

All Saints' Church, Shepreth



Annual Report and Financial Statements of
The Parochial Church Council
For the Year ended 31st December 2025

Incumbent

Rev. David Lee

Independent Examiner:

Mr. Chris Neild

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1. Rector's Introduction

As I write this, it seems hard to realise that, at the end of 2025, I had only been rector of the 4 Churches for a period of just over a year – this church of ours feels so much like home to Kate and me that it feels like I have been here for a lot longer. But 2025 was my first full year at the helm, and to me at least, it feels like a very good year.

The Church of England does get rather obsessed by numbers sometimes, and we are regularly having to submit some return or other to Ely. But numbers do have their benefits. Without the regular counting of people attending worship each Sunday we could not accurately say that the size of our worshipping congregation has grown between 2024 to 2025 – but it has. Not only that but the number of children and young people attending church has grown – although we do need to be attentive to the fact that those number fluctuate enormously. And again, in 2025, as a 4 Church Benefice, we managed to pay our ministry share to Ely in full. But before we even think about getting complacent on that one – it was jolly close!

Overall 2025 felt like a consolidating year. Since I first turned up in the 4 Churches in 2020, in the middle of a pandemic, it has often felt that we are simply trying to keep going. But now it feels to me like we are all moving in the same direction – and enjoying doing so.

There have been some real highlights in 2025. The crafts mornings for children at Easter and Christmas continue to grow – both in terms of numbers and the size of the team helping. The carol services were really well supported this year – and on Easter Sunday, one of the small number of Festival Sundays when we revert to more than one service, numbers everywhere were very encouraging. We are gradually filling spaces on our PCCs. The churchyard in Foxtan has been transformed by a weekly team of volunteers. And our churchwardens continue to steer us in the way only churchwardens can, and I am hugely grateful for all that they do and the support they give me. We are now regularly livestreaming our worship on Sunday mornings, and thanks to her amazing sales of second hand books, Jane Atkinson has raised enough money to buy keyboards for Foxtan and the Shepreth one is not far away. Finally, in Laura we have found a Benefice Administrator who not only is taking a huge amount of administration away from me, but she is also bringing innovation into the way we work. The Church Office in the Dorothy Pluck room in St Mary's Fowlmere is gradually becoming the centre of our activity that I had hoped for.

But, and wasn't there always going to be a but, 2026 is presenting us with some challenges. One of those is financial. We have raised a challenge to you all to help meet our projected shortfall this year and we have had a great response so far – but we are still some way short of balancing the books. We also need some more help in running our children's activities on Sunday mornings. Gradually our strategy for our children's work is paying off. First we attract children to a twice year craft morning. Then we encourage those children to join us at Messy Church. And then, hopefully, some of those families may join us on Sunday mornings – although we also recognise Messy Church as a worshipping Community in its own right.

There have also been some sad moments. In Foxtan we lost three stalwarts of the church in Barbara Gaskin, Monica Hunter and Geoffrey Wells, and in Thriplow we lost Colin Fuller. All four have given so much to the 4 Churches over the years, but we now know that they are all with their Lord.

Finally, a huge thank you from Kate and me to you all for all the support you have given us this year. In the same vein that I started this review, I will close it, by saying what a privilege and joy it is to serve you all as we all work together to build this amazing church.

Every blessing, David.
Rev'd David Lee, Rector, The 4 Church Benefice, April 2026.

2. Aim and purposes

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Lee, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We aim to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

3. Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our church community. In association with the Four Church Benefice, the PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of All Saints' Church.

Regular activities

As part of a Benefice, not all of the activities are provided at All Saints but also at the other churches and the include:

- Sunday services are recorded and posted online via YouTube since January 2025 we have also live streamed the Sunday Service and some funerals
- Morning Prayer on a Tuesday via Zoom.
- We also edit and burn an audio CD of the service for those without internet access and deliver weekly as needed.
- The website provides communication of all our activities including a link to the recorded Service,
- We continue to care pastorally for those who are for a variety of reasons no longer able attend church to worship but continue to belong to the church.
- Publish our service and activities on social media thus increasing the profile of the church within the village.

4. Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC aims to offer a minimum of one service per month; and a range of services that our worshipping community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

After reviewing the trial service pattern of one service per Sunday with additional services on “Feast Days” the four churches decided to make this the regular service pattern. It was noted that overall attendance had not suffered and there was a lot of positive feedback that worshipping in a larger congregation was better.

The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was well with attended this year, the church was full. We again led an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

On Easter Sunday there was a Communion service held in each of the four churches; our congregation was one of the smaller ones, but it was a lovely service where we also welcomed some new (to our church) worshippers. The children enjoyed a Easter Egg hunt after the Service

There were three funeral services in church, two followed by a burial.

Children’s Work

There is provision for children in our Holy Communion Service; but due to the lack of a separate room in the church it is not possible to run a children’s group during worship. Children who attend are accommodated at the rear of the church with simple supervised activities. We also encourage families to be involved in sidesmen duties and children enjoy doing this, but there is still work to do to increase the number of families worshipping with us.

Members of our church work with the Orwell Benefice helping to deliver the RE Active Church (Connecting Every Primary School Child with the Christian Story) at Barrington School.

Pastoral care

A continuing challenge is keeping in touch with and caring for church members and members of the community, especially the elderly and vulnerable. We are most grateful to those regularly keep in touch with our housebound members by delivering the CDs of our weekly services and Church Newsletters.

Social Awareness

As with Pastoral care, Social Awareness is a challenge making contact and being able to offer support to those whose social situation is causing them distress. The Shepreth in Need Charity is able offer financial support to those in need in the village and 5 of the seven trustees are members of the Church. A monthly village coffee morning organised by the church continues to be very well received and attended. The Shepreth Newsletter is regularly delivered to every house in the village and continues, for some, to be a key source of information and communication.

The Newsletter Editors actively engage with the community seeking new advertisers and contributors.

The Saturday Coffee morning for dog walkers in the church never really took off and has been discontinued. The few who regularly attended enjoyed it.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith.

The PCC is not currently able to regularly support any mission or aid society. However, food donations collected at Harvest service was given to Jimmy's in Cambridge. The collection at Christingle service went to The Children's Society.

Community and Ecumenical relationships

There are no other worshipping community in Shepreth.

Following discussions with Sustainable Shepreth we are now working with them (or rather they are working) to make the churchyard a more sustainable. Action to date includes a "dead hedge" to recycle the tree waste and planting perennial plants around the margins of the church yard,

Foundation Governor

Shepreth village does not have a primary school, which closed in the 1980's. The village is within the catchment area of Barrington C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School. The constitution of the school allows for a foundation governor for Shepreth who is nominated by All Saints PCC. This is currently Liz Gray and we are grateful for all she does for us and the school.

The school currently has 165 pupils on the roll, a number which is expected to rise when the new housing development, at the old cement works, is complete and occupied. The school PAN (Published Admission Number) is 30, and the capacity of the school is now 200 pupils*. The quality of teaching is good (Ofsted 2022) with the pupils largely meeting or exceeding the national average. The percentages are caveated, though, as low pupil numbers mean that 1 pupil is only slightly more than 1%.

*<https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

5. Deanery Synod

We do not have an elected representative, but I attended as an observer.

During the year the officers have tried unsuccessfully to get Santander to close the Deanery account and release the money to us. Up until the last meeting they had been unsuccessful in achieving this. There is an issue in getting the signatures changed. In the meantime the Deanery agreed to open a CAF account, and each parish loaned the Deanery £50 to do this.

6. Church Buildings and Churchyard

During the last year no major tasks or changes have occurred. With regard to health and safety, the church and churchyard are in a reasonable state of repair with no obvious defects or hazards which prevent or inhibit the everyday use and/or access to the premises.

Routine tasks have been carried out to preserve the premises and keep it fit to use. The safety inspections on the stability of the memorials (with particular emphasis on the crosses that can be moved on their bases) continued.

As a part of the planned maintenance, a tree survey was carried out, all the trees were deemed safe, but several thousand pounds worth of pruning and maintenance was recommended. The PCC agreed to fund this work.

The replacing of the lighting and electrical rewiring which has been discussed for a while is now being actively pursued the faculty application (planning permission), is nearly ready for submission.

7. Financial Review

In 2025 the church income was slightly up compared with 2024 again we were unable to pay our full Parish Share, we were able to contribute more than 2024, and the benefice was able to make up our deficit. Our outgoings in 2025 were mostly in balance with our income, which combined with a rise in the value of our investments resulted in a rise in the total assets available to us.

Reserves policy

It is not PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves. A portion of Parish Share is paid monthly into the Benefice account and at the end of the financial year we review the balance and contribute as much as we are able towards our Parish Share.

8. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints' the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our rector), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is central to all our actions and the PCC endeavours to comply with all Regulations and CofE Guidance.

There have been no reported Safeguarding issues reported in the Parish or Benefice

All PCC members are required to undertake DBS security check and safeguarding training the majority of these have been undertaken and those outstanding are being progressed.

There has been a delay in the DBS checks; this is the result of a data breach at the offices of the DBS provider. Ely Diocese provided support to those affected and changed the provider.

9. Administrative Information

Volunteers

As in the Rectors introduction We would also like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the welcoming community it is. In particular we thank Bethan Smith who organises the rota of volunteers who clean the church, and Pat Stigwood who organises the rota of volunteers who ensure that we have beautiful fresh flowers in our church throughout the year.

We are also thankful for Caroline Pepper who has taken over the flower arranging rota, now that Pat and David have moved to Melborn

The maintenance of the churchyard continued throughout the year and we are grateful to those who have joined working parties to maintain the churchyard and church building. I would like to thank all those who have helped in many ways in supporting me, the churchwarden, in the running the church.

We extend special thanks to Lucy Smith and Shepreth Spitfires for a 2nd year they enthusiastically helped with our spring-clean; it was lovely to walk into church to freshly polished pew and gleaming brass work for our Mothering Sunday service.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral register has been reviewed; it is unchanged at 22.

PCC Membership 2025

Name	Role	Basis of Appointment	
Revd David Lee		Team Rector	Ex-Officio
Mr Malcolm Price		Churchwarden	Ex Officio
Mr Stephen Homent		PCC Member	Elected
Dr Frank Salmon		PCC Member/Lay Chair	Elected
Mrs Bethan Smith		PCC Member/Treasurer	Elected
Mr Michael Richards		PCC Member	Co-opted 2025
Martin Smith		PCC Member	Elected
Vacancy		PCC Member	
Vacancy		Deanery Synod	Ex-Officio

Sidesmen 2025

Mrs B Smith	Mrs C Pepper
Mrs L Gray	Dr F Salmon
Mrs C Salmon	Mr A Cartmell
Mrs A Sheldrick	

All Saints' Church is situated on Church Lane and off the High Street in Shepreth. It is part of the Four Church Benefice in the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is Dove Cottage
37 Church Street
Harston, Cambridge
CB22 7NP

Independent Examiners Report



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SHEPRETH, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended: 31 DECEMBER 2025 Charity no (if any):

Set out on page: 2 - 7 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report: 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.

Independent examiner's statement: 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 reached.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 23 APRIL 2026

Name: CHRISTOPHER NEILD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ACA

Address: 2 RUTHERFORD ROAD CAMBRIDGE CB2 8HH

Approved by Shepreth PCC on Wednesday 29 April 2026

1 of 7 [Signature] David David Lee Chair

Financial Report

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the year ended 31st December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Maintenance Fund £	Churchyard Fund £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income (direct giving)	1 (a)	11,696	-	-	11,696	10,222
Other voluntary income	1 (b)	1,313	-	-	1,313	7,038
Gross income from events and activities	1 (c)	1,135	-	-	1,135	913
Other ordinary income	1 (d)	1,095	-	-	1,095	453
Income from investments	1 (e)	65	354	81	500	470
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>15,304</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>15,739</u>	<u>19,096</u>
RESOURCES USED						
Grants	2 (a)	260	-	-	260	182
Directly relating to the work of the Church	2 (b)	13,779	-	1,896	15,675	19,877
Church, management and administration	2 (c)	-	-	1,896	-	0
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>14,039</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,896</u>	<u>15,935</u>	<u>20,059</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing Resources)		1,265	354	- 1,815	196	-963
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
unrealised		-	2,163	- 116	2,047	3,096
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		<u>1,265</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>- 1,931</u>	<u>1,851</u>	<u>2,133</u>
Balance brought forward January 2025		5,774	65,327	- 59	71,042	68,909
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD at 31st December 2025 (2024)		<u>7,039</u>	<u>67,844</u>	<u>- 1,990</u>	<u>72,893</u>	<u>71,042</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	3	3,000	3,000
Investments	4	61,615	59,568
		<u>64,615</u>	<u>62,568</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		0	0
Short term deposits		4,661	4,306
Cash at bank and in hand		3,617	4,168
		<u>8,278</u>	<u>8,474</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	5	0	0
		<u>8,278</u>	<u>8,474</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
	6	<u>72,893</u>	<u>71,042</u>
NET ASSETS			
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		7,039	5,774
Maintenance		67,844	65,327
Churchyard		-1,990	-59
		<u>72,893</u>	<u>71,042</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH
 Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Maintenance Fund	Sunday School Fund	Churchyard Fund	Boiler Fund	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	2025 £
1 INCOMING RESOURCES						
1 (a) Voluntary Income (direct giving):						
Planned giving:						
Covenants & Gift Aid	8,250	-	-	-	-	8,250
Income tax recoverable on covenants	1,517	-	-	-	-	1,517
Collections	1,669	-	-	-	-	1,669
Donations for charitable relief	260	-	-	-	-	260
	<u>11,696</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,696</u>
1 (b) Other voluntary income						
From Sunday School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations, appeals, loans etc.	1,313	-	-	-	-	1,313
	<u>1,313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,313</u>
1 (c) Gross income from events and activities						
Pough raffle	387	-	-	-	-	387
Purse for Paws	217	-	-	-	-	217
Coffee Mornings	505	-	-	-	-	505
Easy fundraising	26	-	-	-	-	26
	<u>1,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,135</u>
1 (d) Other ordinary income						
Fees	1,095	-	-	-	-	1,095
1 (e) Income from investments						
Interest	65	196	-	81	-	342
Dividends	-	158	-	-	-	158
	<u>65</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>15,304</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,739</u>
						<u>2024 £</u>
						19,096

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH
 Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

2 RESOURCES USED

2 (a) Grants

Missionary and charitable giving:

Church overseas:
 Home missions and other Church Societies

182
 182

2 (b) Directly relating to the work of the Church

Ministry:

Diocesan Parish Share

Cost of services

Church running expenses

Sundry expenditure

Upkeep of churchyard

Parish Expenses

8,000
 -
 4,363
 193
 1,896
 1,223
 13,779

2 (c) Church management and administration

Administration: Printing and stationery

-

TOTAL RESOURCES USED

14,039

	Unrestricted Funds £	Maintenance Fund £	Sunday School Fund £	Churchyard Fund £	Boiler Fund £	Total 2025 £	Funds 2024 £
	260	-	-	-	-	260	182
	260	-	-	-	-	260	182
	8,000	-	-	-	-	8,000	7,500
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4,363	-	-	-	-	4,363	3,935
	193	-	-	-	-	193	5,588
	-	-	-	1,896	-	1,896	1,560
	1,223	-	-	-	-	1,223	1,294
	13,779	-	-	1,896	-	15,675	19,877
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	14,039	-	-	1,896	-	15,935	20,059

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH
Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

3 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	At 1 January 2025		Write off in year	Charge for the year	Net Book Value 31 December	
	Great Book Value	Depreciation	£	£	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Churchyard Equipment	741	741	-	-	-	-
Car park	7,935	4,935	-	-	3,000	3,000
	<u>8,676</u>	<u>5,676</u>	-	-	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>

*Land content (estimated at £1,000) is not depreciated

4. INVESTMENTS

Market value at 1 January
Unrealised gains/losses
Market value at 31 December

Made up as follows:
CICF Investment Funds
COIF Investment Fund - Accumulation Units
Churchyard Investment

	59,568
	2,047
	<u>61,615</u>
	8,257
	37,469
	15,889
	<u>61,615</u>

5 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Other creditors

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND	Unrestricted Funds	Maintenance Fund	Churchyard Fund	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Investments - long term	3,000	3,000		3,000
Investments - short term deposits	58,819	4,661	2,796	61,615
Bank accounts	3,617			4,661
Cumulative surpluses/(losses)	3,422	1,264	-4,786	3,617
Fund Balance	<u>7,039</u>	<u>67,844</u>	<u>-1,990</u>	<u>72,893</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, SHEPRETH

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable payments						
Ordinary Donations						
The Children's Society	0	60	72	181	182	260
UNHCR	15	0	0	0	0	0
DEC	0	0	0	94	0	0