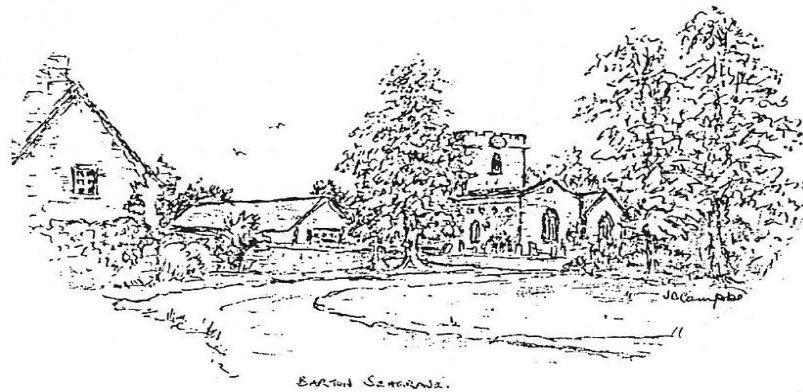


# **ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH**

**BARTON SEAGRAVE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

*(Registered Charity Number 1130426)*



**PRESENTED TO THE**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## St Botolph's Church

---

This page has no content

**St. Botolph's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting .....</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Rector's Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. St. Botolph's Accounts 2024 .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5. Churchwardens' Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>6. Fabric Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>7. Children's &amp; Youth Ministry 2024.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>8. Families and Children's Worker Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>9. Safeguarding Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>10. Lay Pastoral Minister's Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>11. Mission Task Group Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>12. Women's Ministry Annual Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>13. BCUK church-based Intern 2024.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>14. Men@St Bots Report 2024.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>15. Harvest for the Hungry Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>16. Bellringers Report 2024.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>17. Midweek Service Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>33</b>

## St Botolph's Church

---

This page has no content

**Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Vestry Meeting at 7:45pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8:00pm in church

Opening Prayers and Welcome

**Vestry Meeting**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Churchwardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
4. Electoral Roll
5. Finance Report
6. Appointment of Independent Examiners
7. Chairman's Report
8. Annual Reports
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting

## St Botolph's Church

---

This page has no content

# St Botolph's Church

---

## **Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting**

held in Church House on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.45pm

50 Parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

The meeting opened with a hymn - Cornerstone

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: Lou Adamson, Judith Bland, Phil Burch, Lindsay Burch, Geoff Curnock, Cynthia Duckworth, Judith Edwards, Diana Ellis, Pippa Evans, Mark Goundry, Natalia Goundry, Victoria Hutchinson, Carol Jackson, Claire Johnson, Peter Jackson, Brenda King, Veronica Loo, Angela McClatchy, Debbie Palmer, Jem Palmer, Roger Pedley, Rosemary Pedley, Gloria Smith, Jane Wade and Angie Welch

### **2. Approval of Minutes from the Vestry Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

A Keach proposed and Paul Gosling seconded that the minutes of the last Vestry Meeting be approved as a true record. **Agreed unanimously.**

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

### **4. Election on Church Wardens.**

Nominations for the positions of Churchwarden had been received for:

- Paul Gosling nominated by Andy Clark and seconded by Heather Knighton
- Peter Jackson nominated by Heather Knighton and seconded by Adrain Keach

There being no other nominations they were **appointed unanimously.**

Rector recorded his thanks to Adrian Keach for the 25 years that he has served as church warden now that he is stepping down.

# St Botolph's Church

---

## **Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church House on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 8.00pm**

**Present:** Rev Mark Lucas (Chair) and 50 parishioners.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were the same as for the Vestry Meeting.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from the APCM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

Graham Tilney proposed and Jane Griffiths seconded that the minutes of the last APCM (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023) be approved as a true record.

*Agreed unanimously.*

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Election of Parochial Church Councillors**

There were eight vacancies on the PCC, three nominations had been received.

- Martin Adamson proposed by Heather Knighton and seconded by Jane Griffiths
- Daniel Eade proposed by David Scullion and seconded by Lydia Scullion.
- David Wright proposed by Adrian Keach and seconded by Cayti Bilski

*Appointed unanimously.*

### **5. Electoral Roll**

There were 254 people on the electoral roll following the latest update – this an increase of 30 people from last year.

### **6. Finance Report**

D. Wright (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2023.

There was an overall surplus of £58,768 against the planned budget, this was made up of:

- Surplus on Restricted Funds of £15,279
- Surplus on Designated Funds of £84,473
- Deficit on General Fund of (£40,953)

The budget set for 2023 predicted an overall deficit of £36,421. The variance of £95,189 was mainly due to:

- Donations to the Heating Fund Appeal.
- Interest received from investments which were greater than predicted due to current interest rates.
- Planned repair and maintenance being deferred to 2024.

The deficit on the General Fund was mainly due to:

- Planned giving being approximately 8% lower than budgeted for
- Reduced income from activities.

This deficit will have to be balanced with money taken from the other funds as we are not allowed to report a deficit on the General Fund. It is unlikely that we will have a surplus available to do this again next year, so it is important that General Fund is in balance by the end of the year.



# St Botolph's Church

Overall reserves now stand as follows:

Movement of Funds Statement for 2023					
Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Variance	Closing Balance at 31/12/23
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted	115,020	44,685	29,436	15,249	130,269
Unrestricted	149,766	126,115	41,642	84,473	234,239
General	-	186,638	227,591	(40,953)	(40,953)
	264,787	357,438	298,669	58,769	323,555

DW gave a detailed presentation of the income and expenditure for 2023.

The budget for 2024 was presented as follows:

	Actual 2023	Budget 2024			
	Outturn £	General Fund £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income	357,438	206,747	15,500	45,700	267,947
Expenditure	298,669	206,747	32,280	96,884	335,911
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	58,768	0	(16,780)	(51,184)	(67,964)
<b>Funding from Reserves</b>					
General Fund	(40,953)	0			
Unrestricted	84,473		16,780		16,780
Restricted	15,249			51,184	51,184
Funding Surplus/(Shortfall)	- 0	-	-	-	-

There were no questions.

Rev. Lucas emphasised that the deficit on General Fund is a serious matter and asked members to prayerfully review their planned giving.

Rev Lucas addressed the fact that some people have stopped their giving because they are concerned recent developments in the Church of England. The PCC are only paying the diocese the proportion of the Parish Share needed to cover the costs we generate, so this is not an issue that needs to be worried about. The PCC are yet to decide how to allocate the surplus but it will not be used to balance our budget as this money is intended to support other ministries. As such, the balance of the Parish Share has been allocated as expenditure in the accounts – this has been approved by the auditor.

The PCC are exploring options that would allow people to give knowing that their money will only be used in ways which we believe to be biblical.

## 7. Appointment of Independent Examiners

Alan Deedes has resigned and a new Independent Examiner needs to be appointed. Rev Lucas will consult with the wardens.

## 8. Chairman's Report

Rev. Lucas' report had been circulated as part of the APCM booklet. He spoke on Phil 2 and the need for us to live in the light of the cross. Living as a Christian is not just about what you think or believe but also about how you live your life. In England, we are living in a genuinely post Christian culture where the default position now is to be an unbeliever but we are to be salt and light to this, often confused, generation. Overall, attendance in the

# St Botolph's Church

---

Church of England is in freefall, so we should be encouraged by the way that God is blessing this church. We must pray that this will continue and that we will live out our salvation in fear and trembling. We must remember that we can't do anything without God's help, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and we should be excited about what God is doing in this church. We pray that people won't just come to church services but repent and know Jesus. We pray that this won't just be in our church but will be widespread growth.

## **9. Annual Reports**

The annual report had been published before the meeting. Helen Tilney (Family Support Worker) and Rev. Andy Clark were invited to give a further verbal report.

HT thanked everyone for their support and prayers and agreed that we should give thanks to God for what he is doing within the church.

AC said that among the young people there has not been huge growth in numbers but real growth in maturity as Christians. The same group of young people are coming to either 180 and Link week after week. Some previous Link members have now become leaders and another is aiming to do a gap year at The Gaines. A number of our young people are involved in leading the CU at Bishops Stopford which is attended by 40 to 50 students each week.

There is much to give thanks for especially the leaders team who serve so faithfully.

Rev Lucas also drew attention to the growing Men's Ministry as there are now 55 in the WhatsApp group. The Lady's Ministry continues successfully, as seen at the recent Ladies Breakfast.

## **10. Safeguarding Report**

The Parish Safeguarding Officer's report had been circulated before the meeting. There was nothing further to add.

## **11. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

There was a time of pray in small groups, a hymn was sung and the grace was said.

# St Botolph's Church

---

## 1. Rector's Report 2024

The God is good and he loves to bless His people despite our sinfulness. His blessing comes to us by His grace which, by definition, means it cannot be earned. We love Him because he first loved us (1 John 4v19), and that while were still His enemies (Romans 5v8). God has truly been gracious to us in 2024.

Some highlights of 2024:

- In our Sunday morning sermons, we continued to consider John's Gospel reaching the end of chapter 17 by mid-Autumn. We will pick up at chapter 18 in Lent next year. We began a series preaching through 1 Peter.
- On Sunday evenings we completed our studies in Galatians. We then considered the letter of James before looking at the Old Testament prophecy of Zechariah. It is a privilege to have a number of retired ministers in regular attendance at this service. What a joy it is to help bring spiritual refreshment to those who have given their lives to gospel ministry.
- During Lent we went back to basics and considered: The Person, The Problem, The Plan, The Progress and The Prospect.
- God has blessed us with real growth over the year. Every congregation was significantly larger by the end of the year than it was at the start, and the growth continues. Why is God doing this? Only by His grace. We do our best faithfully to teach and live the Scriptures in everything we do.
- Our weekly Thursday morning service continues to be a blessing with a good number of people meeting regularly each week. There is a growing sense of community at this service and many now consider it their spiritual home.
- Our financial challenges continue with the related challenge of personnel to fulfil all the ministries we would like. During the year, in response to the dire situation in the Church of England, the PCC decided to reduce our parish share payments, paying the diocese only our direct costs. It is a matter of conscience that we feel unable to support godless ministry in the diocese. The amount withheld from our share payment will be used to support gospel ministry.
- Extensive remodelling has been commenced in church on the side chapel. This adds to the installation of a toilet and a servery in the church building. Glass doors on the chapel will add a degree of privacy and allow the room to be used for multi purposes.
- We continue to pray for the future of the 'Hanwood Park' development in the parish, which continues to grow apace. There is an urgent need to plant a congregation on the development although there is no obvious accommodation for such. Hayfield Cross school is currently the only building we might use, a secondary school is also imminent but building has not yet started.
- I was privileged to be granted Sabbatical leave during the summer. As retirement for me is beginning to appear on the horizon I used the time to think about 'finishing well'. As part of my leave Julie and I visited the Northwest coast of Scotland. This is an area that means a lot to me because of family holidays there as a child. It was truly encouraging to see God at work through the Free Church of Scotland which remains relatively strong even in the tiniest of communities.
- The Diocese appointed a new bishop, The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin. We continue, due to our orthodox, complementarian theology, to enjoy the episcopal ministry of The Rt Revd Rob Munro, Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Working with a woman diocesan bishop will be interesting, but I believe mutual respect is the way forward. Early signs are good I think.
- I continue to serve on the General Synod. This has been a very hard year for orthodox believers in the wider church. The sense of responsibility on General Synod weighs heavily.
- The situation in the Church of England continues to deteriorate as moves continue to be made towards authorising the blessing of sin. Many, maybe most, of the bishops have abandoned their belief in Scripture as God's Word.

Of course, ministry at St Botolph's is shared by many people. In particular I am hugely grateful to our ministry team. It is a real privilege to work with Andy and Helen in this regard. Andy, as associate minister, assists in many ways above and beyond his responsibilities with the youth. He bore the brunt of responsibility during my sabbatical leave. Helen is simply a whirlwind of ideas, enthusiasm and wisdom, constantly impacting on ministry among children and families. The ministry has now been augmented by the addition of Julie Lucas, a BCUK intern. Julie is working closely with Kate addressing pastoral issues.

## St Botolph's Church

---

Every year I mention the team, but my repetition is not to be understood as in any way vain. It really does continue to be an enormous privilege for me to work throughout the year with our outstanding team of preachers: Andy Clark, Robert Bashford, and Martin Adamson. We are truly blessed that God has given us such a gifted and able team, ready and willing to serve, using their God-given gifts, bringing God's word with seriousness and humility.

It is also a real joy to have a team of service leaders who bring us into God's presence with sensitivity and joy. A great strength of the Church of England is our liturgy, much of it crafted over centuries, and even millennia. It is biblically based and used creatively it draws us into God's presence, assures us of His undeserved grace and mercy, reminds us of a timeless truth, and prepares us for the ministry of God's word. It is the skill of the service leader that ties all these threads together.

I want to record a special note of thanks to the Wardens. They are patient and provide wise counsel through the issues we face. Carl Willis has joined the wardens' team as a deputy.

A big thank you must also go to those who have served on the PCC and its sub-groups, you are a great group of people without whom we could not operate. In addition to the wardens, I am especially thankful to, David (Treasurer), Kate (Pastoral Assistant) and Martin (PCC Secretary) for your tireless service. I am also hugely grateful to Tim Acland who is a very gifted handyman, there seems to be little in terms of maintenance he doesn't know something about! He does a first rate job and saves us a lot of money into the bargain.

Finally, I could not write a report without recording my thanks to Heather who keeps us all under control. She is an angel whose skill and patience seemingly know no bounds!

May God continue to bless us as we look forward to another year serving Him. May His name be glorified in all we do and are.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

Mark Lucas - Rector

## 2. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2024

Our mission is to encourage and support the churches of our Deanery to build the Kingdom of God. We do this by: building relationships; sharing resources; and praying for each other.

### What is Deanery Synod?

Kettering Deanery is one of 12 geographical areas within the Diocese of Peterborough, containing a number of neighbouring churches.

The Synod comprises the clergy of the Deanery, along with elected lay members from each parish or benefice. The number from each is linked to a church's electoral roll. Lay members were elected in April/May 2023 for a three-year term of office.

### Who leads and manages Deanery Synod?

The current officers are:

Rural Dean: Revd Nicki Hobbs (St Andrew Broughton with Cransley with Mawsley)

Assistant Rural Dean: Revd Tom Houston (St Andrew's, Kettering)

Lay Chair: Peter Jackson

Secretary: Steve Atkins (resigned February 2025)

Treasurer: Alan Ridley

These officers are joined by Hazel Goodman and Lyn Ridley to form the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. This group met three times during the year.

### What happens at Deanery Synod meetings?

Meetings naturally open with Prayer and Worship. They also briefly consider recurring business items such as: reports from Diocesan and General Synod; Finance, including Parish Share; local pastoral matters.

Each meeting also has a primary focus.

### Our meetings in 2024:

- February – discussion in groups about the role of Deanery synod, why people volunteered to be involved, and hopes for future synod meetings.
- June – visit from Bishop Debbie who spoke about her vision for the diocese and answered questions from the floor.
- October – discussion on finances and fundraising. Alan Ridley was appointed as Deanery Treasurer. The synod voted to create a Kettering Deanery facebook group for advertising services and events, and sharing good news stories.

We also welcomed Charlie Nobbs, the Diocesan Director of Mission, to the deanery during his prayer walk round the diocesan boundary as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Q-Am I able to get involved if not an elected member? - Yes!

Speak to one or more of your church's Deanery Synod representatives about Synod activities.

Many meetings are open to all, so why not ask what topics are planned for 2025 and consider coming along.

Kettering Deanery Synod Secretary.

# St Botolph's Church

## 3. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2024

### 3.1 Aim and Purposes

St Botolph's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Mark Lucas, in promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, promoting the mission of the Church, as well as pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters in the Parish. The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and land of the Church, Church House, Rectory Cottage, and the land upon which stood the old Church Rooms. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. The PCC is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under number 1130426. The Church Representation Rules 2020 (Part 9 Rule M5(1)(b)) require "an annual report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally" to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### 3.2 Objectives, Aims and Achievements

Comments on the Church's objectives, aims and achievements for the year, and plans for the future are set out in the Report of the Churchwardens.

### 3.3 Membership

PCC Members are elected by the APCM for a period of three years.

The size of the PCC is determined by the number of people on the electoral roll. St Botolph's therefore has 15 elected members although this can be altered by a resolution at the APCM. The PCC can then co-opt up to 3 further members.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served on the PCC:

Chair	Rev'd Mark Lucas
<b>Ex-officio Members</b>	
Church Wardens	Paul Gosling Peter Jackson
Deanery Synod Members (elected to 2026)	Kate Curnock Peter Jackson Adrian Keach Heather Knighton Julie Lucas Helen Tilney
Associate Minister	Rev'd Andy Clarke
<b>Elected Members</b>	
Secretary	Martin Adamson (2027)
Treasurer	David Wright (2027)
	Tim Acland (2025) Pippa Coe (2026) Daniel Eade (2027) Robert Edwards (2025) Paul Gosling (2025) Jane Griffiths (2026) Nick Johnson (2026) Helen Laughton (2025) David Scullion (2026) Carlton Willis (2026)  <i>There were three unfilled vacancies.</i>
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	
	None

# St Botolph's Church

---

## 3.4 Church Attendance

The number of people on the Electoral Roll was 256. Attendance at the 10am Sunday service is generally just over one hundred adults and more than twenty children. The 6:30pm service is normally between thirty and forty adults with a similar number attending the Thursday morning service.

The Sunday morning service continues to be live streamed on various platforms and although it is not possible to determine how many people are watching at anyone time, it has become a valued way of being part of the fellowship for those who can not be there in person.

## 3.5 Organisation

The full PCC has met on five occasions since the last full PCC. Much of the work of the PCC is conducted by various task groups and committees, namely:

- Standing Committee
- Business and Finance Task Group
- Fabric Task Group
- Missions Task Group

## 3.6 Safeguarding and Risk Management

Health and Safety is the responsibility of the PCC as is Safeguarding. The PCC made the following appointments:

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Martin Adamson
- The Parish Safety Officer is Robert Edwards.

## 3.7 Main Objectives of the Year and Major Topics of Discussion

PCC meetings routinely include reports from the Task Groups as well as reports on the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings; staff reports are received from the Associate Minister and the Children & Families Worker. Safeguarding and Health & Safety are also standing agenda items. In addition to this the PCC has:

- Continued to prayerfully consider the right way to respond to developments in the Church of England that are taking the church away from Biblical teaching.
- Made changes to our banking arrangements to make processes more straightforward.
- Reflected on the implications of the establishment of the Standfast Trust.
- Considered the implications of recent safeguarding scandals in the Church of England and initiated a review of our safeguarding processes in light of this.
- Received a report on the Rector's sabbatical.
- Oversaw the development of the side chapel.
- Begun to consider the challenge of mission to the Hanwood Park estate.

## 3.8 Financial Report

The accounts for the year to 31st December 2024 are included in the papers assembled together for this Annual Report and reference should be made to the Treasurer's "Financial Review" for an appreciation of the Church's financial position.

## 3.9 The Future

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Fresh ideas regarding the exercise of these duties are always welcome, and decisions are made after prayerful consideration. Anyone aged 16 or over and on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for nomination as a PCC member and is encouraged to do so. There are seven places on the PCC to be filled at the 2025 APCM.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by Revd. Mark Lucas

**4. St. Botolph's Accounts 2024**

*Registered Charity Number 1130426*

**St Botolph's Church**

**Barton Seagrave**

**Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Table of Contents**

<b>F-1.</b>	<b>Financial Review</b>
<b>F-3</b>	<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>
<b>F-4</b>	<b>Statement of Financial Activities (Income)</b>
<b>F-5</b>	<b>Statement of Financial Activities (Expenditure)</b>
<b>F-6</b>	<b>Summary Statement of Funds</b>
<b>F-7</b>	<b>Balance Sheet</b>
<b>F-8</b>	<b>Notes to Financial Statements</b>



## Financial Review

### Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

*The attached Accounts give information required of the Parochial Church Council by law as good stewards of monies received and paid.*

The Financial statements are set out in pages F4-F8 of this report.

We have had a challenging year in many ways, as we started the year with a budgeted shortfall of £67,964, which was to be funded from contributions from unrestricted and restricted funds and the general fund was set a net nil balance.

The actual outturn for 2024 showed a deficit of £13,582, broken down by a surplus on restricted funds of £500 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £14,082. There was a deficit on the general fund of £614 which it is proposed to be funded by transfers from the staffing and youth funds as has been done in previous years.

Funding for the Family Support Worker continues and is through one off income and regular donations. In year income amounted to £22,275 and expenditure on salaries and expenses of £28,193. The balance on the FSW fund at the end of 2024 was £32,491.

The general fund was budgeted at a nil balance for 2024 but saw a number of variances during the year. Planned giving was £8k above expectations, bank interest received was £9k above expectations but gift day budgeted for at £5k didn't take place and income from activities was £4k below budget. Expenditure saw increases in heating costs of £7.2k and general expense costs of £1.9k. Overall the general fund was in deficit by only £614 and this will be funded by a transfer from the staffing fund and a contribution from the youth fund.

Whilst we are showing a deficit for 2024 of £13,582 this was against a forecast deficit for 2024 of £67,964. This was an in-year variance of £54,382 and was due to extra income of £7.8k and a reduction in planned expenditure of £45.1k. The reduction in planned expenditure was again due to the profiled spend of some major Church repair works which was £49.6k below budgeted. The deferral of planned repair and maintenance costs into next financial year and will be funded from various restricted and unrestricted funds. There was however an increase in general expenditure which will have to be carefully monitored in the coming year.

In previous years the staffing youth funds have been used to contribute towards the cost of the Associate Minister that had been paid through the Parish Share. We have managed this year to continue to make that contribution, However as funds are reducing we will need to take extra care to ensure the general fund remains in balance for 2024.

The designated and unrestricted funds outturn was a deficit of £14,060 and we also saw a deficit on the general funds of £989. This was a better result than expected and in general, this was due to planned building works not taking place in year.

Overall, for 2024 the level of unrestricted and general funds stands at £178,351 down from £193,286 and the restricted funds stand at £130,155 down from £130,269 in 2023.

In reviewing the accounts, other points come to note:

- Planned giving increased to £142,005 (2023 £134,579) an increase on last year's actuals of £7,205, FSW planned giving was £22,275 this was down on last year and saw a reduction in one off donations.
- The income from Weddings and Funerals and lettings saw a slight recovery on last year at £12k.
- General expenses were higher this year up 1.9k on 2023 but this was due to higher expenditure on funds other than the general fund. We also saw the implementation of debit cards for the church staff.

# St Botolph's Church

---

- Major repairs and maintenance to the Church and Church properties in 2024 was £24,008 (2023 £45,908). There are some repairs that remain outstanding and will be re programmed into 2025. Spend on general maintenance was £3,101, in line with 2023 (£3,176).
- Giving to Missions from the general and unrestricted funds was £21,050.

At the end of 2024:

- General Fund before transfers stands at a deficit of £614 for 2024 and the
- The Youth and Staffing Fund is now showing a balance of £25,338. (2023: £27,114)

The year ahead will bring with it continuing financial challenges, the actual general fund deficit in 2024, will be funded from a transfer from the youth and staffing fund. In 2024 we can't continue to rely on the General fund being bailed out, therefore it is vital that the budget for 2025 is set as a balanced budget against the general fund and costs allocated to the correct fund. We will have to continue to apply tighter financial management in the hope that we will be able to bring the Church general fund finances into balance for 2025 and relying less on transferring funds to correct any deficit at the year end. This will require strong financial stewardship, but at the same time ensuring that resources gifted are used in a way that will bring glory to God.

It is a constant challenge to be wise stewards of the resources we have and to be bold in the cause of the Gospel. Through the continued development of new homes in our Parish we have opportunities as never before to reach out to our surrounding community.

We pray that God will provide the resources, human and financial in the years ahead.

*"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."*  
Deuteronomy 16:17

May we bring Glory to God in all we do, day by day, week by week.

*David Wright (Treasurer) February 2025*

# St Botolph's Church

---

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (PCC) of St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave

This report on the Financial Statements of St Botolph's Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 43 of the Charities act 1993.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the 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 Archbishop's 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.

Rachel Samways  
Kettering  
Northants



Date:

21/3/25

# St Botolph's Church

## Statement of Financial Affairs (Income)

Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Actuals 2023	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024	Provisional Budget for 2025		
					Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
<b>Incoming Resources</b>							
<b>Receipts from donors</b>							
Planned Giving (Bankers Orders)	133,442	21,527	120,478	142,005	22,100	112,700	134,800
Planned Giving (FWO)	1,137	0	749	749	0	2,000	2,000
Other Planned Giving (Tax Efficient)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Giving (Non Gift-Aid)	5,918	0	3,904	3,904	50	5,200	5,250
Collections at Services	3,814	0	4,752	4,752	0	4,000	4,000
Non-Recurring/ Non Gift-Aided Income	575	260	750	1,010	50	1,000	1,050
Non-Recurring/ Gift Aided	313	100	2,975	3,075	300	200	500
Gift Day	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	54,341	3,474	34,765	38,239	5,300	34,800	40,100
	199,540	25,361	168,374	193,734	27,800	164,900	192,700
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>							
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warkton Contribution	-656	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Donations and Appeals	47,423	40	3,170	3,210	0	1,000	1,000
Income - Rectory Walk	3,080	0	6,502	6,502	0	3,500	3,500
	49,848	40	9,672	9,712	0	5,500	5,500
<b>Activities in furtherance of the councils objects</b>							
Fees for weddings & funerals	4,886	0	7,751	7,751	0	7,500	7,500
Coffee Monies	100	0	520	520	0	290	290
Bookstall sales	0	0	62	62	0	100	100
Ch hall lettings PCC objects	2,501	0	4,253	4,253	0	2,500	2,500
	7,487	0	12,586	12,586	0	10,390	10,390
<b>Income from investments</b>							
Bank & building soc interest	9,039	0	13,717	13,717	0	5,000	5,000
Rent Church House Flats	10,864	0	10,431	10,431	0	11,407	11,407
Rectory Cottage	14,400	14,400	0	14,400	14,400	3,000	17,400
	34,303	14,400	24,148	38,548	14,400	19,407	33,807
<b>Other receipts</b>							
Other Funds Generated	14,420	0	8,310	8,310	0	9,000	9,000
Parish Weekend	30	0	0	0	0	750	750
Holiday Club - income	0	0	25	25	0	0	0
Events and Activities Income	3,477	0	4,341	4,341	0	3,000	3,000
Family Support Worker	2,655	260	0	260	0	0	0
900+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc Income	45,678	3,364	4,932	8,296	3,500	9,300	12,800
	66,260	3,624	17,608	21,232	3,500	22,050	25,550
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>357,438</b>	<b>43,425</b>	<b>232,387</b>	<b>275,812</b>	<b>45,700</b>	<b>222,247</b>	<b>267,947</b>

# St Botolph's Church

## Statement of Financial Affairs (Expenditure) Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Actuals 2023	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024	Provisional Budget for 2025		
					Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fund raisers - expenses	0	-	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Missions</b>	<b>20,990</b>	1,999	21,050	23,049	2,050	21,000	23,050
<b>Activities relating to the work of the Church</b>							
Honoraria and Bursary	800	-	925	925	-	900	900
<b>Staff Expenses</b>	<b>6,781</b>	-	<b>6,021</b>	6,021	-	<b>7,000</b>	7,000
<b>Youth and Children's work</b>	<b>30,390</b>	<b>28,063</b>	<b>2,424</b>	30,487	<b>28,450</b>	<b>3,500</b>	31,950
<b>Outreach Expenses</b>	<b>551</b>	-	<b>788</b>	788	-	<b>800</b>	800
Womens Evangelism	241	-	-	0	-	-	-
Upkeep of services	479	-	50	50	-	500	500
Audio, Powerpoint & Music	670	-	2,002	2,002	-	1,200	1,200
<b>Church House Running Costs</b>	<b>11,284</b>	-	<b>14,388</b>	14,388	-	<b>14,598</b>	14,598
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	2,941	-	3,907	3,907	-	3,500	3,500
Bookstall purchases	137	-	243	243	-	150	150
Parish weekend expenditure	0	-	-	0	-	500	500
	<b>54,274</b>	28,063	30,749	58,812	<b>28,450</b>	<b>32,648</b>	<b>61,098</b>
<b>Church management and administration</b>							
<b>Office Salaries</b>	<b>16,696</b>	-	<b>17,628</b>	17,628	-	<b>17,843</b>	<b>17,843</b>
<b>Church Running Costs</b>	<b>10,142</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>14,158</b>	14,637	-	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,900</b>
<b>Office and Admin Costs</b>	<b>14,823</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>12,918</b>	13,424	<b>400</b>	<b>13,084</b>	<b>13,484</b>
Council Tax Flat 1	0	-	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Property Repairs</b>	<b>43,908</b>	<b>11,879</b>	<b>12,129</b>	24,008	<b>53,700</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>74,700</b>
	<b>85,569</b>	12,863	56,833	69,697	<b>54,100</b>	<b>59,827</b>	<b>113,927</b>
Parish share	<b>137,836</b>		137,836	137,836	<b>12,284</b>	<b>125,552</b>	<b>137,836</b>
Total Payments	<b>298,669</b>	42,925	246,468	289,394	<b>96,884</b>	<b>239,027</b>	<b>335,911</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<b>58,768</b>	499 -	14,081	<b>-13,582 -</b>	<b>51,184 -</b>	<b>16,780 -</b>	<b>67,964</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward	<b>264,786</b>	130,269	193,286	323,555	<b>130,768</b>	<b>179,205</b>	<b>309,973</b>
Total Funds Carried Forward	<b>£ 323,554</b>	£ 130,768	£ 179,205	£ 309,974	£ 79,584	£ 162,425	£ 242,009

# St Botolph's Church

## Funds Movement Summary

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

		Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried Forward
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>					
Apprentice	Apprentice Fund	4,000			4,000.00
Pensions	Pension Fund	-132			-132.00
Bell	Bells and Belfry Fund	81	241	320	2.39
Choir fees	Choir Fees Fund	110			109.75
St Bots Tots	St Bots Tots Fund	2,167	964	56	3,075.79
Organ	Organ Fund	126			126.41
Family Support Worker	FSW Fund	38,409	22,275	28,193	32,491.22
Childrens Resources	Childrens Fund	5,000			5,000.00
Property Chapel	Chapel Fund	9,687		1,092	8,594.84
Potters	Potters Place Fund	785			784.94
Share	Shareplan Fund	2,519	3,005	1,999	3,524.75
CSS	Sound System	-1,636			-1,635.70
Rectory	Rectory Cottage Fund	18,513			18,512.91
Propres	Property (restricted) fund	43,439	9,740	11,266	41,913.31
Staff	Staffing Fund	7,200	7,200		14,400.00
Welfare	Fellowship Fund	0			0.00
		130,269	43,425	42,925	130,768.61
<b><u>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</u></b>					
General	General fund	-40,953	214,341	215,554	-42,166.63
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	Pilgrims Fund	1,445	1,123	664	1,903.36
Prophold	Property Holding Fund	73,134			73,134.35
East Legacy	Property Holding Fund	30,545			30,545.46
Heating	Heating Fund	71,126	250	9,662	61,713.82
Womens Ministry	Womens Ministry Fund	222	1,280	814	688.11
Coffeeshop	Coffee Shop Fund	660	383	422	621.33
RectWDes	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	25,287	6,502	1,867	29,922.19
Sarajevo	Sarajevo Fund	1,059			1,059.00
Wolf	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	10,845			10,845.18
Youth	Youth and Children's Projects	19,914	8,509	17,484	10,938.56
		193,286	232,387	246,468	179,204.73
<b>Total Funds</b>		323,555	275,812	289,394	309,973.34

# St Botolph's Church

## Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	Year 31/12/2024	Year 31/12/2023
<b><u>Fixed assets</u></b>		
Church House / Rectory Cottage	135,000	135,000
Buildings depreciation	- 62,760	- 62,760
Fixtures and Fittings	50,088	50,088
Fixtures and Fittings Depreciation	- 20,036	- 10,018
Equipment	2,010	2,010
Equipment Depreciation	- 1,340	- 670
	<u>£ 102,962</u>	<u>£ 113,650</u>
<b><u>Current assets</u></b>		
Bank Current Acc.	206,541	33,673
Bank Deposit Acc.	91,059	140,535
Bank CAF Cash Acc.	6,451	
Internal Orgs Bank Acc.	2,310	2,320
Central Board of Finance	100,000	100,000
Cash in hand	-	0
Accounts Receivable	1,911	2,231
	<u>£ 408,272</u>	<u>£ 278,759</u>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Agency Collections	18,390	17,607
Accounts Payable	182,871	51,247
	<u>£ 201,261</u>	<u>£ 68,854</u>
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>	<b><u>£ 309,973</u></b>	<b><u>£ 323,555</u></b>
<b><u>Held in Funds as Follows:</u></b>		
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Apprentice Fund	4,000	4,000
Pension Fund	- 132	- 132
Bells and Belfry Fund	2	81
Choir Fees Fund	110	110
St Bots Tots	3,076	2,167
FSW Fund	32,491	38,409
Childrens Fund	5,000	5,000
Chapel Fund	8,595	9,687
Organ Fund	126	126
Potters Place Fund	785	785
Shareplan Fund	3,525	2,519
Sound System	- 1,636	- 1,636
Property (restricted) fund	49,113	43,439
Rectory Cottage Fund	11,313	18,513
Staffing Fund	14,400	7,200
Fellowship Fund	-	-
	<u>£ 130,769</u>	<u>£ 130,269</u>
<b><u>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</u></b>		
General fund	-42,167	-40,953
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	1,903	1,445
Property Holding Fund	103,680	73,134
East Legacy		30,545
Heating Fund	61,714	71,126
Womens Ministry Fund	688	222
Coffee Shop Fund	621	660
Rectory Walk Designated Fund	29,922	25,287
Sarajevo Fund	1,059	1,059
Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	10,845	10,845
Youth and Children's Projects	10,939	19,914
	<u>£ 179,205</u>	<u>£ 193,286</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>£ 309,973</u></b>	<b><u>£ 323,555</u></b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on it's behalf by Revd. Mark Lucas (PCC Chairman)



## Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### 1. Accounting Policies

- a) The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102). The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the accruals basis.
- b) Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.
- c) Restricted Funds represent funds of the PCC which can only be used for specific purposes.
- d) Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is not recognised until received.
- e) The Freehold Property in use by the Church is based on a historical valuation less depreciation.

### 2. Fixed Assets comprise 2 Freehold properties:

- Church House
- Rectory Cottage.

The Book value of these properties does not reflect current market value.

The Property Holding Fund finances both properties.

During the year assets were purchased and they are being depreciated using the Straight Line Basis – an asset is depreciated at a percentage of the original value. The asset will be depreciated by the same amount each year.

Fixtures and Equipment depreciated at 20% - £10,018 for 2024

Equipment depreciated at 33% - £670 for 2024

### 3. Employees

- a) The average number of employees in the year was 3 (2023: 3)
- b) The total remuneration of employees amounted to **£48,574** (2023: £45,643).

### 4. Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mrs Rachel Samways received a fee of £100 for her services.

### 5. Parish Share

	2024	2023
--	------	------

Full amount paid:	<b>£137,836</b>	£137,836
-------------------	-----------------	----------

Of the amount allocated for the Parish Share in 2024 £85,887 was allocated to the Ephesian Fund and £51,949 to the Standfast Trust. A further £42,302, ringfenced from 2023, was also allocated to the Standfast Trust.

### 6. Honoraria:

The Treasurer, Mr David Wright	received <b>£500.</b> (2023 £500)
The Musical Director, Mt Graham Tilney	received <b>£300</b> (2023: £300)



## **5. Churchwardens' Report 2024**

### **5.1 Introduction**

As we gather for our annual church meeting, we give thanks for another year of God's faithfulness. Our magnificent Grade 1 listed church building continues to stand as a place of worship, history, and community, where truthful, Bible-based preaching and learning remain at the heart of all we do.

### **5.2 Ministry and Leadership**

We express our deep gratitude for our Rector, Mark, who will celebrate 15 years of faithful service with us this summer. Under his guidance, we remain firmly rooted in the truth of the Gospel, and we are thankful for the strong leadership of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) in supporting Mark, Andy, and Helen, who also stand unwavering in their commitment to God's Word.

We are blessed with a wonderful team of staff members who work tirelessly. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Heather in the Church Office, whose dedication, efficiency, and kindness have been a true gift to our congregation. Her work ensures that the administration of the church remains well-organised, and her warm presence is a blessing to all who come through our doors.

### **5.3 Youth and Children's Ministry**

One of the greatest blessings of our church is our vibrant youth and children's ministry, led by Andy and Helen. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and love for the children and young people of our church have made a profound impact. Through their leadership, our young people are encouraged to grow in faith, engage with Scripture, and build strong relationships within the church family.

We also want to acknowledge and give thanks for the many fellowship members who give their time in support of this ministry. Whether it's through teaching, leading small groups, helping with events, or simply being a listening ear, your contributions are invaluable. The strength of our children's and youth ministry is a testament to the dedication of so many, and we are incredibly grateful.

### **5.4 Music Ministry**

We are incredibly fortunate to have such gifted musicians and singers who bring life and energy to our worship. Their commitment to providing fantastic and vibrant music enriches our services and helps to lead us in heartfelt praise. Their talent and passion make a significant impact on our worship experience. Thank you to each and every one of you for sharing your gifts with us.

### **5.5 Congregation and Growth**

Our fellowship continues to grow, and it is a joy to see our church often filled to capacity on Sunday mornings. This vibrant and growing congregation is a testament to God's work among us and the dedication of those who serve, and as mentioned above, the leadership's steadfast commitment to upholding the true meaning of the Bible.

### **5.6 Service and Contribution**

Our church life thrives because of the many members who give their time and energy to ensure that essential activities and maintenance take place. Without them, much of what we cherish in our church would not be possible.

### **5.7 Areas of Service and Thanksgiving**

- Hospitality & Worship Support: From refreshments to Holy Communion preparation and running VT during services, our volunteers keep our worship services running smoothly.
- Church Maintenance & Grounds: Many dedicate their time to gardening, cleaning the church building and Church House, ensuring our spaces are welcoming and well-kept.
- Technical Support: A special thank you to Tim Acland for his technical expertise and equipment, which have been invaluable in various church and St Bot's property projects.
- Sacristy & Afternoon Tea

# St Botolph's Church

---

Services: We extend our deep appreciation to Cayti Bilski, who has faithfully served as Sacrist, preparing for Holy Communion, and organizing Sunday Afternoon Tea Services several times a year.

- Gardening Leadership: Sheila Matthews leads a small but dedicated gardening team, keeping the front of Church House and the garden beautiful for all to enjoy.

None of these things happen on their own, and we are incredibly grateful for everyone who gives their time and talents to support the life and ministry of our church.

## 5.8 Christmas Services

Our Christmas services continue to be well attended, and they remain a highlight of the church year. A huge amount of effort goes into planning, preparing, and delivering these services, and we want to extend our thanks to everyone involved—from those who decorate the church so beautifully to those who lead, sing, and serve during these special celebrations.

In particular, our Christingle service is always a joyful occasion and usually full to capacity. It is a wonderful opportunity for families and children to come together in worship, and the sight of the Christingle candles glowing in the dimmed church is always a powerful and moving moment. Thank you to all who make this service so special, from those who prepare the Christingles to those who welcome and guide the many visitors who join us each year.

## 5.9 Easter

Our Easter services begin on Maundy Thursday and a morning service on Good Friday. These are more contemplative than other services. Some of our fellowship join the “Walk of Witness” in the town center on Good Friday morning. Easter Sunday morning brings services of celebration at the Son Rise Service, which is well attended, notwithstanding the very early start, followed by Holy Communion at 8.30am, 10.00am Family Service and 6.30pm Holy Communion.

## 5.10 Looking Ahead

Disagreements Over Theology and Doctrine

The Church of England continues to experience internal divisions over key theological and ethical issues. Debates over topics such as same-sex marriage, gender identity, and biblical interpretation have created tensions within the church. Recent discussions around the blessing of same-sex unions have revealed deep divisions, with some members advocating for greater inclusion and others standing by more traditional teachings. We continue to pray for sound Biblical truths to be re-established in the Church of England.

As we move into another year, we pray for:

- Continued growth in faith, fellowship, and service.
- God’s provision and guidance in maintaining our historic church building.
- Strength and encouragement for Mark, Andy, Helen, and all who serve in leadership and ministry.
- Strength, unity, and inspiration as we serve our congregation and community. May we continue to grow in faith, love, and service, always seeking to glorify God in all that we do.

We thank God for His faithfulness and for each member of our church family. May we continue to stand firm in His truth, grow in His love, and serve Him with joy.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Adrian and Peter for their unwavering support over the last 12 months. Their commitment, wisdom, and generosity of spirit have been invaluable, and I am truly grateful.

*Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)*

Paul Gosling - Church Warden

## 5.11 Wardens Addendum

I would like to thank Paul for preparing the above report and I totally agree with all that he says but I would add that it has been an enormous pleasure to work with Adrian first and more recently with Paul. Our backgrounds are varied but somehow the two of them have enabled me to continue longer than is normally allowed by the Diocese.

There is no formal job description for being a churchwarden, each Diocese, PCC, and congregation expect different things from their churchwardens. That said there are three aspects to the role that are common to all churchwardens. The first is to be the representative of the Diocesan Bishop at church and technically to be answerable to the bishop and report any concerns to him/her. The Second is that the churchwarden should provide a link between the congregation and the incumbent, something I confess I'm not too good at. The third is to support the incumbent in all that he/she does for the church. This latter aspect is not intended to be an individual who will agree with all that the incumbent wants to do. It is important to support that person in what may appear to be a negative way, by challenging things that you may consider that the incumbent is doing/or intends to do is wrong. Something that I hope that I have been able to do without causing offence, but that is something that only Mark (or perhaps Julie) can comment upon

Many people think that to become a Churchwarden is a reward, for what you do/or have done in the past for the church. I can assure them that at times it can feel much more like a punishment, not because of who you work with but because of the frustrations that working with a slow moving autocracy such as a Diocese can at times bring. As an example, we submitted in 2015 our first application for reorganizing the church in the way that we are now doing, and it has taken 10 years to get where we are now because of excessive bureaucracy.

As you will be aware I am standing down as Churchwarden at this coming APCM. This is not because I am "*growing old and weary*" as Paul says in Galatians 6.9, nor because I have had a disagreement and fallen out with our Rector. It is because we have almost reached the point of completing the work in the church building to the point that we initially aimed for 10 years ago.

I also think that it's time for younger blood to take up the gauntlet and bring a new vitality to our evangelism and ministry here at St. Botolph's. Paul has indicated above the challenges that St Botolph's faces in the future, and they may be significant. I hope that my successor can walk the fine line between being faithful to the oath that he/she gives to the Bishop at the installation service and yet be fully supportive of Mark in his aims to keep St Botolph's focused on biblical teaching and not be influenced by secular pressure to give in to minority opposition to our faith. I certainly admit to being too biased towards supporting Mark's position albeit that I am presently concerned at some of the day to day mechanics of achieving our goals.

My aim was, as will be obvious from earlier comments, has to put our church building into a given state and it is now almost there. However, I do have one major regret and that is that I have not been able to bring St Botolph's and St Edmunds into a closer relationship. Joint Wardens meetings were a start but these have fallen by the wayside and the A6 road still seems to be a barrier that people from both sides will not cross.

I shall conclude by thanking a few people:

- Kate, for persuading me to join the PCC in 2013/14 and then to stand for the position of Churchwarden in 2014/15. Without that first kick I would not have even considered myself suitable for any role within the church.
- Rob Cowan, and a number of helpers in turning some of my efforts in dealing with the DAC and Kettering BC into reality.

## St Botolph's Church

---

- Tim Acland and other helpers in taking over the role that Rob began (and still contributes to in some extent).
- David Wright, for accepting my corrections when individuals have given him wrong allocations for various costs.
- Adrian, who stepped in when he saw that I was at a time where being the only churchwarden was getting to me and he became an incredible source of support for me.
- Paul, who when Adrian stepped down a year ago stepped up and took over and has brought his excellent skills and abilities to fill part of the role that I accept I'm not good at doing. That is pastoral and spiritual care.
- The various members of the PCC who have put up with me over the past years
- All members of the Staff Team who have put up with some of my moods when frustration has been the root cause of some of my comments.
- Mark, for the working relationship and friendship that has developed over the years and for his teaching and guidance that has kept me in faith since his arrival.
- Carole, for not complaining at the time that I spend working at home, attending meetings both at church and at the deanery and who is always there when I become particularly down.

My life has been enriched by what I have been doing and the people that I have worked with over the years but the time has come when I need to spend some time at home and concentrate on cooking. I might think this, but I'm certain that Carole not want me at home 24/7 and will encourage me to stay on and do something else at church.

God Bless you all and thank you for your support and patience.

Peter

Churchwardens  
Peter Jackson and Paul Gosling

### 6. Fabric Report 2024

Although we suffered many frustrations through the year, the Fabric Task Group did make some good progress with the work we had included in our budget. However, by year end we had only completed two of the budgeted items – the rebuilding of the stone boundary wall between the Churchyard and Church House Garden, and the completion of repairs to the Church House dormer windows on the front elevation. We also replaced and grouted slabs on the church path which had been removed to install the three phase electrical supply necessary for the new electrical heating system.

As far as possible we carried out unskilled work without employing outside contractors and this saved a considerable amount of money. In particular the demolition and footings construction for the replacement boundary wall where members of our congregations gave many hours to prepare the site for the professional stonemasons.

When we finally received the DAC's blessing to our proposal to make the Side Chapel a comfortable welcoming area, we were able to undertake the removal of the radiators and the floor levelling work ourselves. All that now remains is to re-plaster the walls, lay a new carpet, and install a glass screen and doors which will be undertaken by professionals in Spring 2025.

## St Botolph's Church

---

When I say “we” did this or that, the reality is that most of the work was done by very few of our members. In particular by Tim Acland who seems to spend much of the working week at church/Church House/Rectory Cottage putting right things that go wrong!! As a fellowship we offer him a great debt of gratitude that he so willingly gives of his time and skills not only in a practical sense but also in preparing reports and drawings to send to the diocese in support of our proposals – e.g he prepared a detailed report which concluded that we did not need to install background heating to control condensation which had been considered to be a possibility following the installation of our electrical heating. Although Tim was the main “worker” I would also thank anyone else who was able to give their time in an increasingly busy world to help maintain and improve our church environment.

I don't wish to sound too critical of the DAC but there have been many times when we think that they look on ancient church buildings more as museums rather than to be welcoming places of worship at the centre of our mission to win more souls for God's kingdom. As a result we have, for many years taken far longer to win approval for our plans than we have thought necessary. We totally respect the need to maintain the historical nature of our church building, and we go to great lengths to preserve its features whilst introducing measures to make the building a place fit for the current time. Most of the faculty applications are being made by Peter Jackson and he should be given great credit by our fellowship for the countless hours he spends formulating our proposals in which he takes great care not to suggest anything which we know the DAC will not approve. Nevertheless he constantly comes up against refusals which require great tact in overcoming!.

As an example, we still haven't received approval to light the church externally after several years of trying. At present we are being asked to provide another bat survey which will not be cheap. In fact we are now considering dropping the idea!

So, what of other matters. We need to remove the redundant steel radiators but are having difficulty convincing the DAC that our proposed method of removal is practical, albeit, in our opinion, far more practical than their suggestion!

We still need to resolve the problem of paint flaking in the church toilet and lack of sufficiently hot water in the servery – both items were in the servery contract which our architect is discussing with the contractor before issuing a completion certificate and releasing the retention sum.

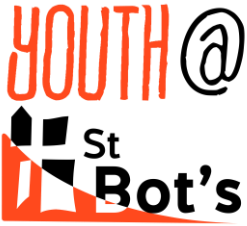
Many issues are ongoing – e.g. the replacement of the lighting units and shutters in the Fellowship Room; provision of a location in the kitchen garden for the wheelie bins which should be positioned no nearer than three metres away from the building; repairs to the stonework on the church; and day to day maintenance in all three buildings for which the Fabric Task Group has both the responsibility and privilege to maintain. The time is coming when many of the rooms in Church House will need a lick of paint. So if any readers feel adept with a paintbrush please be ready to volunteer when the plea goes out!

As I said last year, what we ask is that all who use, particularly Church House, should remember that it is an old building that needs a lot of TLC. So please, always treat it with respect!!

Adrian Keach – Secretary, Fabric Task Group

## 7. Children's & Youth Ministry 2024

St Bots Children's & Youth Ministry aims to be Good News for Children and Young people  
(in Barton Seagrave & beyond)



He [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

The New International Version. (Col 1:28–29).

In Partnership with Parents & Carers - We want...

- to help children and young people:
  - come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
  - grow to maturity in their faith
  - become active, serving members of the church
- to equip children and young people to:
  - be lifelong followers of Jesus
  - effectively share their faith with their friends and family
  - live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- in all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers
- the children's and youth ministry groups to be the highlight of the young people's week



(School years 7-9)

The name '1eighty' comes from Mark 1:15 which is the first thing Jesus says in Marks Gospel. He calls us to repentance which can be described as 'doing a 180'. 1eighty is a lovely group of young people who meet on Sunday mornings during the 10am service and on Thursday evenings.



(School years 10-13)

Link meets each Wednesday evening during term time. There is a great mix of young people from different schools, churches and backgrounds who enjoy meeting together each week.

We want our young people to have a great time and look forward to coming along to 1eighty & LINK. We want them to see how relevant the Bible is to today's culture and to come to know Jesus personally as we dig into it together. We want them to grow deep roots in Christ.

Over this last year at LINK & 1eighty we have thought about... 'The beginning & End', looking at the start and end of the bible and seeing God's big picture. The amazing story of the faithful obedience of Esther. 'The best present Ever', how we see Jesus in the Old Testament and how the Old Testament points towards Jesus. We also considered what James has to teach us, when we claim to follow Jesus, we are to 'Live it!' and not just talk about it.

On Sunday mornings we have changed what we do slightly with 1eighty... One of the things which we know is very important and helps young people to keep going in their faith into adulthood is being involved in the wider church and being regular on Sundays. Therefore, we are trying to do a couple of things to help 1eighty engage with regular Sunday services...



# St Botolph's Church

---

Firstly, at 1Eighty on Sundays we are following the same teaching series as the main 10am sermon. We hope this will help families be able to talk about what they have been learning together. Also, we hope it will help 1eighty to be able to engage better and not feel so out of it when they come along to regular services.

Secondly, a couple of times a term 1eighty are staying in for whole the service. We want to help and equip 1eighty to start to engage with and be part of regular services. We think this is really important and the whole church family has a part to play in this. The expectation is that when 1eighty reach LINK they will be encouraged to come along to 'normal' church each week.

Other highlights of the year were guest speakers visiting from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) mission organization and an amazing night at our 'Secret Church' event, thinking about and experiencing a bit of what it's like to be a Christian in countries where Christians are persecuted. The annual 'LINK weekend Away' is always eagerly anticipated along with our end of term Slip and Slide and BBQ.

We also had two great Christmas evangelistic events. The traditional 'LINK Christmas Meal' and 1eighty had a great time on massive inflatables at the Frontier Center. We also enjoyed a couple of evenings at Lazer Maze!



Equipped has restarted! Equipped... runs after the evening service on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month in Rectory Cottage. This is open to 1eighty & LINK members. Equipped has started again having last run them before the pandemic. The purpose of this group is to encourage discipleship and help the young people be equipped to live for Jesus. Currently we are reading and discussing a book written for teenagers which helps us think about what it means to be truly free!

Youth ministry is the responsibility of the whole church whether we are directly involved or not. Research shows young people need 7 significant Christian relationships in order to come to faith and build a resilient lasting faith in Jesus.

This means it's not just up to the parents or the youth leaders the whole Christian community has a part to play. We are all called to be interested in, love and care for our young people...

Please pray for our young people and give thanks for them and our leaders who serve so faithfully and sacrificially each week at both LINK and 1eighty.

## Schools

Given the current direction of travel in our culture and in the Church of England, opportunities for gospel work in schools are important to take where they are available.

Andy has continued to have opportunities to support Bishop Stopford School over this last year with assemblies and School communions. Andy continues to build relationships with staff and students. It's also n amazing privilege to have opportunities to help support some of the senior leadership team and others to think about developing the Christian values of the school and working on helping students and staff to think about spirituality wand what this looks like.

It is enormously encouraging to see the student led Christian Union continuing to grow along with groups for sixth formers and lower school. There are up to 50 young people attending some weeks! This is quite extraordinary!

Andy has also continued to work on an initiative in Bishop Stopford to support the relatively large number of young people whose parents are church pastors.

Please give thanks to God and pray for this ministry and all opportunities we have in schools it really is amazing and unusual to have so many openings.

Andy Clark

## 8. Families and Children's Worker Report 2024

A couple of verses from Paul's letter to the Ephesians have stuck in my mind over the last few weeks:

*'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.'* Ephesians 2:8-9

A brother and sister from our church family recently read these verses during our morning service. They were very nervous before they read – they'd never before stood up in front of the church family to read and it took a great deal of courage. They did brilliantly and their dad, who brings them to church every week, was very proud. I was also very proud of them. As they read these words, I was praying for them and for all the children who come to St Botolph's, that they would come to know this amazing gift of grace which is freely given to each one who believes. I also pray that we will continue to faithfully sow seeds that will grow into real, life-long faith in Jesus Christ for each and every child.

I continue to thank God that he has sustained me and the whole team of children's and families' leaders and helpers over the last year. I thank Him for the opportunities that He has presented us with and for the resources to make the most of many of these opportunities, both at St Botolph's and at St Edmund's. I continue to thank all those who support the work practically, financially and prayerfully – thank you.

Highlights of the year:

- Summer Holiday Club – please pray for this year's club.
- Growing number of children in Sunday Promise Land groups – usually around 25 children each week; over 40 one week!
- St Bot's Tots – a joy to see some of the little ones move up to school and more babies arrive. The sessions continue to be very popular and are usually fully booked.
- Assemblies and school visits – regularly at three schools. It's been encouraging to build relationships in each of these.
- Visits to church by school groups and others including two beaver groups and several childminders.
- Baptisms – meeting families.
- Who Let The Dads Out? – one Saturday morning a month for dads and male carers and their children. This has been a great time as we get to know some of the regular dads more. Most of those who attend are non-church families. Regularly about 12 children.
- Film afternoons – our now annual showing of 'The Star' in the run up to Christmas and a couple of other films for families to come along to.
- Refresh – our weekly Bible study/prayer time for young women and their pre-school children. A huge 'thank you' to the creche ladies (Cynthia, Jane and Lindsay) and to the other leaders of the group (Rachel, Rosie and Angela).
- Promise Land Sunday sessions – it has been wonderful to see the children learn more about God and His word. The teaching material we use is called 'Mustard Seeds' and as I said earlier, we pray that the seeds of faith will be planted, watered and grow in the lives of the children. A huge 'thank you' to all who lead and help so faithfully week by week.
- I continue to lead the Sunday School at St Edmund's, Warkton once a month. There are a lovely group of children and parents/grandparents who attend the church regularly and I enjoy our time together very much.
- The Christingle service at Warkton was well attended. It is a lovely service in a beautiful building followed by refreshments and the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the village hall.
- I attended the annual Growing Young Disciples Conference in January where the theme was 'Jesus – Prophet, Priest and King'. The conference always provides excellent teaching and is a great place to meet other children's and youth workers.
- We have been blessed this year to receive some grant money which is being put to good use in both the children's and youth ministry.



# St Botolph's Church

---

- We plan to start a club for children between the ages of 8-11 on a Thursday evening at the beginning of May. This will be called 'TBC' short for Thursday Bible Club. Please pray that this will attract a good number of children who want to learn more about Jesus.

## Refresh

Refresh has been seeing a variable number of mums each week for Bible study together. This variability is mainly related to children being poorly and we usually see numbers dip in the second week of a term! Some weeks there are just the core group of the four leaders (Rosie, Helen T, Angela and Rachel S), and some weeks we have every seat on every sofa full! Most weeks are somewhere in between. Most Mums at refresh are Christians - some new, some more seasoned. There are a couple of mums who are exploring what it means to be a Christian.

Over the last year we have looked together at the book of Daniel as well as Joseph's story in Genesis. This term, in the run up to Easter, we have been looking at evidence for Jesus' resurrection and how we can live in light of this great hope.

There is a great team of three - Cynthia, Lindsey B, Jane G - who run a crèche next door alongside Refresh for the pre-school age children. Their support is invaluable. The children have such a great time with them. Some of the younger babies stay in the study with us and we all enjoy their company.

Please do ask me if you would like to know more about anything I've mentioned above or not mentioned!

This year I would particularly appreciate your prayers in the following areas:

- Encouraging parents to read the bible and pray regularly with their children.
- The summer holiday club – 'Shipwrecked' (about Jonah)
- Strengthening relationships with schools.
- That I would protect my personal time with God.

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness.*

Psalm 115:1

Helen Tilney  
Families and Children's Worker

## 9. Safeguarding Report 2024

Safeguarding in the Church of England has been an issue of national focus over the last twelve months for all the wrong reasons. It would not be appropriate to comment on any of that in this report other than to stress the need for us to learn whatever lessons we can and to recognise the importance of continued diligence in all aspects of what we do at St Botolph's. In recent weeks, the PCC has embarked on a review of our safeguarding routines and the impact of this should become clearer over the next few months.

Everyone at St Bots needs to be part of building a strong safeguarding culture, and you can do this by:

- Being vigilant – it can be very difficult to imagine anyone in our church doing the kind of things that we have read about but we have to take an approach that says 'it could happen here' however unpalatable that is.
- Reporting any concerns to either The Benefice Safeguarding Officer (Martin Adamson 07843122477), The Rector or the Diocese Safeguarding Team (How Do I disclose a Safeguarding concern? - Diocese of Peterborough).
- Ensure your DBS is kept up-to-date – anyone working with children, part of the Pastoral Team or on the PCC, needs a new DBS every three years. Please don't wait for a reminder from me!
- Ensure that your training is also up-to-date. Anyone who needs a DBS check should also re-do their training every three years. For most people that will mean the Foundation Level module and the Domestic Abuse course both

# St Botolph's Church

---

of which can be accessed by logging on to the Church of England training portal and creating an account there.  
Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal.

Anyone on the sidespersons team but not otherwise involved with children or vulnerable adults needs to complete the Basic level module which again needs to be refreshed every three years.

Please continue to pray for the safety of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Please also pray for those local services, beyond the church, who are trying to support children and young people who are at risk – many agencies continue to be overwhelmed by the number of referrals they are receiving.

Please also pray for victims of abuse that they may know God's healing and comfort in their lives.

If you or someone you know have been a victim of abuse and feel unable to talk to anyone in the church team or at the diocese, the following page has contacts of other agencies and organisations that may be able to help.  
Finding Support and Useful Contacts - Diocese of Peterborough

Martin Adamson – Benefice Safeguarding Officer

## 10. Lay Pastoral Minister's Report 2024

### Pastoral Care Team

We are all called to care for one another as members of the body of Christ and it is good to see this happening in many ways within the life of the church. Evening and daytime home groups and youth and children's groups connect people and provide an environment for sharing, encouragement and prayer. However there are times when a person may need someone to walk alongside them through a particular struggle or difficult circumstance. The Pastoral Care Team exists to meet such needs by providing specific time to those needing support. Members of the Pastoral Care Team include: Barbara Bashford, Phil Burch, Kate Curnock, Graham Farrier, Claire Johnson and Julie Lucas.

The Pastoral Care Team has begun offering prayer ministry once a month in the side chapel after the 10am service.

We aim to meet together on a termly basis for mutual support, prayer and opportunities for development. The Pastoral Care Team can be contacted by email, [care@stbots.church](mailto:care@stbots.church) or via the Church Office on 01536 414052.

Kate Curnock

## 11. Mission Task Group Report 2024

The membership of the group has changed this year with the retirement of Derek Wade after many years of faithful service and the imminent retirement of Barbara Bashford. New members were welcomed.

The group exists to promote Mission activities in the church and to allocate giving to supported mission agencies.

Currently we support Pedro Santos through CMJ and were delighted to have a video from him in February thanking us for the Shareplan. Through TEN, in Sarajevo we support Dragan Nedic the pastor of the **Kosevsko brdo** church and Slavko Hadzic, an evangelist. We were very disappointed this year not to be able to host Dragan here due to refusal of his visa. We hope a few members will be able to visit Sarajevo. Dangia Desta is a pastor at Bible college in Ethiopia and is sponsored through Crosslinks.

We also contribute to the work of the Christian institute, Rock UK and OMF/OM. David and Angela McClatchey are intending to go to Japan with OM.

# St Botolph's Church

---

Among the one off projects we support is the Scripture on the Wall project at Bishop Stopford School. Beyond the mission group, many church members also support children through Compassion UK, or other Mission agencies. It is a privilege to be part of a church family who invest in the work of the Gospel in so many ways in the UK and around the world.

We are keen to pray for our partners regularly and keep the church informed about their work through prayer times and a Mission focus in CFN and on the board in the fellowship room.

## **12. Women's Ministry Annual Report 2024**

The Women's Ministry Team plan to have at least four events annually to reach, teach and encourage women. Over the last year we have had a Mid-Summer Supper, a breakfast with Gemma Griffiths, our annual Advent craft evening and most recently a breakfast entitled Help Me Read the Bible. We are greatly encouraged by the numbers attending and the fact that many women bring friends who are not yet believers. The Advent evening, in church, saw a record breaking 113 women making advent door swags and Julie interviewed Jane Griffiths and Cynthia Duckworth about their faith.

We are grateful for your prayers and support and thankful to the men who help us move furniture for the Christmas event. Many women hear the Gospel every year and we pray on that more will come to personal faith in Christ.

Women's Ministry Team – Rachel, Julie, Rosie, Angela, Lou, Helen, Kate, Claire and Lindsay

## **13. BCUK church-based Intern 2024**

I formally began as an intern on 16th September 2024. "The Intern Scheme is for individuals who have completed the BCUK Certificate Course, and who want to keep on growing. The scheme provides monthly training meetings, peer groups and one-to-one mentoring. Interns are equipped to run courses or seminars, develop pastoral care structures, engage in interpersonal ministry and develop their own skills and experience in pastoral ministry, all in collaboration with their church leadership, with long-term ministry in mind". (Follow <https://bcuk.org/about/what-is-biblical-counselling/> to find out more about biblical counselling).

Since September I have been continuing to work with the Pastoral Care Team, run 'Real Change' courses and I am available for one-to-one pastoral conversations. I can be contacted at [julie@stbots.church](mailto:julie@stbots.church)

Julie Lucas

## **14. Men@St Bots Report 2024**

The vision for the Men of St Bots was instigated by Andy following being prompted by the Holy Spirit to gather guys together. The vision was to develop friendships, and provide a dedicated space to invite friends to hear about the gospel, and encourage each other in the faith.

We started meeting in October 2023, initially meeting at local pubs, however for various reasons we now meet in Church House, which has been a much better venue as we are not limited by time, space or interference.

Tea, coffee, are on tap during each evening, and various "ice-breaker" activities are available for those who wish to participate or just spectate. Always central to each gathering is a talk or personal testimony about Jesus.

We are conscious of the importance to keep the meetings fresh, appropriate, and accessible. Imaginative examples have been: Phil giving his testimony whilst educating us about "festive mock-tails", toasting chorizo in a fire pit, a quiz, Q&A sessions, a hard-hitting talk about male depression, and a talk about non-Biblical archeological evidence of Jesus! What's not to like!

We have also had "extra-curricular" events including BBQ's, informative local walks led by Geoff, and coming up we are planning a Men's breakfast in June.

As the group continues to grow please pray for the Men@St Bots

## 15. Harvest for the Hungry Report 2024

For the past 30 years Derek Wade has organised the St Botolph's collection for Harvest for the Hungry. In July this year Derek decided that it was time to pass the responsibility on to a younger person. I was privileged that Derek asked me to take it on. He suggested that we should do it together this year, so that he could induct me into the whole process. I'm very pleased that we did this because it is more complicated than one might think.

The first announcement was made on September 6th. Envelopes were collected at 3 Sunday services (Sept 22nd, Sept 29th, Oct 6th) and also at Thursday services. Each week Derek and I met to add up the donations and keep them in a safe place. We did the final reconciliation on October 10th; the figures were: Cash £1,290; Cheques £4,270; Online payments £5,370. The grand total was £10,930. The cash was paid into TEN's bank account via Kettering Lloyds branch. The cheques were posted to TEN. TEN sent acknowledgement that all this had been received.

Derek and I designated that £3,300 of the amount was to be sent to Evangelical Church, Kosevsko Brdo, Sarajevo (Dragan Nedic).

We received a very nice letter of thanks from TEN to the whole St Botolph's church family. They emphasised that our large collection will help partners across Europe provide food boxes for those in greatest need; and that a spiritual hunger is also being met by showing the love of God in this way.

Derek has now stepped down from this area of responsibility; and next year I will be organising it on my own. I feel that I have been very well prepared for this task.

Dr Tim Bland

## 16. Bellringers Report 2024

We have had an ongoing problem with noise from the historic wooden frame containing the four heaviest bells which turned out to be moving slightly in a vertical plane. One of the bellfounders visited and we were assured that it was safe for us to continue ringing. However, it was making the back bells more difficult to ring. After a couple of visits from the Peterborough Guild Steward, John Beresford, and the Kettering Branch Steward, Andrew Bimson, they have made us a new custom-sized washer to help tighten the bolt holding the frame to the floor and tightened the remaining bolts generally. It is now less noisy and the handling of the bells in that frame has slightly improved.

We had a belfry meeting at the beginning of February, at which Mark was present, to discuss the appointment of a new tower captain. Our thanks go to Derek Sibson who was tower captain for many years and to Jane Sibson and Anne Cook who stepped up as interim tower captains but now wish to stand down for personal reasons. Caroline Mitchell was appointed as the new tower captain with Geoff Curnock retaining the position of steeple keeper. The tower captain looks after the bellringers and the ringing whereas the steeple keeper looks after the bells.

I have 16 years previous experience in the role and I am looking forward to helping the St Bots band to move forward. We have started trying to ring different methods to improve both our range and our striking. Our aim this year is to ensure that we ring before both the 10am service and the 6.30pm service each week and we will be practicing on Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00pm to improve the quality of our ringing. I would also like us to attempt some eighth peals for as many of the band as possible by the end of this year. An eighth peal is a piece of continuous ringing that lasts approximately 20 minutes. The successful ones will be published firstly on BellBoard (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/>) which can be viewed by anyone and subsequently in The Ringing World which is a national publication.

Caroline Mitchell

## **17. Midweek Service Report 2024**

Our church's midweek service, launched in autumn 2021, has been a tremendous success. Designed to provide a time of worship, teaching, and fellowship during the week, it has grown into a well-loved and integral part of our church life.

Since its inception, the midweek service has been met with enthusiasm from our congregation. Attendance has remained strong, in many cases from our more senior members, sometimes exceeding 50 people, demonstrating the deep appreciation and spiritual nourishment it provides.

Some attend the Thursday service only, while others are at Sunday services also, appreciating the opportunity for worship and fellowship.

Refreshments are served by volunteers after the service in church and once a month at the Coffee Shop held in Church House. Thank-you to all.

Unlike many other church activities that pause during the summer, our midweek service continues throughout the year, ensuring that everyone has a place to gather in worship and community, even during holiday periods.

The success of our midweek service is a testament to the hunger for deeper spiritual engagement within our church. As we look ahead, we remain committed to its ongoing growth, providing a space for worship, connection, and encouragement for all who attend.

Ali Gosling