

DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH



Rougham Benefice

Beyton & Hissett Parochial Church Council,
Rougham Parochial Church Council and
Rushbrooke Parochial Church Council

Reports and Financial Reports

For The Year

2025

Presented to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 26th April 2026

Annual Reports for APCMs 26th April 2026

Rector's Report

At this APCM, I have been blessed to serve you and your communities for two and a half years, and to continue working alongside Sarah as she comes to the end of her training period later this year. Her support, wisdom and encouragement have enabled us to minister together in a variety of ways, and I'm very grateful to her.

I was very grateful to the PCC for agreeing that I could continue my ministry here beyond retirement age until March 2027, and to Bishop Joanne for endorsing this decision.

It has been another busy and exciting year, with many positive things to report. This year, the Benefice Team (Clergy, Reader, Lay Elders, and Churchwardens) have worked hard and used their gifts to enable the spiritual, legal and strategic direction of the Benefice to flourish.

It was a joy to re-commission Debbie Marshall and Di Ruddock as Lay Elders, and to celebrate Ros Pitcher starting a 2 - year training period to become a Reader. Graham Rendle has continued to offer a monthly said service in Beyton, and his ministry among us is much appreciated. Kathy Kreetzer has completed a year of training to become a Children's and Families Minister, and we look forward to her being licensed to that role at the end of May. We are very fortunate to have such a gifted and committed team serving our churches and communities.

The Generosity Week campaign in November has resulted in an increase in the number of people giving financially, and despite an increase in what we were asked to pay towards the Parish Share we have managed to get close to our target of 75%. Thank you to all those who give financially to the work and witness of our 4 churches, and the significant role they play in being the Parish Church for everyone.

The online midweek worship offers an opportunity for those who might not necessarily attend church services in person and has regularly engaged approximately 30-50 people.

Our children's and families work goes from strength to strength, and you can read more about this in the report.

In addition to the coffee mornings, Hissett Tea and Chat, Knit and Natter, and the many other social activities that have taken place this year, some of the highlights have been

- the Annual Charity Tractor run on Easter Sunday morning, 2025;
- the amazing VE Day 80 celebrations in May, including dressing up in 40's style costumes, singing WW2 songs, eating fish and chips, and a poignant Act of Tribute in Rougham church, with the lighting of the Peace Lamp;
- the Global Week of Prayer 24/7 and the launch of our new café – style service In September
- the Remembrance Sunday Act of Worship on the Green in Beyton.

It is my privilege and pleasure at the Annual meeting to thank you for all that you contribute to our churches. I would like to thank our Clergy - Sarah and Graham; our Reader, Marcus; our Reader in Training and organist, Ros; our Lay Elders, Debbie, and Di; and our churchwardens, Peter P, Tony, and Di; our PCC secretary, Peter R; our Treasurer, Jackie, and all the PCC members.

Thank you also to the sidespeople and those who offer the ministry of welcome, the people who read the bible and lead the prayers in our services, those who have met informally to pray, the various home groups, the choir and musicians, the bell-ringers, the fundraising group, those who serve refreshments, arrange flowers, clean the churches, maintain the churchyards and generally help in any way they can.

We are also grateful for the work of Hessett Church Preservation Society for their hard work in raising funds to maintain and enhance building projects in Hessett Church.

On behalf of the PCCs I would also like to thank Jonathan Wilson for the huge amount of work he does for the magazine, and enabling news about our churches to be communicated to a wide audience

To all of you, whether you are mentioned or not, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the year ahead.

Revd Canon Julia Lall

Curates' report for 2025.

It was a pleasure to continue to serve amongst the church family and village friends throughout the year, and to take part in so many different activities. There have been many highlights, including spending time with the school children in their weekly Collective Worship sessions in the church, as well as occasionally helping out the Open the Book team. The weekly Babes and Tots work is also gradually getting established with some regular faces coming along and feeling that it is "their" group.

Other regular times have included the Coffee & Co meetings on a Tuesday morning, and these have led to many opportunities to share with friends on their journeys and to listen and try to encourage wherever possible. Tea and Chat on a Thursday afternoon, and the Beyton Coffee mornings have also featured, albeit maybe not quite so regularly as the weekly Coffee morning in Rougham.

I have been encouraged by the steady attendance numbers across our churches at all our services, especially where we have been building on new ones, such as the monthly one in Hessett, along with the contemplative said, midweek Holy Communion. This may only have low numbers at the moment but clearly meets the needs of some, and I would encourage others to come along and join us if you are able.

I think for me though, the main thrust of my service has been in the pastoral work – including 1 day a month helping as a volunteer chaplain at the hospice. Working with families who have lost, or are about to lose, a loved one is difficult and not

something I ever imagined that I would do, but the Lord always gives strength when required and it is such a privilege to be allowed to do this.

Thank you for all your prayer support and please don't stop, as I don't do any of this in my strength, but only in the name of Jesus so your prayers for me to remember that at all times, are invaluable.

Rev Sarah Lock

Report on the proceedings of the PCC. and the activities of the parishes

The Beyton & Hessett PCC met twice in 2025, Rougham and Rushbrooke PCCs met three times. There were two joint meetings of all the benefice PCCs as well as special meetings to discuss finance and a PCC vision morning where we met to look at the future strategy. Safeguarding is very important to the PCC and is an item on every PCC meeting agenda.

Peter Rutt (Lay Chair of the PCC)

Beyton Churchwardens Report 2025

Summary of Services

- Three Services held every month
- The Church is opened and locked everyday thanks to Deborah Mannion
- Baptisms – One in Beyton
- Weddings - None in Beyton
- Funerals - Three in Crematorium two burials in Beyton one being cremated remains

Beyton Repairs

- The sump pump in the boiler house was installed
- The Beyton parish council gave a grant in 2024 of £275 to cover the costs
- The two notice boards at the church entrance were refurbished
- The taps in the kitchen were replaced and the leak in the toilet mended

The fund raising team have excelled themselves this year raising over £2720 through coffee mornings and other events. In addition hire of the vestry raised over £310 and interest added £60. The cost of refurbishment was £400 cleaning £200 cost of fund raising £350.

The balance in the fabric fund stood towards the end of December stood at £10,850 and the PCC agreed to transfer £3,000 back to the general fund to go towards the Parish Share

Beyton Fabric Issues

- Quinquennial (2023) Works still to be progressed (approximate values £19,500)
 - Urgency less than 2 years £8,500
 - Urgency less than 5 years £11,000
 - There is an intermittent leak in the north roof
- Organ – the organ will not play any note C and requires music to be transposed to avoid having to play a C. The organ is a specialist design with all the connections being hand soldered. The organ builder has been ill.

Regular Maintenance Checks

- Regular Maintenance Checks
 - The Beyton Environmental Group keep the churchyard as a wildlife sanctuary
 - Grass Cutting – contracted out to Tristram Wallis
 - Church vestry kitchen and toilet cleaning contracted out to Lorraine McGuinness
 - Gutters Dec 2022 - Not done 2025
 - PAT last done - July 2022 due 2026
 - Electrical Test July 2022 due 2027
 - Fire Extinguishers inspected in May 2025 and repeated annually
 - Lightning Conductors every 4 years last done March 2023 next due 2027
 - Moles – As and when required
 - Terrier / Inventory completed July (One white wedding kneeler missing)
 - Gravestone safety check completed

Hessett Church Warden Report

Summary of Services

- Services Held at the start of every month with an average of 16 attendees for the Sunday services (ranging from 6 to 22 on any one Sunday).
- The Church is opened and locked everyday thanks to Nigel Howard
- Baptisms – None in Hessett
- Weddings - None in Hessett
- Funerals - None in Hessett

Progress / Repairs Since last update

- Many meetings held with the Architect - Slow progress as Grant Strategy options being reviewed. A drone photographic survey was carried out. The Architect has not charged for any of the works carried out during 2025.
- 2 Meetings held with diocese Historic building advisor
- Essential Works / Quinquennial Works still to be progressed (approximate values £250k)
 - Drainage / Possible Soakaways – pending survey
 - Gutters / Roof Repairs (Postponed in 2025)
 - Chancery Plaster Repairs (The plaster is in a poor state but no further significant debris in 2025, some large pieces fell in October 2023).
 - Specialist Plaster (Picture / Trim at alter)
 - Repairs to many of the Windows
- Works not highlighted on Quinquennial Report but urgent
 - Wood Survey – rotting pews etc.
 - Restoration of wall paintings including crack to North Door area
- Vision – 1 year later and we are still hoping to set-up a vision meeting. Lots of information gathering has taken place and a meeting is likely early 2026.

We have developed a Vision which is subject to all sorts of approvals, feasibility studies and obtaining substantial grants etc. But we are aiming high!

- To serve all the community
- To not become just a historical monument
 - Plan A - To build a new Community Hub to replace the aging Village Hall with carpark / improve the path to war memorial
 - Plan B - Kitchen and Toilets within the Church
 - Repair the unusable Bells
 - Repair the Organ which is in poor condition
- Fund Raising – Phil Barrett (Hessett Church Preservation Society) is kindly leading this work, and he has met with Architect and Historic Building Officers including a fund raiser with great experience of obtaining full grants from the National Heritage Lottery fund, and she is optimistic that our vision is something that meets their criteria.
- Phil has also
 - Identified Key Funds
 - Applications are pending Architect quotes (refining the brief has taken much longer than expected)
 - Statement of Need Drafted
 - Hessett has a Flagon Trust (worth about £10k +) maybe these funds could be released towards the works
- Regular Maintenance Checks
 - Cleaning Rota – Working well thanks to a team of generous volunteers but they have implied that some younger volunteers would be appreciated.
 - Grass Cutting – contracted out to Tristram – and we are happy with his services
 - Gutters last done in Dec 2022 – We have approval to proceed these for 2026.
 - Portable Appliance Testing was last done - July 2022 due 2026
 - Electrical Test July 2022 due 2027
 - Fire Extinguishers done annually
 - Roof Security – Done annually – next due 30/04/26
 - Lightning Conductors required every 4 years for the insurance policy, last done March 2023 next due 2027.
 - Moles – As and when required

The Church Warden and PCC would like to thank Hessett Church Preservation Society who hold many events to raise funds to support the fabric.

Hessett Church Preservation Society

The amazing team of volunteers who raise money to help preserve the Fabric of Hessett Church building, have put on a fabulous program of fund raising events during 2025 including:

- Pearl in the Egg medieval concert in April
- Hessett Open Gardens in July
- Second-hand book sale in October

Rougham Church Wardens Report 2025

It's been great to see that our church building continues to be well used, and also that the space at the back of church is being used regularly. 'Coffee and co' is held weekly, each Tuesday from 10am which continues to be very popular. 30+ people attending.

Toys continue to be left out at the back of the Church, and we have a bookstall in the south aisle as well. People are encouraged to come in with their children for a look round and to play with toys and make use of the books.

The Quinquennial report took place in November 2022. Unfortunately, quite a lot of work still needs to be carried out

Sadly, for personal reasons David did not stand as Churchwarden again at the APCM. We're extremely grateful to him for all the work he has put in over the years, and we miss his input on the PCC.

We now have just 4 people on Rougham PCC, me as Churchwarden, Hayley Horner our Deanery Synod rep. Mary Grenville and Andrew Wadley.

We appreciate Peter Pitcher (Beyton & Hessett) for his invaluable assistance with the sound system, and for monitoring our Gas and electricity usage. We are also very fortunate that Peter Rutt, our Benefice secretary has assisted with some of the churchwarden duties as well as liaising with and attending meetings with Architect, Archdeacon and DAC.

During 2025 various official meetings have been held relating to concerns regarding

- the external chancel wall and the east window,
- Universal Access Project for kitchen.
- Universal Access Project for hospitality area, adjacent area, entrance and toilet

Regarding the cracking to the chancel wall, the structural engineer recommended the removal of a small yew tree and severing the roots. We were also advised to dig a trial hole to establish the soil conditions and footings of the east wall. The monitoring of east chancel wall and window is ongoing

Regarding the Kitchen Universal Access project for the kitchen – we await the archaeologist digging a hole under the tower to investigate if there might be a void under the floor. It's unlikely but just in case Drury or other local nobility graves might be there

I'm pleased to report that all the statutory testing, servicing and maintenance have been performed

We continue to have sponsorship for the floodlights. However, it was noted that after the floodlight upgrade to LED, the west end of the village cannot see the tower as the west face is not illuminated. Arrangements are in hand to rectify this.

We're very fortunate that we're able to leave the church unlocked every day. We continue to have visitors to the church most days, many of whom call in while out walking the local footpaths.

The ever popular 'Rougham sings' performed 2 concerts in July and December.

We've also held a Harvest supper and a Christmas craft fair in church

Our Pantry in the Porch continues – Grateful thanks to Hayley for her hard work in keeping it stocked and tidy. Donations of foodstuff are always welcome.

A 'Come Together' Café style Service has now replaced Family@Church. People are welcomed with breakfast, and craft activities have been introduced for children attending. A reflective Holy communion service now takes place on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Our regular congregation remains constant in number, and we travel around the Benefice for our services

We continue to have strong links with the Primary school with a weekly year group assembly in Church as well as a weekly visit to school for Open the Book. During the year Bury Christian Youth (BCY) arranged prayer spaces in church for the children

The nursery children also come into church for activities and a 'look round' on occasions as well.

It was lovely to see the church full, at Easter and again in December, with the Primary School children, parents and grandparents. Their concerts being well attended as always. Not to be outdone, the nursery also held their Easter trail and Christmas 'show' in church

We were pleased to record 3 baptisms during 2025. We didn't have any weddings in church though. We held 1 funeral in church.

In December, we were privileged to provide access to the church for rest and refreshment for Kevin Sinfield and his team, during the early stage of his 2025 challenge raising money for Motor Neurone Disease. Press and TV were in attendance

Huge thanks as always are due to Ros and the choir, the flower arrangers, sides persons, our bell ringers (as well as visiting bellringers), those who count the money after services, and those who assist with locking and unlocking the church. There are so many people to thank, please forgive me for not naming you all. You know who you are and are much appreciated.

Di Ruddock

Treasurer's Report

Overview

All accounts for the year ending **31 December 2025** were prepared on a receipts and payments basis in line with Church Accounting Regulations. The overall financial health of each church has improved year on year, assisted by establishing a reserve policy. Sarah Place Accountants Ltd have reviewed and approved the financial statements.

Notable changes from 2024

- PCC Treasurer elected for the full year.
 - Reserve policy in place to ensure unrestricted fund balances are sufficient to meet future church running costs.
 - Decreased giving, although tax efficient methods of giving have increased.
 - Decreased parish share contributions and building work postponed to 2026/7.
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This is a summary of the **Beyton, All Saints PCC** financial statements:

- **Total Receipts:** £43,760 (2024: £47,006)
- **Total Payments:** £37,455 (2024: £44,280)
- **Excess of Receipts over Payments:** £6,305 (2024: £2,726)

Receipts

- **Planned Giving:** £21,029 (2024: £22,102)
- **Collections at Services:** £1,781 (2024: £1,675)
- **All Other Voluntary Giving:** £7,621 (2024: £7,827)
- **Grant Income:** £2,937 (2024: £1,535)
- **Legacies received:** £nil (2024: £2,000)
- **Gift Aid Recovered:** £4,808 (2024: £5,076)
- **Fundraising Activities:** £4,219 (2024: £4,362)
- **Church Activities (fees & rentals):** £1,264 (2024: £2,235)
- **Investment Income:** £101 (2024: £193)

Payments

- **Parish Share:** £25,000 (2024: £29,860)
- **Church Running Expenses:** £8,943 (2024: £9,127)
- **Building Work/Repairs:** £nil (2024: £2,448)
- **Other Expenditure (eg. churchyard):** £2,171 (2024: £2,845)
- **Fundraising Cost:** £1,341 (2024: £nil)

Cash Position

- **Cash at Bank:** £24,587 (2024: £18,282)
 - Bank Current Account: £6,391
 - Bank Savings Account: £18,196

Fund Balances

- **Unrestricted Fund:** £6,391
- **Designated Fund (Beyton Fabric):** £10,846
- **Restricted Fund (Hessett Fabric Fund):** £7,349

Total assets retained for church use **£11,141**, including War Stock, Charity Stock, and CBF fund shares.

This is a summary of the **Rougham, St Mary PCC** financial statements:

- **Total Receipts:** £39,014 (2024: £44,327)
- **Total Payments:** £36,376 (2024: £50,896)
- **Excess of Receipts over Payments:** £2,638 (2024: deficit of £6,569)

Receipts

- **Planned Giving:** £7,945 (2024: £11,433)
- **Collections at Services:** £4,376 (2024: £404)
- **Other Donations & Gift Aid:** £4,882 (2024: £12,086)
- **Gift Aid Recovered:** £5,455 (2024: £3,868)
- **Fundraising Activities:** £14,292 (2024: £11,462)
- **Church Activities:** £1,045 (2024: £3,998)
- **Investment Income:** £360 (2024: £481)
- **Grants Received:** £660 (2024: £595)

Payments

- **Parish Share:** £12,000 (2024: £24,430)
- **Running Expenses:** £15,356 (2024: £16,007)

- **Other Expenses (eg. churchyard):** £3,610 (2024: £3,486)
- **Fundraising Costs:** £5,410 (2024: £6,945)

Cash Position

- **Cash at Bank:** £51,728 (2024: £49,090)
 - Bank Current Account: £6,685
 - Bank Savings Account: £45,043

Fund Balances

- **Unrestricted Fund:** £6,685
- **Designated Reserves Fund:** £13,678
- **Restricted Fund (Universal Access):** £31,365

This is a summary of the **Rushbrooke PCC** financial statements:

- **Total Receipts:** £4,856 (2024: £1,196)
- **Total Payments:** £2,634 (2024: £2,498)
- **Excess of Receipts over Payments:** £2,222 (2024: deficit of £1,302)

Receipts

- **Collections at Services:** £436 (2024: £502)
- **Other Voluntary Giving:** £437 (2024: £265)
- **Gift Aid Recovered:** £339 (2024: £93)
- **Grant Income (mainly SHCT):** £3,468 (2024: £150)
- **Investment Income:** £120 (2024: £186)
- **Church Activities:** £56 (2024: £nil)

Payments

- **Church Running Costs:** £2,442 (2024: £2,318)
- **Administration:** £192 (2024: £180)

Cash Position

- **Cash at Bank:** £18,549 (2024: £16,327)

- Bank Current Account: £2,166
- Bank Savings Account: £16,383

Fund Balances

- **Unrestricted:** £2,166
- **Restricted (Fabric Reserve):** £16,383

Jackie Howard - Treasurer

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll stands at:

Beyton & Hesselton – 39

Rougham – 23

Rushbrooke – 4

Hayley Horner and Elisabeth Rutt

Choir

The church choir has continued to be a tower of strength in our worship. It never fails to amaze me that every week we have choir members who faithfully turn up and lead our worship.

We have added to our numbers but will always welcome new members - qualification - enjoy singing (in tune!) and love worshipping!

Sickness has recently befallen some of our members and I pray that they will soon come back. We miss them.

Ros Pitcher

Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding issues reported in the year 2025

All training has been updated and is ongoing.

There are about 20 people doing a variety of ongoing training including basic, foundation and leadership and Awareness of Domestic Abuse training.

Ann Ciorra, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Revd Canon Julia Lall, Rector

Small Group and Church Organisation Reports

Hessett House Group

This was closed in September. We were not meeting regularly due to illnesses and general business of its members.

When we did meet our fellowship was rich and spiritually fulfilling and the group was very supportive in prayer for all our various family situations, and for the various ministries and services that the members were involved with.

Tony Ciorra

Hessett Social Connections / Outreach

The Church representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee are helping to run the weekly Tea and Chat events plus the Event 42 program, which are 6 weekly social events set up to improve the social interaction of the Village since the Pub is still closed. These events have been sold out, and excellent connections are being formed. In September a new Blokes group has been formed who meet about every 6 weeks.

Tony Ciorra

'Rock Solid' Group Years 4 & 5 Rougham C of E Primary School

The Rock Solid group, run on Tuesday lunchtimes by Nicola Bolton Bury Christian Youth Schools' Worker and Kathy Kreetzer Rougham Benefice, continues successfully in school. Children who joined us after Autumn half term in 2024 have continued to attend as they move into Years 5 and 6. Some of them also participate in Rev Julia's Collective Worship team. We now have a group of around 10 children attending regularly.

The format of the session remains the same. We have a short time of teaching on a Biblical theme; this term we are looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. During the remainder of the session, we play a game and make a craft related to the theme. We value your prayers for this work that it will bear fruit in the lives of the children as they move on into secondary school.

Kathy Kreezer

Open the Book Assemblies Rougham C of E Primary School

The Open the Book programme is published by the Bible Society based upon stories written by Bob Hartman in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. Our team is very fortunate in that we are able to loan costumes, scenery and resources from the Open the Book team based in Thurston.

Open the Book assemblies take place in school every Thursday afternoon at the end of the school day. Our team is made up of Mary and Adrian Grenville, Rev Sarah, Debs Lucas, Ros Pitcher, Kathy Kreetzer and this year we have been joined by two members of the Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church.

Our team meets in church at 1.45pm to pray, to rehearse the script and the actions and to put on our costumes. We then go along to school for 2.40pm. The assembly lasts for around 10 – 15 minutes. School staff tell us that the children look forward to the Open the Book assembly each week. Whenever the script allows, we encourage a group of children to participate in the presentation which they greatly enjoy. This year the Bible Society has produced a lively opening song to introduce the assembly to which the children love to sing along.

It is an enormous privilege for us to be welcomed into school to share these wonderful stories with the children. The Bible Society says, 'A Bible story well told

has the power to spark the imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations.'

Kathy Kreezer

Messy Moments After School Club Years 1&2 Rougham Primary School

During the Autumn and Spring Terms we have started an after-school group held in the classroom on Thursday afternoons from 3.15 – 4.15pm. The programme is based upon Messy Church materials with an eco/environmental focus. Rev Julia leads the group supported by Mary and Adrian Grenville and Kathy Kreetzer. To date we have run the programme for 2 weeks before half term and 2 weeks after; so, 4 sessions in all each term. Around 8 children have signed up to attend each week.

We begin with a gathering activity which focuses on a Bible story and an interactive game. The children then can choose from a range of around 4 craft activities, moving around the tables supported by the adults. At the end of the session, we gather together to share what we have made and perhaps, for a closing game.

Kathy Kreezer

'Come Together' Service 3rd Sunday in the month

Following the change from the Family@Church service to the café style Come Together format, we have introduced craft activities for children attending. We try as much as possible to link the activities to the theme of the service to make the session meaningful for the school age children participating. However, we have to be flexible as the age range varies from month to month from babe in arms to pre-school children through to older children in Key Stage 2. We encourage the older children, once the discussion time has ended and the worship begins, to join their parents in the body of the church. Rev Julia and Rev Sarah also give the older children an opportunity to share with everyone present the things they have made and what they have learned in the session.

The craft activities are planned and prepared by Kathy. Hayler Horner and Mary Grenville support the sessions.

Please pray for our 'Come Together' service that it will draw in the families of the children we are working with in school each week.

Finally, just to say, that following her completion of the Diocesan Connect Families Ministry course in September 2025, Kathy is to be licensed as a Lay Children and Families Minister on Sunday 31st May 2026 at 10.30am – details tbc.

Kathy Kreezer

Babies and Tots

Rev Julia and Rev Sarah run a weekly Babies and Tots group in the school hall every Monday morning during term-time, providing a vital opportunity for parents and carers to meet, and for the children to develop social skills in a calm and caring environment.

Kathy Kreezer

Rougham Acorns Pre-School

Rev Julia is a Trustee and also visits fortnightly to read a story to the children, as well as attending social events for families at Easter, Christmas and in the Summer. These activities mean that we are enabling continuing relationships with children and their families from 0-11 years old.

Kathy Kreezer

REPORT OF LAVENHAM DEANERY SYNOD 2025

The Lavenham Deanery Synod met three times in 2025. We have had talks by Rev Katie De Bourcier on 'Mission and Church Growth', James Rolls on 'Net Zero' and a talk by Rev Laura Mumford, The Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler. All the talks were informative and stimulating.

We have been delighted to welcome new members to the synod this year, we are working to make Synod interesting and informative and have a good series of talk lined up for 2026.

Financially, the overall amount of parish share that the deanery was asked for was met by most benefices, but handful struggled by varying amounts. The amount paid went up overall.

We look forward to meeting together again in 2026.

Peter Rutt

Minutes of the JOINT 2025 APCM ROUGHAM with BEYTON & HESSETT

***Rougham, Beyton & Hessest Parochial Church Councils with Rushbrooke
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Joint APCM, Sunday 11th May 2025
Held 11.45pm, Beyton Church***

Election of Churchwardens

The Election of Churchwardens took place during the 10.30 service preceding the APCM

The nominations were:

Rougham – Diane Ruddock

Beyton & Hessest – Tony Ciorra

Beyton -Peter Pitcher.

Rushbrooke – There were no candidates. Richard and Janet Ball serve as ‘quasi wardens’ in looking after the church without taking on full liability.

Each person was unanimously elected. Rev Julia thanked them for their willingness to serve, and prayed for them.

Present for all Parishes:

Rev Canon Julia Lall (Chair), Rev Sarah Lock, Jackie Howard (Treasurer), Peter Rutt, Elisabeth Rutt, Debbie Marshall, George and Christine Whitton, Ros and Peter Pitcher, Diane Rendle, Di Ruddock, Beryl Bellerby, Trish Muxlow, Richard and Janet Ball, Sarah Cauldwell-Nichols, Tony and Ann Ciorra, John Selley, Roger and Bev Miller, Regina Chandaraj, Kathy Kreetzer, Doreen Walker, Ann Thwaite, Paris Wicks, Mary Grenville, Linda Southgate.

1. Apologies for absence

Janet Lowden, Brenda Beeton, Andrew Wadley, Rev Graham Rendle, Hayley Horner

2. Minutes of the APCM held on 12th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2024 were agreed as a correct record

3. Matters Arising

Maurice Rose had raised the issue of the sound system at Rougham. Some testing had taken place and it was thought that nothing could be done at the moment.

4. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parishes

The report was circulated a week prior to the meeting.

Ann Ciorra thanked Julia for all her hard work in the community.

Tony Ciorra stated that references to Beyton in the finance reports should read ‘Beyton and Hessest’.

5. Presentation of Electoral Roll

The roll numbers are-

38 People for Beyton & Hessest

21 People for Rougham

4 People for Rushbrooke.

6. Report on the audited/examined Financial Statements

The meeting received the reports from the Treasurer and had no comment.

Please note that the accounts are due to be signed off by the independent examiner in the week following the meeting.

A question was asked if gift aid has reduced due to the Parish Giving scheme, it was believed that actually more givers were dropping out of paying tax, therefore gift aid could not be recovered.

The meeting noted that the clergy had not claimed any expenses in 2024.

Peter Pitcher was looking into utility costs.

Julia noted that the benefice has achieved 100% of the 75% share requested. She thanked all concerned for their generous donations and hard work. Julia thinks that we should next work towards a 100% post and that we need an action plan of how to get there. Julia also thanked the interim finance team of Tony Ciorra, Peter Pitcher and Marcus Bateman for their efforts in keeping the finances going until the new treasurer took over. Peter Pitcher will continue as 'book keeper', Marcus will deal with gift aid matters. Many thanks to Jackie for becoming treasurer.

David Palmer has stepped back from being a Rougham churchwarden. The meeting expressed it's heartfelt thanks to David for his hard work.

Julia proposed that Sarah Place Accountants be retained as the Independent Examiner for the 2025 accounts.

Proposed – Rev Canon Julia Lall

Seconded Peter Rutt

All presented were in favour.

7. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The written reports were presented. There were no comments or questions.

8. Safeguarding Report

Julia asked the APCM to formally adopt the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy: Promoting a Safer Church.

Proposed – Rev Sarah Lock

Seconded – John Selley

All present voted in favour.

9. Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The written report was available in the reports document.

Chris Whitton would like to retire as Deanery Synod Rep.

10. Election of Vice Chair, PCC secretary, PCC Treasurer, PCC members, Electoral Roll Officers

There were no nominations to join the PCC.

The meeting agreed the election of the existing PCC 'en bloc' for a further year in office.

Composition of PCCs for 2024 therefore

Beyton & Hessett

Marcus Bateman – ex officio as Lay Reader

Tony Ciorra - ex officio as Hessett CW

Peter Pitcher – ex officio as Beyton CW

Peter Rutt – ex officio as Deanery Secretary
Chris Whitton – lay member
Debbie Marshall - lay member
Ros Pitcher - lay member
Trish Muxlow - lay member
Kathy Kreezer – lay member
Sarah Caldwell-Nichols - lay member

Rougham

Di Ruddock - ex officio as CW
Andrew Wadley - lay member
Hayley Horner – ex officio as Deanery Synod Rep
Mary Grenville - lay member

Rushbrooke

Richard Ball – lay member
Janet Ball – lay member

Jackie Howard sits on all PCCs as Treasurer

Peter Rutt elected Lay Chair for 2025

Debbie Marshall wishes to retire from being Electoral Roll officer and we should look for a replacement. Hayley Horner is understood to be happy to continue.

11. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner

This was dealt with under Financial Statements

12. Any Other Business

There was none

13. Open Discussion Time

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Minutes of Combined PCC meetings following the AGM

Present Rev Canon Julia Lall (Chairman), Rev Sarah Lock, Jackie Howard (Treasurer), Peter Rutt, Debbie Marshall, Christine Whitton, Tony and Ann Ciorra, Ros and Peter Pitcher, Di Ruddock, Trish Muxlow, Richard and Janet Ball, Sarah Caldwell-Nichols

1. List of Sidepersons

This was agreed

AOB

Peter Pitcher requested approval to raise the advertising charges for the magazine by 4%

Proposed Peter Pitcher
Seconded Chris Whitton,
All in favour.

Jackie raised the increase in Sarah Place's fees for 2025. Proposed JL, Seconded SL, all in favour

Meeting closed at 12:40pm

Date of next meeting for Beyton & Hessett 9th June, 16th June Rougham.

APPENDIX 1

List of Sidespersons – Beyton & Hessest

Peter Rutt
Elisabeth Rutt
Angela Peyton
Tony Ciorra
Ann Ciorra
Sarah Caldwell-Nichols
Debbie Lucas

List of Sidespersons – Rougham

Andrew Wadley
Ann Bell
Doreen Walker
Ann Thwaite

APPENDIX 2

List of PCC Members seeking re-election

Beyton & Hessest – maximum 6 lay members

Tony Ciorra - ex officio as Hessest CW
Peter Rutt – ex officio as Deanery Secretary
Chris Whitton -lay member
Debbie Marshall - lay member
Kathy Kreezer – lay member
Sarah Caldwell-Nicholls – lay member
Peter Pitcher- ex officio as Beyton CW
Ros Pitcher - lay member
Trish Muxlow - lay member
Sarah Lock – ex officio as curate
Marcus Bateman – ex officio as Lay Reader

Rougham– maximum 6 lay members

Di Ruddock - ex officio as CW
Andrew Wadley - lay member
Hayley Horner - lay member
Mary Grenville - lay member
Sarah Lock – ex-officio as curate

Rushbrooke– maximum 6 lay members

Richard Ball
Janet Ball
Sarah Lock – ex-officio as curate