

## **Parham Parochial Council Annual Report 2025**

(presented at Annual Parish Meeting 2026)

2025 was a year of preparing for future challenges.

After considerable effort, we transitioned to online banking and purchased a portable swipe machine to allow donations by card, funded by a £500 donation from Canon Harry Edwards and his wife Inger.

On 16th August, we held a free beer and burgers event on Church Meadow to launch fundraising for roof repairs. Roger Grant applied for faculty to hold it. Along with the beer came major challenges, but the next few weeks recorded an enthusiastic response. A temporary roof was installed at the corner of The Street until permanent repairs could be completed. The faculty application was complicated and was not completed by the end of the year. We did, however, apply successfully for a substantial fund held by the diocese to help small parishes. At the time of writing (May 2026), after many months of trying, release of the funds had not yet been secured.

Regular fundraising for church maintenance continued with coffee mornings run by PCC members, along with garden produce sales raising over £3,000. A musical evening and a Christmas concert were planned to be held early in the new year.

On 14th November, heavy rain poured through the roof of the nave. PCC members were on hand within hours with mops and buckets to minimise damage to the pews, and Michael Block rounded up a local men's group to put tarpaulin on the roof on 20th November as a stopgap measure. Thanks to this, the Christmas service — which more than 100 people attended, a record for recent years — was able to go ahead.

Michael Dawes retired as treasurer, succeeded admirably by Nina Parkinson, who has also served as PCC secretary. She was succeeded by John Adams, who underwent training for the post. Sadly, Canon Deirdre Parmenter, who has filled in at our church for many years, retired as a priest, but we were delighted to welcome Rev. Alan Perry, Rev. Ann's brother-in-law, who has settled in Hacheston, to help with services when he can.

By the end of the year, 25 services had been held, with an average attendance of 28 people. Two funerals, one wedding and one baptism were also held. Three members of the congregation — Sarah Goodwin, Geoffrey Ivett and Jonathan Cottrell — were confirmed at a service at Melton Church. Mrs Myrle Gray, treasurer of the PCC for many years and widow of a long-serving church warden, died at the age of 94 on 20th September; the church was filled to capacity for her funeral on 1st November.

The PCC is grateful for Rev. Ann's enthusiasm and support throughout the year and has lent its support to her efforts to renew interest in Hacheston Church, which came close to closing for lack of a congregation. Michael Block worked as treasurer for the monthly Free Breakfasts Ann organised at Hacheston throughout the year, and other members of the congregation assisted in the kitchen and as servers. Most admirably, John Bradfield has continued to serve as church warden for Hacheston.

Working closely and energetically as a team, the PCC is ready for major work on the roof covering, completing its funding, and encouraging a healthy, inclusive congregation at Parham.