

**PARISH OF SOUTH LAFFORD**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7pm in Pickworth Village Hall, Village Street, Pickworth, NG34 0TD

Immediately following the meeting to elect churchwardens

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the last APCM – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024
4. Electoral Roll 2025 Report
5. Annual Report around the Parish 2024
6. Report on Fabric
7. Safeguarding report
8. Honorary Parish Treasurer's Report
9. Deanery Synod report
10. Election of lay PCC members 2025
11. Ratification of DCC Officers and Members 2025
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner
13. Matters of general church interest (resolutions and/or other business to be notified before the start of the meeting).
14. Date of next APCM
15. South Lafford Prayer

## **REPORTS FOR THE APCM 2025**

### **Item 3 - Minutes of the last APCM – Tuesday 14 May 2024**

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#### **PARISH OF SOUTH LAFFORD ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024 MINUTES**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7pm,  
Pickworth Village Hall, Village Street, Pickworth, NG34 0TD**

#### **Item 1 - Opening Prayer**

Read by Jenny Seddon

#### **Item 2 - Apologies**

Katie Sly, Anna Davies, Simon Davies, Roger Fairchild Fenton, Diane Fairchild Fenton, Annie Walton, Peter Thomas, David Cox.

#### **Attendees** (Form to be complete by everyone who attended)

Jenny Seddon (Lay Vice Chair)

Alison Scott

Roscelyn Connor

Rosalind Blythe

Judith Findon

Rosemary Hoyer

Tony Buchan

Rosemary Buchan

Linda Dawes

Richard Cummins

Derek North

Eric Eve

Peter Green

**Total Attendees = 13 (All on electoral roll can vote).**

### **Item 3 - Minutes of the last APCM – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Any comments or amendments? No comments or amendments made.

Proposal the minutes of the previous APCM held 16 May 2023 were a true and accurate record.

Proposed by: Tony Buchan    Seconded by: Richard Cummins

Votes by all those at the 2023 meeting    For: 10    Against: 0    Abstentions: 0

Minutes signed and dated by Jenny Seddon

#### **Item 4 - Electoral Roll 2024 report**

The Church of England electoral rolls are renewed every six years, every parish is required by law to prepare a new Electoral Roll, and this was last done in 2019 and won't be necessary again until 2025. In the intervening years the Roll is revised.

A copy of the electoral roll is available at this meeting. The electoral roll revision for the Parish of South Lafford 2024 stands at 180 this year, 4 people removed and 11 people added.

*Alison Scott (Electoral Roll Officer)*

#### **Item 5 - PCC Lay Vice Chair Report around the Parish 2023**

This is a short account about the parish as I was elected in May's PCC AGM when Alan Cooper stepped down after many years in the chair.

We threw a Thank You party for him and Anne in July and presented them with garden chairs in which to sit and enjoy their lovely garden.

Despite the continuing absence of a priest within the parish, communities have continued to hold festival services and fund raising events.

Every church celebrated their Harvest Festival and a Carol service. Remembrance Sunday was also celebrated in three villages, plus a Christingle and a very popular Crib service.

More Morning Prayer services are being requested and it is hoped to expand these as the weather becomes warmer. Thank you to all the churchwardens and DCC members who voluntarily give up their time to keep our churches open and welcoming.

Every church managed to pledge some money towards the Parish Pledge, though with many churches struggling to pay for repairs, the amount was understandably lower than usual. Thank you to Jen for continuing as our Parish Treasurer in these uncertain times.

With visiting priests, we have managed to ensure that parishioners can receive Communion each week, with members of the Ministry Team leading Family services and Morning Prayer.

My thanks to the Ministry Team for continuing to organise and lead services as we wait for some news from the Diocese about a new priest in our parish.

As always, our thanks to Alison for keeping the parish (and me) running smoothly - no mean feat!

*Jenny Seddon (PCC Lay Vice Chair)*

The meeting thanked Jenny and Alison for all they do.

#### **Item 6 - Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments**

Some churches still have on-going work on their fabric. Osbournby is preparing plans for improvement to their drainage and Threkingham is still fund raising for the work needed on their roof.

Thanks to all for fundraising and coping with all the paperwork needed for the permissions required.

*Jenny Seddon (PCC Lay Vice Chair)*

#### **Item 7 - Permission to administer**

The Bishop of Lincoln has asked each parish to include a list of all those people who have been given Permission to administer the elements of Holy Communion. In South Lafford parish the following lay people

have been given permission to administer within church and outside the if the wine and sacraments are blessed by the Bishop:

- Eric Eve
- Jenny Baines

### **Item 8 – Safeguarding report**

The Parish of South Lafford adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England and are committed to it.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Jenny Seddon who took on the role after completing the required training in October 2023.

*Jenny Seddon (Safeguarding Officer)*

Thanks given to Jenny Seddon for doing this role.

### **Item 9 Honorary Parish Treasurer's report to the APCM**

Jem Riggall took on the role of Honorary Parish Treasurer again from 19 July 2023

The Treasurers Report and Statement of Accounts Year end 2023 inspected, are available for inspection at this meeting.

The Statement of Accounts Year end 2023 inspected, have been displayed at all our parish churches.

The Covenant Pledge was reviewed for 2024 and the total pledged is £4,510.

Many thanks given to Jem Riggall for all his work.

### **Item 10 – Deanery and Diocesan Synod Report**

The Church of England is governed synodically, by Deanery synods, Diocesan synods and the General Synod. At these synods, matters affecting the church at each of these levels are discussed and decided upon.

Many thanks given to our Deanery Synod Representatives.

### **Item 11 - Churches Together in Sleaford & District Report**

No representative from the parish came forward for CTSD in 2023, so there is no report. However, Revd. Rebecca Rock is attending these meeting and will be reporting back when she can.

### **Item 12 - Music report 2023**

We have had some really good services with the Billingborough ad hoc choir. Liz Hill and Bill Power get together and work with the choir.

### **Item 13 - Work with children and young people**

**Toddler Group** - Rosie Lynch gave an update in the report for the APCM last year advising "UPDATE It is with some sadness that I have to report that Carol Toft and I will no longer be running the South Lafford Toddler group. Our last session will be on Friday 26th May 2023. We are in the process of negotiating with a new leader who I hope will continue with the running of South Lafford Toddler group along the same lines, with a commitment to St Andrew's Church in Folkingham. More details to follow."

After the summer holiday, from September 2023, the Toddler Group decided to run the group independently and are no longer part of the parish of South Lafford.

**Fun@4** - Rosie Lynch prepares Fun@4 services for the parish. The next one is for Father's Day in June at 11am with the children from fun@4. Many thanks given to Rosie for all she does with Fun@4.

### **Item 14 – Pop-in Club and the ring of friendship**

Pop In Club is run independently and is not part of the Parish of South Lafford and the Ring of Friendship no longer running. These groups will no longer be reported on.

### **Item 15 - Election of Lay Deanery Synod Representatives 2023-26**

Deanery Synod elections occur every three years and those who are elected hold office for a term of three years beginning with the next 1 July following the date of their election, and also become members of the PCC and also can attend all DCC meetings.

At the time of writing, Katie Sly and David Cox have been nominated and seconded as Lay Deanery Synod Representatives 2023 -2026 and there is one vacancy.

Are there any new candidates nominated in writing at this meeting for Deanery Synod? No one came forward.

### **Item 16 - Election of lay PCC members 2024**

Although the two PCC representatives from each village have historically been the two churchwardens as identified in the meeting before this APCM, the Annual District Meeting can propose other members from the electoral roll to be members of the PCC. The following were duly nominated at Annual Meetings of the following District Churches of the parish to be lay PCC members 2024: -

- Aunsby ADM proposed Diane Fairchild Fenton
- Folkingham ADM proposed Eric Eve

Resolution: 'We, the Parish of South Lafford, hereby agree to the election of the above-named as lay members of the Parochial Church Council for the year 2024.'

Proposer: Rosemary Hoyer      Seconded: Peter Green

For: 13      Against: 0      Abstentions: 0

### **Item 17 – Ratification of all DCC Officers & Members 2024**

The following were duly nominated at Annual Meetings of the eleven District Churches of the parish to be officers and members of the District Councils of the churches of the Parish of South Lafford, subject to ratification at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and to serve from that date. (Clergy and Deanery Synod Representatives are ex officio members of all DCCs.)

| <b>Aswarby</b>             |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lay Chair                  | George Playne                                                                                         |
| Secretary                  | Ann Wright                                                                                            |
| Account Manager            | Gavin Wilson                                                                                          |
| DCC Electoral Roll Officer | Caroline Playne                                                                                       |
| Other DCC Members (7)      | Nicholas Playne, Sonia Playne, James Herdman, Penny Herdman, Leanne Newman, Pat Eccles, Andrew Eccles |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Peter Newman    2. Martin Green                                                                    |
| <b>Aunsby</b>              |                                                                                                       |

|                            |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lay Chair                  | Roger Fairchild Fenton                                                                  |
| Secretary                  | Roger Fairchild Fenton                                                                  |
| Account Manager            | Diane Fairchild Fenton                                                                  |
| DCC Electoral Roll Officer | -                                                                                       |
| Other DCC Members          | -                                                                                       |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Roger Fairchild Fenton                                                               |
| <b>Dembleby</b>            |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | Simon Camamile                                                                          |
| Secretary                  | Anne Sheard                                                                             |
| Account Manager            | Anne Sheard                                                                             |
| DCC Electoral Roll Officer | Anne Sheard                                                                             |
| Other DCC Members (1)      | David Cromie                                                                            |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Simon Camamile                                                                       |
| <b>Folkingham</b>          |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | Pater Green                                                                             |
| Secretary                  | Marion Eve                                                                              |
| Account Manager            | Phil Thrush                                                                             |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | Eric Eve                                                                                |
| Other DCC Members (7)      | Simon Turner, Lis Wright, June Lark, Taff Lark, Chris Brown, Janet Bushnell, Mary Giles |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Peter Green 2. Richard Toft                                                          |
| <b>Newton</b>              |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | Michael Granger                                                                         |
| Secretary                  | Andy Aitchison                                                                          |
| Account Manager            | Dan Startup                                                                             |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | -                                                                                       |
| Other DCC Members          | -                                                                                       |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Judith Findon 2. Annie Walton                                                        |
| <b>Osbournby</b>           |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | Derek North                                                                             |
| Secretary                  | Audrey Cochrane                                                                         |
| Account Manager            | Ian Neville                                                                             |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | -                                                                                       |
| Other DCC Members (5)      | Jane North, Mary Elmer, Libby King, Jenny Baines, Robin Davison                         |
| Churchwarden(s)            | -                                                                                       |
| <b>Pickworth</b>           |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | -                                                                                       |
| Secretary                  | Roy Knighton                                                                            |
| Account Manager            | Aaron Bell                                                                              |
| DCC Electoral Roll Officer | Jenny Seddon                                                                            |
| Other DCC Members (4)      | David Cox, Jonathan Williams, Rosemarie Disney, Jim Counsell                            |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Jenny Seddon 2. Peter Thomas                                                         |
| <b>Scott Willoughby</b>    |                                                                                         |
| Lay Chair                  | -                                                                                       |
| Secretary                  | -                                                                                       |
| Account Manager            | Simon Davies                                                                            |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | -                                                                                       |
| Other DCC Members          | -                                                                                       |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Simon Davies 2. Anna Davies                                                          |
| <b>Swarby</b>              |                                                                                         |

|                            |                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lay Chair                  | Richard Cummins                                                          |
| Secretary                  | Linda Dawes                                                              |
| Account Manager            | David Pepper                                                             |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | Jo Pottinger                                                             |
| Other DCC Members (5)      | Elaine Cullen, George Cullen, Mary Maddison, Nancy Warnes, Colin Johnson |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Richard Cummins 2. Linda Dawes                                        |
| <b>Threekingham</b>        |                                                                          |
| Lay Chair                  | <i>Fluid</i>                                                             |
| Secretary                  | Phil Jordan                                                              |
| Account Manager            | Robin Baker                                                              |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | -                                                                        |
| Other DCC Members (4)      | Roy Connor, Richard Linning, Jacqui Linning, Beverley Jones              |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Roscelyn Connor                                                       |
| <b>Walcot</b>              |                                                                          |
| Lay Chair                  | Tony Buchan                                                              |
| Secretary                  | Sally Knight                                                             |
| Account Manager            | Tony Buchan                                                              |
| DCC Electoral Roll officer | -                                                                        |
| Other DCC Members (1)      | Rosemary Buchan                                                          |
| Churchwarden(s)            | 1. Tony Buchan                                                           |

Resolution: "We, the Parish of South Lafford, hereby agree to the election of the above named to serve as officers and members of the District Church Councils"

Proposer: Roscelyn Connor      Seconded: Tony Buchan  
For: 13      Against: 0      Abstentions: 0

### **Item 18 - Note about the appointment of Sidesmen and Women**

Traditionally this has been left to the individual churches to organise in accordance with normal procedure, and it is proposed to do the same this year.

Giving out Tea/coffee etc. support to the churchwardens.

### **Item 19 - Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It is proposed to appoint Robin Davidson as the independent examiner of the accounts of the PCC for 2024.

Proposal to appoint Robin Davison as the independent examiner of the account of the PCC for 2024

Proposer: Peter Green      Seconded: Eric Eve  
Votes For: 13      Against: 0      Abstentions: 0

### **Item 20 - Matters of general church interest**

Thanks given to the churchwardens

### **Item 21 - Date of next APCM**

It is proposed that the date of the APCM for 2025 should be provisionally set for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Pickworth Village Hall.

### **Item 22 – South Lafford Prayer**

Bless us, O God, on our journey through life. May we enjoy your creation and delight in our companions along the way. Thank you for those who have given us our heritage of churches in this place, so that they may resound again and again to your praise, and proclaim your loving presence to all people of South Lafford. May your Spirit lead us into the fullness of the Way, the Truth and the Life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

#### **END OF REPORT**

### **Item 4 - Electoral Roll 2025 Report**

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This year was the preparation of a new church Electoral Roll.

Alison Scott gave thanks to all those who gathered in the applications for enrolment forms and passed them into her, by the 10 April 2025.

The new Roll took effect on 17 April 2025 and was published by the Parochial Church Council at all our parish churches. There are 138 people on the electoral roll.

Any applications for enrolment to the electoral Roll received after the deadline 10 April 2025 are not included on the new roll published, these applications will be added to the electoral roll following the APCM.

*Alison Scott (Electoral Roll Officer)*

#### **END OF REPORT**

### **Item 5 - Annual Report around the Parish 2024**

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#### **LAY VICE CHAIR'S REPORT FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024**

This is my last report to the parish as we welcomed Reverend Rebecca as our priest-in-charge in November 2024.

Our Christmas services around the parish had led us all to a joyful start to the year. The slight damper in December had been that we were told that we could no longer use the Parish Office in the Rectory so we had to move everything across to the only dry space large enough - the lower vestry in Folkingham church. Many thanks to all those who helped to move just before Lent and to St Andrew's DCC for agreeing to allow us to store all the items.

The Ministry Team led a successful Lent course on the Beatitudes, and the combined choir performed "The Cross of Christ" on Palm Sunday in Folkingham and on Good Friday in Billingborough. Both services were well attended and appreciated, and my thanks go to Liz Hill and the choir for continuing to lead our worship.



In the middle of Lent a Confirmation service was held in St Andrew's church Billingborough led by Bishop Nicholas. Linda and Richard from Swarby and Roger from Aunsby were amongst the candidates at this uplifting service.

Bishop Nicholas visited us again in April at a combined meeting of South Lafford and Billingborough benefice to discuss a plan to pay for a priest, how long would our interregnum last and the Parish Share. The evening enabled us to put forward questions from all the villages which the Bishop answered candidly.

Fun@4 held a Father's Day service in June and we're very grateful to Rosie for continuing to arrange services and encouraging our young people into church.

In July came the astonishing and very welcome news that we were to have a new priest. We were to join with the Billingborough Benefice and the new priest-in charge would have the task of creating a new parish. The Parish Profile was updated and with Billingborough's profile a combined one was drawn up ready for the candidates who might apply.

At the end of September, the interview took place in Edward King House with representatives from both parishes and members of the clergy.

Safeguarding C2 and Domestic Abuse Awareness training was held in September at a one-day course with Lucy Rowe, thus enabling everyone to update their responsibilities.

The Ministry Team led Harvest Festivals for all our churches which was greatly appreciated by the congregations.

At the beginning of October we joyfully announced that Reverend Rebecca Rock was to be our new Priest-in-charge and live in the newly refurbished Rectory along with her husband and daughter. Her installation service was held in a packed St Andrew's church Billingborough at the start of November.

Remembrance services were held in Folkingham, Pickworth and Osbournby and the year ended with Christmas services around the parish.

My heartfelt thanks to the Ministry Team, churchwardens, Alison and visiting priests for all your support and advice during our interregnum, as I hand over to Rebecca to start our new journey of change together.

Jenny Seddon (Lay Vice Chair) March 2025

**END OF REPORT**

## **Item 6 - Report on Fabric**

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There have been four Quinquennial Inspections carried out in 2024, at Aswarby, Aunsby, Newton and Pickworth. The reports are available on request

The Quinquennial inspection for Threkingham was moved to early 2025 due to the roof repair work that was carried out and completed at the end of 2024.

A Quinquennial Inspection will also be being carried out at Walcot in 2025.

**END OF REPORT**

## **Item 7 - Safeguarding report**

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### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT 2024-2025**

I'm pleased to report that no safeguarding issues have been brought to my attention but please familiarise your congregations on the list for reporting.

1. Jenny Seddon (Safeguarding Officer)
2. Reverend Rebecca Rock (Parish Priest-in-charge)
3. Reverend Philip Johnson (Rural Dean)

Alison and I have worked hard to bring our policies in line with current practice. Please ensure that these notices are displayed clearly and regularly checked to ensure the contact details are clearly shown:-

- The purple Safeguarding Notice.
- The Safeguarding in your parish - who's who? Notice
- The Safeguarding Policy, Promoting a Safer Church (policy agreed by the PCC)
- The Promoting a Safer Church in the Parish of South Lafford

Jenny Seddon March 2025

**END OF REPORT**

## Item 8 - Honorary Parish Treasurer's Report

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### 2024 Year End Finance Report

Please make BACS payments to:  
'South Lafford PCC, a/c no. 22525260, sort code 77-72-22'  
Please make cheques payable to 'South Lafford PCC'.

The 2024 year end balances of the accounts are:

Lloyds Bank current account      £22,054.75 (as of 13/1/25)  
CCLA account                              £116.49 (as of 30/9/24)

I don't have access to the CCLA but my understanding was that it was closed in 2024 when the funds were transferred to the Lloyds account. However, I received a valuation statement in October stating that there was still a balance in that account.

#### CCLA account

#### CCLA account

The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

|            | item                          | credit    | debit     | balance   |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|            | b/f from 2022                 | 10,263.67 |           | 10,263.67 |
|            | Interest accrued              | 396.49    |           | 10,660.16 |
| 15/12/2023 | Transferred to Lloyds account |           | 10,660.16 | -         |
| 30/09/2024 | Valuation                     | 116.49    |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               |           |           | 116.49    |
|            |                               | 10,776.65 | 10,660.16 | 116.49    |

**Expenses for 2024**

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Expenses budget for 2024    | £15,803.90 |
| Receipts for 2024 from DCCs | £13,688.69 |

**Payments made by DCCs for expenses in 2024****Parish of South Lafford****2024**

| Total            | Total allocation | Total received |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Aswarby          | 975.36           | -              |
| Aunsby           | 1,176.88         | 1,176.88       |
| Dembleby         | 946.57           | 946.57         |
| Folkingham       | 3,586.87         | 3,586.87       |
| Newton           | 1,139.86         | -              |
| Osournby         | 2,089.88         | 2,089.88       |
| Pickworth        | 1,423.63         | 1,423.63       |
| Scott Willoughby | 843.75           | 843.75         |
| Swarby           | 1,004.15         | 1,004.15       |
| Threkingham      | 1,604.59         | 1,604.59       |
| Walcot           | 1,012.37         | 1,012.37       |
|                  | 15,803.90        | 13,688.69      |

## Parish of South Lafford 2024 year end statement of account

### Parish of South Lafford

Year End Financial Statement 2024

| item                              | 2024             |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                   | Income           | Expenditure      |
| Income from DCCs                  | 13,688.69        |                  |
| Planned Giving                    | 0.00             |                  |
| The Voice                         | 2,309.00         |                  |
| Wedding Blessing Fees             | 5,927.60         |                  |
| Monument Fees                     | 1,134.00         |                  |
| Funeral Fees                      | 2,336.40         |                  |
| Choir                             | 0.00             |                  |
| Misc income                       | 115.46           |                  |
| Insurance                         | 731.60           |                  |
| Payments refunded to Diocese      |                  | 2,169.00         |
| Parish Expenses                   |                  | 1,871.37         |
| Parish Administrator salary       |                  | 10,575.84        |
| Rector's mileage                  |                  | 305.00           |
| The Voice                         |                  | 2,366.90         |
| Wedding Blessing Fees             |                  | 2,984.00         |
| Monument Fees                     |                  | 1,134.00         |
| Funeral Fees                      |                  | 2,031.00         |
| Verger                            |                  | 680.00           |
| Choir                             |                  | 141.00           |
| Organist Fees                     |                  | 95.00            |
| Insurance                         |                  | 2,597.42         |
| Fire Extinguishers                |                  | 136.20           |
| Misc expenditure                  |                  | 30.00            |
| Parish share payment              |                  |                  |
| Surplus in Lloyds current account |                  | <b>(873.98)</b>  |
|                                   | <u>26,242.75</u> | <u>26,242.75</u> |

The loss for the year 2024 is £873.98 owing to the fact that two churches did not pay their share of the Parish expenses.

**The proposed expenses budget for 2025 is £16,405.19**

The insurance premium for 2025 has gone up to £1,909.59. The other expenses I have increased by 4% as a hedge against inflation. This gives us a budget estimate for 2025 of £16,405.19.

**Parish of South Lafford**

**Proposed Budget for 2025**

|                              | 2022 budget | 2023 budget | 2024 budget | Proposed<br>2025 budget |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Parish expenses              | 2,000.00    | 3,000.00    | 3,000.00    | 3,120.00                |
| Parish administrators salary | 10,500.00   | 10,588.08   | 10,588.08   | 11,011.60               |
| Rector's mileage             | 500.00      |             |             |                         |
| Organist                     | 600.00      |             |             |                         |
| Insurance                    | 1,695.00    | 1,630.68    | 1,865.82    | 1,909.59                |
| Fire extinguishers           | 350.00      | 350.00      | 350.00      | 364.00                  |
| Churches together subs       | 25.00       |             |             |                         |
|                              |             |             |             |                         |
| Total                        | 15,670.00   | 15,568.76   | 15,803.90   | 16,405.19               |

## Covenant pledges for 2024

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Covenants pledged         | £4,320.00 |
| Covenant pledges received | £2,810.41 |
| Paid to the Diocese       | £2,990.41 |

## Covenant pledge account

| item                        | credit   | debit    | balance  |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 08/01/2024 b/f              | 1,180.00 |          | 1,180.00 |
| 15/05/2024 Threekingham     | 150.41   |          | 1,330.41 |
| 12/05/2024 Dembleby         | 100.00   |          | 1,430.41 |
| Folkingham cheque           | 500.00   |          | 1,930.41 |
| Swarby cheque               | 200.00   |          | 2,130.41 |
| 18/11/2024 Pickworth        | 250.00   |          | 2,380.41 |
| Aunsby cheque               | 200.00   |          | 2,580.41 |
| 30/12/2025 Dembleby         | 300.00   |          | 2,880.41 |
| Walcot cheque               | 100.00   |          | 2,980.41 |
| 08/01/2025 Scott Willoughby | 10.00    |          | 2,990.41 |
| 10/01/2025 Paid to Diocese  |          | 2,990.41 | -        |
|                             | 2,990.41 | 2,990.41 | -        |

|                       | 2024     |          |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
|                       | Pledged  | Received |
| Aswarby               | 400.00   |          |
| Aunsby                | 200.00   | 200.00   |
| Dembleby              | 100.00   | 400.00   |
| Folkingham            | 500.00   | 500.00   |
| Newton (paid in 2023) | 1,100.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Osournby              | 1,250.00 | 0.00     |
| Pickworth             | 500.00   | 250.00   |
| Scott Willoughby      | 10.00    | 10.00    |
| Swarby                | 10.00    | 200.00   |
| Threekingham          | 150.00   | 150.41   |
| Walcot                | 100.00   | 100.00   |
|                       | 4,320.00 | 2,810.41 |

Paid 2,500 in 2023

2,810.41

£180 excess carried forward

2,990.41

There was a c/f from 2023 of £180 which made an available balance of £2,990.41. This amount was paid to the Diocese and the account is now empty.

Jem Riggall

17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**END OF REPORT**

## Item 9 - Deanery Synod report

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### Deanery Synod Report for APCM

A lot of work was undertaken by the Deanery Synod' in 2024. 2025 saw the start of joint Synod meetings.

Lafford Deanery is now in partnership with Graffoe Deanery under the catchy name of the North Kesteven Deanery Partnership. The Deanery will be formed into three Local Mission Partnerships; Northwest, Northeast to which the North Lafford Benefice (which includes Ruskington) belong and South. Details on what these LMPs will offer is in the early stages of development.

Not yet with legal standing, the two Synods agreed convene joint meetings with the first on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March this year. Bishop Nicholas was invited to speak and gave a very helpful and informative talk on "Growing Together" explaining the natural progression from a Time to Change Together. He informed us of his Episcopal Visitations due from May 2025, which were to focus on mission and what is happening for congregations and communities. He recognised the frustration around finance for priests in our Diocese but made the distinction that, apart from Norwich, Lincoln Diocese has the most churches across the country, many of which are small and very rural. No extra funding was available from grants for this area of ministry as compared to other Diocese and particularly large conurbations. He was encouraged that the two Deaneries had begun to work together, despite the legal process not yet being complete.

Plans and dates for Joint Synods were outlined by the Partnership Dean Laura Brabin-Smith (who is also the Graffoe Rural Dean). She reiterated Bishop Nicholas's comment on Diocesan finances for the provision of parish priests and offered a short precis on how we might meet the challenges ahead through good leadership and willingness to collaborate. She reminded those gathered that the To Love and Serve the Lord foundation modules were being offered for those who wished to consider lay ministry or perhaps deepen understanding of their faith.

Revd Philip Johnson, Rural Dean Lafford, gave an update on the existing motion which had been sent to the Diocese concerning the inequality of churches with open churchyards having to pay VAT on any maintenance costs, whereas with Local Parish Councils who maintain closed churchyards do not. He proposed to Synod that this motion be moved to Synod It was agreed with a wider vote of those from Graffoe Deanery. Note: This is to be proposed and voted on at the next Diocesan Synod on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2025.

**END OF REPORT**



#### Item 15 - South Lafford Prayer

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Bless us o God, on our journey through life. May we enjoy your creation and delight in our companions along the way.

Thank you for those who have given us our heritage of churches in this place, so that they may resound again and again to your praise, and proclaim your loving presence to all people of South Lafford.

May your Spirit lead us into the fullness of the Way, the Truth and the Life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen