

**The Diocese of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

**Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Andrew's Church
Kettleburgh
Suffolk**



For the year ended 31 December 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Church Address: Church Road,
Kettleburgh
Woodbridge IP13 7LF

Rector: Rev. Ann Kember

Address: 14 St Peters Close,
Charsfield,
Woodbridge,
IP13 7RG

Telephone: 01473 791505
0736 9240252

Banker: Barclays Bank PLC

Account: Account Number: 40534390
Sort Code: 20-98-07

Independent Examiner: Ms Rachel Parker
2 Park Corner
Tuddenham
Ipswich
IP6 9DE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body
established by the Church of England.
The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.
The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

	<u>PCC Member's Name</u>	<u>Term of Office Ends</u>
<i>Rector:</i>	Rev Ann Kember	
<i>Lay Elder:</i>	Mrs Jackie Clark	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mrs Persephone Booth	APCM 2026
	Mr Jim Duckham	APCM 2026
<i>Deanery Synod Representative:</i>	Mr Paul Baker	APCM 2026
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Mrs Anne Bater	APCM 2026
	Mr Paul Baker (Treasurer)	APCM 2026
	Mr Bill Clark (Vice Chairman)	APCM 2026
	Mrs Jackie Clark (Secretary)	APCM 2026
	Mr Trevor Jessop (Electoral Roll Officer)	APCM 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All regular church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Andrew’s PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

PARISH STATISTICS

Church Membership

Electoral Roll – Resident:
Electoral Roll – Non-Resident:
Average Weekly Adult Attendance:
Average Weekly Young Persons Attendance:

2025	2024
13	13
3	3
14	14
0	0

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

There was one Baptism in July: Wilfred Steele.
There was one funeral in November: Audrey Doyle.
There were two burials: Kathleen Taylor in November; Bryan Stannard in December.

Our Benefice service in **May** was at Hacheston and included the recommissioning of Elders, also the commissioning of John Adams as an elder. This celebratory service, where Archdeacon Rich preached, was followed by a Bring and Share lunch in Hacheston Village Hall. The following week a special Service of Remembrance for VE 80 Day was held at Campsea Ashe.



The third Sunday in May was a special day for John and Anne Bater. John was celebrating his 90th birthday and also their 65th wedding anniversary earlier in the year. A full peal of bells and a full church was a fitting tribute to them both.

Marlesford was the venue for **Rogation Sunday**, with prayers and tea, followed by a walk across the fields to Parham for an evening service.

In **June** we were delighted to welcome a newly retired priest, Alan Perry (who happens to be Rev. Ann's brother in law) to preach at the Trinity Sunday service at Marlesford.

A special service in **July** was the installation of Rev. Ann as Rector of Orebeck Benefice. As well as a new title, it also established the Benefice once and for all as a legal entity.

The **August** Benefice service at Brandeston followed on from the annual Holiday Club which met once again in Brandeston Village Hall (more details below).

In **September** a fault was discovered in the aisle ramp at St Andrew's. In order to avoid accidents, Kettleburgh's Holy Communion service took the form of Celtic Worship with the congregation seated in the space at the back of the nave. The following week Evening Prayer also took place in this space.

It was Kettleburgh's turn for the first Sunday Benefice service in **October** led this month by Rev Alan Perry. The ramp had by this point been removed, with a notice warning of a step.



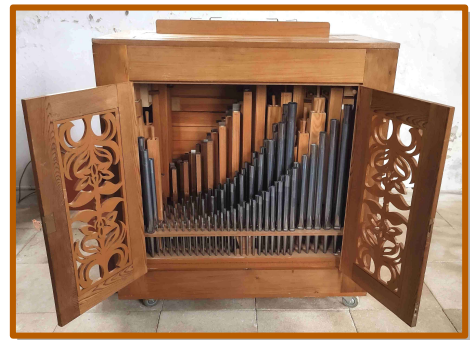
Our **Harvest** celebrations were in late October this year. Kettleburgh church was beautifully decorated and we enjoyed fellowship at an excellent supper in the Village Hall afterwards.



In **November** it was Brandeston's turn to host our joint **Remembrance** service. We are fortunate to have a bugle player in our village to sound the Last Post and Reveille as we pay our respects by the war memorial in the churchyard. A retiring collection was made for the Royal British Legion.



At the end of the month a special Benefice service at Kettleburgh marked Advent Sunday and St Andrew's Day and was also the occasion of the dedication of our new chamber pipe organ.



We were most grateful to Roger Pulham (maker of the organ) for playing it for us and also to the team of bell ringers who added a further dimension of celebration to the occasion.

Advent was marked with a study of Art in Advent, meeting this time in Brandeston Village Hall.

Our three Orebeck confirmation candidates (from Parham), were confirmed in mid **December**. The service, led by Bishop Graeme at Melton Parish church, was followed by a delicious lunch in Hacheston Village Hall.

At our **Christmas service** on Christmas Eve the church was full for our candlelit Carol Service, an opportunity to sing our favourite carols and to welcome the Christ child at Christmas. Thanks go to Julie and Jim Duckham for decorating the church and tree so beautifully.



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

From Persephone:

In 2025 the following work was done or considered for the fabric of the church. The plaster on the walls is starting to come off in places, due to the damp coming through from the stone walls. The architect Philip Orchard came to look on 30 June, and said that when repair work is done, in the future, we would need to have the plaster removed, and then allow the walls to dry out for up to six months. The drying out process would be quicker in the summer. This may involve moving the benches out of the way. We would need to have a workman who is on the Diocesan approvals list, and Ralph Carver, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market is on the approvals list. There may be a grant available of up to £5000.

The wooden ramp leading down to the aisle, which was put in as part of the reordering, was found to be rotten because of damp rising from the limestone ledger slab underneath. The architect came to have a look and recommended removing it, and having a step instead. There is too much damp to make it viable to have a new wooden ramp. A portable ramp has been donated to the church by Trevor Jessop, which we can use for wheelchair access. We are in the process of arranging for a carpenter to come and sort out the step.

Andy Barton did PAT testing in June. *Persephone Booth*

From Jim:

The churchyard continues to be mown by John Bater and myself. This is done approximately 6 to 8 times a year. The annual churchyard tidy-up was held on 8 November and the usual good turnout of about 12-14 volunteers equipped with their strimmers and garden tools and achieving a marked improvement to the main path and particularly the northwest corner of the churchyard. The long-term aim is to push out to the peripheries on the north and east sides. It is amazing to see how much can be achieved in 2 hours work – including a 20 minute coffee break!



A well earned coffee break



Cowslips in the churchyard

The electronic card-reader machine continues to provide a most useful facility for fundraising particularly for visitors to services, (most of the regular congregation use direct payment through Parish Giving) as well the occasional visit by those who might be termed "tourists". It has also been used at the Village Quiz nights in aid of St Andrew's.

The Benefice Big Breakfast, held between 9-11am on the last Saturday of the month at Hacheston Village Hall, continues as a great contact between the Benefice and its parishioners. My wife Julie and I are regular helpers, and we are now getting to the situation where we are regularly serving over 40 covers. No charge is requested, but voluntary contributions may be made. There is always room for more volunteers and it's great fun. The menu is a full English Breakfast with toast, tea and coffee.

A final thank you to Trevor Butcher who scales the ladders to raise the flags on the pole for the saints' days. *Jim Duckham*

MINISTRY TEAM

Our Ministry Team has grown together and meets weekly for prayers which are led in rotation by all those who attend. After the time of worship there is also time to communicate recent happenings and immediate future plans in the Benefice. There are also regular meetings to plan for forthcoming services and Benefice activities. An Elder's 'Awayday' in August provided time for quiet reflection, discussion and a relaxed shared lunch.

PCC MEETINGS

St Andrew's PCC met three times in 2025.

Its first meeting took place immediately following the **March** Benefice PCCs meeting, held in Kettleburgh Village Hall. Items under discussion included the revision of the church guide book; preparations for the installation of Rev. Ann as Rector to Orebeck Benefice; the successful completion of repairs as noted in our latest Quinquennial report; progress made to enable the installation of the Pipe Organ, with a query as to whether a faculty was required; the perennial issue of plastic flowers in the churchyard; the update of the list of graves.

The meeting in **May** followed our Annual Church Meetings at which special thanks were expressed to John Bater who, after 35 years had made the decision to stand down as churchwarden. There were no other changes in PCC officers from the previous year. The annual review of policies was completed, including the inclusion of the Diocese document's wording for Safeguarding; it was noted that a faculty was required for the installation of a pipe organ; the revised Guide Book was now available for visitors, printed by Jackie & Bill Clark; online safeguarding training had been completed as necessary.

Our **September** meeting also followed Benefice PCCs meeting in our Village Hall. It was noted that the faculty for the Pipe Organ had been granted and a small plaque would be attached to the organ in time for its dedication at the end of November. Further items from the September meeting are covered in other parts of this report.

OREBECK BENEFICE JOINT PCC MEETINGS

These meetings are held twice yearly in Kettleburgh Village Hall and are well attended by PCC members from our seven churches. Lesley Bensley, our Safeguarding Officer also attends and gives an update on safeguarding matters. At our **March** meeting this included new training materials, and an outline of procedures involved in the Diocesan Safeguarding audit. Rev'd Ann outlined the background details to her installation as Rector. She explained that the lifting of suspension meant that the Benefice is now stable and cannot be changed by the Diocese without consent from all seven parishes. Also, the incumbent's role is a crown appointment and therefore some form of letter will be received from the Crown office agreeing to change the Incumbent title from Priest-in-Charge to Rector. At the **September** meeting there was a discussion about the process of applying for faculties, comments about the burden of caring for church buildings and an agreement that the amount of Parish share paid to the Diocese would remain the same as the previous year for each parish. Rev. Ann outlined a new pattern of Sunday services for 2026, with each church having at least one Holy Communion service each month, but also encouraging members of each congregation to take an active part in other services. 5th Sunday services would take place at Hacheston.

LOES DEANERY SYNOD

The synod met in May and September in 2025 to discuss deanery matters and planning, and for worship and exchanges of news.

The presentations at the meetings included news from our link Diocese of Kagera and a presentation on how a new Archbishop is chosen.

BELL RINGERS REPORT FOR 2025

Due to a shortage of ringers in the village, we have depended on visiting ringers from local villages.

Ringling for special services and Sundays only happened a couple of times during the year. Two sets of visiting ringers came in October from Hollesley and Woodbridge. It was a joy to hear them.

In November we rang a quarter peel with Ruth Darton to celebrate her 80th Birthday. She grew up in Kettleburgh, and co-owns Langhurst with her sister Katherine.

As part of the repairs to the fabric of the Church, the bell chamber has been made pigeon proof. *Persephone Booth*

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS IN 2025

- Our **Guide book** has been renewed and reprinted, alongside the leaflet which describes and gives a background to the 10 shields affixed to the nave roof. Both are available at the back of church for a donation.
- Our **Orebeck Benefice news-sheets** are produced by Peter Marett of Campsea Ashe. They are sent out each month to all those who have requested a copy and are also available online and at our seven churches.
- In March, an event organised for village community life and to raise funds for our three village charities (the Village Green, the Village Hall and St Andrew's church) was a further **Curry night**. Our thanks go to Joan Mealing and Julie Duckham for their enthusiasm and expertise in planning and co-ordinating these events.
- Our Benefice website **Orebeck.org** is hosted by Mick Gowar and provides information and links to all Benefice matters.
- In July, a **Strawberry Tea** held in the Village Hall raised just under £100 for our funds and was a happy village occasion.
- The annual **National Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride'** took place as usual on the second Saturday of September, raising money which is shared between Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and St Andrew's.
- **Harvest celebrations** took place in October, followed by supper in the Village Hall. Thanks are due to all those who decorated the church and those who prepared a delicious supper.



- The **Orebeck Big Breakfast** continues to attract regulars and occasional passers. It takes place monthly on Saturdays in Hacheston Village Hall with a rota of helpers cooking and serving and welcomes all to attend. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.
- **Quiz Night** took place in November, raising just over £350. Thanks are due to Val Butcher and Graham Hillier for setting questions and scoring for the event.
- Donations to our local food bank continue, with a collection point in the Village Hall.
- Collections from **Children's Society** boxes, are sent to The Children's Society each year.

HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

Plans for the 2025 August Holiday Club for primary aged children in the Orebeck and Mid-Loes Benefices took shape in May. The theme this year was Navigators. Bible stories were chosen for each of the three days: Moses parting the Red sea; Jonah and the Whale; St Brendan and his journey across the Atlantic Ocean .Activities for each of the three teams (Magellan, Henry, Columbus) included cooking, craft and outdoor games and challenges.



The challenge for each team was to construct a boat in which all team members could fit.

Everyone made a Pharaoh mask after listening to the story of Moses.



Brandeston Village Hall was the base once again. Rev Ann and Mick Gowar took a leading role in all activities. Parents and carers were invited to join their children for a BBQ on the last day of the club and were also welcomed at the Benefice Sunday celebration service in Brandeston church.

Holiday Club
Here again for 2025
at Brandeston Village Hall



NAVIGATORS!

Primary-age children are invited to join us at this year's
Holiday Club
Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th August
9.30am - 1.30pm
You are welcome to come for 1, 2 or 3 days

Bring your own picnic lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday
We'll provide a free family barbecue lunch on Thursday
£5 per day for first child
£3.00 per day for additional siblings

Please contact
Mary Baker 01728 685407
marybaker55@hotmail.co.uk
Jackie Clark 01728 723623
jwc51@btintanet.com



REPORT FOR 2025 FROM REV ANN KEMBER, RECTOR FOR OUR OREBECK BENEFICE

It seems only yesterday that I was writing my report for last year – how time flies! We have had a good year as a benefice and I feel that, although we may not be substantially ‘Growing in Number’ or ‘Growing Younger’, we are growing together as a benefice and as a community of faith.

Firstly, we had one big thank you to say. Deirdre, after years of faithful service as a priest, decided that she would not renew her licence to officiate. On Mothering Sunday she officiated at her last service and we gave thanks for the support, wisdom and care that she has given this benefice, especially during the interregnum. Thankfully she will still be a worshipping member of our churches, and her sense of humour and perspective will help to keep me grounded!

As Deirdre stood down so we have Rev’d Alan Perry, who moved to Hacheston, and was granted permission to officiate in our benefice in April. He will be a great addition to ministry in the benefice.

We had more ‘thank yous’ to say on 4th May at a lovely service when Archdeacon Rich re-commissioned our Elders and commissioned John Adams as a new Elder. I remain so grateful for the faithfulness and dedication of our benefice Elders, without whom I could not fulfil my ministry.

On 6th July Archdeacon Rich returned to licence me as Rector of the benefice. Although the title does not change much, we are now more secure as a benefice and no changes can be made without our approval.

We had a busy Holy Week and Easter which brought a good number of new people through our doors. We had a Palm Sunday service split between the village hall and church at Hacheston and introduced a Taize service at Easton and a sunrise service at Brandeston on Easter Sunday followed by breakfast in the village hall.

One of the biggest joys of this year was the attendance at our Easter Eucharist at Parham when over one hundred people came to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. It was a real blessing, and a reminder to me to print off extra service sheets for next year!

We also had great attendances at all our Christmas services and our churches looked wonderful. Many, many thanks to all who clean and decorate our churches, not just for Christmas but throughout the year.

We had three successful courses in the benefice. Firstly, in January and February we held a course entitled, ‘This Christian Life’, where we looked at what it means to live out our faith in everyday life. At our Lent course we read John’s Gospel and for Advent we had three sessions on the art of Advent looking at some remarkable paintings.

Another highlight of this year was the confirmation of three members of the congregation at Parham. After some memorable confirmation classes, we joined up with St Andrew’s Melton for a very moving service led by Bishop Graeme on 14th December, followed by lunch at Hacheston Village Hall.

Holiday club ran again at Brandeston Village Hall and we had great fun with twenty children enjoying crafts, cooking and games. Our theme was ‘Navigators’ and we heard stories about Jonah, Moses and St Brendan. The children decorated and equipped three magnificent boats! Thanks must go to Mary Baker, Jackie Clark and Kelly Jeffery who always work so hard to make holiday club work so well.

Our benefice Big Breakfast has continued throughout the year, with a break in July and August, and attendance has been growing steadily. It is quite a big undertaking each month, but we have a wonderful group of volunteer helpers and those who come along for the breakfast are truly appreciative of the quality of what we provide.

We have had two joint PCC meetings this year and I hope that we will continue this practice as we grow together as a benefice and acknowledge that we are all part of the same community of faith.

We had joyous weddings at Parham and Easton, and a lovely baptism at Kettleburgh during a benefice service. We have already taken several bookings for weddings in the benefice for next year and beyond.

I believe that we end the year in a good place. We face a number of challenges, and I pray that our new Bishop, Joanne, will prove to be someone who acknowledges and appreciates both the struggles and the joys of rural parishes. Meanwhile let us resolve to keep growing as a community of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ and bringers of his good news to all those who we serve.

Most of all, I am grateful to all who give so much of their time and effort in our churches so that they may remain places of spiritual nourishment to many.

Ann

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on *3 April 2025* and signed on its behalf:

W J Clark. *4 April 2025*
(Vice Chairman) (date)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH, KETTLEBURGH, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on page 10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dated 11/03/2026

Signed



Miss Rachel Parker
2 Park Corner
Tuddenham St Martin
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP6 9DE

Financial Report 2025

The Receipts and Payments account showed a profit of £3892.76 due to increases in Planned Giving, Collections and Tax recovered from Gift Aid. Church expenses were £1000 less than last year which has led to overall fall in expenditure of 954.31. The closing balances on the General and Fabric Funds were £21805.52 and £378.72 respectively.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KETTLEBURGH - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Receipts and Payments

	2025			2024				
<u>Receipts</u>	Unrest	Rest	Totals	UnRest	Rest	Totals		
GA Planned collections	9107.81		9107.81	6061.69		6061.69		
Collections -&Other giving	1888.13		1888.13	1487.14		1487.14		
Special collections		0.00	0.00		104.00	104.00		
Donations	40.00	10.00	50.00		10.00	10.00		
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	2188.09		2188.09	1353.00		1353.00		
Fund Raising	1148.17		1148.17	1196.96		1196.96		
Fees	50.00		50.00	1275.00		1275.00		
Harvest supper	55.60		55.60	0.00		0.00		
Interest	727.83	41.48	769.31	671.89	184.93	856.82		
Major Works			0		3185.63	3185.63		
Total receipts	15205.63	51.48	15257.11	12045.68	3484.56	15530.24		
			2025			2024		
<u>Payments</u>								
Grants - Overseas			0.00			0.00		
Grants - Home	500.00		500.00	450.00		450.00		
Special collections paid			0.00		104.00	104.00		
Diocesan Parish share	8000.00		8000.00	8139.00		8139.00		
Church expenses	2053.44		2053.44	3065.72		3065.72		
Clergy expenses	348.91		348.91	235.17		235.17		
Major Works		693.64	693.64		7350.76	7350.76		
Church maintenance	91.86		91.86			0.00		
Cost of services	270.66		270.66	188.29		188.29		
Administration			0.00			0.00		
Fundraising expenses			0.00	51.00		51.00		
Fees paid out	48.00		48.00	138.00		138.00		
Total Payments	11312.87	693.64	12006.51	12267.18	7454.76	19721.94		
Excess of income over expenses	3892.76	-642.16	3250.60	-221.50	-3970.20	-4191.70		
Opening balances	1.1.25	17912.76	1020.88	18933.64	1.1.24	18134.26	4991.08	23125.34
Closing balances	31.12.25	21805.52	378.72	22184.24	31.12.24	17912.76	1020.88	18933.64
Statement of Funds			2025			2024		
General Funds - Unrest			21805.52			17912.76		
Fabric Fund - Restr			378.72			1020.88		
Total Funds			22184.24			18933.64		
Represented by:			2025			2024		
Barclays current ac			4415.56			1934.27		
CBF Deposit account			17768.68			16999.37		
			22184.24			18933.64		