

PCC of St Andrew's Church, Framingham Earl:

2025 Report to Framingham Earl Parish Council

Parish Activity for 2025

There were 29 services held in the church or churchyard in 2025. Regular services were held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, including Easter and Christmas Day. In addition, there were the following:

- 0 church services followed by burial in the churchyard
- 2 graveside burials following funeral services elsewhere
- 3 burial of cremated remains in the churchyard
- Christmas carol service, with donations of goods to food bank.
- Lent reflection & lunch with donations to local youth project
- 2 Introduction of new headstone into the churchyard
- 1 Introduction of new memorial plaque into the churchyard
- 1 Additional inscription to existing plaque

Attendance at services ranged from a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 55, with average attendance across the year being 14.

In addition, the church is usually open and manned on Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon (10am to 11am in winter) to welcome visitors.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held 3 ordinary meetings plus an AGM during 2025. Topics discussed included:

- Outstanding items from the quinquennial fabric of the church building report
- The requirement for a full professional electrical safety test and remedial works.
- The requirement for PCC members to undertake Diocesan online safeguarding training
- The ongoing support from the church to the annual Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride, which raises money for both the Trust and the PCC.
- Dates of special services e.g. Harvest Festival; Carol Service etc
- Ongoing work regarding the feasibility of a water supply to the church, leading to feasibility of a WC and costings thereof
- Other various ecumenical matters pertaining to St Andrew's and/or the Benefice/Diocese.

Members of the church family have been involved in the following community initiatives:

- Framingham Earl Fuel Allotment Trust
- Poringland Fuel Allotment Trust
- The Coffee Stop, which meets at Poringland Village Hall on Wednesday mornings.
- The Youth Group, which is a joint venture between Norwich Youth for Christ and Churches Together. It is aimed at young people in school years 6-9, and meets at Poringland Village Hall on Monday evenings in term time, 7pm -8.30pm.
- Can't Sing, Won't Sing; a wonderful group that meets on Saturday mornings (October to May) in Poringland Village Hall to encourage community singing and friendship over a cup of tea.
- Poringland & District Men's Shed & Women's Section

The PCC are as ever thankful to the Friends group for their ongoing support, particularly in the organisation of volunteers to mow the grass and regular working parties to keep on top of the churchyard maintenance that does not need to be contracted out (e.g. trees/hedges require professional trimming).

The PCC are grateful to Framingham Earl Parish Council for their generous grant that goes towards the cost of contractors for the professional tree surgeons/ hedge trimming.

Parish Finances for 2025

Receipts for the year was slightly increased on the previous level at £16,308 (2024: £15,198).

This was mainly due to the receipt of increased Gift Aid following the previous sad deaths of much-missed members of the church family and donations that were received in their memory last year. Additionally, funds were moved from the savings account to cover feasibility works associated with the toilet project.

Payments was significantly higher than the previous year at £19,151 (2024: £13,719).

This was due to significant emergency electrical work, plus the requirement to engage an architect to investigate the feasibility/costs relating to the toilet project.

The main cost was, as usual, the Parish Share i.e. the sum paid to the Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance towards the overall running costs of the Parish e.g. incumbent stipend, housing, training, etc. We managed to pay the sum of £6,000 (2024: £8,500). This was reduced due to the unexpected electrical work and was much less than sum requested by the Diocese.

The year end position was an overspend of £2,843 (2024: underspend of £1,479); the balance at bank at year end was £1,805 (2024: £4,647).

Alison Randall; Hon Treasurer. April 2026