



**St Andrew's Church, Soham  
annual report 2017**

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Deanery Synod meets three or four times a year. Sonia Jones represents Wicken and I represent Soham. We discuss matters relevant to our deanery and the wider Christian community. In November, we began with a short Bible discussion and then moved on to discuss the Parish Giving scheme, which we have already discussed and have taken on. In March, we had a very exciting presentation from Scarborough Deanery in Yorkshire. It dealt with a program that they run to engage non-churchgoers with Christian events. They ran an Alpha course at a local Travelodge and used other places to encourage people to participate in a church family enterprise. They have had success and there are many other plans to draw people back. Our next meeting will be in June.

Delia Tickner

**The Mission Statement of St Andrew's Church Soham  
and St Laurence's Church Wicken**

We aim prayerfully to serve our communities – working together in practical ways, helping people to experience the love of God and grow as disciples of Jesus. We enjoy each others' company as we celebrate God's hope, life and the beauty of his creation.

**Messy Church**

Messy Church continues on most first Tuesdays in term time, meeting from 3.15 to 5pm. Families are greeted and invited to have a drink and a snack, before participating in a range of activities and crafts. Which are planned around a theme usually provoking thoughts about the current season of the churches year.

This is then reflected in a short teaching and worship session led by Eleanor, followed by a hot meal primarily for the children but extended to adults when the numbers allow. Numbers attending can vary from barely 20 children to nearer 50. This does not matter as when numbers are smaller we can have more conversations with individuals. With larger numbers we rejoice in seeing the church full of children engaged in activities and building a relationship with the church.

Messy Church is a "high demand" service to offer to the community, sees about 20 church members involved in preparing and serving the meal, organising, resourcing and facilitating the activities, planning, advertising and recruiting as well as greeting and listening to all those who come.

We are convinced it is a much appreciated activity which we hope builds link and understanding among the wide community which will enable the Holy Spirit to meet unknown needs now and in the future.

**Little Fishes**

Bridget Buchan

Little Fishes, St Andrew's church group for pre-school children and their adults, continues on Tuesdays at 1 pm – 2.30.

Up to 18 children (from babies upwards) with perhaps 12 adults attend the group. Most adults are mothers but there are also grandparents among our regulars. The session always begins with a welcoming song and a prayer which reminds us that God is always close to us. A story usually follows, but we don't expect such little children to concentrate for long so most of the time is spent playing with the toys, or exploring the church, doing some simple making activity such as play dough, paint, or sticking, and having a snack.

Parents tell us that they appreciate our group because it is very friendly and inclusive, which is pleasing to hear. We try to create an environment where children and adults alike will feel truly accepted. We hope that everyone who comes will feel comfortable in church, and know they are valued, accepted, and listened to whatever their religious views or vulnerabilities - in short our aim is to demonstrate the sort of love that we believe Christ has for us.

We've had wonderful support this year from Natalie and Anna in particular, and others including Claudia, Peter and Solange who have come to help from time to time. Many thanks to them all. We really could do with more helpers, perhaps on a monthly basis, especially as the numbers have increased, so that we can continue to be the friendly and supportive group we wish to be.

Bridget Buchan

*Ex Officio – Clergy*

Eleanor Whalley

*Ex Officio – Wardens*

Margaret Fisher

Christopher Palmer

*Ex Officio - Synods*

Jo Sturgeon (until April 2017)

Delia Tickner

*Ex Officio – Other*

Ruth Dennigan (Licensed Lay Minister)

Helen Randall (Licensed Lay Minister)

*Elected members who finished their term on 27 April 2017*

David Tickner

Fiona Hefferan

Philip Logan

Mark Campbell

*Elected members from 27 April 2017 with a three-year term (year of election in brackets)*

David Tickner (2017)

Lynne Webb (2017)

Philip Logan (2017)

Mark Campbell (2017)

Alison Evans (2015)

Peter Scott (2015)

Simon Wright (2015)

Judith Scott (2017) (filling casual vacancy for one year)

John Cole (2016)

Pam Cole (2016)

Linda Logan (2016)

Joy Martin (2016)

*Elected/appointed officers of the PCC*

Vice-chair:

Margaret Fisher

Treasurer:

Simon Wright

Secretary:

David Tickner

Parish Administrator:

Margaret Fisher

Electoral Roll Officer:

Lynne Webb

Safeguarding Officer:

Claudia Stein-Carr (until July. 2017);  
Caroline Vinal (from Sept. 2017)

Daphne Laycock

Gift Aid Officer:

**Administrative Information**

Church Name:

St Andrew's, Soham

Address:

Fountain Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5XT

Priest in Charge:

The Rev'd Eleanor Whalley

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC, 54 High Street, Soham,  
Ely CB7 5HE

Inspecting Architect:

Iain Frearson, Freeland Rees Roberts Architects  
(from April 2017)

Independent Examiner:

Graham Day, Chater Allan LLP

Charity Registration Number:

The Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's  
Church, Soham is a charity operating within Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, registered

charity number 245456

**Saint Andrew's Church, Soham and Saint Laurence's Church, Wicken.**

**Meeting to elect the churchwardens for the parishes of Soham and Wicken, held at 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at Saint Andrew's Church, Soham.**

**1. Welcome**

**Present from Soham:** Eleanor Whalley (in the Chair); David Tickner (Secretary) Judith Petersen, Hazel King, Lynne Webb, Delia Tickner, Jan Frost, Alison Evans, Graham and Wendy Gilmour, Margaret Fisher, Linda and Chris Palmer, John and Diane Cole, Howard and Dawn Laver, Sheila Roach, Linda and Phil Logan, Jean Doty, Ruth Dennigan, Claudia Stein-Carr, Peter and Judith Scott, Candy Stokes, Simon Wright, Mark Campbell and Fiona Hefferan.

**From Wicken:** Eleanor Whalley (in the Chair); Sonia Jones, Hazel Woodroffe, Julie Rash, Alex Fuller, Robert Fuller, Robin and Jenny James and Richard Bramley.

**2. Apologies for absence**

**From Soham:** Susan Taylor, Pam Cole, Geoff Fisher and Joy Martin.

**From Wicken:** Helen Randall, David Pennal and Jean Turner.

**3. Churchwardens' length of service.**

Churchwardens have customarily been elected for terms of one year. The proposal that the practice should continue was carried with no votes against and two abstentions.

**4. Election of Churchwardens for Soham Parish Church.**

Margaret Fisher was proposed by Susan Taylor and seconded by Linda Palmer. Christopher Palmer was proposed by Geoffrey Fisher and seconded by John Cole. These were elected unopposed.

**5. Election of churchwardens for Wicken Parish Church.**

Robert Fuller was proposed by Julie Rash and seconded by Hazel Woodroffe. Richard Bramley was proposed by Hazel Woodroffe and seconded by Joan Bullman. These were elected unopposed.

**Annual Parochial Church Meetings of Soham and Wicken Parish Churches held on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, at Saint Andrew's Church, Soham.**

**1. Opening prayer** was led by Eleanor Whalley.

**2. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

See items 1 and 2 above.

**3. Notification of Any Other Business.**

Graham Gilmour wished to raise a question regarding costs of flowers at weddings.

**4. Minutes of last year's APCM.**

The meeting took place on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, at Saint Laurence's Church, Wicken. The reference to the Bishop's Strategy in Item 9 should read "Diocesan Strategy".

**Free Will Offering Scheme**

Sixteen sets of envelopes are being used at present, 3 less than last year. The sum of £4377.04 was banked for the fifty-two week period ending 29th October 2017. The average weekly income was therefore £84.17. In the interim period 5th November 2017 to 25th February 2018 totalling seventeen weeks The sum of £1308.88 has been banked. The average weekly income in the interim period is £76.99

Lynne Webb

**Tombola 2017**

I ran two tombola's this year one at the fete it raised £144.00 and one at the Christmas Fair it raised £133.00.

Total raised £277.00 all for Church Funds.

Lynne Webb

**Children's Society**



Boxes are handed out at Mother's Day and returned at Christingle (in theor

In practice it is a bit less formal but the 2017 collection came to £226.76. Not so many boxes came in. Only a quarter of boxes came in. I need some help to go knocking on doors this year please.

Many thanks  
Dawn Laver

**Christian Aid 2017**



Lent Lunches	£274.50
St Andrew's school	£ 71.40
Passover meal	£138.50
Coffee morning	£315.17
Wicken	£158.45
St Laurence	£80.30
St Andrew envelopes	£710.00
Methodist envelopes	£90.00
Qua Fen Fellowship	£50.00
b/f in bank	£00.81
Making a total of	£1889.13

Over double last year. Well done everyone.

Howard Laver

## St Andrew's Church Fabric and Ornament Report 2017

It has been a busy year for St Andrew's regarding Fabric and Ornaments.

1) **April.** Our architect Jane Kennedy transferred to the Norwich region and we went to tender for a new architect. Subsequently following interviews, Iain Frearson of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects was appointed.

2) **July.** We had significant problems with a considerable amount of rain water coming through the nave and transept roofs in bad weather, our architect arranged for a professional lead-worker to carry out temporary repairs on both roofs. In the process 33 fractures in the lead were discovered, and subsequently, very serious problems with the lead bays on the transept which could slip at any time.

3) **August.** Our architect Iain Frearson conducted the quinquennial inspection of St Andrew's.

4) **September.** We had a professional bird control expert come on site to advise us and the architect how we can best tackle the problem of a well established flock of pigeons which are roosting on the building. They are blocking the drainage systems with excrement and nesting material. Prevention measures will require a Faculty and this will be applied for early in 2018

The 5yr testing of all the electrical installations in church was carried out.

5) **December.**

Scaffolding was erected on the south transept for repair work to be carried out. A team of steeple-jacks came to church and checked the outside of the building for loose masonry and remove any that risked falling. A loose piece of masonry was also removed from an internal clerestory arch in the south west corner of the nave.

The tower roof and gullies were cleared of pigeon excrement and nesting material by a team of contractors.

Following the closure of the "Friends of St Andrew's the final closing money was transferred into Soham PCC bank account. This money is in a restricted account for building and maintenance use only.

In addition to the building work we purchased

A full set of new hymn books.

Two new lapel microphones and 2 radio microphones that work with our existing sound system.

A small team of needle workers are recovering the chancels kneelers.

Following a grant received and a faculty applied for and obtained a new external notice board has been purchased and erected in the church yard.

### Choir and Organ

We have been fortunate in having David Poulter with us recently following his retirement as Master of Music at Liverpool Cathedral. The choir has benefited greatly from his expertise and enthusiasm and we are grateful for his willingness to deputise as organist, often at short notice. We wish him well as he takes up his appointment at Fordham. We have also been very pleased to welcome Vicky Charlesworth to the choir.

The organ continues to provide excellent support for the music of both choir and congregation. It also continues to generate interest both locally and nationally. Over the last couple of years we have had visits from Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk Organists Associations and also the Annual Conference of Diocesan Organ Advisors. In May we welcome Essex Organists Association and two weeks later the Organ Club of Great Britain. Peter Scott

### 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered below.

Item 12. The formal merger is not being pursued at present, in the light of more urgent matters.

Item 13. Richard Voudsen is taking over as chair of the Friends of Wicken Church, noted with thanks.

The Friends of Saint Andrew's is now wound up, with the funds being transferred to Saint Andrew's for building. Thanks were passed to Geoff Fisher as chair and Chris Morris as treasurer.

### 6. Vicar's Report.

Eleanor highlighted and praised the level of teamwork, and thanked the churches and their community for the welcome she had received. "We are the body of Christ".

### 7. Electoral Roll

Soham: Lynne Webb reported that two names had been added and two deleted, leaving the total at 105.

Wicken: Eleanor reported that there were 26 names on the roll, with a new Electoral Roll to be established for 2020.

### 8. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish.

The secretary referred to the items in the Annual Reports.

### 9. The Financial Statements.

Both sets of accounts had been independently examined, and accepted by the PCCs ahead of the meeting.

Soham: Simon Wright reported that the accounts had been dealt with by the diocesan accountants, at no cost to us. The diocese is helping us by waiving the outstanding unpaid fees and working with us to reduce Parish Share to a manageable level. Simon thanked Margaret Fisher, Lynne Webb and Daphne Laycock for their help, and Simon was in turn thanked for his hard work in difficult circumstances.

Sheila Roach proposed, and Judith Peterson seconded the adoption of the Financial Statement – carried unanimously.

Wicken: Julie Rash reported that we had been granted permission to not pay Parish Share in full, in light of the current situation. Julie was thanked for her hard work.

Hazel Woodroffe proposed, and Robin James seconded the adoption of the Financial Statement – carried unanimously.

### 10. Annual Fabric Report.

Soham: the statement, which is essentially an inventory, was not presented. The quinquennial inspection will highlight necessary building work. The churchwardens were thanked.

Wicken: a quinquennial inspection is also due. The churchwardens were thanked.

### 11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

Delia Tickner reported, noting concerns that meetings were largely concerned with money rather than worship. The representatives were thanked.

Wicken: Sonia Jones was proposed by Robert Fuller and seconded by Richard Bramley. Thanks were expressed to Helen Randall and Jo Sturgeon, who were standing down.

### 13. (Re)-election of PCC members.

Soham: thanks were passed to Fiona Hefferan, who was standing down. The following were re-elected for a three-year term -  
Mark Campbell, proposed by Angela Bowers and seconded by John Cole.  
Philip Logan, proposed by Linda Logan and seconded by John Cole.  
David Tickner, proposed by Glenda Griffiths and seconded by Linda Palmer.

Lynne Webb, proposed by Diane Cole and seconded by John Cole, was elected for a term of three years.  
Judith Scott, proposed by Alison Evans and seconded by Linda Palmer, was elected for a term of one year.  
Wicken: the current membership was re-elected en bloc for a term of one year. Thanks were expressed to all, including David Pennal, who was standing down.

### 14. Appointment of sidesmen.

Soham: Those on the list were re-appointed, with Mark Campbell replacing Richard Clark, who was standing down. Thanks were expressed to Richard.  
Wicken would continue its informal arrangement.

### 15. Appointment of Independent Examiner for one year.

Soham: Graham Day of Chater Allan was proposed by Chris Palmer and seconded by Judith Scott.  
Wicken: Jill Rogers was proposed by Sonia Jones and seconded by Robin James.

### 16. AOB

In paying compliment to those who arrange the flowers at weddings, Graham Gilmour expressed the view that a fee should be paid for this service.  
Claudia Stein-Carr announced that Young Adults was now a year old, and continued to search for new members and adult helpers. Claudia was thanked for her hard work.  
Jan Frost told the meeting that all funds from the Bread Basket would go to the church.  
Peter Scott said that the choir was always looking for new members. Peter and the choir were thanked for their contribution to the worship of the church.  
Howard and Dawn Laver were thanked for their work organising Christian Aid collections and organising lifts, from which they were now standing down.

17. There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Blessing at 9.00pm.

## St. Andrew's Safeguarding Report – April 2018

In summer 2017, Claudia Stein-Carr officially stepped down from her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in July and Caroline Vinall took over this role two months later. We would like to thank Claudia for the work she has done with regard to safeguarding within the parish in her time as PSO.

Since September, a full audit has taken place with regard to safeguarding children and adults across all parish activities. This is a routine activity when a change of PSO occurs and when new guidance has been published.

Caroline and Rev. Eleanor Whalley have met twice with Sarah King, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, in order to ascertain correct and updated procedures for moving forward with Safeguarding practice.

Current areas of updating:

**DBS checks** – these will be required for all volunteers in church who help out on a regular or ad hoc basis in all church groups. Some volunteers require their 5-year re-check to take place and some volunteers will need a DBS check for new roles.

In order to minimise the number of DBS checks a person must do, we have created the role of 'Pastoral Support Volunteer' for the purposes of the DBS check. Within that role, there may be many 'activities' covered, which will now require a role description to be allocated before volunteering commences – see below.

David and Delia Tickner have agreed to act as ID checkers for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Caroline Vinall and Rev. Eleanor Whalley are also registered as DBS ID checkers for the parish.

**Safer Recruitment** – all volunteers will need to receive a role description before commencing their volunteer work with a group, in order to ensure that they understand their safeguarding responsibilities before commencing a volunteering role.

**Role Descriptions** – these have been produced and amended to fit with our own context. Role descriptions will be rolled out to Designated Group Leaders and Group Helpers in due course.

**Signage** – we have received new Church of England Safer Church posters, which are displayed in two places in St Andrews.

**Training** – there are a number of levels of training required by the Church of England with regard to safeguarding. The lowest level is a C0 and this training, normally online, will be given by the Diocese to ALL volunteers within the parish in a face-to-face session tbc.

From September 2017 to date, there have been three concerns logged in accordance with the safeguarding policy. All necessary actions were taken to minimise any risk and in all cases, the information was shared confidentially with those who needed to know.

The logs are stored securely in the church's safeguarding file.

Caroline Vinall  
Parish Safeguarding Officer  
April 2018

## Bread Basket

Bread Basket continues to serve members of both the church and the wider community. It is lovely to see how people come together to have breakfast and a chat with friends, visitors to the church, our foodbank friends and people just popping in to see what we're all about. A huge thankyou to the Scouts, Becky, Angela and Linda, all who often step in to help serve it's very much appreciated. As we intended we are self supporting and have been able after expenses to give any monies to church funds. We are very grateful that church, funds our fairtrade tea and coffee. So Mothers' Union and Church working in partnership really works for all.

Bread Basket team...Jan...Lynne...Claudia...Fiona...

## Mothers Union

Mothers Union has a PALS team who organise our Branch, PALS stands for:-

P: Prayer and Planing....

A: Action and Activities....

L: Lesiure and Laughter....

S: Spirituality and Service ....

This ethos runs through our meetings and purpose in all we do. We are blessed to have so many talented members that most of our meetings are member lead which means we truly grow in fellowship by sharing of ourselves and have lots of laughs along the way. In celebration of 140 years of MU a group travelled to Mary Sumner House in London for a special open day. We've made Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry. Christmas time our members filled jars of dried Cookie mixture which were sent to a young people's hostel in Ely (they love cooking) along with gifts from members and the wider congregation all were gratefully received. It was wonderful to go and cook them Christmas lunch and sit down and eat with them. We've had some wonderful spiritual evenings giving us time to relax, a time of reflection and refreshment. We've made Hearts of Hope as part MU Make a Mother's Day Fundraiser to name but a few meetings and activities. We meet at Millbrook House which means those who live there have the opportunity to join us. It has been a pleasure to enrol two new members there and this Mothering Sunday we will be enrolling another member which brings 8 new members to our Branch this year which is wonderful. Bread Basket Breakfast under the umbrella Mothers Union has been a huge success so much so a group from St.Ives Branch are coming over to see if they could set up one in their Church too, we're thrilled.

We look forward prayerfully to action, activities, fun and Fellowship, reaching out to Community and Church family and growing together blessed by Gods Grace, please come and join us a warm welcome awaits you.

Jan Frost  
Branch Leader  
01638 721274

## Priest in Charge's Report

I don't remember much about the school assemblies I endured as a child, but amongst what has stayed with me is a line in a prayer – or the gist of a line, at least. Something about asking God that in our haste to attend to the things that are wrong, we don't lose sight of the things that are right. That strikes me as a fitting springboard for this report. 2017 included the discovery of many a thing that was wrong; it also included the affirmation and confirmation of all that was – and still is – right. My task, and the task of the PCC and of the wider congregation since I arrived here 16 months ago has been to consider all these things and - in the words of the other prayer I remember from school assemblies – accept the things we cannot change and have courage to change the things we can. As Christians, we do this with unwavering confidence in the God who will surely and certainly help us move on from where we are.

And so much is positive. Working chronologically, Ash Wednesday 2017 marked the advent of our revised service orders. These mean we now have greater opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of the liturgical seasons and festivals. The Easter Vigil was the occasion when the second of four adults I prepared for baptism during 2017 was christened. 33 children were also christened last year, and many of them brought their families to our packed Christingle service. Over 200 people came along.

In April, following the departure of the church's former inspecting architect to Norfolk, we went to tender for her replacement and appointed Iain Frearson. The tender process was complicated and time-consuming, but it proved to be more than worth the effort. Iain has been a (literal, I would say), God-send, and we've kept him busy ever since, along with a team of equally dedicated building professionals and my Diocesan colleagues.

In May, we ricocheted between the sublime and the (far from) ridiculous, welcoming the Revd. Canon Brian Atling, Chair of Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, to a PCC meeting to discuss our very concerning financial situation, and joining in with the national 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative with a Taize service on Ascension Day and a week of guided prayer. The Week of Guided Prayer was run ecumenically with the help of a Diocesan team. Prior to that, Christian Aid week saw a total of over double the usual money in donations coming in from across the local churches, and the new service pattern trialled by Churches Together whereby the rotation of main Sunday services was replaced by something that maintained an ecumenical flavour but kept something happened in each church was approved as a good way forward. The new Churches Together 'Christian Aid Week Coffee Morning' was also very successful, as was Churches Together's summer 'Picnic and Songs of Praise' (despite the awful weather).

In July, 8 of our young people received their first Communion at a service in which our new radio microphones enabled them to play a part in leading worship. Children's involvement in all age worship continues to build, and it has been a delight, too, to hear them describe what they have learned in Sunday School Sunday by Sunday, thanks to the efforts of our dedicated Sunday School leaders, who, along with those involved with Little Fishes, Messy Church and, until last summer, Youth4Life, do so much to help them grow in faith. Alongside this ongoing work in church, connections have developed with our local primary schools such that we regularly take assemblies in all three of them; two members of the congregation make weekly visits to

The Weatheralls to help support of individual children; The Weatheralls School choir gave a Christmas concert in church; year group visits to church have taken place/been booked in; and St Andrew's School are back to coming for termly services, morning and afternoon, which both pupils and their supporting adults attend.

Also in July, we concluded our wonderfully successful new hymn book appeal with the first of what became a series of Songs of Praise events. This was very well attended by regular and not so regular church goers, and the atmosphere was helped considerably - as always - by the magnificent array of cakes on offer at the end. Another celebration was the re-authorisation of our Authorised Lay Ministers, an event compered by the Revd. Canon Mike Banyard, then Rural Dean of Fordham and Quy. Mike was eager to fit this in before he retired, and it was great to welcome him back to St Andrew's.

Continuing the musical theme, in late summer, our dedicated church choir was boosted by the arrival of new members, amongst them the former organist of Liverpool Cathedral, who, despite new commitments in Fordham, continues to play for occasional services, according to availability and need. In October, Newmarket Town Band gave a splendid 'Last Night of the Proms' concert in church, organised by our recently-formed Fundraising Committee. In December, Soham Comrades Band played for 'Community Carols in the Churchyard', an event launched by ringing from our bell-ringers and supported by Churches Together, Soham Town Team, Soham Town Council and Soham Scout Troup. It was very much enjoyed by the 100-or-so children and adults who came. Also in December, our monthly 'Bread Basket' drew a now-typical crowd of people of all ages from amongst the congregation and beyond, and the Bereavement Group (also monthly) held a Christmas celebration. With good liturgical justification, the flower arrangers took their traditional break in Advent, but boy did they make up for it on Christmas Day!

And so a snapshot of at least some of what made up our common life in 2017... I have deliberately not named names, since the life of our church (and, indeed, of any church) is made up of the prayer and the effort of each one of us. Thank you all for your continuing dedication and service.

*Eleanor*

The Revd Eleanor Whalley, Priest in Charge of Soham and Wicken  
March 2018

## Electoral Roll 2017

The electoral roll as at 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 is 105  
The electoral roll has been updated for 2017/ 2018  
Additions: Three:  
Lesley Bridgland, John Howard and Beryl Howard.

Total on the roll as at 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 is 108

The electoral roll update for 2018

Addition One:  
Victoria Charlesworth  
Deletion One:  
Ruth Dennigan

Total on the electoral roll for 2018 is 108

Electoral Roll Officer  
Lynne Webb

## PCC Report

The PCC met six times during 2017, the first four meetings held jointly with Wicken PCC.

A good deal of time was taken up with discussions concerning the serious financial situation. Becky Fanning, the Diocesan Parish Giving Support Officer, and Brian Atling, chair of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, each attended meetings to offer advice and support for our attempts to ease the situation. The diocese is very supportive of our efforts to reduce the deficit while paying our Parish Share in full, measures which are beginning to show signs of success. One positive result of diocesan input has been the setting up of the Parish Giving Scheme.

The quinquennial report highlighted several urgent structural problems, which are being dealt with. It became clear that a more robust maintenance scheme for the fabric of the church is needed.

Issues with the floodlighting were addressed, and the purchase of an elegant church noticeboard was approved.

The efforts of the fundraising committee have been instrumental in raising church funds.

Safeguarding policies are also being updated and improved.

David Tickner