



YARE VALLEY CHURCHES 2026 APCM

Tuesday 12th May 2026

7.30 p.m. at St Laurence Church

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Yare Valley Churches, held at St Laurence Church on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting

1. Prayer
 2. Apologies for absence
 3. Election of Churchwardens
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The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of the Yare Valley Churches held at St Laurence Church on Tuesday 12th May 2026 held immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- Apologies for absence
- Elections and appointments
 - a) Explanation of process of elections
 - b) Election of 3 representatives to the Parochial Church Council
 - c) Election of Deanery Representatives
 - d) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- Agreement of minutes of meetings held on...12/5/25.....
 - a) Annual Parish Meeting
 - b) Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on12/5/25.....
- Consideration of the following:
 - a) A Report on changes in electoral roll page 7
 - b) The Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council page 7
 - c) Report from Ministry Leaders page 7
 - d) Reports from the Fabric and Finance Subcommittee page 13
 - e) Report from the Policy and Partnership Subgroup (including Safeguarding Report) page 14
 - f) The Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2025 page 15
 - g) A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod page 22
 - h) Rector's Address page page 22
- Other questions or comments on church or parochial matters
- Prayer



**Minutes of the Yare Valley Churches Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 12 May 2025 @ 7.30pm St Laurence Church**

There were 28 Church members present.

Annual Parish Meeting:

1. Prayer: Rev Dave Hanson opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies for absence: Sue & Steve Church, Vicky Gaskin, Doug Clark, Helen & Simon Daniels, John & Jean Tester, Jan Jones' Ann Walters, Mavis Smith & Jason Elmar.
3. Election of 3 Church Wardens: Two proposed and seconded nominations for election had been received from Thomas Morgan, and Elisabeth Morgan They were both duly elected. Dave thanked them for all that they do.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

1. Apologies for absence: Sue & Steve Church, Vicky Gaskin, Doug Clark, Helen & Simon Daniels, John & Jean Tester, Jan Jones' Ann Walters, Mavis Smith & Jason Elmar.
2. Appointment of Independent Examiner: This item will be deferred to later date at a PCC meeting. Dave thanked Roger Wiltshire for being our IE over the past 5 years.
3. Minutes of 2024 APCM: Approval of the minutes was proposed by Keith Gerrard, seconded by Paul Smith and approved by all.
4. Matters Arising from 2024 APCM: Use of the defibrillator requires initial call to 999 and we will be asked to supply the code which will be made available.
Regarding the request to re-instate Summer and Christmas fayres – Dave informed the meeting that the Mission Action Plan is to hold more, smaller events which will enable us to meet more families and build relationships within the community.
5. Consideration of the following reports which except for the Rector's Address which was verbally delivered, had been read prior to the meeting:
 - a) The Electoral Roll figure for 2024 stood at 140.
The figure for 2025 with the completion of a new roll (six year revision) stands at 106.
Libby thanked Ian for his work as ERO. There were no matters arising.
 - b) Report on the proceedings of the PCC: No matters arising. Dave informed the meeting that Gaye was standing down as PCC Secretary and he thanked her for her work over the past 15 yrs. A new secretary, Judy Gerrard, will be appointed at the next PCC meeting.

c) Report from the UP subgroup (worship & discipleship): No matters arising. Dave thanked Keith and the sub group members.

d) Report from the OUT subgroup (mission): No matters arising. Patrick has stepped down as Chair of this subgroup and Dave thanked him for all he has done particularly as Lay Chair during the interregnum.

e) Report from the OF group (working together) including Deanery Synod and Safeguarding report. A question was raised about new noticeboards and Libby responded that this was being actioned. Libby reported that we are awaiting results of the ECO Brundall Parish Council Diversity Group Churchyard survey. Dave thanked Libby for all she does.

f) Report from the IN group (fabrics, goods and ornaments of the church. Dave thanked Tom for keeping things in the buildings in such good order, and Sarah for looking after the churchyards so well. Sarah thanked our two long serving (50 years) lawn mowing volunteers, Ray Kinsley and Ian Dougall for all they'd done over the years in helping to keep the churchyard looking so wonderful.

Tom reported that the Terriers Annual Review had been all okay. He also informed the meeting that the PCC had approved demolition of the Rainbow Room and he was asked what would happen to that space. He replied that we expect there to be a concrete base left after the removal of the building and we would need to decide what to do with it, and so the PCC would welcome any suggestions.

g) Financial Statements of the PCC for y/e 2024: Gillian reported that there had been a slight increase in giving during April and Dave gave thanks to God for this welcome news and that this may continue. Dave thanked Gillian and her team for all they do. Gillian thanked Roger Wiltshire for his work as IE over the last five years, and also Doreen Oliver who is standing down from her years as Recorder of Income and Gift Aid declarations from all envelope giving to YVC., as well as Christingle giving and being the Children's Society rep for St Laurence church.

It was asked if a tap & pay machine could be made available at Postwick church and this is being looked into.

h) **Rector's Address:**

Our verse for the year reminds us that God is able to hear and answer our prayers and I love the way the Amplified Bible presents the verse:

'Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen

It's worth thinking about each phrase in these verses: God is able to do what we ask, God is able to all that we ask, God is able to do all we ask or imagine, God is able to much more than all we ask or imagine and God is able to immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. God is greater than any problem, challenge, strife, sickness or obstacle that we face individually or corporately. The thing that I have been most encouraged by in our first 9 months with you is the growth in prayer. Because without prayer we can do nothing! But there is one more important truth in this verse. We read in v 21 'to Him be the glory in the

church and in Christ Jesus.' It is amazing to think that in all that God has created it is the church which brings most glory to him! And of course, we are talking about the 'people' and not the buildings. We, the church, bring glory to God! God is at work in us to transform us, but he is also at work in us to bring glory to his name. May we the church, in this part of Norfolk, bring glory to his name!

We have a lot to give thanks for over the last year. Did you know we have 58 volunteers registered in our parish? Fifty-eight volunteers who are going through or have been through the safer recruitment process. And I am so grateful to every one of you who gives of their time and the way you share your gifts with others. But as we look forward there is much more that we want to do as a parish. So - if you are thinking of getting involved, please speak with me. Don't miss out on what God is doing among us.

But let's look at our mission action plan and see where our priorities are. We want to be a church which is:

'A Spirit-filled, diverse, welcoming and vibrant worshipping community of all ages and traditions, celebrating the gospel and using God's gifts to grow the church, by sharing the good news of Jesus through word and action in our communities.'

We have four objectives, and I will mention each one and how we are beginning to make progress.

First of all:

Building relationships with families and growing a new younger congregation

We have a team of volunteers who are signed up to help run Family Fun events. It all began with the Halloween event and was followed by the Easter Family Fun. The next event is planned during half term. We also plan to start the '321 Course' in Postwick this week. Our second priority is:

Developing new groups for children and young people

We have a small team of volunteers who are meeting to plan a new youth group. Our relationship with the school has been strengthened following the Easter Question Time event although we still have some way to go. Our third priority is:

Connecting with individuals in the villages who are new residents, living alone or isolated from others, impacted by food poverty/disability/age

We will be starting a new Sunday sermon series on being Missionary Disciples in the next few weeks which will help us to see that we are all in this ministry together. The Community Pantry is now open a second day and we are seeing more take up from the boating community. We have a meeting in the diary to discuss plans to relaunch the Community Café on a Thursday morning. It has been good to see new people coming to Forget me Not Café and to Community Café. Our final priority is:

Becoming a visible 'church' by working in partnership with local organisations for the benefit of the wider community

We have collaborated with the Memorial Hall and the Parish Council to produce 'The Brundall Newsletter'. The next edition will be out soon. We have worked with the Men's Shed to have a clean-up day at Braydeston and provided a VE Day Service in collaboration with the Witton and Postwick Parish Council. We also responded to a request

from the Memorial Hall to do a short service during their VE celebrations which Bishop Ian was able to lead.

So, you can see that we are making some headway with the objectives in the Mission Action Plan. But there are two things I want to say about the Mission Action Plan. Firstly, it is not intended that the plan includes everything that we do.

There are some things which are part and parcel of parish life that we hope will continue to grow and flourish. For example, we had a Lent Course this year which 40 people signed up for. We hope that from this group we will have at least one new home group which will start soon. In addition, it has been great to see the Music Group leading in services again.

The second thing to say is that it is good to be intentional about what we want to do but also important to be interruptible. Jesus was very intentional about where he was going and what he was called to do. But he also allowed himself to be interrupted. Remember the time when Jesus was walking through Jericho, he was just leaving the city when a blind man called Bartimaeus called out to him. Jesus stopped and asked him what he could do for him. Jesus was intentional and interruptible. And I think that is how we should see our Mission Action Plan. We know what we are focusing on – but we are ready to be redirected as new opportunities arise as we prayerfully consider them.

So - let's commit ourselves to praying with all our imagination and with great boldness and faith. Let's be intentional about what we do, but also happy to be interrupted. And let's give the glory to him as He builds His church here among us. Amen

6. Other questions or comments on church or parochial matters:

The question of whether or not we shall be running a Children's Holiday Club was raised and this is being reviewed.

It was suggested that we ask the question: What stops people coming to Church? Perhaps in a future edition of the magazine. Dave responded that this was a good suggestion and it would be discussed further.

7. Dave led us in Compline and the meeting ended at 9.20pm

Signed Date

5a. A report on changes in electoral roll

The figure for 2025 was 112.

There were 3 deaths during the year and 1 addition for 2026 making a total for 2026 of 110.

Ian Dougall Electoral Roll Officer

5b. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council

The PCC has met five times since the APCM last year. The PCC meeting always starts with prayer and bible study. Approval is given to the minutes of the last meeting and any apologies given. The PCC then discuss any matters arising. Dave then shares the Rector's Report and asks for any questions The PCC receive reports from the Rector, Fabric and Finance Subgroup, Policy and Partnership Subgroup (including Safeguarding Report), Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council, Deanery Synod, Electoral Roll before the meeting. They then have the opportunity to ask any further questions and vote on any proposals made. Some decisions are also made by email in between meetings. Some highlights from PCC at meetings have included the following:

- Agreement to the removal of the Rainbow room
- A new structure for the sub committees has been accepted by the PCC. OF subcommittee to be replaced by Policy & Partnership subgroup, and IN and Finance subcommittees to be replaced by Fabric & Finance subgroup. Plus, the introduction of the following subgroups which would replace OUT & UP: Worship/Discipleship, Children/Youth/Families, Pastoral, Community
- Maintenance work on the trees at St Laurence and Postwick Church yards
- The agreement to Assistant Wardens
- It was agreed that there would be some new notice boards, and the first board erected would be one for Postwick.
- The PCC agreed to the use a cherry picker to replace the bell clapper at Brundall.

Judy Gerrard

PCC Secretary

5c. Reports from ministry leaders

1. Worship and Discipleship

Worship Team

The worship team meet quarterly and includes our LLM and AWAs who are all involved in leading services and preaching. We review the most recent sermon series and consider any feedback we have received and talk through the next sermon series. We look ahead to the Christmas and Easter, and any other special events and discuss them together which helps me as I make plans. This last year has included a Pimms and Hymns Service at Braydeston and a Carol Service in the Brundall Hardware Shop. It has been good to see a second service start at Postwick on the third Sunday of the month, and I have appreciated the support that the AWAs have given to this service. This year we welcomed Claire Wall as a new AWA who will have a particular focus on her ministry in Postwick. It has been good to see the Music Group reform and help to lead worship on the third Sunday of the month at Brundall.

Dave

Music Group

Since COVID and then during the interregnum the band had met very sporadically, but over the past year or so we have reformed and have started playing again at church. We

now play on a monthly basis. We started by playing songs that were familiar to us and the congregation, but have recently added new songs (e.g. King of Kings and Goodness of God) to our repertoire, which have been well accepted by the congregation. In fact we often comment on the quality and power of the congregation's singing, which in turn lifts our playing.

It's been really good to combine playing some of the modern worship songs alongside Ian on the organ recently and this I think builds upon our unity as a congregation. Playing traditional hymns and modern worship songs, either from the band or Worship Lyric Video, in services, seems to work well and hopefully we will continue to build on this arrangement.

People have busy lives and many calls on their time, so I would like to thank the band members for their time and efforts in making time to attend rehearsals and arriving early for services. Since restarting the band we have two new members, Amanda and Dave, both of whom have made a significant impact to our sound. Our other members are Janet, Steve, Vicky, Libby, Sarah and me.

If you play an instrument or would like to sing with us please talk to any of our members, you'd be most welcome.

Dave Carding.

2. Community

Parkrun

We have managed to continue to support parkrun with provision of tea, coffee and snacks almost every Saturday morning over the past year. This is very well received by the park run community, represents an important outreach into our community and an opportunity to reach people that we otherwise would not. There have been several instances over the year where a conversation on Saturday has resulted in attendance at a service on Sunday, for instance. However, the operational aspect of providing park run is a challenge and for the last year (and before) the work has been divided between two drivers and three people, which is not ideal. I am very thankful for the volunteers we have and the countless weekends they give up to support this, but it would be wonderful to have more volunteers come forward to help support this mission.

Tom Morgan

Community cafés

Community cafés are on Monday and Thursday mornings. They are a warm, welcoming space offering companionship, a variety of activities, drinks, cakes and biscuits. Customers include regulars, Community Pantry volunteers/users and visitors to Brundall. The craft table brought new people to the café and we have regular scrabble players and jigsaw fans. We average 10 customers on Monday; 20 on Thursday. During winter we are a 'Warm Space' offering a safe setting with free hot drinks for anyone. At Christmas we host 'Carols at the café' supported by the Village Voices Community Choir. We support Community Payback and local conservation teams when they work on Church Fen. We are grateful for the help of our volunteers who keep the cafés running. New volunteers are always welcome.

Lisa Taylor

The Community Pantry

We open two mornings a week, Monday, 10am until 1230 pm, and Thursday 10 30am until 12 30pm. We are a team of 5. We are totally dependent on donations of groceries and financial contributions to the Pantry from both individuals and community organisations. We have forged links with the community, and serve a range of people, with a friendly smile, information and food. We meet families, single people, older people, those irregularly housed, a collection of people from surrounding communities and those supporting them. Figures vary, 550 contacts p.a. or more, both long standing, and short-term.

Diana Buck

3. Outreach

Family Fun

Family Fun started out of a desire to connect with families in Brundall and grow a younger congregation. It is an event for parents and children to come together and have fun and meet new people. We have held them during the half term weeks and in the summer holidays and more recently on Easter Saturday. We usually start with a selection of games and activities set out on the grassed area of the churchyard and the children can choose what they would like to do, while parents sit and enjoy refreshments. At the end of the session there is a short talk relating to the theme. We are in contact with 30 families and have consent to contact them to let them know when the next event is on. In addition, we have a pool of 20 volunteers who help when they are available.

Dave Hanson (on behalf of Family Fun Team)

The St Laurence Men's Group.

Earlier this year, a meeting was held between Dave, Tom, Mike, Steve and Alan as a need had been identified within the Men of Brundall. Through conversations at the Church and within Brundall's Men's Shed it was apparent that several men were not only lonely but in need of companionship and an area where men could come together and 'chat'. At that meeting it was decided that such an area be set up at the SLC in the form of a monthly 'get together' with an invited speaker, to include how 'faith' impacted their life/career etc.

The first was held in March, with Andrew from the Hardware Shop the invited speaker, who was very open and honest about his life in Christ. It was very encouraging that 21 attended that group, including Andrew, and that over half were non-church men. The evening was well received, with positive comments. Please pray for this event.

Alan Miller

4. Pastoral Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Group meets quarterly and consists of the Anna Chaplains, Anna Friends, AWAs as well as others involved in Pastoral Care. The Anna Chaplains and Friends take a service in the Care Homes in Postwick and Brundall monthly. We are grateful for the opportunity to minister to those who may be forgotten or feel socially isolated. It is a joy to see the faces of residents when they remember a hymn or a Bible story. The Anna Chaplains also keep in touch with those who are living in their own homes but due to poor health are unable to come to church. This year Gaye stepped down as the lead for Anna Chaplains in the parish, but we are pleased that she is still serving as an Anna Chaplain

with a focus on visiting people at home. The regular home visits sometimes include Home Communion. Thank you to the team: Gaye, Peta, Colette, Claire, Jan, Rosie, Amanda and Sue.

Dave Hanson

Forget Me Not

The Forget Me Not Cafe meets weekly on Tuesday from 2-4 in the SLC for people on the Dementia pathway and Carers. The cafe includes time for a chat over tea and cake followed by various activities. These include some craft activities, various games, such as bingo, snakes and ladders and ball games. We occasionally have visiting speakers. In the last term we have had a speaker from the Brundall History Group and one from Cinema City. A local choir leader has also come to lead us all in singing some old familiar songs. Once a month we have a short service in Brundall Church with a short talk and singing familiar hymns.

We have, in the past taken our members for tea and scones at the local Cafe and we hope that we can arrange this again in the near future.

Any questions please get in touch.

Peta Cunnane

Home Groups

The Young Adults Group

The young adults home group is one of the newest, having met for the first time in December. We meet once a month over coffee and cakes and have been exploring the Bible's big themes, having reached Abraham so far. As well as reading the bible, we've used a variety of different media such as music, art and film to help us dig a little deeper. We have a regular group of five, six including Dave H/me.

Vicky Gaskin

Monday Morning Group

Our house group meet twice a month at the Golf Links house in Brundall on Monday mornings. We are now one year old as we merged from last year's Lent course. We begin with a short social chat over refreshments and then go on to a study that has included the Lord's prayer, messianic psalms, a personal Christmas cherished treasure and the 'I am' sayings from the Gospel of John. We take it in turns to lead each session and include related hymns and worship songs to piano or Youtube accompaniment and end in a time of prayer for one another. We now aim to study the Andrew Ollerton Bible Course alongside other groups.

Judith Graham

Monday Lunchtime Group

Our Home Group comprises of 4 ladies who meet every 2/3 weeks on a Monday lunchtime. Rather than being an academic study we use some general questions designed purposely to apply the text (usually the forthcoming Sunday lectionary) to our everyday life and Christian experience. We all appreciate the fellowship and support, with the opportunity to share, contribute and learn something new every time.

Linda Parkin

Monday Evening Group

Our Home group meets on alternate Monday evenings at 7.45 for approx. 2 hours. It was originally started about 25 years ago and 4 of the original members still attend. Started as the “young people’s group”, we are now more “young at heart” than in years. It has morphed with other groups over time and currently there are 10 of us in total. We usually start with a catch-up conversation and a cuppa, followed by prayer and then we work through a study booklet with bible readings and questions which stimulate informal debate. Recently we have been really enjoying the Bible Society’s Bible Course.

Helen Mahon

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group

This Bible Study Group has been established for over 20 years, and meets weekly, in members homes. It has always had a strong emphasis on friendship and fellowship, always beginning with cups of tea, and ending with a glass of wine, with study happening in between! After following study guides for many years, we now find it more helpful to take a book of the bible and work directly from the text, discussing a chapter or so each week. This has encouraged more discussion, and people share their own thoughts, or access commentaries which they may have. We are currently nearing the end of John’s Gospel, but we have taken a break to follow the Lent Course on the Desert Fathers, so that we are in line with the rest of the church.

We have a WhatsApp group within the group, and whenever we meet, we have prayer requests from members of the group, regarding things of concern, which we all undertake to pray for, over the coming week.

June Carding

Prayer Ministry Team Report

The Prayer Ministry Team is made up of a small group of individuals, who offer private confidential prayer at the end of each service, and also to people attending the Community Pantry, as requested.

The team can be identified by their Prayer Ministry Team Lanyards, and will come to pray with people who remain seated at the end of services. This pattern is becoming more established as time goes on, and seems to work well on the whole. Everyone on the prayer team has received training, and operates under the authority of the Rector.

We meet as a team approximately every 2 months, and usually have a time of fellowship and discussion around aspects of prayer life within the church. At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of offering a service focussed upon healing, which will be discussed and planned at our next meeting, and should take place over the summer.

A few months ago, we enjoyed a days retreat with the Sisters of Bethany, which we all found to be very beneficial. One thing which has arisen as a result of this, is that we now act as prayer support for the Sisters, who have requested prayer several times now. The team also has a WhatsApp group between ourselves, where we are able to share our own prayer needs, and support each other as a team.

June Carding

5. Children and Families

Sunday Group

The Sunday Children's Group provides an informal alternative to the Sunday service for children of primary school and younger age. (It arose as a way to entertain my daughter in a way that also taught the meaning of Jesus, and my involvement with it will likely come to an end when her interest in it does!). Attendance varies between 1 and 6 with an average

probably around 3. The number of volunteers is small so a rota is not really practical, however there are strict rules around the number and DBS status of those that can help, and so sometimes sessions cannot run. This feels like important work and the children that do attend appear to enjoy it and hopefully learn something that is themed to the service for that Sunday. I am very grateful to Gillian who assists me in running this on many Sundays. It would be wonderful to have more volunteers come forward to help support this mission.
Tom Morgan

Toddlers Group

On Tuesday mornings SLC is transformed into a fun and welcoming space for young children and their carers. There are different play areas – imaginative play, construction, a baby area, travel, dressing up, reading ... After about an hour of play and refreshments we tidy up and gather round for a Bible Story followed by a simple activity which could be anything from planting a seed to trying out some bread and fish! The session ends with song time and then it is the real tidy up time for the team. We usually have 8-12 children a week, most of whom have no other connection to church so it is a privilege to be able to serve them in this way. Thanks to a great team – Pat, Gillian, Sue and Pauline.
Irene Hanson

Youth Group

The new Youth Group started in September 2025 and meets on a Thursday evening. There are seven leaders in the team, but usually just four on any evening, with a group of around twelve young people. The evening is structured so that when the young people arrive, they can choose to play table tennis, pool, chess, craft or just sit and chat with each other. We always include a group game led by one of the leaders and have a 'Big Question' which instigates discussion. The evening ends with prayer, and we ask the young people what they would like us to pray for. Thanks to all the leaders: Lucy, James, Jack, Helen, Julie, Patrick and Dave.
Dave Hanson (on behalf of the team)

Schools Ministry

We are slowly building on our link with the local school, and it has been a delight to welcome children from Brundall School and Snowys Nursery to some special events. 'Christmas Experience' was an event for our Toddler's Group, Snowys Nursery and the Reception classes from the school. The children were taken on a Christmas Journey meeting characters from the Christmas story. 'Easter Experience' welcomed Y1 and Y2 children to see a dramatised story of the crucifixion and the resurrection. Earlier in the year, we held a special event in Brundall Church called 'The Light Trail', put on in collaboration with Fox Events. This ended with a light show having as its centre piece a large cross. This event was held as part of the Spooky Trail and attracted lots of families.
Dave and Irene Hanson (on behalf of the team)

5d. Fabric and Finance

The IN subcommittee has responsibility for the buildings and churchyards of the Yare Valley Churches. It strives to ensure that they not only remain able to support the work of the other subcommittees and wider Church but are actively working to meet the needs of the community and enabling growth in mission and worship.

There is an active project underway to combine the IN and Finance subcommittees into a single "Fabric & Finance" subcommittee. The structure is being trialled now and is expected to be in place through the coming year. This report focuses just on the "Fabric" part of that new structure, with a combined report expected at the next APCM.

The past year has brought various challenges but at the outset I would like to thank and pay tribute to the members of the IN subcommittee who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our buildings and open spaces are kept not only safe but ordered and well presented, so that the work of the Yare Valley Churches can continue.

On top of this I would like to recognise and thank those who volunteer throughout the year to assist in this work. I am very grateful for those people that have often unnoticed taken on new tasks as needs have arisen and stepped in to fill gaps as they have opened. It has been particularly pleasing to see those relatively new to our congregation take on active roles to support those more established members, and I hope this trend continues.

Although a lot of the work of the IN subcommittee is largely unseen there have been some more notable projects since the last report, the greatest of these being the demolition of the Rainbow Room. I am sure you will agree that the churchyard looks much better for it, and we are actively working on a plan for what to do with the newly available green space. As a subcommittee, we have decided that this should be a "whole church" decision, so look out for an invitation to contribute soon. We are also working to put together a plan for replacing the A/V system and have invited several firms to tender for this work and assist us through the process.

An area of the subcommittee's work which usually goes largely unseen is the surveying and maintenance of trees, an important part of our overall Health & Safety Policy for those visiting our churchyards. Due to a large amount of remedial work being necessary at Brundall it took on a more visible role this year. It was really heartening to see how the whole congregation responded to this challenge and I'd like to thank everyone who donated money to enable us to meet this need without diverting funds from other endeavours.

A few years ago, we took the regrettable decision to close Braydeston Church unless by appointment. I'm very pleased to say that, thanks to the time and efforts of a small team of volunteers, we are now able to open Braydeston Church during the weekend, with a rota of keyholders locking and unlocking.

I hope that in 2026 we can continue to offer our buildings and open spaces to support the outreach and missional work that is so important in our community, and this will be my focus over the next 12 months, along with growing the size of the IN subcommittee team. I end my report in the same way I did last year, with a request: please be vocal in letting me know where improvements can be made, or with suggestions for action.

Tom Morgan

5e. Policy and Partnership Report for Yare Valley Churches APCM 12 May 2026

Eco Church: One of the objectives in the Yare Valley Churches Mission Action Plan is to work with local organisations to make the most of our green spaces, making them accessible to others, and to work towards the Eco Church Silver Award. Anne-Marie Simpson has been leading this area of work, and now she has moved to France, we're seeking someone new to take this on.

Communications: Janet Moorse and Libby produce the weekly notices, much enhanced by Dave's "Dear Church Family" contribution. The bi-monthly Brundall Parish Newsletter continues to be well received, and is attracting more advertising, which is helping to reduce the costs.

We continue to promote church activities with posters and flyers, on our website and via Facebook. Thank you to Janet for producing this publicity, and to Peta for updating Facebook for us. Our four church noticeboards were replaced earlier this year and it's great to see them looking so smart. Our website is still in need of a major revamp, but continues to be updated by Libby and Janet.

Partnership: After many years of service as a Brundall Memorial Hall Trustee, Diana Buck is stepping down from this role. The church is invited to provide a representative and Irene Hanson has volunteered to take on the role this year, and this has been approved by the PCC. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Diana for all her hard work in this role over the many years she has served as a Memorial Hall trustee, and thank you to Irene for volunteering to take this on.

Safeguarding: There have been 5 safeguarding concerns reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer since the last APCM, and appropriate actions were taken.

My thanks go to our safeguarding team, working to ensure the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church community. Sandie Rowland is our Parish Safeguarding Officer for children and young people, and keeps track of all our volunteers, ensuring that they are up to date with the required training, and that DBS checks are updated as required. Lisa Taylor is our DBS Administrator / assisted by Janet Moorse, and provides necessary admin support to the "safer recruitment" process.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give a special word of thanks to Diana Buck, our Parish Safeguarding Officer for vulnerable adults, for all she has contributed to safeguarding within our church community. Diana has decided to step down from this role after many years of service. Thank you again Diana. And thank you to Karen Cannell Smith who will be our new PSO for vulnerable adults, following PCC approval.

Libby Morgan

5f Report on the Yare Valley Churches accounts 2025

These are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis and consist of a Statement of Financial Activities and a Balance Sheet for the year. The opening balances, changes, and closing balances of each of our funds, both General and Restricted, are shown in the enclosed Fund movement summary. Also included are a detailed Analysis of income & expenditure and a set of explanatory Notes to the Accounts.

In summary, in 2025 there was a surplus of income over expenditure in the General fund of £3346.36, which is an improvement of £4522.34 from 2024, when we had a deficit of £1175.98. Although our expenditure rose by approximately £12,500 (£10,300 of which was accounted for by our much-improved contribution to the Benefice Request from the Diocese) this was offset by

- a £3000 increase in Gift Aid recovered on the previous year's giving
- the new income source of £3307.50 in Gift Aid on the *current year's* giving through the Parish Giving Scheme
- some £3800 more received in fees for funerals and weddings
- in the region of £7400 more received in General giving.

Income from Donations & legacies was a little lower in 2025 compared with 2024, as was income from lettings of the St Laurence Centre.

The Benefice Request from Norwich Diocese continues to be our main outgoing. The request was for £59472 in 2025 and we contributed £53525, 90% of the total. Most of the Request is for clergy costs to the Diocese - stipends, housing, pension costs and training & support. The Diocese also provides parishes with a wide range of advice and support which we can access, in areas such as care of our buildings, fund-raising & finance, publicity, youth and families work, and safeguarding.

With the support of the team at the Diocese we successfully launched the Parish Giving Scheme at Yare Valley Churches at the beginning of 2025. This is now the mainstay of regular giving by church members, on which we rely so heavily for the funds to enable us to do all that we seek to do within the church and in our communities. We are as ever very grateful for everyone's generosity to Yare Valley Churches, whether it is through PGS or standing order, giving in the collection plate or in other quiet acts of regular or occasional giving, as people feel able. It is a great encouragement.

Equally to be thankful for is the amount of time put in by the many volunteers who do so much in the parish and for our churches, making our resources go so much further. I am personally very grateful for the help I receive with the weekly banking and record-keeping and with the annual Gift Aid claims.

Gillian Groat, Finance Officer
April 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	73,670.10	20,049.33	-	93,719.43	73,966.73
Income from charitable activities	14,575.21	-	-	14,575.21	10,960.96
Other trading activities	1,785.00	2,770.41	-	4,555.41	4,292.75
Investments	4,111.57	-	-	4,111.57	4,071.20
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	94,141.88	22,819.74	-	116,961.62	93,291.64
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	27.00	-	-	27.00	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	90,768.52	16,528.13	-	107,296.65	86,425.66
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	90,795.52	16,528.13	-	107,323.65	86,425.66
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	3,346.36	6,291.61	-	9,637.97	6,865.98
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	3,346.36	6,291.61	-	9,637.97	6,865.98
Total funds brought forward	26,919.78	71,269.66	-	98,189.44	91,323.46
Total funds carried forward	30,266.14	77,561.27	-	107,827.41	98,189.44

Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
6501	Santander current account	19,257.27	27,850.25
6510	CCLA (CBF) deposit account	90,026.14	71,389.37
	Total Current assets	109,283.41	99,239.62
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	1,456.00	1,033.00
Z04	Accounts Payable	-	17.18
	Total Liabilities	1,456.00	1,050.18
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	107,827.41	98,189.44
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	9,637.97	-
Z01	Starting balances	98,189.44	98,189.44
	Total Reserves	107,827.41	98,189.44
Represented by Funds			
	General (Unrestricted)	30,266.14	26,919.78
	Restricted	77,561.27	71,269.66
	Total	107,827.41	98,189.44

Fund movement summary

	Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
General								
Unrestricted		26,919.78	94,141.88	90,795.52	-	-	-	30,266.14
Sub-totals		26,919.78	94,141.88	90,795.52	-	-	-	30,266.14
Hardship fund								
Restricted		-	900.00	900.00	-	-	-	-
Sub-totals		-	900.00	900.00	-	-	-	-
Re-order & Development (Brundall)								
Restricted		20,442.24	10,000.00	8,064.00	-	-	-	22,378.24
Sub-totals		20,442.24	10,000.00	8,064.00	-	-	-	22,378.24
Postwick fund								
Restricted		17,284.11	3,027.91	756.58	-	-	-	19,555.44
Sub-totals		17,284.11	3,027.91	756.58	-	-	-	19,555.44
Braydeston fund								
Restricted		1,517.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,517.00
Sub-totals		1,517.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,517.00
Mission								
Restricted		5,937.19	1,000.00	1,571.16	-	-	-	5,366.03
Sub-totals		5,937.19	1,000.00	1,571.16	-	-	-	5,366.03
Anna Chaplaincy								
Restricted		1,118.98	1,415.00	1,517.52	-	-	-	1,016.46
Sub-totals		1,118.98	1,415.00	1,517.52	-	-	-	1,016.46
Community Pantry								
Restricted		8,256.79	2,351.50	2,285.86	-	-	-	8,322.43
Sub-totals		8,256.79	2,351.50	2,285.86	-	-	-	8,322.43
Church Vehicle								
Restricted		5,710.03	75.00	1,320.01	-	-	-	4,465.02
Sub-totals		5,710.03	75.00	1,320.01	-	-	-	4,465.02
Youth Mission								
Restricted		1,997.10	-	-	-	-	-	1,997.10
Sub-totals		1,997.10	-	-	-	-	-	1,997.10
Trees appeal								
Restricted		-	4,050.33	-	-	-	-	4,050.33
Sub-totals		-	4,050.33	-	-	-	-	4,050.33
Font legacy								
Restricted		8,335.22	-	-	-	-	-	8,335.22
Sub-totals		8,335.22	-	-	-	-	-	8,335.22
Richardson (grave flowers)								
Restricted		671.00	-	113.00	-	-	-	558.00
Sub-totals		671.00	-	113.00	-	-	-	558.00
Totals		98,189.44	116,961.62	107,323.65	-	-	-	107,827.41

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Regular giving - Bank	17,212.00	-	260.00	-	17,472.00	32,924.00
0105 - Regular giving - PGS	25,398.00	-	-	-	25,398.00	-
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,267.00	-	600.00	-	2,867.00	5,542.00
0301 - Loose plate collections	3,011.03	-	562.50	-	3,573.53	2,948.49
0302 - Goodbox	355.27	-	-	-	355.27	266.73
0505 - One-off gift via PGS	384.15	-	98.50	-	482.65	-
0510 - GASDS giving GF	40.00	-	-	-	40.00	210.14
0520 - GASDS giving for Pantry	-	-	885.00	-	885.00	1,585.50
0530 - Other cash giving	1,228.51	-	189.00	-	1,417.51	86.00
0550 - Donations appeals etc	5,868.00	-	16,084.33	-	21,952.33	11,698.30
0555 - Charity collections	173.33	-	-	-	173.33	359.70
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	13,135.31	-	-	-	13,135.31	10,195.87
0602 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid via PGS	3,307.50	-	-	-	3,307.50	-
0701 - Legacies	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	3,250.00
0801 - Recurring grants	410.00	-	-	-	410.00	400.00
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	380.00	-	1,370.00	-	1,750.00	4,500.00
Donations and legacies Totals	73,670.10	-	20,049.33	-	93,719.43	73,966.73
Income from charitable activities						
0560 - Parish events (not fundraising)	64.05	-	-	-	64.05	-
0905 - Community Cafe income	6,206.24	-	-	-	6,206.24	6,134.82
0915 - PCC miscellaneous receipts	16.92	-	-	-	16.92	406.14
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	8,288.00	-	-	-	8,288.00	4,420.00
Income from charitable activities Totals	14,575.21	-	-	-	14,575.21	10,960.96
Other trading activities						
0910 - Fundraising events & activities	200.00	-	2,770.41	-	2,970.41	2,670.75
1240 - St Laurence Centre lettings - fund raising	1,585.00	-	-	-	1,585.00	1,622.00
Other trading activities Totals	1,785.00	-	2,770.41	-	4,555.41	4,292.75
Investments						
1001 - Endowment income	474.80	-	-	-	474.80	463.74
1020 - Bank and building society interest	3,636.77	-	-	-	3,636.77	3,607.46
Investments Totals	4,111.57	-	-	-	4,111.57	4,071.20
Income and endowments Grand totals	94,141.88	-	22,819.74	-	116,961.62	93,291.64

EXPENDITURE ON:**Raising funds**

1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	27.00	-	-	-	27.00	-
Raising funds Totals	27.00	-	-	-	27.00	-

Expenditure on charitable activities

1750 - Toddler Group equipment costs	299.75	-	-	-	299.75	-
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	332.70
1850 - Community Pantry expenses	-	-	2,285.86	-	2,285.86	2,568.06
1870 - Secular charities	175.00	-	-	-	175.00	53.00
1875 - Discretionary fund payment	-	-	900.00	-	900.00	-
1910 - Benefice Request (Parish Share)	53,525.00	-	-	-	53,525.00	43,232.00
2001 - Assistant staff costs	9,740.25	-	-	-	9,740.25	9,414.28
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	316.40	-	-	-	316.40	267.18
2105 - Hospitality expenses of Incumbent	36.61	-	-	-	36.61	-
2150 - Rector's telephone (work)	91.43	-	-	-	91.43	-
2170 - Mission & outreach	344.09	-	1,571.16	-	1,915.25	255.53
2175 - Community Cafe expenditure	3,147.49	-	-	-	3,147.49	2,621.25
2180 - Anna Chaplaincy expenses	-	-	1,472.52	-	1,472.52	1,655.46
2185 - Forget-me-not cafe expenditure (restricted)	-	-	30.00	-	30.00	-
2190 - Church car costs	-	-	1,320.01	-	1,320.01	1,238.04
2201 - Parish training	-	-	15.00	-	15.00	-
2205 - DBS checks	264.00	-	-	-	264.00	-
2301 - Church running - insurance	5,426.64	-	-	-	5,426.64	5,338.71
2310 - Church office - telephone	295.60	-	-	-	295.60	-
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	-	-	118.00	-	118.00	-
2330 - Church maintenance	754.89	-	744.00	-	1,498.89	4,464.00
2331 - Cleaning	1,117.11	-	-	-	1,117.11	1,075.94
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,397.43	-	134.58	-	1,532.01	668.44
2345 - Church Copyright Licences	760.69	-	-	-	760.69	739.37
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	2,022.42	-	617.00	-	2,639.42	1,898.90
2360 - Administration	2,238.36	-	-	-	2,238.36	1,096.29
2365 - PCC expenses	403.31	-	-	-	403.31	2,249.95
2370 - Parish events (not fundraising)	151.67	-	-	-	151.67	-
2375 - Magazine expenses	435.31	-	-	-	435.31	-
2401 - Church running - Brundall Church electric	1,605.84	-	-	-	1,605.84	1,957.46
2402 - Church running - Postwick Church electric	594.42	-	-	-	594.42	599.43
2403 - Church running - Braydeston Church electric	398.73	-	-	-	398.73	290.63
2420 - Church running - water & sewerage SLC	378.15	-	-	-	378.15	334.26
2430 - Church running - Postwick Church oil	904.37	-	-	-	904.37	415.33
2530 - St Laurence Centre - electricity	1,613.08	-	-	-	1,613.08	1,611.55
2560 - St Laurence Centre running - maintenance	1,630.44	-	-	-	1,630.44	512.40
2570 - St Laurence Centre - broadband	700.04	-	-	-	700.04	-
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	7,320.00	-	7,320.00	1,535.50
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	90,768.52	-	16,528.13	-	107,296.65	86,425.66
Expenditure Grand totals	90,795.52	-	16,528.13	-	107,323.65	86,425.66

Yare Valley Churches - Notes to the 2025 accounts

Balance Sheet – the item for Agency collections is for fees collected on behalf of Norwich Diocese in Q4 of 2025 and paid over to them in January 2026

Fund movement summary – Restricted funds

There are two new Restricted funds. The Trees Appeal was launched in the autumn after a report identified a considerable amount of work needed on the trees in Brundall Churchyard. The amount raised in 2025 was carried forward and used to pay for the work when it was carried out early in 2026. The Hardship Fund is a fund to be used at the Rector's discretion to alleviate hardship. In 2026 it has been formally adopted by the PCC as the Rector's Discretionary (Hilary Critten) Fund.

Analysis of income & expenditure – General fund

Income

0105 PGS refers to the Parish Giving Scheme

0302 Goodbox is the card reader at the back of Brundall church

0510 & 0520 GASDS stands for the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. This enables us to recover the equivalent of Gift Aid from HMRC on most cash and card reader donations made on church premises. As well as these two items, it also applies to collections in the plate at services and Goodbox donations.

0555 collection at Remembrance Sunday service and donations at the poppies display for the Royal British Legion

0701 a legacy from the late Ian Makin

0801 a grant from Postwick with Witton Parish Council for the upkeep of Postwick churchyard. We do not receive support from Brundall Parish Council towards the upkeep of either Brundall or Braydeston churchyards, which are however largely maintained by volunteers. The endowment income at 1001 includes £266.62 for the upkeep of Brundall churchyard.

08A1 Winter pressures grant from Broadland District Council to help with the costs of running our Community Café and Toddler Group as Warm Spaces over the winter months

0905 Community Café income includes receipts from the Community Cafes, the catering pod at Parkrun and Toddler Group

1001 income from 3 historic endowments held on our behalf by the Diocese, for Brundall church & churchyard

Expenditure

1870 donation to Royal British Legion of item 0555

1920 Benefice Request. In 2025 we contributed 90% of the amount requested by the Diocese, up from 75% in 2024

2001 payroll costs for our Resource Manager

2375 YVC's share of the cost of producing the new Brundall Newsletter, which is expected to reduce or disappear as more advertising is placed in it

2430 the cost of oil for Postwick church did not increase significantly in 2025, but was lower in 2024 because it was partly offset by a donation

Analysis of income & expenditure – Restricted funds

Income

Incoming resources to the Hardship, Re-ordering & Development, Mission, Church Vehicle and Trees funds are all donations. The Community Pantry income was also donated – as regular donations in the collection plate or at Community café or direct to the YVC bank account, plus donations at Parkrun and individual donations from well-wishers both within and outside the church family. Christians Together kindly decided to support the Pantry with their closing funds and donated £400.

Postwick fund income is fund-raising by the Friends of Postwick Church.

The Anna Chaplaincy fund received a grant of £1370 from Norfolk Community Foundation for the cost of coach hire for Bus Pass Holiday Club plus a donation from Heathlands Day Centre.

Expenditure

- 2170 Expenses paid from the Mission Fund include Youth group equipment, running costs and bibles, Christmas Experience for Toddler Group and children from Brundall School, and Family Fun days
- 2180 including coach hire for Bus Pass Holiday Club (grant-funded as above)
- 2840 the cost of removal of the Rainbow Room, paid from the Re-ordering & Development fund

5g. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod

Yare Valley Churches have been well represented at Deanery Synod by Rev Dave Hanson, Patrick Beales, Libby Morgan, and Douglas Bain. We'll be electing Deanery Synod Representatives again at our APCM this year to serve on Synod for the next three years, from 1st July 2026.

Following the Deanery Ascension Day service in May 2025 (which we hosted in Postwick Church) Synod met three times during the year, in July, October and February, with an extra meeting in August to contribute to the Diocesan Strategy.

This year's Deanery Ascension Day service will be hosted by St Helen's Church, Ranworth on Thursday 14th May. Everyone is very welcome!
Libby Morgan

5h. Rector's Address

It was back in January 2025 that we gathered as one parish on a cold Saturday morning to devise a Mission Action Plan. Together we created maps, which identified needs and opportunities in Postwick, Braydeston and Brundall. From these maps and our discussions, a Mission Action Plan came together for the Yare Valley Churches for 2025 – 2027. As I look at this now, it is apparent that we need to update our plan as together and with God's leading, we have achieved so much! Key to all of this has been prayer. In fact, on our MAP we wrote 'We want to be a parish, which is prayerful, relational and missional. Prayer must underpin everything we do. Building relationships is integral to all we do and will enable us to be intentionally missional'. Of all the new things we have done it is the Monday morning prayer time that I am the most encouraged by. It is a great joy to start the week with prayer and commit all that we do into God's hands. So - what did we say we wanted to do and how are we doing?

Our first priority was to '**Build relationships with families and grow a new younger congregation.**' We still have some way to go before we can say we have built a new younger congregation, but there are plans for this, which I hope to share at the APCM. We have made some inroads in building relationships with families. In Brundall we have held Family Fun events and are now in contact with over 30 families who we are able to send information about upcoming events. We have a strong team of volunteers who help with Family Fun and having a large team helps, as not everyone is able to attend every time. Our second priority is to '**Develop new groups for children and young people.**' Work with children and young people is a priority for any church that wants to grow and reach the next generation. We started a new Youth Group in September 2025 and have a good team of leaders. We noticed early on that most of the leaders were in the older age bracket and we realised we needed younger leaders but had no idea how we could find them. But after praying about this we have been able to recruit three leaders in their 20s which has been a great blessing to the team and young people. We have also been able to put on events for the school (please see report on school ministries) and we hope we can continue to build on this.

Our third priority is '**Connecting with individuals in the villages who are new residents, living alone or isolated from others, impacted by food poverty/disability/age.**' On Sunday morning we followed a series called Frontline Disciples which looked at the everyday opportunities we have to be witnesses in our homes, workplace and in the places where we volunteer or socialise. The Community

Pantry has opened for a second session in the week and has received a lot of support from the local community. We have developed a stronger link with the Waterway's Chaplain and have relaunched the Thursday Café which has attracted new people. We have also started a Men's Group at Brundall with the aim of reaching men who are socially isolated.

Our fourth priority is '**Becoming a visible church by working in partnership with local organisations for the benefit of the wider community.**' When I first arrived the thing that people most wanted to see was a bi-monthly Parish Newsletter. We have been able to partner with the Memorial Hall and the Parish Council to produce the Brundall Newsletter which is an attractive bi-monthly letter for the community. We have planned and led two services with Rev Andrew from Brundall Hardware and work closely with the Men's Shed. The Park Run team continue to take the pod down every week, which is much appreciated.

There are some new things which are not part of the MAP that I would like to mention. We are pleased to have a second service at Postwick on the third Sunday of the month. It has also been good to see three new home groups established including one at Postwick. So much has been achieved and there is still more to do. I am reminded of these words from the Psalms, '**Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.**' Psalm 127 v 1. As we look forward, may we go with a deep trust and reliance on God's strength to help us see where He is at work and join in with His mission plan. And finally, Irene and I would like to say how much we value your support and appreciate the work of all those who volunteer across the parish.

Rev Dave Hanson