie and Geoff and the team they gathered around them, deepest thanks. We are also hugely grateful to Tony and Maureen Mason, friends of Marjorie and Geoff, who together with Marjorie and Geoff helped fund new robes for the junior choir and a very useful conducting/playing surplice for the Director of Music through the Foresters Friendly Society – again, huge thanks are due and we are so grateful for this very generous and enabling gesture.

Highlights from this last year include another joint Christmas concert, this time with the junior choir of St Luke's RC Church and the City of Peterborough Concert Band, which was great fun and a lovely way to celebrate and strengthen one of our ecumenical links; a thrilling performance by the choir at our Carols in the City where they sang with great energy and musicality and with a less help from 'extras' (I was so proud of this); a wonderful joint service in the cathedral with the joint congregations of St John's and the cathedral on Ash Wednesday, when our Adult and Junior choirs joined with the St Peter's Singers, accompanied by Christopher Strange, the cathedral's Director of Music, to sing a fully choral eucharist with music by Darke, Mozart and Byrd – it was a truly wonderful coming together; and Holy Week, when, once again, the choirs made a hugely significant contribution in this most moving week in the church year. As well as the joint ventures above, the adult choir also invited several extra singers along for a fabulous choral evensong, enjoying dramatic and uplifting music by Sumsion and Stanford, on our Patronal Festival, and once again joined with Stamford Choral Society and many other singers from the area, to perform a particularly profound and moving rendition of Stainer's Crucifixion on the Sunday before Palm Sunday – building on the success of last year's performance and with many of the same visiting singers, we were able to refine our understanding and pacing of this wonderfully dramatic piece even more and it really was a wonderfully moving occasion. Plans for the choirs this coming year include another summer visit to a local country church to sing evensong, some social time for both choirs (much deserved!), and further expansion of our activities to create more opportunities for involvement in our musical and worshipping life here.

The organ is in need of some attention and is now in the care of Peter Spencer, Organ Builder and there are plans afoot to address the significant issues with the keyboards in the coming months, which will enable us to begin to develop opportunities for potential organ students and to confidently bring the organ back into play for recitals and other events.

A huge thank you to our clergy, choir parents, choir families, our singers and chaperones and to you, the congregation, for all the support and encouragement we receive. It's so good to work in such a supportive environment and for the choirs and music team to truly feel such an integral part of the church family at St John's.

*Jeremy Jepson- Organist and Director of Music*

## SERVERS' REPORT

The serving team continues to support clergy at Sunday Eucharist, setting up the Sanctuary and clearing away after the service.

Since our last report in 2025 we have sadly lost some long serving members of our team due to health issues, we miss them and thank them for their long service.

We do have some recruits who will be undergoing training over the next few weeks, and we look forward to welcoming them to the team.

Servers play a very important part in the act of worship in St. John's, assisting clergy and setting up the Sanctuary, so if you would like to join us, please speak to any of the team.

The duties are not onerous, we are a friendly group, and new members would be sensitively and sympathetically supported.

*Henry Clydesdale*

## SIDESPEOPLE'S REPORT

We are very grateful to the Sides-Persons Team who have worked faithfully each Sunday to welcome all who come through the doors for the Sunday Services. Grateful thanks to Marjorie and Geoff Hadnum who took on the responsibility of organising the rota, and for the smooth running of this essential job for this past year in the absence of Di Sabel.

It is such a vital task to meet and greet those who come through the door each week, and there will always be someone there to help people in need.

Currently we are a team of twelve, but of course we are always eager to have more people join us. It is not an onerous job. A warm welcome as they enter St John's is the first step encouraging them, hopefully, to come back again.

*Di Sabel*

## FLOWER TEAM REPORT

Since our last report , the second half of 2025 was unexpectedly challenging for the Flower Team . Due to unforeseen circumstances we were a much depleted team . Thankfully, with help from Margaret Lilliman and Barbara Pickering we were able to arrange a few spectacular floral displays in church for Pentecost . In the summer, St John's celebrated a wedding . This time Judy Barsby and Janice, were co opted to help Barbara and Margaret .We understand the bridal party was very pleased with all the arrangements.

At our Harvest Festival we had the help of another volunteer, Bernadette Woodworth to create a beautiful floral arrangement to augment the Harvest display.

By God's grace, we managed to ensure that there were always fresh flowers in church throughout the rest of the year. Thank you to Jackie and Janice for always being ready to step in to help out.

Finally, in December we were reunited as a team. Hopefully our grateful thanks were reflected in the Christmas floral displays in church.

In March 2026 , the entire team got together and as in previous years, made up more than 100 bunches of daffodils to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

At Easter we were able once again to celebrate with exuberance, the joy of Christ's resurrection .

Pentecost is once again round the corner .We give thanks to God that we are once more able to work together and we look forward to another year of praise and worship with flowers.

We truly appreciate all of you at St John's and St Luke's for your continued support both financially and in prayers

With grateful thanks,

*The Flower Team*

## COMPANY OF BELLRINGERS' REPORT

I am pleased to report to the APCM that bell ringing, bells and tower are all in a healthy state.

We've rung for every Sunday service or additional service when requested this year. This included VJ day, the carol service and Midnight Mass. We also contributed to Wyldbore Sunday including a quarter peal, one of just two rung this year.

Two years ago, we decided to exclude the more difficult "method ringing" from our service ringing. The result is a very high standard of "change ringing" that is most appropriate to the finest and heaviest bells in the area.

We have supported the non-ringing activities of St John's including Saturday refreshments both for our own and for St John's mission funds. Bringing additional entertainment including St Botolph's Ukulele band. Other events supported include the heritage weekend and the Valentine's Day film show.

We are compliant with health and safety and safeguarding, both for our own band and Visitors. Liaising closely with our Parish Safeguarding Officer. The Tower is kept clean and we monitor the state of repair of the whole tower.

Bellringing is largely self-funded. We have replaced the Sanctus bell rope top end with a length of weatherproof terylene. This cost about £100 and was difficult to attach due to limited accessibility, but should last many years. We've replaced the tenor (26.5 cwt) rope thanks to a £250 donation from a bellringer who chooses to remain anonymous.

St John's Church is a member of the Peterborough Guild affiliation scheme. I urge that we continue to support this very worthy cause. Previously St John's benefited by £1350 when major work was required.

Most ringers who perform each Sunday at St John's have already rung at another Tower, usually St Mary's or the Cathedral. We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve St John's by ringing our Glorious Bells.

*Paul Reed, Tower Captain*

## SATURDAY AND WEDNESDAY COFFEE REPORT

In the mid 1980's when the font was moved from the Baptistry (now the Creche) two women from the congregation started serving coffee and biscuits on Saturday mornings. I was roped in to help if needed when I had a weekend off work. As the pews started to be removed at the back of the church this made room for tables at the west end. After the reordering, we then had the new kitchen, servery and café area you see now. I became a regular helper in 2003 and then manager in 2006. This will be the last report I write as I have just retired from the role.

2025 has been a fairly busy year. We raised £5617 in cash on Saturday and Wednesday. There was also £678 paid by card – this money goes directly to the Church Mission Fund. £341 from the Wednesday café has been directed to Mission and £317 to the Children and Young people fund.

Sadly, the new head teacher at Marshfield's School decided to stop letting the students come to St John's on Wednesday morning. However, we now have the students from City College during term time, for which we are grateful. The £3942 available for donations has not yet been allocated.

I am grateful to all the volunteers who have helped me over the last 20 years – could not have done it without you!

*Judy Barsby*

## WELCOME COUNTER (KNITTED & CRAFTED GOODS) SALES REPORT

Pleased to report a new record amount of profit for sales during 2025 from the 'Welcome Counter' on Saturdays, which amounted to £1,111. Part of this success was thanks to extra crafters joining the team in 2025 and thus increasing the choices available for sale. Thanks to everyone who donates their skills to raise funds. If anyone else thinks they could provide items for sale, please have a chat with the writer of this report.

*Wendy Dyer*

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB REPORT

The Household Support Fund came to a conclusion in March 2026. During the last year of that funding we were able to support 15 new families, over two dozen new vulnerable adults, and several migrants displaced from hotels but not yet in accommodation.

### **Our volunteers**

We are thankful for the support provided by our team of reliable, friendly, efficient volunteers. Through the PCVS recruitment tool we were able to welcome a number of new people into the Hub and wider church.

### **Citizens Advice referrals**

Our links with the CAB has been worthwhile. Through referrals from St Johns local residents were able to see 61 local residents, providing advice for 237 Issues (3.88 Issues per Client) The most common presenting issues: Benefits, Housing and Debt

### **Education and training**

Guests have had talks about carbon monoxide awareness via our Cadent Hub, and visits from City College where guests learned more about courses on offer and heard from their Careers Adviser on ways they could get into work.

### **Health initiatives**

We had two visits from the NHS who provided Covid and Flu vaccinations on site. Additionally, through Mark Wilford, a member of the congregation, our guests participated in the No Sugar Challenge and heard about nutrition and how to increase theirs through choosing healthier options and adding veg to their meals.

### **Cadent Hub**

Via the Cadent Hub, we were provided with resources for locals to be educated on Carbon Monoxide poisoning, energy saving and the use of slow cookers to make healthy meals at low costs. Here, Alex Benoy was key in providing CO2 education and devices to our guests. Evie Coppard and Mark Wilford kindly provided slow cooker demonstrations to our guests, some of whom were given slow cookers to try the recipes at home.

### **Migrant support**

We have had a number of migrants reach out to us for support, in doing so they have had support to get into long term housing, enrol on training courses at ARU, City College or PARCA and a number of them have also become volunteers. While volunteering at St John's they have access to safeguarding and food hygiene training, they learn the basics of safe food handling with practical experience and more importantly they are able to practice their English while learning about English culture and sharing theirs.

### **Work with disabled and neurodiverse adults**

We welcome volunteers of all abilities and have had referrals from the Job Centre for those who need to actively volunteer as part of their journey through work capability.

We have volunteers at different levels of competence and are happy for them to work alongside their support workers if this is suitable for them.

### **The Way Forward**

In early 2026 the Council invited bids to the new Crisis Resilience Fund and working together with St Mark's Church and Park Road Baptist Church we submitted a bid for 'One Church Hub'. We will be receiving funding to enable us to continue to offer support across 3 sites but with a more coordinated approach and to appoint a One Church Hub Coordinator to assist with the applications to the Crisis Resilience Fund that will be a part of the new funding offer to help prevent people falling into crisis or homelessness. We are awaiting the funding and will be advertising for the Hub Coordinator role shortly. Working together as a One Church Hub Partnership Group will be a great support to each church's efforts and a way of sharing best practice and standardising our approach.

*Malcolm Hopkins & Malikia Brewster, Hub Coordinators*

### **BRASS, SILVER CLEANERS AND ALTAR LINEN LAUNDERER**

Our chief brass and silver cleaners, Paul Reed and Lorna Foglietta continue to do a wonderful job in keeping us shining and sparkling and Judy and Jan our Linen Launderers at St John's and St Luke's respectively, both ensure our altar linen is always beautifully clean and ready for use each Sunday and Friday.

### **ST JOHN'S LADIES GROUP**

The Ladies Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Luke's Church at 2.30pm. We have 16 members on our register and enjoy a variety of speakers. Over the last year we have enjoyed an afternoon of Magic, an extremely interesting demonstration of

what Queen Catherine of Aragon would have worn, craft work, keep fit and flower arranging. We had a very good Christmas Lunch at the Peterborough College restaurant which we all enjoyed. It is an extremely reasonable place to go for a meal with very dedicated serving staff.

At our AGM Mary Crowson retired as secretary after very many years of service and Helen Bates and Janet Nicholls took over as joint secretaries. Our finances are still very healthy as several of our speakers didn't ask for payment so we were able to send a generous donation to Sue Ryder Hospice Thorpe Hall.

We continue to serve the local community as we welcome not only members of our two churches but also anyone living in our local area. For more information speak to a member of the clergy.

*Margaret Lilliman (Chairman)*

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF ST JOHN'S CIC

2025 is likely to have been the last full year of operation for St John's CIC. During the year I continued to organise and run seasons of Tuesdays Till Two lunchtime concerts and the monthly Piccolo children's concerts, as well as a few one-off concerts, but it has become clear that the current pattern is growing ever harder to sustain. The CIC board did not meet at all during 2025, but did finally manage to meet in March 2026, at which meeting the directors voted in favour of bringing the concert programme "in house", i.e. to be run directly by the church, and to aim to wind up the CIC by the end of its current financial year, which ends on 30th September. We also voted to establish a working group to consult on what the future programme of events might look like and how it would be run.

There were four seasons of Tuesdays Till Two concerts during 2025, and in contrast to 2024, I was able to run a full season of "Jazz Café" concerts in October and November. TT2 concerts continued to have a faithful regular audience, to more than cover their costs, and to generate hire income for the church, and to attract musicians of a very high calibre. Both the audience and the musicians who play at the concerts value them highly, not just for the music, but for the friendly and informal atmosphere. However, audience numbers were slightly down on previous years, which meant that the concerts weren't able to generate enough of a surplus to cover all the CIC's other costs, so that by the end of the year the CIC's bank balance had reduced considerably.

Piccolo concerts also continued to run monthly, but it is difficult to sustain the audience for these, as there's a need to constantly attract new families as children stop coming when they reach school age or start attending nurseries. Numbers fluctuate wildly from month to month - both the weather and "bugs going around" can make a big difference - though sometimes lower numbers of children make for a more intimate concert where the children

appreciate the music more deeply. I'm finding it hard to offer as varied a programme as I'd like at Piccolo, as both the early start time and the nature of the event mean that relatively few of the musicians who perform at Tuesdays Till Two are also available and suitable for Piccolo.

There were just two Sunday afternoon concerts during 2025, and no outdoor summer concerts but the CIC's "Christmas Together" concert took place again, and was very successful both musically and financially. Huge thanks are due to Jeremy Jepson and Henry Clydesdale for bringing together all the singers and musicians that allowed this wonderful concert to take place.

I'm grateful to the team of volunteers who supported me in the running of Tuesdays Till Two and Piccolo during 2025. At Piccolo, Margaret Lilliman and Wendy Dyer continued to manage admissions, and Honour Smith to provide the refreshments. Stephney Grundy continued as the dependable rock of the TT2 pop-up café team, stabilising an ever-changing cast of occasional and stand-in volunteers enough to cope with the demands of what can be a very busy café indeed. Sara More was a "super sub" who could play in almost any position on the team - shifting the piano one minute, working the till the next, and averting all sorts of unexpected minor crises.

As I write we are half way through what will be the last season of TT2 concerts organised under the St John's CIC banner. By the time of the APCM there will be just two more concerts to come. If you haven't come in the past or haven't come for a while please do come along on either 19th or 26th May to find out what you've been missing out on. I know how much these concerts are highly valued by both audience and musicians; they are part of our mission and ministry in themselves; and they could help to generate vital income to help support other activities. I hope we can grow a team to keep events like this running on a regular basis for years to come.

*Alun Williams – St John's CIC Programme Manager*

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Churchwardens and Ministry Team work to maintain our Health & Safety requirements and many thanks to Joseph Booker for invaluable assistance with updating and standardising our Health & Safety and Risk Assessments inline with guidance from our insurers, Ecclesiastical policy and procedures. Thanks to to Andy Howes for taking on an advisory role for our First Aid provision, including our defibrillator at St John's and First Aid boxes.

*Jim Reynolds, Churchwarden*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CENTRAL PETERBOROUGH

St John's and St Luke's along with the Cathedral, St Mark's, St Mary's, All Souls Roman Catholic Church, Park Road Baptist Church and Westgate New Church make up Churches Together in Central Peterborough (CTiCP). This gives the opportunity to worship with the other churches, and this is done via the monthly Prayer Breakfasts along with services marking special times during the Christian year: Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Palm Sunday, Good Friday Walk of Witness, Sunrise Easter Day Service, along with the Advent Quiet Day. These are good opportunities to be more aware of how much we have in common with the other denominations and churches in the City Centre.

Since its formation in 2008, Churches Together has had regular meetings with the City Council and one of the things that came out of this was the current Community Hub system. The relationship between the churches has enabled further funding to be made available over the next three years for this project as a joint venture between St John's, St Mark's and Park Road Baptists. However, the Council is now moving towards discussions with churches across the whole of Peterborough and we await to see how this transpires. It is hoped that there will still be some forum focussing on the City Centre and the role of the churches there. There has also been involvement with Anglia Ruskin University, in supporting an additional day for the chaplain working there. This has been in co-operation with the Light Project who are overseeing the employment details.

Where people call at our churches with specific needs, which we cannot meet, then the Help in the Community folder, which is regularly updated, provides assistance in directing them to the most appropriate place where support can be provided. It is planned that all this will be continued over the coming year.

*Reg Tomblin, CTiCP Representative*

## A GOOD YARN REPORT

A Good Yarn is St. John's Knitting/Crocheting and Craft group which meets twice monthly on Saturday mornings from 10 am – 12 noon in the café area. The group is run by June Swingler, who teaches members to knit and crochet as well as sewing small items, such as "The Cross in my Pocket", which are sold at Wendy's welcome counter.

Everyone is welcome and materials can be provided if necessary. Group numbers vary each week, but overall numbers are steadily growing. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Several people have learned to knit and crochet this year and have gone on to create projects of their own.

Further information can be obtained from myself or Revd Michelle.

*June Swingler*