

## APCM Meeting 2025 - AGENDA

### Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1. Prayer
2. Minutes of Meeting (*from Previous year*)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Prayer for new Churchwardens

### Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Meeting (*from Previous year*)
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports -  
Electoral Roll  
(*written by the electoral roll officer, with a copy available for inspection at the meeting*)

Churchwardens –  
(*Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the parish in general*)

Fabric  
(*on the good and ornaments of the Church written by the Church Wardens*)

Treasurer –  
(*this must be independently audited and published for at least 7 days - including a Sunday service before the mtg*)

SGPN Report

Governor's report

Deanery Synod  
(*Report on the proceedings of the Deanery synod written by the Deanery synod representative*)

Safeguarding Report

Vicars Report

5. Elections:  
Deanery Synod Rep –  
(*elected for a 3yr term, 1 if electoral roll is less than 50 2 if up to 100*)  
Election of PCC Members –  
(*upto 6 if electoral roll is less than 50, 9 if 50-100, 12 if 100-200*)  
Ex-officio (Chair), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Rep, ALM's

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Safeguarding review of Policy
8. Parishioners' Questions
9. Date of next APCM

**PCC mtg following the APCM:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of PCC officers
  1. Lay-Vice Chair
  2. Treasurer
  3. Secretary
  4. Electoral Roll Officer
  5. Safeguarding officer (local independent person)
3. Signing of "Fit and Proper" declaration by all PCC members (including CW's, Deanery synod reps etc)
4. Dates of PCC mtgs for the coming year (please bring diaries)

## Minutes - APCM Meeting Held 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Present: Jane Taylor, Jeanne Day, Shirley Dalton, Jill Froggatt, Jane Cowley, Colin Sedgwick, Jean Higgs, Eileen Ross, Malcolm Ross, Lynn Sedgewick, Phil Owen, Hilda Owen, Sylvia Andrews, David Andrews, Tony Sullivan, Jean Wheatcroft, Bridget Rosewell, Tony Tucker (Chair), Lucy Bliss, Jenny Bullock, Andrew Blanchard, AN other  
Apologies Joy Jordan, Alison Cunningham

### St Swithun's Vestry Meeting

[Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting](#) were proposed and accepted as a true and accurate record. Tony suggested that as no one from LB has come forward as church warden, Bridget Rosewell, who is currently a church warden at Claypole, has offered. She was nominated and there were no objections.

Jenny Bullock stood down from the role at Foston. Thanks were expressed for her service. Andrew Blanchard said he was willing to continue. These appointments will come into effect at the Visitation service on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

### APCM

#### [Minutes of 2023 APCM](#)

Minutes of last year's meeting had been made available online. They were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### [Matters Arising](#)

There were no matters arising.

The reports below had been made available some time before the meeting. They will also be available in church.

#### [Electoral Roll](#)

The roll this year stands at 57 from 44 households.

#### [Treasurer's Report \(year-ending 31 December 2023\)](#)

(Please see report and accounts)

Jane added her thanks for the contributions of everyone who regularly gives, to the organisers of the fundraisers and generous donations.

Jane also wanted to express thanks to Steve Peck for auditing the accounts once again.

Foston reported that their income had gone down and need to look at ways to increase. Bridget suggested a joint effort to get 'friends associations' off the ground in each parish ie/ people who want to help with the upkeep of their church.

Tony suggested that the group who formed for the vicar recruitment process could re-form to talk about how to welcome him. JaneC offered to coordinate this and also decide location for mid-week licensing service around September. An announcement should be made in June about the new vicar.

#### [Fabric Report](#)

See separate report.

#### [Foundation Governor Report to Foston/Long Bennington](#)

See separate report.

#### [Deanery Synod Report](#)

See separate report.

Tony said there would be a meeting at Caythorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> June, where a lay- chair will be elected. Colin Sedgewick was nominated and unanimously agreed to be rep alongside David Andrews.

## [Safeguarding Report](#)

See separate report

C1 trainer to attend when all due to renew in 2025. No current issues.

## [Parish Magazine Report](#)

See separate report and accounts submitted to all four APCMs.

The date of next years' APCM will be arranged in due course.

## [PCC Meeting](#)

### [Elections](#)

Deanery Synod

Colin nominated and unanimously agreed. David to continue. All agreed.

### [Safeguarding Officer](#)

Eileen Ross agreed to continue.

## [PCC](#)

Tony Sullivan was nominated as a new representative. All agreed. All other representatives agreed to remain. All were given Fit and Proper declaration forms to complete and return to Secretary. Tony Tucker signed the Safeguarding Policy, which was given to the Secretary to display in church.

Phil Owen and David Andrews	Joint Chair
As Above	Vice Chair
Jane Cowley	Treasurer
Jill Froggatt	Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer
David Andrews (ex officio)	Deanery Synod
Colin Sedwick (ex officio)	Deanery Synod
Bridget Rosewell (ex officio)	Church warden
Joy Jordan	
Jeanne Day	
Lynne Sedgewick	
Alison Cunningham	
Tony Sullivan	

Appointment of Independent Examiner. Jane said Steve Peck was willing to continue.

## [Any Other Business](#)

None.

[Next PCC meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm in church.](#)

# Long Bennington 2025 REPORTS

## Electoral Roll

No	Title	Surname	Christian Names	Address	Village	Postcode	Resident	Date of entry
1	Mrs	Ablewhite	Sheila	32 Elm Close	LB	NG23 5EZ	Res	3.4.25
2	Mr	Adams	Stewart	47 Church St	LB	NG23 5ES	Res	22.3.25
3	Mrs	Anderson	Susan Margaret	5 Riverview	LB	NG23 5JF	Res	7.4.25
4	Mrs	Andrews	Sylvia Mary	2 Carriage Close	LB	NG23 5EF	Res	19.3.25
5	Mr	Andrews	David Howard	2 Carriage Close	LB	NG23 5EF	Res	19.3.25
6	Mrs	Baggaley	Gay	6 Lilley St	LB	NG23 5EJ	Res	10.4.25
7	Mrs	Baker	Helen	32 Wickliffe Park	Claypole	NG23 5AE	Non Res	23.3.25
8	Mr	Bates	Colin Edward	10 Meadows Close	LB	NG23 5EQ	Res	26.3.25
9	Mrs	Bates	Lesley Barbara	10 Meadows Close	LB	NG23 5EQ	Res	22.3.25
10	Mrs	Bowes	Jean	1A Sparrow Lane	LB	NG23 5DL	Res	28.3.25
11	Mr	Clarke	David Alan	Fenton' Back Lane	LB	NG23 5DT	Res	13.4.25
12	Mrs	Clarke	Patricia Ruth	Fenton Back Lane	LB	NG23 5DT	Res	4.4.25
13	Dr	Cowley	Elizabeth Jane	Chapel House, Main Rd	LB	NG23 5EH	Res	26.3.25
14	Mrs	Cunningham	Alison	79 Main Road	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	27.3.25
15	Mr	Cunningham	David Michael Shirley Maud	79 Main Road	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	4.4.25
16	Mrs	Dalton	Mary Gareth	3 Mills Close	LB	NG23 5ER	Res	25.3.25
17	Mr	Dawkins	William	87 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	14.4.25
18	Mrs	Day	Jeanne	89 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	29.3.25
19	Mr	Day	Robert John George	89 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	3.4.25
20	Mr	Dring	Francis Linda	30 Costa Row	LB	NG23 5DY	Res	22.3.25
21	Ms	Dunwoodie	Ferguson	3 Pinfold Court	LB	NG23 5JW	Res	26.3.25
22	Mrs	Ellis	Karen Mary	53 Northfields Crescent	LB	NG23 5LZ	Res	26.3.25
23	Mr	Fearn	Geoffery E. Brian	Priory Farm, 75 Church St	LB	NG23 5ES	Res	24.3.25
24	Mr	Fisher	Anthony Sheila	67 Main Rd	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	23.3.25
25	Mrs	Fisher	Elizabeth Darrell	67 Main Rd	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	23.3.25
26	Mr	Froggatt	Anthony	36 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	30.3.25
27	Mrs	Froggatt	Jill Elizabeth	36 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	30.3.25

28	Mr	Goodman	Philip	5 Valley Lane	LB	NG23 5FR	Res	7.4.25
29	Mrs	Goodman	Rowena	5 Valley Lane	LB	ng235 FR	Res	7.4.25
30	Mrs	Higgs	Jean	11 Acklands Lane	LB	NG23 5EW	Res	3.4.25
31	Mrs	Holmes	Beryl Edith	The Pingle, 36 Church St	LB	NG23 5EN	Res	15.4.25
32	Miss	Holmes Humby- Jones	Deborah Jane Brigitte Georgina	Brickiln Place, Springfield Rd	Grantham	NG31 8UZ	Non Res	15.4.25
33	Mrs	Jordan	Joy Glenys	75 The Pastures The Old White Swan. Main Rd	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	4.4.25
34	Mrs	Lambert	Jeanne Hilary	12 Manor Drive	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	3.4.25
35	Mrs	Lane	Joan	27 Lilley Street	LB	NG23 5GZ	Res	7.4.25
36	Miss	Owen	Philip Stuart	69 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EJ	Res	5.4.25
37	Mr	Owen	Hilda Elizabeth	69 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	21.3.25
38	Mrs	Peck	Susan Stephen	81 Main Road	LB	NG23 5EZ	Res	21.3.25
39	Mrs	Peck	Charles	81 main Road	LB	NG23 5DJ	Res	7.4.25
40	Mr	Prothero	Maureen Avril	6 The Meadows	LB	NG23 5DU	Res	7.4.25
41	Mrs	Reeves	Linda M	38 Westborough Lane	LB	NG23 5AD	Res	4.4.25
42	Mr	Robertshaw	Keith	9 Wheatsheaf Lane Cromwell Hse, 2 Main Street	LB	NG23 5HD	Res	31.3.25
43	Mrs	Rosewell	Bridget Clare	29 Church St Kirton House, Kirton Lane	Claypole	NG23 5DU	Non Res	7.4.25
44	Mrs	Saul	Alma Edna C	29 Church St Kirton House, Kirton Lane	LB	NG23 5AD	Res	22.3.25
45	Mr	Sedgewick	Colin Peter	Kirton House, Kirton Lane	LB	NG23 5DX	Res	15.4.25
46	Mrs	Sedgewick	Lynne Mary Isobel	Kirton House, Kirton Lane	LB	NG23 5DX	Res	25.3.25
47	Mrs	Starr	Margaret	77 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	7.4.25
48		Starr	Malcolm Paul Anthony	77 The Pastures	LB	ng23 5EG	Res	7.4.25
49	Mr	Sullivan	Robert Robert	8 Park View	LB	NG23 5GU	Res	21.3.25
50	Mr	Swan	Murray	7 Stephenson Ave	Grantham	NG31 8QA	Non Res	25.3.25
51	Mrs	Swan	Angela Susan	7 Stephenson Ave	Grantham	NG31 8QA	Non Res	25.3.25
52	Mrs	Taylor	Jane Lorimer	43 Church St	LB	NG23 5ES	Res	4.4.25
53	Mrs	Thornton	Margaret Yule	28 Elm Close Jasmine Ctge, 8 Dysart Gr	LB	NG23 5EZ	Res	24.3.25
54	Mrs	Thrush	Adele	1 Bramble Close	LB	NG23 5GD	Res	26.3.25
55	Mrs	Wheatcroft	Jean	1 Bramble Close	LB	NG23 5GF	Res	26.3.25
56	Mr	Winter	John William Margaret	12 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	6.4.25
57	Mrs	Winter	Elaine	12 The Pastures	LB	NG23 5EG	Res	6.4.25
58	Mrs	Wood	Jane	11 Kirtons Lane	LB	NG23 5DX	Res	6.4.25
59	Mrs	Wood	Jane	11 Kirtons Lane	LB	NG23 5DX	Res	6.4.25

60	Mr	Wood	Paul	11 Kirtons Lane	LB	NG23 5DX	Res	6.4.25
				TOTAL 60/ HOUSEHOLDS 44				
APCM 2025								

## Fabric Report

All the required aspects of church fabric and structure management are up to date, see attached Maintenance Summary Table.

The PCC has finally reached the point where, after many years of monitoring wall movement, it can move forward with repairs to the North Aisle and East Chancel Walls, and the re-instatement of the missing stained-glass window panel in the East Window. To this end York Sills has prepared a Repair Plan and Soul Architects the Repair Scheme Specification; whilst, in parallel, a Faculty Application has been submitted and Grant Applications drafted. If all goes to plan the outcome of the Faculty Application, Tender Process and all the Grant Applications should be known by early-July, which hopefully will allow the repairs to start in August; the work is expected to take 3 months.

- Other significant areas of work over the last 12 months include:
- A small repair to the South Aisle Roof.
- Repairs to the Church clock.
- Cleaning of the Tower Bell Room after pigeons managed to gain access.
- Maintenance of the churchyard by both 'Mills Maintenance', and 2 self-help clean-up days.
- Routine annual maintenance of the heating system.

P. S. Owen - 12 February 2025.

## CHURCH TESTING AND INSPECTIONS - ANNUAL/ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	<u>DONE</u>	<u>DUE</u>
Quinquennial Inspection	Every 5 Years	Apr 2021	Apr 2026
Electrical Inspection	Every 5 Years	12 Apr 2021	Apr 2026
Roof Alarm	Yearly	23 Aug 2024	Aug 2025
PAT Testing	Yearly	5 Mar 2024	Apr 2026 With Electric
Fire Ext Testing	Yearly	14 May 2024	May 2025
New Drain Check	Yearly till 2024 (HLF)	23 Sept 2024	Sep 2026
Conductor Service	Every 3 Years	15 Jan 2025	Jan 2028
Heating Service	Yearly	10 July 2024	Summer 2025
Clock Maintenance	As Required	14 Jan 2025	When Required

Organ Maintenance	As Required	Nov 2018	When Required
Bells Inspection	Part of Quinquennial	Apr 2021	Apr 2026 Quarterly Inspection by Ringing Team.

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Receipts and Payments Account for St Swithun's Church, which has been independently examined as required by the church Accounting Regulations 1997. (See separate document).

The accounts are presented in the format familiar to the PCC and provide a summary of the total Assets and Liabilities at the end of 2024. These are:

Cash funds:

- Long Bennington PCC current account (£10,902.71), Deposit Funds – Vicar & Churchwardens' Trust, Chancel Trust (£1824.92) and Heritage Lottery Fund current account (£653.22).

Investment Assets:

- Investment fund shares at end 2024 - market value (£77,215.33). This was up £1847.32 from the end of 2023.

The following points should be noted in considering the above figures:

Receipts:

- **Voluntary income for the PCC Account** is less than the previous year mainly due to a decreased gift aid/GASDS claim because of some backdated gift aid claiming in 2023. However, covenanted/planned giving was increased in 2024, and this will hopefully be sustained in 2025. Thank you to all those who gave in this way. We were also grateful for donations towards the window repair, oil, as a thanks for bell ringing and donations for children's work/events. We thanked the Rotary Club for a £500 for the stained-glass window repairs. This was given to us in thanks for the help we provided in running a successful Party in the Park event in June. We also received generous donations from the estate of the late Walter Hughes and through the Parish Giving Scheme. Co-op Champions also provided us with a grant of £601.
- **Fund raising** was increased compared to 2023. We are very grateful to all of those involved with organising and participating in any of our fund-raising events, including the: Military Wives Concert, Harvest Supper, Music in Quiet Places concert, Grantham Choral Society concert, Strawberry Cream Tea, Cycle Ride, Remembrance Day lunch, Christmas Tree Lighting village event, Tea n Chat donations, car boot sales and Santa's sleigh collections.
- **Charitable & Ancillary Trading** includes church fees, such as for funerals, weddings, for which the PCC received a reduced amount to 2023 due to less of these services. We are grateful for a £1000 Parish Council grant.
- **Receipts which were designated for further payments** included £3116.46 transferred from church trust funds to cover insurance costs in 2023, as was done in 2023.

Payments:



- **Parish Share amount** of £19,000 was paid in 2024 – an increase over the £14,000 paid in 2023.
- **Upkeep of church and services** was lower than in 2023, with decreases in several aspects, including upkeep of churchyards and building repairs/major works. Fund raising expenses include the costs of food, entertainers etc. which is more correctly placed in this category rather than Restricted Payments as it was shown in 2023.
- **Grants** given to charities and other organisations were largely collected specifically for those organisations, and included those for the Royal British Legion, Military Wives Charity and Long Bennington Gardening Club, also Co-op grants which had been applied for were used for an Ayres House outing and a Tea n Chat members Christmas lunch. We have also included the hall hire costs as events held are regarded as part of church mission. Year 6 Bibles were not provided to the LB School leavers this year as the school proposed the money be used instead for church mission and upkeep.
- **Payments (from designated income received)** includes payments for vergers and organists at funeral services plus money paid on behalf of churches to pay their share of clergy/administrator expenses (subsequently received from them).

Alongside the Long Bennington PCC current account, the trust funds (share investments and the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust plus Chancel Trust – into both of which share dividends go) and the HLF account have also been summarised and audited.

Once again, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to sincerely thank Mr Stephen Peck, Accountant, for freely giving of his valuable time and effort in auditing and verifying our Year-2024 accounts. I should also like to record our thanks also to all those who have contributed and helped in any way towards our finances.

**Jane Cowley**

STEPHEN PECK BSc FCA  
81 Main Road  
Long Bennington  
Newark  
NG23 5DJ  
Telephone: 01400 282194  
E mail: stephen.peckmain@gmail.com

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LONG BENNINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Long Bennington Parochial Church Council (LBPCC) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the members of LBPCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations 1997. LBPCC has elected both to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis and to subject its accounts to independent examination rather than audit. The independent examination included the "St Swithins Church Trust Statements" incorporating the Chancel Trust and the Vicar & Churchwarden's Trust Funds.

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

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of LBPCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with these 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.

*SCPeck*

STEPHEN PECK FCA

25/02/2025

LONG DENNINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - TOTALS & YEAR END STATEMENT OF FUNDS				
	2024		2023	
total income for the year*	£55,041.47		£58,331.16	
total payments for year	£54,733.05		£52,838.65	
surplus for year		£308.42		£5,492.51
deficit for year				
Yorkshire bank at year end	£8,867.70		£4,611.92	
less outstanding cheques	£535.40		£1,570.50	
plus late receipts	£2,570.41		£7,552.87	
Yorkshire bank Long Bennington PCC adjusted year end funds		£10,902.71		£10,594.29
<b>Long Bennington PCC: Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>				
at December 2024				
	general	Flower	Total restricted funds	
£	fund	fund*		TOTAL FUNDS
<b>MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	£10,702.71	£200.00	£200.00	£10,902.71
<b>Heritage Lottery Fund</b>				£663.22
*flower fund from 2020 quiz				

<u>Receipts for PCC Account</u>	2024		2023	
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
covenants/planned giving	£16,194.00		£14,604.00	
income tax recovered (includes VAT)	£5,912.54		£9,798.87	
cash collections at services	£4,119.48		£5,837.61	
sundry donations*	£8,262.66		£8,014.11	
		£34,488.68		£38,254.59
<b>Other Voluntary Income</b>				
Fund raising** see below	£6,621.07		£3,200.91	
		£6,621.07		£3,200.91
<b>Charitable &amp; Ancillary Trading:</b>				
interest from deposit account	£189.90		£186.99	
parish council grant	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	
church fees (minus vergers/organist fees, clergy fees in 24)	£1,727.40		£4,525.47	
british legion-war graves maintenance	£18.00		£18.00	
		£2,935.30		£5,730.46
<b>Restricted income / charity collections/transfers from other church accounts</b>				
From Trust Funds/Shares to pay insurance	£3,116.46		£2,821.30	
From HLF Account transfer	£1,330.00		£1,136.00	
Foston, Allington, Sedgebrook contributions to PA expenses	£2,671.20		£2,822.40	
West Loveden churches for clergy advert	£460.00			
LBVH deposit return	£50.00			
Vergers/organist fees	£810.00		£1,580.00	
Wedding fee owed to Lincoln	£482.00		£229.00	
Amazon voucher (refunded)			£75.00	
magazine payments***	£600.00		£1,006.00	
Santa charity collections for Foston church, PreSchool & Rotary	£1,476.75		£1,326.50	
from funeral collection Walter Hughes			£149.00	
		£10,996.42		£11,145.20
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£55,041.47</b>			<b>£58,331.16</b>
minus restricted income	£44,045.05			£47,185.96
*incl. SUMUP, Give a Little, Parish Giving & personal donations (some for specifics e.g. oil, repairs, children's work)				
** fund-raising includes -				
Tea n Chat donations, Music in Quiet Places, sponsored CycleRide, Military Wives, Grantham Choral Society carol concert, Santa's Sleigh				
***for editor (reimbursed from magazine account / included £426 (in 2023)				

<b>Payments for PCC Account</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	
Parish Share to Diocese: 4 payments per year	£19,000.00	£14,000.00	
	<b>£19,000.00</b>		<b>£14,000.00</b>
<b>Upkeep of church &amp; services etc.</b>			
Oil/electricity/water/organ. fire protection etc.*	£2,283.83	£3,231.40	
Insurance (listed separately)	£3,116.47	£2,821.30	
Clergy expenses	£0.00	£0.00	
Upkeep of services (IT, cleaning, books, certificates, wine, candles, flowers, leaflets etc.)	£2,013.28	£1,714.98	£1,198.28
Upkeep of churchyards	£5,715.50	£8,431.98	
Building repairs, major works etc.**	£6,486.62	£9,740.36	
building running/maintenance	£2,459.60	£1,535.40	
Fund raising & administration, including hall hire, iPad and letter box, hall costs	£665.09	£0.00	
Parish administrator costs plus clergy gifts	£2,352.41	£1,934.39	
**also includes chair stacking rack			
	<b>£25,092.80</b>		<b>£29,409.81</b>
<b>Grants</b>			
Ayreshire House (from Co-op champions)	£200.00		
Tea n chat Christmas lunch (from Co-op champions)	£660.00		
Long Bennington gardening club (from strawberry tea)	£100.00		
Macmillan Cancer Support		£150.00	
Year 6 LB school Bibles		£267.75	
Grantham Food Bank		£0.00	
Grantham poverty concern		£230.00	
Military Wives Charity	£250.00	£250.00	
hall facility for tea n chat and also harvest supper	£567.80	£510.40	
Royal British Legion	£480.00	£475.62	
	<b>£2,257.80</b>		<b>£1,883.77</b>
<b>Restricted payments</b>			
Father James gift (replaced with alternative)	£0.00	£75.00	
Harvest food and entertainment expenses-for 2024 included in Fund raising expenses	£0.00	£357.17	
RAF Benevolent fund from funeral collection	£0.00	£149.00	
money owed from other churches for administrator expenses/IT	£2,671.20	£2,822.40	
money owed from other churches for clergy advert	£459.99	£0.00	
verger/organist fees	£810.00	£1,580.00	
wedding fee/heating reimbursement	£482.00	£0.00	
fees owed to LBF&DT	£0.00	£229.00	
owed from Santa's sleigh collections to Foston, Rotary & LB PreSchool	£1,476.76	£1,326.50	
transferred to HLF account (ring fenced for repairs)	£1,832.50	£0.00	
deposit (returned) for LBFVH for harvest	£50.00	£0.00	
magazine payments (SGPN) reimbursed*	£600.00	£1,006.00	
	<b>£8,382.45</b>		<b>£7,545.07</b>
<b>PCC ACCOUNT PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£54,733.05</b>		<b>£52,838.65</b>
true expenditure - without restricted payments	<b>£46,350.60</b>		<b>£45,293.58</b>



## SGPN Report & Accounts

Please refer to the 2024 annual accounts attached, which have been independently verified by Stephen Peck. As you will see, we had a deficit of £633.50 for the year. We were able to cover our costs as we have a dwindling 'buffer' amount in the account. However, if we continue to increase our deficit each year (last year it was £400.50) we will not be able to continue to produce the magazine for very much longer. Donations continue to dwindle, however, thank you to the people who made a donation and a special thank you to LB parish council for their annual £500 and to Foston for a £100 donation. Please encourage and remind people to donate wherever possible.

Thanks to all the people who send in articles and other contributions on time each month and to Tony Tucker for his continued involvement with the printers. Thanks to Joy Jordan for dealing with new advertising throughout the year and for offering her house as the main distribution point and counting and collating the 'bundles' for the many distributors across the four villages.

Thanks also to the distributors, who volunteer to take the magazines out 10 times a year.

### Jill Froggatt - SGPN Treasurer

SGPN BALANCE SHEET					
2024 (2023 SHOWN)	2024	2024		2023	2023
	£	£		£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Bank balance per statement	5,244.70*			6,758.20	
		5,244.70			6,758.20
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Design*					
Editor				(180.00)	
Printing				(700.00)	
		5,244.70			5,878.20
<b>RESERVES</b>					
Balance brought forward		5,878.20			6,278.70
Less: Deficit in the year		(633.50)			(400.50)
At 31 December 2024**		5,244.70			5,878.20

\*£100 owing to Emily for August issue to be paid in 2025

\*\* Actual balance date is 3<sup>rd</sup> December, as balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December includes 2025 payments

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024		
	£	£
INCOME		
Magazine Advertisements	6,810.50	
Donations Online	650.00	
Donations Cash & Cheque	359.00	
		7,819.50
EXPENDITURE		
Printing	6,953.00	
Design (Emily)	900.00	
Editor (Jill)	600.00	
		8,453.00
Deficit for the year		633.50

## Governor's Report

### Long Bennington C of E Academy

This has been a very fruitful year for further developing the strong link between the Church and the School. As reported last year, LBA has joined the Infinity Academies Trust, which comprises 13 schools currently. The main positive impacts of belonging to the trust is the financial security that comes from a multi-academy body, but also access to specialist skills and services which have benefitted the staff and trustees over the year. This was especially invaluable when the call came through from OFSTED, and Infinity staff gave great advice and guidance through the process to a successful outcome.

During this year we have been joined on the trustee team by Bethan Speirs-Davies, and we look forward to her valuable contributions to the work undertaken. Each trustee is given a specific role as an Academy Champion, for example, Health and Safety, or as a Stakeholder looking at how the school expresses its Christian ideals and values, as well as how it fulfils its Vision of bringing kindness, joy and integrity to all they do. All Academy Champions undertake a monitoring visit each term, as well as attending a termly Infinity update meeting, and a termly local trustee meeting.

I am pleased to report that we have maintained and enhanced activities between school and church. Services at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and for year 6 Leavers were a delight – children from all year groups took part, leading prayers, singing in the choir or commenting on the theme of the service, while Rev Jon Speirs-Davies gave an address.

In addition to the Mothering Sunday event, where all pupils drew a portrait of the special women in their lives and we provided refreshments and small gifts, we have planned a Father's Day event as a series of little challenges. Groups of children have also planned and presented two assemblies under loose trustee supervision, which proved wonderfully inspiring; I intend to extend the number of these over the next year.

**Colin Sedgewick**  
**Foundation Trustee**

## **Deanery Synod**

There have been two synod meetings in the year, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Rev Sam Parson of the Grantham Deanery spoke concerning what they were doing on the subject of Mission and Evangelism from the point of young people and children in the church. This is to encourage children and families into the church with special family services and holiday clubs.

Training for Lay Ministry was to commence across both Grantham and Loveden Deaneries in four modules, Public Work, Pastoral Care, Mission and Evangelism and Children and Young People. In addition the ALM's course would include one on "Leading Public Worship"

There was some discussion regarding combining the Deaneries of Loveden, Grantham, Beltisloe and Stamford into a larger deanery following a request by Bishop Stephen to discuss this. This would consist of 118 churches however no recommendations came out of the meeting.

24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The Revd Canon Geraldine Pond was introduced as the new Rural Dean for Loveden.

The proposal to merge all the Deaneries into a larger Deanery was currently under discussion in Lincoln. Fr Craddock of the Grantham Deanery had sent a letter to Bishop Stephen expressing concerns at the size that the new Deanery would be and proposed that Grantham join with Loveden as one Deanery and Beltisloe join with Stamford.

Concerns were also raised how the new system would be funded and travel within the new deanery would also place a high expectation on people to move around. However the overall feeling was that the proposed large Deanery with urban and rural churches could mean that rural churches would lose their recognition.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Bishop Stephen expressing the concerns of the meeting.

Rev Canon Geraldine Pond closed the meeting and gave thanks for how much people do within their own churches.

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**David Andrews**  
**Colin Sedgewick**  
**Deanery Synod Representatives**



## Safeguarding Report

I have been a Safeguarding Officer for Long Bennington PCC since 2022. . I am also the Safeguarding Officer for St Peter's, Foston and have established links with other churches in the group.. The sharing of information has been most useful.

There have been no Safeguarding concerns expressed to me during the past year from the Long Bennington Church community.

Lincoln Diocese Safeguarding Team are supportive and available at any time to discuss any possible concerns. Booklets with all Lincolnshire Safeguarding diocese and local authority referral contact details have been shared with PCC members at Long Bennington and other local churches. Safeguarding information is displayed in Long Bennington church I volunteered to attend Lincoln Diocese's recent Safeguarding audit.

Safeguarding pathways have been discussed with Rev Jon and any relevant records would be shared with the Lincoln Safeguarding team.

Lincoln Diocese Parish Dashboard is completed regularly before and after PCC meetings and a report is sent to Jill Froggatt to share with the PCC members This normally is at a Level 2 of the Dashboard. Long Bennington PCC have also completed a health and safety risk assessment and looked at roles of recruited volunteers, according to the Lincoln Diocese Safeguarding guidelines.

Basic and Foundation safeguarding training has been completed by PCC members and Domestic Violence training has been recommended. These are all available on the Anglian Training Portal. Further face to face Safeguarding training has been booked with Lucy Rowe, Lincoln Diocese Safeguarding training officer on 16 September 2025 at Long Bennington Church. PCC members from other local churches will join us .

Basic and Foundation Safeguarding Training was completed by most Long Bennington PCC members as required. Safeguarding training is requested every three years and online Domestic Violence training was recommended to PCC members through the Anglican Safeguarding Training Portal. Further Safeguarding training with Lucy Rowe, Lincoln Diocese Safeguarding Training Officer is booked for 16 September, 2025 at Long Bennington Church. Other local church PCC members are also invited.

As Safeguarding Officer for Long Bennington and Foston I have completed Basic, Foundation, Leadership, Recruitment, Modern Slavery and Domestic Violence training during the past 3 years.

Long Bennington PCC has also reviewed health and safety risk assessment in the church. Also they have been looking at the roles of volunteers and the recruitment process advice that is available on the Lincoln Diocese website.

DBS checks are reported to be in date. Applications are made through the DBS Coordinator., Mike Libby from Staunton, is available for this process and he is very supportive.

Davina, Saxonwell administrator, keeps a list of training and DBS dates as well as being available electronically to PCC members ..

Eileen Ross - Safeguarding Officer - 29 March, 2025.

## Vicars Report

It's a joy to write this first report for West Loveden Church, having arrived in the parish in August and been formally licensed in September. Since then, it has been a season of settling in, building relationships, and beginning to discern what God is already doing among us—and how we might join in.

### A Season of Beginning and Welcome

My first few weeks were full of welcomes. I'm so grateful for the kindness, patience, and hospitality extended by so many across our villages. The early part of my time here was marked by our Harvest celebrations. In many ways, a perfect opportunity to meet lots of people around our parishes, not just at the core of our worshipping community but also those who support and cheer on our endeavours in a broader sense. From school services to traditional harvest suppers, I was struck by how much goodwill and care flows through these villages. I particularly enjoyed how relaxed and joyful each celebration was—and my youngest clearly agreed, dragging me to the front for a boogie.

Next was the season of remembrance and, again, this occasion was marked with evident care and attention. Of the many examples of this, the way the various scouting and guiding groups were enabled to participate at the service in Foston beautifully captured the sense of togetherness that was clear across all the West Loveden services. It was a wonderful picture of the community coming together and filling the church to honour those who took seriously the call of Christ that there is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).

As we moved into Advent and Christmas, I was again encouraged to see so many come and participate in the carols and celebrations marking the birth of Christ—some perhaps for the first time in a while, some regularly, and others for the first time ever. I have to congratulate all those who planned and presented such unique and special carol and Christingle services. It felt like such an encouraging picture of our path forward with everyone enabled, encouraged and emboldened to get stuck in and share together. Instead of nine identical carol services (which is likely what I would have been able to manage on my own), each service, whether quiet and reflective or joyful and bustling, helped tell the story of Christ's coming, and I want to thank everyone who played a part in making that season beautiful and meaningful.

Other particular highlights were some of the very popular events that saw our buildings packed. The Cranwell Military Wives Choir concert at St Swithun's Long Bennington was packed with people enjoying the choir's wonderful talent. Also, the gospel music concert at St Peter's Claypole so joyfully led by the Sing It Bold Community Gospel Choir was a massive success. Thank you to all who put in the time and effort to plan and organise those and other events throughout the year.

### Looking Ahead Together

A key theme emerging in our conversations and shared work has been that of *becoming more God's church across West Loveden* as the legacy groups of Saxonwell and Claypole continue to grow closer together in mutual support and communion. Each parish community brings something different to the table—different traditions, gifts, and styles of worship—and part of our calling now is to explore how we can cherish that diversity while growing together into something more united. Not “one-size-fits-all,” but one family of faith made up of many parts. As is repeatedly stated in the scriptures, “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12.5). To be the Church, the Body of Christ, is to confidently assert that we are each valued and important while also humbly elevating others and encouraging them that they are just as important and valued.

This isn't about efficiency for its own sake or streamlining for administrative tidiness - it's about deepening our shared identity as the Church in this place and becoming more able to support one another in worship, mission, and care. I've already seen signs of this taking root, and I'm hopeful about where God is leading us next. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his disarming digression instructing the early church, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" (1 Corinthians 12:21). If I may add, the wonderful thing about being human - rather than just a body part - is that we can be and do many different things. As we stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the foot of the cross, nothing is beneath or above anyone and everything is an opportunity and a blessing.

## Gratitude

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the bellringers, churchwardens, cleaning crews, flower arrangers, ministry leaders, musicians, pastoral visitors, PCC members, priests, readers, refreshment servers, school contacts, and so many others who faithfully serve—often behind the scenes. Your work is deeply appreciated. Thank you also to those who have simply taken the time to talk, to pray, or to offer advice and context—it's made a huge difference.

A special thanks to all who give, tithe, and financially invest in the life of our worshipping community.

As well as being generous with time and skill, it's a joy to witness such a widespread response to God's invitation to worship in generosity. It's so clear how, by pooling our carefully stewarded resources, we are enabled to reach out with the gospel together better than any of us could on our own. I want to particularly acknowledge the sizeable and generous legacy left in a parishioner's will for the church in Allington.

This money has been prayerfully invested in accessibility for the building with a ramp, kitchen and toilet facilities as well as more space for gathering and fellowship. A final special thanks to those who source and secure grant funding that is so vital in helping to maintain the building heritage that we steward. It's such a blessing to be part of such a generous community. Thank you.

## 2025 and Beyond

As we step into 2025, I'm looking forward to deepening relationships across the parishes and continuing to explore what it means to be one Church in many places. I hope we can build rhythms of worship and life that sustain our congregation and help us engage meaningfully with those beyond our church walls.

God is already at work in our villages. Our task is not to invent something new but to pay attention to the Holy Spirit and unleash the creativity God has placed within each of us. As we grow in confidence and faith, let's keep inviting others into the life of Christ. Please keep praying—for our church, for our villages and for one another.

## Rev'd Jon Speirs-Davies