

**ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT**  
**REPORTS AND PAPERS FOR**  
**2025 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)**  
**and**  
**POST-APCM PCC**

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**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, SIBBERTOFT**  
**ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS, APCM and PCC MEETING**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Parishioners' Meeting**

- i. Apologies
- ii. Election of Churchwardens

**2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

(all reports circulated in advance and available on St. Helen's/benefice website)

- i. Apologies
- ii. Minutes of last meeting
- iii. Electoral Roll report
- iv. Treasurer's report/Financial statements
- v. Churchwarden's Fabric and Inventory report
- vi. Children's, Youth, & Families ministry report
- vii. Deanery Synod Report
- viii. Safeguarding report
- ix. Rector's report

**3. Elections**

- i. Election of PCC members
- ii. Election of Deanery Synod representative
- iii. Election of Treasurer
- iv. Election of Secretary
- v. Election of Vice Chairman
- vi. Election of Safeguarding Officer
- vii. Appointment of Independent Examiner

**4. PCC meeting following the APCM**

- i. Apologies
- ii. Minutes of previous meeting
- iii. Treasurer's Report
- iv. Appointment of Sidesmen and Eucharistic Assistants
- v. Benefice matters (Benefice council, Service Pattern revision, Graveyard code, Other)
- vi. Fundraising
- vii. Any other business (Bickertsaff/Gogerly plot letter approval, Confirm resolution re mains cable, Other)
- viii. Date of next PCC meeting

**eST. HELEN'S CHURCH, SIBBERTOFT**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISHIONERS' AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS  
7<sup>th</sup> May, 2024  
in St. Helen's church**

**PRESENT:** PCC: Toby Jackson (in the chair), Juliet Kraftl, Lesley Hartshorne, Sue Clarke, Lesley Hartshorne, Jo Elliott, Viv Arrowsmith, Cynthia Bailey

NON-PCC: Kairen Ball,

**APOLOGIES:** PCC: Caroline Jackson

Non-PCC: José Kirby, Diane Parton, Julie Cromack

**PARISHIONERS' MEETING**

**ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDEN**

Toby Jackson was proposed by Kairen Ball, seconded by Lesley Hartshorne and duly elected.

The meeting closed at 18.34 p.m.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

*The reports and nomination forms referred to in these minutes had been circulated in advance (attached).  
Reports were taken as read unless there were any queries*

1. **APOLOGIES:** Peter Kirby, José Kirby, Juliet Kraftl, Diane Parton
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (2023)** were signed as a true record by Toby Jackson.
3. **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT:** Caroline Jackson reported a roll of 18, unchanged from last year.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** The accounts were signed by Toby Jackson, who proposed a vote of thanks to Lesley for all her continuing her hard work. A combination of donations and a few additional standing orders plus pausing the parish share payment during the interregnum means that we are, for now, reasonably well placed financially. However, assuming that we restart parish share payments from August (the be discussed at PCC following this session).
  -
5. **CHURCHWARDEN'S FABRIC AND INVENTORY REPORT:**
  - Churchyard: Revise signs explaining wilding strategy - **Action TJ**
6. **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:** Caroline attended once.
7. **SAFEGUARDING REPORT:** All to review their safeguarding renewal dates. **Action: TJ to circulate**
8. **CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, & FAMILIES MINISTRY:** Report received - waiting for arrival of new Rector (known to Peter Kraftl)
9. **RECTOR'S BENEFICE REPORT:** None this year, as we are in still interregnum
10. **CHURCHWARDEN'S LOCAL REPORT:** Reiteration of thanks to all keeping the services going, especially Kairen and thanks to the visiting clergy for church services. Thanks also to all who help with the various jobs within the services and to keep the church looking good. We look forward to the arrival of Rev. Tom at the end of July.
11. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** PCC members were elected as per the circulated nomination forms. Kairen Ball has a standing invitation to attend St. Helen's PCC meetings.
12. **ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE:** Caroline Jackson continues, duly re-elected.

13. **ELECTION OF TREASURER:** Lesley Hartshorne was duly elected
14. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY:** Viv Arrowsmith was duly elected. Toby thanked her for her work.
15. **ELECTION OF PCC VICE-CHAIRMAN** Toby Jackson was duly elected.
16. **ELECTION OF SAFEGUARDING OFFICER.** Chris Otway was duly elected. Toby recorded our thanks for taking on this benefice-wide role.
17. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** Janet Roberts was re-appointed and our thanks noted.
- ~~18.~~ **ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF PAROCHIAL OR CHURCH INTEREST.** None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 19.01 p.m.

**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, SIBBERTOFT**  
**APCM REPORTS 2025**

**ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

2025 is a new Roll year - 18 names on the Roll, up one from last year.

Caroline Jackson, *Electoral Roll Officer*  
8<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

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**TREASURER'S APCM REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024**

**Combined accounts and statement**

***Please refer to accounts for detailed breakdown***

In August 2024 we welcomed Rev. Tom Grant as our new incumbent together with his wife Jo and their son Corbin. Slowly Tom began to get to know and understand the benefice and the role Sibbertoft St. Helen's plays as a part of its seven members. I think I can safely say we have all settled in well together and look forward to a bright future exploring new ways of worshipping and fundraising.

2024 was a steady fundraising year. We enjoyed another successful September Garden party in the grounds of Sibbertoft Manor. Our thanks to the new organising team for bringing fresh ideas and maintaining a strong village community atmosphere. Following a very successful Christmas Saxophone concert in 2023, we repeated the event in December 2024; audience numbers were not quite so good but still a wonderful and worthwhile festive event.

Sunday Teas continues to be our main source of fundraising income and 2024 was a bumper season, raising £10,586 net of costs. £655 was donated to the Peace Park project following a shared Open Gardens event in late June.

Total fundraising net of costs for the year was **£13,049**. Income from plate collections, regular D/D and one-off donations **£6,502**. Gift Aid/VAT reclaim **£2,450**.

We recommenced paying our parish share in full from August 2024 and it is our intention to continue full payment while we have an incumbent and the finances to do so. Electricity costs were similar to our 2023 payments at £944. Grass cutting costs rose from £1,948 in 2023 to £4,314 in 2024 following a return to our previous cutting policy. Repair costs were down by £5,000. We supported various charities, donating £1,260

**Total expenditure for 2024: £19,303. Total income £26,953. Closing balance £41,134**

**Looking forward to 2025 and beyond.**

We commenced the New year with a healthy bank balance. However, as we are committed to paying our Parish share in full (£10,7800 we must commit to a continued fund-raising program for 2025. Sunday Teas is up and running. We have a few new recruits but balanced against a few retirements. Sadly, we lost Sue Parsons in December 2024. Sue became a loyal hard working team leader not long after she and husband David moved into the village in 2021. She is missed on all levels and our deepest thanks and condolences go out to her friends and family.

Joint fund-raising village events are planned for 2025 including a Music Extravaganza in September and a Wreath Festival in the church in mid-December.

As Treasurer, I would like to thank the PCC and wider village community for their support during the last 12 months. On behalf of St. Helen's PCC our thanks are recorded to Mrs. Janet Roberts, who has kindly given her professional time and expertise in auditing our 2024 accounts.

I confirm I am willing to act as Treasurer for another year (for the record my 30<sup>th</sup>) should it be the will of the PCC.

Lesley Hartshorne, *Treasurer*  
May 2025

**Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income Received.</b>				
Plate Collection		2,900.18		2,604.62
Donations received (Gift Aid)	1,177.84		1,030.00	
Donations received (Not Gift Aid)	155.00		10,112.00	
Regular donations to the restoration account (Gift Aid)	2,270.00		3,170.00	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		3,602.84		14,312.00
Fees Received		4,950.00		731.20
<i>Fundraising</i>				
Sunday Teas (net of costs)	10,531.18		8,593.84	
Fete (net of costs)	1,641.16		1,830.25	
Other events (net of costs)	877.19		1,214.20	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		13,049.53		11,638.29
Gift Aid refund received from HMRC		2,450.26		1,740.37
Grant from Sibbertoft PC - (re grass cutting)				-
Other grants received		-		229.64
Interest Received		0.16		0.09
Sundry Income		-		50.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		26,952.97		31,306.21
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Parish Share	4,498.75		899.50	
Electricity	943.74		905.07	
Insurance	1,646.83		1,607.83	
Vicar and lay preacher expenses	341.40		378.32	
Organist Fees	80.00		85.00	
Grass cutting	4,314.00		1,948.50	
Printing, stationery and Church magazine	-		541.33	
Fees paid	2,021.00		31.40	
Repairs	2,179.46		7,346.25	
Annual alarm fee	1,278.00		1,278.00	
Donations made	1,260.92		250.00	
Gigaclear	468.00		123.68	
Sundry costs	271.50		254.85	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		19,303.60		15,649.73
<b>Excess of Expenditure over income</b>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		7,649.37		15,656.48

**Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand</b>		
Barclays Bank General Current Account	21,341.11	18,189.74
Barclays Bank Restoration Current Account	19,782.77	15,284.93
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	10.48	10.32
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41,134.36	33,484.99
<b>General Funds</b>		
Balance at 1st January 2024 / (2023)	33,484.99	17,828.51
Excess of expenditure over income for the year	7,649.37	15,656.48
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st December 2024 / (2023)	41,134.36	33,484.99

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise an income and expenditure account for the year together with a balance sheet as at 31 December 2024 as set out on pages 1 and 2.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be



**Janet Roberts FCA**

Wheler Lodge, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth

## ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT

## COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CURRENT &amp; RESTORATION ACCOUNTS)

\*\* Audited accounts have grouped some expenditure/income differently - the year-end net figure is correct

INCOME	2023	2024	
<b>Giving</b>			
Standing orders/Regular donations	£3,400 <u>£3,400</u>	£2,270 <u>£2,270</u>	-33.24%
Gift Aid (one-off)	£1,353	£1,798	
Plate (G/A reclaimable)	£2,052	£2,280	+11.12%
Donations (non G/A)	£10,090 <u>£13,495</u>	£155 <u>£2,435</u>	-61.51%
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b><u>£16,895</u></b>	<b><u>£6,503</u></b>	
Gift Aid reclaim	£1,740	£1,540	
<b>Total giving + Gift Aid</b>	<b><u>£18,635</u></b>	<b><u>£8,043</u></b>	
VAT Reclaim		£910	
Fees †	£781	£4,951	
Reclaimed interregnum fees			
<b>Fund Raising</b>			
Sunday Teas	£9,574	£11,562	+20.77%
<b>Special events</b>			
Saxophone Concert	£1,215	£1,105	
Fête	£2,092	£2,776	
Vintage Garden Party			
Pancake party			
Vegan/Veg lunch			
Wreaths			
Sax. & Carol Raffle	£455 <u>£3,762</u>	£216 <u>£4,097</u>	
Sundries			
<b>Total Fund Raising income</b>	<b><u>£13,336</u></b>	<b><u>£15,659</u></b>	+17.42%
Grant		£0	
Interest	£0.06	£0.12	
Electricity refund	£20		
Grant 2022 utilities: 2023 E. Mids. Bus	£230		
Bank refund re error			
Quinquennial report grant			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>£33,002</u></b>	<b><u>£29,563.26</u></b>	-10.42%

ACCOUNT BALANCES (Reconciled)	2022	2024
<b>Current Account</b>		
Barclays	£18,291.44	£21,341.11
<b>Restoration Fund</b>		
Barclays High Interest	£15,284.93	£19,782.77
Community Account	£10.32	£10.48
Santander	£0.00 #####	£0.00 <u>£19,793.25</u>
	<u>£33,586.69</u>	<u>£41,134.36</u>
Less:		
Uncleared payments	£0.00	£203.40
<b>TOTAL CASH AT BANK</b>	<b><u>£33,586.69</u></b>	<b><u>£40,930.96</u></b>

NET FUND RAISING INCOME			
Teas	£8,594	£10,588	+23.20%
Saxophone Concert	£759	£635	-16.43%
Fête	£1,895	£1,668	
Vegan/Veg lunch			
Pancake party			
Wreaths	£0	£0	
Other fund raising			
<b>Total Net Fund Raising income</b>	<b><u>£11,248</u></b>	<b><u>£12,890</u></b>	+14.60%

## Income notes

Fees	2024
When we receives fees, we pay part to the Diocese. Net Fees rec. =	£2,930 <u>£750</u>

TOBY JACKSON



**ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT**  
**COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CURRENT & RESTORATION ACCOUNTS)**

EXPENDITURE	2023	2024		
Parish Share	£900	£4,499	+400.14%	£10,797
Fees PDBF †	£31	£2,021		£6,298
<b>Running Costs</b>				
Electricity	£926	£944		
Insurance	£1,608	£1,647		
Gigaclear - internet	£124	£468		
Printing/Stationery	£541	£2,273		£2,115
Altar Expenses				
Vicars/Lay exp	£463	£341		
Organist's fees	£0	£80	+405.91%	£3,480
<b>Regular Maintenance</b>				
General repairs/Maintenance	£205	£369		
Sundries	£68	£107		
Cousans (Organ Maintenance)	£458	£865		
SS Systems (service/monitoring fee)	£1,530	£1,498		
Hilltop Audio		£126		
Grasscutting	£1,949	£4,314	+72.85%	£7,278
<b>Repairs/Other works</b>				
GSS Architects (Quinquennial)				
MV Installations (electrics)		£65		
Dave Sleight (roofworks)	£1,920			
Clockwise Restoration - repair		£37		
UK Treeworks	£2,838	£210		
SS Systems (call out)				
Jeacocks	£1,672			
CollecTin cardreader	£100	£100		
Gutter Clearance (SC Builders)		£288		£700
	<u>£6,530</u>			<u>£700</u>
	<b>£10,741</b>			<b>£7,978</b>
Gifts to Clergy/Lay Readers	£45	£65		
Teas Expenses	£336	£353		
Reading room hire (Teas)	£644	£621		£974
<b>Events expenses</b>				
Wreaths				
Special tea 25/11/22				
Fête	£197	£1,108		
Saxophone Concert	£456	£471		
Vegan/Veg lunch				
Harvest supper				
Pancake party	£0	£0		£1,579
<b>Total Fund Raising Exp.</b>	<b>£1,633</b>	<b>£2,553</b>		
<b>Charitable Giving</b>				
M. Lloyd funeral to Jenny		£65 *		Via CollecTin
Christian Aid	£50	£50		
FCN		£50		
Peace Park		£654 **		** 50% of teas take
Guide Dogs	£42	£206		
Peterborough Bellringers Guild	£0	£0		* Pass-through
Air Ambulance	£50			£960
Royal British Legion	£150	£241 *		Actual giving
Jubilee Food Bank	£292	£50		£356

	£17,304	£21,912		<b>2023 ADJUSTMENTS</b>
Balancing figure	+£0.12	+£0.75		Less one-off donations <b>-£11,225</b>
				<b>-£11,225</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£17,304</b>	<b>£21,913</b>		
<b>Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>+£15,699</b>	<b>+£7,650</b>		<b>2024 ADJUSTMENTS</b>
	<b>-£11,225</b>	<b>-£6,298</b>		Had we paid full parish share <b>-£6,298</b>
<b>Adjusted Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>+£4,474</b>	<b>+£1,352</b>		<b>-£6,298</b>

TOBY JACKSON

**CHURCHWARDEN'S FABRIC AND INVENTORY REPORT**  
**APCM 2025**

**1) Repairs and Maintenance of the Building**

- a. There are no outstanding Quinquennial items
- b. The damp patches that appeared during the winter still need to be replastered and the temporary patchings of the lead guttering (vestry /chancel gulley, porch roof gulley) need to be re-checked.
- c. Still trying to find a drone owner to inspect the north-west corner of the tower just below the parapet, where there appears to be some stone missing.

**2) Fittings, Furnishings, Plate and Register**

- a. All fixtures and fittings are in good order.
- b. All church plate is in good order
- c. All church registers are in good order and in accordance with the inventory.
- d. All church linen, vestments and altar frontals are in good order.

**3) Other Works:**

- a. **Organ:** The organ was serviced, as usual and several minor issues dealt with over the year.
- b. **Priest's door and West door:** The insulation around the priest's door in the chancel is in the process of being dealt with (kindly by Chris Dickinson), as are the gaps and insulation in the West door.
- c. **Flagpole:** The flagpole rope snapped and has been replaced.
- d. **Electrics:** The chancel light switch burned out and was replaced.

**4) Churchyard**

- a. Gravestones: All gravestones have been checked for stability.
- b. Mowing:
  - i. After our wilding experiment we reverted to fortnightly mowing with reduced wild areas. This has worked well, and the churchyard is looking good.
  - ii. The explanatory signs still need to be revised
- c. Path lights: The switch at the lych gate burned out and the two path lights, although working, were damaged and it was agreed that we should relace them. This has been completed.
- d. Trees:
  - i. We still need to consider what (if any) work needs to be done on trees bordering the road.

Toby Jackson, *Churchwarden* 13th May, 2025

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**CHILDREN'S, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT**  
Subject to confirmation following service pattern revision

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## Deanery Synod Report on 2024 for Annual Meetings 2025

**Rural Dean:** the Revd Graeme Anderson, Rector of the Crick benefice.

Revd Graeme was on a 3-month sabbatical May-August 2024, and Revd Allison Twigg covered for him as Rural Dean. Revd Graeme announced his forthcoming retirement at the end of 2024, effective from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**Lay Chair of the Deanery:** Chris Banks, Long Buckby

### **Brixworth Deanery Synod Meetings January 2024 - January 2025**

DATE	VENUE	THEME	SPEAKER	PRESENT
18-01-24	Zoom	<i>Mission &amp; Vocation in the broadest sense</i>	<i>Revd Haydon Spenceley, Diocesan Director of Ordinands &amp; Director of Vocations</i>	22
14-05-24	Old	<i>1. The Diocesan environmental policy – and why it matters; the road to Net Zero and the support available. 2. Introduction</i>	<i>Canon Dr Peter Brotherton</i>  <i>Victoria Kellett: new Diocesan Safeguarding Officer</i>	24
24-10-24	Clipston	<i>Spirituality</i>	<i>Revd Dr Judy Craig Peck, Bishop's Advisor for Spirituality in the Peterborough Diocese</i>	27
16-01-25	Zoom	<i>Grants and other financial support</i>	<i>Jon Breckon, the Diocesan Historic Churches Support Officer</i>	27

**Christian Aid week 2024:** The area organiser is Harlene Griffiths (Yelvertoft.) Her report, attached, gives details and a plea for increased support for this vital charity.

**Clergy:** The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin was installed as Bishop of Peterborough in March 2024. She visited the Deanery for the day on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Bishop Debbie told us her impression is that it is a happy deanery with real potential to reach out to its rural communities.

We were delighted to welcome Revd Tom Grant as incumbent of the Naseby group; also Revd Cecily Nurmahi as curate in the Uplands group and Revd Rachel Cooley as curate in the Spencer Benefice.

Revd Kris Seward completed his curacy in the Crick benefice and at the end of March 2024 took up his new post as Rector of the Wymersley Benefice of Cogenhoe, Great Houghton and Little Houghton with Brafield on the Green.

Revds David & Helen Bent, of the Walgrave benefice, retired in July.

### **General information**

**Deanery Synod:** The Deanery - the only entirely rural deanery in the Diocese - comprises 43 parishes (about 30,000 people in total) forming 9 benefices. It is the organisational tier between PCCs and the Diocesan Synod and is led by the Rural Dean and the Lay Chair. All Deanery clergy are automatically members. Each parish is entitled to elect one or more official lay representatives to the Deanery Synod triennially (number dependent on size) Rep.s report to their parishes following meetings and report any parish concerns to the Deanery as required by their PCC.

The three Deanery Synod officers (Lay Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are also elected for a three-year period. 2024 was an election year.

**Election results 2024:**

**Lay Chair:** Mr Chris Banks

**Secretary:** Mrs Jan Alexander

**Treasurer:** Mrs Catherine Munn agreed later in the year to take up this post

**Diocesan Synod Representatives:** our Deanery may elect four clergy and four laity members.

**Clergy:** the Reverends Jo Ognjanovic, David Reith, Stephen Trott, & Allison Twigg

**Laity:** Kairen Ball, Chris Banks, Alan Chantler, Lyn Johnson.

Chris was elected Lay Chair of the Diocesan Synod.

**Standing Committee:** this meets in the weeks before a Deanery Synod meeting to plan the agenda and discuss Deanery business. Items suggested by PCCs for discussion at a Deanery Synod meeting should be sent to the secretary before the preceding Standing Committee meeting. (The secretary should also be notified of changes of parish representatives, as contact details are needed for correspondence.) The Standing Committee comprises the Rural Dean, Chapter Clerk, Lay Chair, Deanery Treasurer, Deanery Secretary, and Diocesan Synod representatives. Others may join by invitation.

**Deanery Synod Meetings:** Usually three in the year, and occasionally a social occasion may be added in the summer. Efforts are made to hold the meetings in different parishes; the church, church hall or village hall used should have wheelchair access, facilities and, ideally, adequate parking nearby. It saves funds if a venue that doesn't have to be paid for can be used.

After an opportunity to chat over coffee and biscuits from 7.00pm, meetings begin at 7.30pm with a short period of worship. The main part of the meeting has a speaker or a discussion/activity on a relevant topic. The business section covers minutes, updates on Deanery appointments or activities, and financial issues such as the Parish Share.

There may occasionally be a retiring collection, if it seems relevant to the evening's topic.

Meetings close 9.00-9.30pm.

Guests are very welcome at meetings but if there is a vote, only the official representatives can take part. The Deanery Synod may ask parishes for a very small subscription every few years.

Chris and the Rural Dean would like the parishes of the Deanery to find ways of working together more effectively for mutual benefit and support, to encourage each other and increase capabilities in the parishes – networking in a very broad sense - with the Deanery Synod as a catalyst. A database of experience and knowledge could be created.

Please contact Chris ([bankschris00@gmail.com](mailto:bankschris00@gmail.com), 07968 075465) or Jan ([jkalexander51@gmail.com](mailto:jkalexander51@gmail.com)) or speak to your parish Deanery Synod representative if you want more information.

*J. Alexander  
Deanery Secretary  
January 2025*

## NASEBY GROUP BENEFICE

### SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR 2025 APCMS

#### Rector's Safeguarding Comment

Most of us will probably be aware of the concerning scandals which have affected the church of England in recent years, highlighted all the more with the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There are two ways we can look at this:

- 'What a fine example they, the bishops, have set (not), if they can't do it why should we!' (sarcasm and indignation intended)  
or,
- 'These scandals are sadly not isolated issues. If they can happen somewhere else, they could happen here. Safeguarding is complex and the church won't always get it right, but we must try our very best... The recent scandals make it even more important that we get our own house in order. Let's show the Bishops how it is done!'

Personally, I would like us to take the latter approach. Safeguarding is about making sure that everybody feels safe and loved. If we don't feel safe, we don't feel loved.

After all, as the apostle Paul said, without love we are nothing we are but a resounding gong!

Taking part in safeguarding checks and training should be regarded as an act of love towards each other, especially those most vulnerable, to make sure that as a church we are safe as possible. Please can I urge us as a group of seven churches that when asked to undertake training and DBS checks that this is taken seriously and not resisted.

Every Blessing

Rev. Tom Grant

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#### Safeguarding Officer's Report Spring 2025

Dear friends,

We continue as a Benefice to work together to ensure that our churches are safe and loving places to belong to. Safeguarding is everyone responsibility and it is important that we all feel able to raise concerns if we notice anything which doesn't feel right or safe. Safeguarding contact details can be found in all of our churches, on the Naseby Group website and Parish Magazine ([safeguarding@nasebygroup.org](mailto:safeguarding@nasebygroup.org))

For those who are eligible, please could we all check that we are up to date with DBS checks and that we have completed our Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse, training which can be accessed at [Peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://Peterborough-diocese.org.uk). These need to be updated every 3 years.

Any help with the above is always available from me (contact details in parish magazine)

For those on PCC, please could you help us to complete the Parish dashboard which have been asked to do by the Diocese. If you could take after the APCM to answer the following questions and return the answers to me or Rev Tom that would be very helpful

1. Have all PCC members completed safeguarding training as listed above in the past 3 years?
2. Is the church building displaying a notice about the safer church policy and a Safer Church poster?
3. When did the church last approve or review their safeguarding procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns or allegations?
4. Is Safeguarding a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting?
5. When did the PCC and APCM last receive a safeguarding report from the Benefice safeguarding officer.

Hopefully most of these questions will be easy to answer (especially the last one!) We will review these frequently as the dashboard allows us to input whenever we have new information to add – so please don't

regard these questions as a test – they are just a starting point so we can see where the gaps are and hopefully address them.

As Rev. Tom said earlier, safeguarding is about making people safe and loved and is just what the world needs right now, so let us all work together to do our bit here in the Naseby Benefice

Chris Otway, *Benefice Safeguarding Officer*

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## **RECTOR'S 2025 APCM REPORT**

Dear Friends,

Looking back at 2024 I can only really comment from August onwards when I took up the post of Rector of the Naseby Group of Churches.

Thank you to everyone who has made us feel so welcome; it has been a real joy to get to know people and begin to discern what might be next for us as a group of churches.

Much has been achieved over the past six months.

We have begun to look at how we make decisions as a group going forward, with the formation of a Benefice Council starting in April 2025. In the coming year the Benefice Council will set forward its priorities around mission and ministry within the group. One of these is undoubtedly going to be our pattern of worship and how we do mission together. One question that we will be asking each other is - how is what we do, helping us to prioritise growth? Please do pray for the members of the Benefice Council, all of whom are representing PCCs from across the 7 parishes; for wisdom and unity as we work together. And for our PCCs as well which will continue to play an important role in representing their local church and community

We have begun to explore what it means to adopt a 'mixed ecology' approach to our offering of services, which values our heritage and traditional forms of worship, but also acknowledges the importance of trying new styles of worship which are accessible, particularly for younger generations. The Carols & Glowsticks services at Naseby and Haselbech, Christingle service at Clipston and Crib Service at Welford are good examples of this, sitting along side our more traditional carol services.

We are now well and truly into double figures in the number of children and families coming for baptism in our churches in the past year – this is encouraging and shows that the Church and faith still has an important place in the heart of villagers. Our aim now must be to help families to engage in accessible ways to enable parents and godparents to bring their children up in the knowledge of God's love for them.

It has also been great to get to know the staff, children and governors at our 3 Church of England primary schools in Welford, Naseby and Clipston, through collective worship, services in church, and various planning meetings.

We have also began praying regularly together on Thursday mornings at Naseby Methodist chapel, praying for each other as well as our communities and the needs of the world.

Whilst there is much hope for the future, there are inevitably going to be some difficult decisions to be made. Our church finances continue to struggle and giving continues to be down post COVID. As a result, our joint parish share contribution is not currently where it should be.

Our churches are solely dependent on the generosity of parishioners, not only to maintain our mission and ministry, but also to safeguard the historic and beautiful ancient buildings which have been entrusted to us. There is a careful balance which needs to be maintained here.

PCCs are registered charities and do not receive any external funding from the government or the Church of England. Please do consider setting up a regular gift, if you haven't already, as this really helps PCCs to plan church life.

Finally, Thank you so much to everybody who works so hard in maintaining our mission and ministry, our church buildings and all our links with the community - I really do thank God for each and every person who serves, whether it's washing the tea towels, cutting the hedges, baking cakes, ringing bells, mending down pipes, chairing meetings, making soup, organising concerts, writing sermons, playing music, counting the collection, or putting the bins out... the list could be endless - whatever you do, please know that you are valued and appreciated.

Every Blessing

Rev. Tom Grant

# NOMINATION FORM FOR 2024 APCM ELECTIONS FOR THE PARISH OF ST. HELEN, SIBBERTOFT

[Signed nomination forms for Churchwarden, PCC and Deanery Synod available to view on request]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	PROPOSER		SECONDER	
Name/Address	Name		Name	
<b>Viv Arrowsmith</b> 5 Beeches Close, LE16 9UQ	Cynthia Bailey		Jo Elliott	
<b>Cynthia Bailey</b> Beam House 44 Welland Rise, LE16 9UD	Jo Elliott		Lesley Hartshorne	
<b>Sue Clarke</b> The Stables, Coombes Yard Welland Rise LE16 9UJ	Caroline Jackson		Cynthia Bailey	
<b>Jo Elliott</b> 28 Welland Rise, LE16 9UD	Lesley Hartshorne		Caroline Jackson	
<b>Lesley Hartshorne</b> Roserie Cottage Westhorpe, LE16 9UL	Caroline Jackson		Jo Elliott	
<b>Juliet Kraftl</b> 30 Welland Rise LE16 9UD	Jo Elliott		Caroline Jackson	
<b>CHURCHWARDEN</b> <b>Toby Jackson</b> Wry Furlong, Welford Road, LE16 9UJ	Cynthia Bailey		Jo Elliott	
<b>DEANERY SYNOD</b> <b>Caroline Jackson</b> Wry Furlong, Welford Road, LE16 9UJ	Lesley Hartshorne		Julie Cromack	
<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Lesley Hartshorne</b> As above	Toby Jackson	Referee	JULIE CROMACK	J. Cromack
<b>SECRETARY</b> <b>Viv Arrowsmith</b> As above	PATRICK KIRBY	Referee	JULIE CROMACK	J. Cromack
<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b> <b>Toby Jackson</b> As above	Lesley Hartshorne	Referee	PATRICK KIRBY	Referee
<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b> <b>Chris Otway</b>	JULIE CROMACK	J. Cromack	Toby Jackson	Referee
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b> <b>Janet Roberts</b> Wheeler Lodge, Husbands Bosworth, LE17 6UL	Toby Jackson	Referee	Referee	L.M. Hartshorne