

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Annual Report and Financial Statements

**of the Parochial Church Council of
Holy Innocents Church Great Barton**

For the year ended 31st December 2025



Holy Innocents APCM Reports 2026

Reflections from the Vicar, The Rev'd Fr Benjamin Edwards

Grace and peace to you all.

This past year, 2025-2026, has seen our benefice move from a season of reflection into one of intentional outreach. We have sought to be more visible, not for our own sake, but to share the life and welcome of our churches with the wider community. Through an increased presence in our local newsletters, newspapers, and even a feature in the Church Times, we have invited our neighbours to see what we stand for.

Moving forward, we want to extend this invitation even wider, giving space for folk to explore the ideas they have read about in my articles and social media posts. We are finding that this intentionality is bearing fruit; our numbers are growing, and many more are becoming 'church adjacent'—engaging with us in discussion and finding a sense of belonging within our sacred spaces.

As we look back over the past year, our primary focus has been on preparing the ground—nurturing a happy, healthy church family that genuinely delights in worship, fellowship, and a radical welcome. My priority as your priest has been to ensure that my ministry reaches directly into the hearts of our communities, using our local newspaper articles, regular newsletters, and an active social media presence to connect with those outside our church walls.

There are times when growth can feel invisible if we only measure it by looking at the same pews week after week. However, the objective data tells an incredibly encouraging story. Thanks to our expanded digital outreach and community presence, our numbers are up. Most movingly, this past year we celebrated our first confirmand at St Peters in ten years—a profound milestone for our benefice and a joyful sign of new life and spiritual depth.

Part of this health comes from our commitment to ensuring our worship remains a vibrant home for all people. Alongside our deeply valued sacramental life and our two monthly Evensongs—which have become a real anchor of prayer for our villages, culminating in the privilege of hosting the recent Deanery Evensong—we know there is always value in reflecting on our liturgical horizons. Outside of our major festivals and key community services like Christmas, Remembrance, Harvest, and Mothering Sunday, which stand as our established non-Eucharistic offerings, we remain entirely open to exploring, as and when appropriate, other occasions where

a non-Eucharistic service might gently complement our existing pattern, ensuring we continue to meet people exactly where they are on their faith journey.

Having spent this time quietly strengthening our foundations, listening to our communities, and tending the hearth of our parish life, we now stand in a position of quiet confidence. The groundwork is laid. We are now entering an exciting new season where we can confidently begin to invite others in, expand our engagement, and step forward together in faith, trusting that God will continue to guide our path.

Investing in the Future: Youth and Schools

A vital part of our community life remains our work with young people. I continue to value the opportunity to lead collective worship in both of our primary schools, building bridges with the next generation. At Thurston Secondary School, the F3 group—a small, dedicated group for Christian children—continues to meet, providing a crucial space for young folk to encourage one another in their faith journey.

To support this growth, our next significant step is the appointment of a Children and Families worker. This role will focus on worship music, both traditional and contemporary, to help our All-Age services truly flourish and to foster choirs within our schools. We hope this will provide a ‘soft pathway’ for families to discover the call to faith within our church family.

Worship and Sacred Space

While we focus on growth, we remain committed to the ‘bread and butter’ of our spiritual life. I am pleased to announce a new monthly Holy Communion service at Michaelmas Court. This is a wonderful addition to our rhythmic life of prayer, and I warmly invite others from the benefice to come along and join the residents whenever they are able.

We also look back with great joy at the festivals that transformed our buildings this year. At St Peter’s, the Flower Festival last September and the Christmas Tree Festival were stunning. Both events not only raised vital funds but also offered a seasonal enhancement that spoke deeply of God’s beauty. Similarly, the Holy Innocents Christmas Tree Festival, themed ‘A Quiet Place for Christmas,’ was widely appreciated for providing a festive yet peaceful sanctuary amidst the busyness of the season.

The Modern Holy Innocents and Churchyard Projects

The ‘Flight of Kites’ installation, the kites made by our church and village communities to remember children affected by or killed in war, has left a lasting legacy. Holy Innocents is

now rededicating its patronage to continual prayer for the Modern Holy Innocents—children affected by violent conflict across the world. Following our service this Pentecost, we are formalising this as a centre of prayer, with dedicated prayer cards being produced to share this ministry across the Diocese. A great sum of money was raised to donate to the charity War Child, with many generous individual amounts given.

In practical terms, we are working hard to ensure our buildings and grounds remain fit for purpose and welcoming. At Holy Innocents, plans for the toilet project and new pathways are moving forward. Additionally, several churchyard works are in the pipeline to improve our biodiversity, ensuring our outdoor spaces are as full of life as our indoor ones. We hope for positive news on these developments in the coming months.

Governance and Serving the Church

The health of our church depends on those willing to serve on our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). We currently have vacancies, and if you feel called to this way of serving, I encourage you to speak with me. At St Peter's, we have a particular need for a PCC Secretary and a Treasurer to manage day-to-day accounting. Currently, we are employing an external company for our reports at a cost to the church, so a local volunteer would be a significant blessing.

Regarding our Churchwardens, three of our four wardens are currently on an annual 'renewal' of their positions. According to Church Representation Rules, their formal terms are up, but they have very kindly continued their work. We have benefitted immensely from their experience and dedication.

This should not dissuade others from showing an interest in these roles. The knowledge held by our current wardens is ready to be passed on when they eventually choose to step down. If you feel a nudge toward this ministry, your coming forward may be a blessing to them! We are also open to the idea of Assistant Wardens, allowing folk to learn the ropes in a phased way before standing for the position in the future.

A Fellowship of Service and Gratitude

A healthy, vibrant benefice does not happen by accident; it is sustained by the dedication, time, and prayer of so many individuals who give generously of themselves. As your priest, I want to express my deepest personal thanks to the remarkable team that keeps the heart of our parishes beating.

First, to our ministry team: our Reader, Kathy Drakes, whose faithful ministry and teaching continue to bless us immensely. We also owe a particular debt of gratitude to

the Rev'd Steph, who is an important part of our community life, regularly leading services, preaching and contributing her valued reflections to the pew sheet. Together with our other retired clergy, Rev'd David and Rev'd Mark, we are incredibly fortunate to benefit from their wisdom, support, and continued sacramental ministry, which adds such richness to our collective life.

Our Churchwardens—Pat, Margery, Tim, and Angie—bear an immense responsibility with grace, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the care of our people and buildings. I am profoundly grateful for their partnership and support. Alongside them, my thanks go to Peter Robinson, our administrative assistant, whose diligent work behind the scenes keeps our benefice running smoothly.

We also extend our appreciation to our organist, Chris Bartrop, whose musical gifts lift our hearts and elevate our worship week after week.

Finally, I want to shine a light on those whose vital work is not always seen, but whose absence would be felt instantly. To our flower arrangers who bring God's beauty into our sacred spaces; those who quietly ensure St Peter's is open and welcoming every day; our dedicated church cleaners who care for our buildings; and our bellringers, whose ministry calls the wider community to prayer—thank you. Whether your service is upfront or entirely behind the scenes, you are the hands and feet of this church family, and we are blessed by you.

Wider Representation and Advocacy

I will be standing for General Synod this year. My focus will be on ensuring our church is inclusive of all loves and all minds, specifically advocating for the neurodiverse and LGBT+ communities.

I also intend to be a voice for our Suffolk villages. As our landscape changes, I will be calling for far more meaningful consultation with existing residents regarding new housing developments. It is vital that new projects include the necessary infrastructure and leisure facilities to support a thriving community, rather than simply placing further pressure on our existing amenities. I know many of you have felt that the communities you moved into have been altered without any real consideration for the lives of those already there, so I wish to take your concerns forward if possible, to a wider sphere of influence.

A Vocation of Welcome

This next phase of our life together is centred on invitation and welcome. For us, being an inclusive church is not a box-ticking exercise; it is a fundamental vocation. It is the act of letting everyone know, regardless of their background, that they are wanted, welcomed, and included in God's family.

In an unequal world—and, regrettably, an unequal church—we must be vocal in our fight for equity. This does not mean 'drum banging,' but it does mean changing how we speak about our church family and widening the reach of the arms we wrap around our community.

Beyond our local efforts, I have personally taken up a seat on the Diocesan Racial Justice Committee. This is a commitment I have made to listen and 'learn the ropes' of how we can best provide fertile ground to welcome folk of many different heritages. It is a work of education and vigilance that I hope will inform our own culture of welcome. I would dearly love for others within our congregations to consider exploring other areas of inclusion alongside me—particularly in reaching those who experience poverty, the neurodiverse, and the differently abled. As many of you know, I have for some time worked with the LGBT+ community to offer our hand of welcome – this work is ongoing and sadly not helped by our wider national church picture. I believe that our Benefice is a place where no one is an afterthought, and I am confident that we are above all a place that extends the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to everyone who walks into our churches.

I am firm in the conviction that the future of our church is one that welcomes and includes everyone, the diverse people of God working together to proclaim God's love to the whole world.

As Peter Rollins once noted: "If you want to know what a church believes, do not look at its creed; look at its guest list."

May our guest list always be as wide as God's grace. Amen.

Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton

Annual Parish 'Vestry' Meeting 6th May 2025

*Those Present : Rev'd Benjamin Edwards (Chair) Kathy Drakes, Chris Drakes,
Margaret Freeman, Tim Frost, Betty Holdgate, Molly Lumley,
Claire Mackichan, Ilva Maxey, Angela Pearce, Reinhild Raistrick,
Peter Robinson, Linda Scoles, Joop Van der Toorn, Jane Dalton*

Apologies for Absence Rev'd Stephanie, Rev'd Brian Raistrick

Fr. Ben opened the Meeting with prayer

1 Minutes of Meeting on 16.4.24

The Minutes were approved. Proposed by Betty Holdgate, seconded by Angela Pearce, all in favour.

2 Election of Churchwardens

Tim Frost and Angela Pearce were re-elected – all the PCC were happy with this and there were no abstentions. Tim proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Linda Scoles, and Angie proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Linda Scoles. Fr. Ben thanked Tim and Angie for continuing in their demanding roles.

Fr. Ben closed the APCM

Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 6th May 2025

*Those Present : Rev'd Benjamin Edwards (Chair) Kathy Drakes, Chris Drakes,
Margaret Freeman, Tim Frost, Betty Holdgate, Molly Lumley,
Claire Mackichan, Ilva Maxey, Angela Pearce, Reinhild Raistrick,
Peter Robinson, Linda Scoles, Joop Van der Toorn, Jane Dalton*

Apologies for Absence Rev'd Stephanie, Rev'd Brian Raistrick

1 *APCM Minutes of 26.4.24*

These were accepted with no amendments – proposed by Peter, seconded by Claire, all in favour. The Congregation should be informed of where they can be found.

2 *Electoral Roll*

Peter reported on the revision of the Electoral Roll. The number of people has been reduced by 18, to 53. Peter knows there are people who have filled in forms but haven't given them to him.

3 *Annual Reports and Accounts*

Linda commented that it is very good that we have our two Churches worshipping together, and it has come to fruition after many years. The Churchwardens have set up a good schedule – which has taken three years – and the monthly schedule of readers, welcomers, intercessors and others managed by Peter is really helpful. We have good numbers coming to our Churches.

Financial Report

Kathy is standing down as Treasurer, and Betty is taking over the role with Peter's support. Kathy will be there to support them.

Fr. Ben thanked Kathy on behalf of the PCC and the rest of the Holy Innocents Congregation for all she has done. We are so grateful.

Kathy gave a very clear and informative report on the Church's finances and financial activities. Although we are £432 better than last year, the Accounts for 2024 show a loss of £2319 for the year, which means we have had a loss in our General Fund every year since 2021. This is not sustainable. There were many aspects to this, but we are not receiving funds for our Fabric Fund and have been using some of the inheritance money to pay regular maintenance bills. If we want to undertake the projects we had planned with a legacy, we need to ensure that our regular costs are covered.

Our tax efficient planned giving is also down on 2023. We are losing regular givers to our Church, although we have had some new contributors and we need to make an attempt to encourage newer members of our congregation to be aware of the ways they can give on a regular basis. On the positive side, we were able to provide Bibles for our Primary School with the aid of donations, and we made payments to Christian Aid from the Cream Tea.

We have £210,000 from legacies and £292,958 in our Fabric Fund, most of which is designated.

Hopefully we can have a Finance Committee which would be really helpful.

4. *Appointment of Independent Examiner*

Daniel from Gascoynes was recommended to us, and he has been very helpful. The 2024 accounts are now ready, but cannot be audited until we have Daniel's report, so they are still pending. The Gascoynes' charge is £300 per year.

Everyone at the meeting was in favour of Daniel's appointment – no-one was against or abstained.

5 *Reports on different aspects of Church Life*

We received a wide range of reports which were publicised on our website, and they were very interesting. On the Choir (Chris Bartrop), on Church Flowers (Wendy Jones) where unfortunately we now have too few volunteers, on Fundraising (Linda Scoles), on GDPR, the Electoral Roll and our Website, and the Messenger which is now discontinued (Peter Robinson), on Bell Ringing (Sally Veal), on Mothers Union (Gill Flower) and on Fabric (Tim Frost). And Fr. Ben read his very interesting report on many aspects of the Church's life. We are very grateful to everybody.

On behalf of everybody, Joop thanked Fr. Ben (and his family) for everything he does, which is really valued. Fr. Ben said that his wife and his family give him a great deal of support.

6 Election of PCC Members

The following people were elected to the Parochial Church Council :

Kathy Drakes proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Jane Dalton

Betty (Margaret) Holdgate proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by

Kathy Drakes

Claire Mackichan proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Angela Pearce

Linda Scoles proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Betty Holdgate

Jane Dalton proposed by Peter Robinson, seconded by Angela Pearce

Peter Robinson (who lives in Thurston, not Great Barton) was co-opted to the PCC. Proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Angela Pearce

All were unanimously elected.

7 Date of Next Meeting

This will be decided later, and it will be announced.

Fr. Ben closed the Meeting with prayer.

PCC Secretary's Report to the APCM (2026)

Council Governance and Administration

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met five times during the past year to discern and oversee the governance, finance, and mission of the parish. To ensure efficient oversight, the Finance Sub-Committee and the Fabric Sub-Committee met additionally outside of ordinary sessions to manage urgent operational matters and prepare proposals for the full council.

We extend our sincere thanks to Fr Ben, the churchwardens, and all members of the PCC for their dedicated service and leadership throughout the year.

Major Fabric and Capital Projects

The PCC has dedicated significant time to several key community and structural initiatives:

The Church Institute: Plans are progressing for an extensive refurbishment to improve accessibility and facilities (including a welcoming lobby, accessible toilets, and safety railings). The council is incredibly grateful to Graham Mothersole for his invaluable assistance in developing this project.

Churchyard Infrastructure: The renewal of the churchyard paths to ensure safe, wheelchair-friendly access is underway, alongside plans to establish a new Cremation Memorial Ground.

Church Toilet: Plans are underway for the installation of a toilet in the church building itself, where the children's corner is currently – this would move to the Lady Chapel area. There are various steps to be taken, both administrative and practical. The aim is that this work will commence this summer, subject to a successful drainage test. It is acknowledged that projects may face delay, so no final date has yet been set.

Parish Maintenance: Following the winding up of the *Friends of the Church* due to declining numbers, their remaining funds (approximately £10,900) were generously gifted to the parish. The PCC has resolved to allocate these funds toward vital fabric needs, including the drainage and pipework repairs recommended by the architect.

Mission, Ministry, and Outreach

Following the receipt of a generous bequest from the late Julia Briggs, the PCC warmly approved a proposal to launch a *three-year pilot project to appoint a Children's and Families Minister with a focus on music*. This role will develop an inclusive musical culture across the Benefice, bridging traditional and contemporary worship to engage local young people and families.

Furthermore, the PCC has approved the pastoral development of services incorporating the *Prayers of Love and Faith*, alongside a renewed digital strategy to enhance our social media engagement.

Safeguarding Compliance

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Jane Dalton — PCC Secretary Date of PCC Approval 23rd September 2025

The Electoral Roll Number

The number of names on the Church Electoral Roll at the time of the report (17th May) was 56.

Wider Deanery and Diocesan Governance

The parish was represented at Deanery Synod meetings throughout the year by our elected representatives, ensuring our voice was heard in wider diocesan discussions.

Status Update on Parish Property (The Terrier and Inventory)

The Terrier and Inventory of church property have been reviewed by the churchwardens and remain an accurate record of the parish's assets."

Jane Dalton

PCC Secretary

Church Wardens Report 31st May 2026

Both Angela and I, continue to serve this community and our church, to the best of our ability.

The church is cleaned every Saturday afternoon prior to a service the Sunday following. Angela as Sacristan, maintains and cleans all the churches laundry and prepares the Altar for worship. We jointly clean floors and pews, window ledges and carpets. Prepare the church for Funerals and Weddings and worship ensuring the liturgical colours are presented for each kind of service as is prescribed. Periodically, the brasses are also cleaned.

Generally, Angela unlocks the church in the morning, and I, lock the church each Evening. On occasions we interchange depending on each of our availabilities and commitments.

All church records and registers of Weddings, Funerals, Banns and Baptisms are maintained by me and are kept up to date.

The layout of church burials and Internment of ashes are also kept up to date, indicating all vacant spaces and reserved plots according to Faculty applications completed. All are retained within the Churchyard Map book.

Where necessary, all annual checks are followed up, Roof alarm, Font cover, Lightning conductor, Fire Extinguishers. Annually the Church Insurance is maintained and five yearly the Electrical testing of the church is done and the Architects five-yearly quinquennial inspection is undertaken. Pat testing is also done every two years.

All church valuables are securely stored. All are photographed and photos stored off-site.

A periodic walk round the church is necessary to ensure public safety is paramount and where necessary, action is taken to correct any situations that need attention. Within the annual report is a list of keyholders and a safety/evacuation plan. During concerts, Worship, Wedding and Funerals doors should be kept unlocked. No fire extinguishers should be moved from their positions and all walkways kept clear. Carpets are also reviewed for wear and tear.

The terrier is maintained each year.

If anyone has any concerns on any of the above, they should contact either of the Wardens.

Tim Frost

Angela Pearce.

Statistics for Mission 2025 for APCM 31st May 2026

Baptism **1**

Wedding **1**

Funerals **12**

Funerals Officiated Elsewhere by our Ministry Team **2**

Committal only or Burial or Ashes **5**

Fabric Report APCM 31st May 2026

A year which has been full of preparing for things, rather than achieving great things.

Church Toilet

Still on-going, with test drains soon to be dug. Marking the next stage of having, in the future, a fully flushed toilet within the church building.

Church Paths

Many quotes and visits to see what our current candidates have to offer, to suit the image and presentation we are trying to achieve for our church paths. No news yet. Until we are satisfied what our candidates can provide at a price that is acceptable the finish we are looking for. Still some work to be done.

Trees

We have had two dead trees removed from our churchyard.

New memorial ground

We must reclaim buried flints in the proposed area before the DAC will review our application. No work can be done until this is complete. Volunteers required to help us to achieve this, before moving to the next stage.

Drainpipes

The Church drainpipes have been refurbished, replaced where necessary and all painted and rodded.

Font Cover

The font cover continues to require regular checks. The next one will require a tower to inspect the roof fixings.

Tim Frost Churchwarden

Church of Holy Innocents 200 Club 2025/26

We currently have 103 members. The prize money is paid out monthly.

£100 first prize and £25 second prize.

The objective is to generate £1000 annually for the Fabric Fund and prizes of £1500 given out annually.

Accounts are examined annually and details of income and prize draws are advised to West Suffolk Council in accordance with our obligation under the small lottery license.

Details of winning tickets are listed on Holy Innocents Facebook page and Great Barton Village Facebook page.

Tim Frost

Administrator

Report on 2025 Fundraising

The Fundraising for 2025 was down to one event: The St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir sang for us on 22 March 2025.

It was their usual excellent programme, enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

Bangers and Bingo was not available due to ill health of some of the organisers.

New committee members with enthusiasm and new ideas are urgently required.

Linda Scoles

Report for Meeting Point

During 2025 Meeting Point has grown, we rarely have less than 21 for lunch quite often 30.

It is very popular and if you are in the kitchen it is lovely to hear the buzz in the hall, as people greet friends new and old. We were lucky to get a Warm Space grant, again. This meant that we could, give people a Christmas and Easter Lunch,

Reinhild has retired but she has been with Meeting Point since it started with Sarah. Thank you for all you help in the past.

We have recruited four more people front of house, we need to try and recruit another cook or two.

We try to do a special every week, this is proving very popular and our cooks can be very inventive.

We have raised £1966.00 towards the church General Fund.

Betty Holdgate

Treasurers Report for APCM 2026

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to see the accounts.

I am sure that you will notice that some of our investments have lost money, this is due to the current situation in Iran but as they are long term investments they do have time to grow.

What the figures show is that our regular income does not cover our Parish Share, this is not sustainable. We should not become reliant on money that is left to the Church

We need to try and do more Fund Raising.

Betty Holdgate

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	The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts:
12-13	Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

**HOLY INNOCENTS GREAT BARTON PCC
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
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HOLY INNOCENTS GREAT BARTON PCC
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

**Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 December 2025**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

The primary function of the church is that of the advancement of the Christian Faith.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Mr Peter Robinson
Mrs Margaret Holdgate

Principal Address

Church Road
Gt Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP31 2QS

Independent Examiner

Gascoyne House
Moseleys Farm Business Centre
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6JY

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Margaret Holdgate
Trustee
Date

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date
Gascoyne House
Moseleys Farm Business Centre
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6JY

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Notes	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies	3	71,845	6,514
Other trading activities		15,485	316
Investments		5,104	-
		<u>92,434</u>	<u>6,830</u>
		78,359	43,912
		15,801	13,542
		5,104	521
		<u>99,264</u>	<u>57,975</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds		(3,191)	-
Charitable activities:			
Advancement of the christian faith		(71,430)	-
		<u>(74,621)</u>	<u>-</u>
		(3,191)	(3,236)
		(71,430)	(60,584)
		<u>(74,621)</u>	<u>(63,820)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)		17,813	6,830
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(5,651)	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>12,162</u>	<u>6,830</u>
		17,813	24,643
		(5,651)	1,708
		<u>12,162</u>	<u>18,992</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		12,162	6,830
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:			
Total funds brought forward		306,300	16,898
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	8	<u>318,462</u>	<u>23,728</u>
		306,300	323,198
		16,898	326,554
		<u>342,190</u>	<u>323,198</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	35,868	8,044	43,912
Other trading activities		7,599	5,943	13,542
Investments		521	-	521
		<u>43,988</u>	<u>13,987</u>	<u>57,975</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds		(1,684)	(1,552)	(3,236)
Charitable activities:				
Advancement of the christian faith		(60,584)	-	(60,584)
		<u>(62,268)</u>	<u>(1,552)</u>	<u>(63,820)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT LOSSES		<u>(18,280)</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>(5,845)</u>
Net gains on investments		1,708	-	1,708
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>(16,572)</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>(4,137)</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(16,572)</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>(4,137)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward as previously stated		322,091	4,463	326,554
Prior year adjustment		781	-	781
Total funds brought forward as restated		<u>322,872</u>	<u>4,463</u>	<u>327,335</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	8	<u><u>306,300</u></u>	<u><u>16,898</u></u>	<u><u>323,198</u></u>

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4	8,942	-	8,942	8,350
Investments	5	246,317	15,581	261,898	44,554
		255,259	15,581	270,840	52,904
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	5,461	1,840	7,301	11,700
Cash at bank and in hand		60,037	6,307	66,344	261,793
		65,498	8,147	73,645	273,493
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	7	(2,295)	-	(2,295)	(3,199)
		63,203	8,147	71,350	270,294
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)					
		318,462	23,728	342,190	323,198
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		318,462	23,728	342,190	323,198
NET ASSETS					
		318,462	23,728	342,190	323,198
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				23,728	16,898
Unrestricted Funds				318,462	306,300
TOTAL FUNDS	8			342,190	323,198

On behalf of the board

Mrs Margaret Holdgate
Trustee
Date

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

1. General Information

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC is an unincorporated church with the objective for the advancement of the Christian Faith. The principal address is Church Road, Gt Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2QS.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2.3. Incoming Resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

2.4. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT where applicable. All expenditure is allocated to a particular activity where it relates directly to that activity. Support functions (including communications, finance, human resources and governance) are apportioned across the activities that they function support. Overhead costs (including office running costs and consumables, information technology and insurance) are similarly apportioned. Taken together, all these costs are referred to as 'support costs' in Note 6 to the Financial Statements. Support costs are apportioned to activities based on the number of staff employed within that activity.

2.5. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

2.6. Investments

Investments are measured at the fair value.

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

2.7. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.8. Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

The company's financial assets are measured at the cash consideration expected to be received and are not discounted.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in income/(expenditure), except that investments in equity instruments that are not publically traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	2025		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	39,945	6,514	46,459
Legacies	31,900	-	31,900
	<u>71,845</u>	<u>6,514</u>	<u>78,359</u>
	2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	35,484	8,044	43,528
Legacies	384	-	384
	<u>35,868</u>	<u>8,044</u>	<u>43,912</u>

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

4. Tangible Assets

	Handbells	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 January 2025	8,350	-	8,350
Additions	-	725	725
As at 31 December 2025	<u>8,350</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>9,075</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2025	-	-	-
Provided during the period	-	133	133
As at 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>133</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 December 2025	<u>8,350</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>8,942</u>
As at 1 January 2025	<u>8,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,350</u>

5. Investments

	Listed
	£
Cost or Valuation	
As at 1 January 2025	44,554
Additions	222,995
Revaluations	(5,651)
As at 31 December 2025	<u>261,898</u>
Provision	
As at 1 January 2025	-
As at 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>
Net Book Value	
As at 31 December 2025	<u>261,898</u>
As at 1 January 2025	<u>44,554</u>

6. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	<u>7,301</u>	<u>11,700</u>

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

7. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	524	3,199
Accruals and deferred income	1,771	-
	<u>2,295</u>	<u>3,199</u>

8. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	9,328	62,072	(76,884)	1,966	(3,518)
Designated:					
Fabric	288,496	23,846	(1,111)	-	311,231
Meeting Point	8,476	5,916	(1,984)	(1,966)	10,442
Meeting point - Warm space	-	600	(293)	-	307
	<u>296,972</u>	<u>30,362</u>	<u>(3,388)</u>	<u>(1,966)</u>	<u>321,980</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>306,300</u>	<u>92,434</u>	<u>(80,272)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,462</u>
Restricted funds					
Fabric	4,463	1,001	-	-	5,464
Church Institute Restoration	12,435	5,829	-	-	18,264
	<u>16,898</u>	<u>6,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,728</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>16,898</u>	<u>6,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,728</u>
Total funds	<u>323,198</u>	<u>99,264</u>	<u>(80,272)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342,190</u>

	As at 1 January 2024	Prior year adjustment	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	21,648	781	36,884	(49,985)	9,328
Designated:					
Fabric	294,813	-	-	(6,317)	288,496
Meeting Point	5,630	-	7,104	(4,258)	8,476
	<u>300,443</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,104</u>	<u>(10,575)</u>	<u>296,972</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>322,091</u>	<u>781</u>	<u>43,988</u>	<u>(60,560)</u>	<u>306,300</u>

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Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Restricted funds					
Fabric	4,463	-	1,552	(1,552)	4,463
Church Institute Restoration	-	-	12,435	-	12,435
Total restricted funds	4,463	-	13,987	(1,552)	16,898
Total funds	326,554	781	57,975	(62,112)	323,198

9. Related Party Disclosures

There has been no related party transactions within the financial period.

Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
Donations and legacies		
Tax-efficient planned giving	19,543	18,626
All tax recovered (restricted & unrestricted)	5,514	5,119
Other Giving	2,875	2,623
Collections at Services	1,771	1,760
Gift Days & donations	16,756	15,400
Legacies	31,900	384
	<u>78,359</u>	<u>43,912</u>
Other trading activities		
Use of church buildings	322	135
Magazine	30	50
Fees	6,703	5,850
Fundraising events	8,746	7,507
	<u>15,801</u>	<u>13,542</u>
Investments		
Dividends & interest	5,104	521
	<u>5,104</u>	<u>521</u>
	<u>99,264</u>	<u>57,975</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
Cost of raising funds	(3,191)	(3,236)
	<u>(3,191)</u>	<u>(3,236)</u>
Charitable Activities:		
Advancement of the christian faith		
Church administration	(1,732)	(633)
Support costs	(821)	(1,544)
Salaries, wages & honoraria	(2,821)	(2,540)
Diocesan Centenary (Parish) Share	(39,890)	(39,735)
Clergy expenses: Working expenses	(2,493)	(1,425)
Church running expenses	(3,543)	(3,604)
Church maintenance	(13,716)	(6,161)
Upkeep of services	(483)	(405)
Upkeep of churchyard	-	(89)
Computer software costs	(633)	-
Parish magazine & bookstall expenses	(41)	(141)
Church Institute running costs	(3,251)	(2,555)
Diocesan fees & fee disbursements	-	(550)
Christian relief & development agencies	-	(281)

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Holy Innocents Great Barton PCC
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Home mission & other church societies	(260)	(921)
Depreciation of computer equipment	(133)	-
Accountancy fees	(1,613)	-
	(71,430)	(60,584)
	(74,621)	(63,820)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)	24,643	(5,845)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		
(Deficit)/surplus on revaluation of investments	(5,651)	1,708
	(5,651)	1,708
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	18,992	(4,137)

Benefice Safeguarding Report for the APCM 2026

This Benefice is fully committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and to supporting the victims of abuse. We have a duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults). Both PCC's have issued a Parish Safeguarding Statement (St Peters on 26/8/25 & Holy Innocents on 23/9/25). These documents are displayed on the respective Church noticeboards.

I am able to report that the majority of the PCC are now up to date on training. Father Ben and I will be ensuring that all PCC members are fully compliant with regard to Safeguarding.

During the year the following Safeguarding training was completed.

Basic Awareness– 4

Foundation – 3

One DBS check was also completed during 2025. Further DBS checks are in the process of being completed to ensure that we are fully compliant with the requirements.

There have been no Safeguarding issues reported to Father Ben or me during 2025.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us. As has been said a number of times, it is important that you report any concerns to one of us. It may seem like something small to you but it can build a picture for us if we hear from more than one person. And remember, safeguarding covers more than just abuse, although that is the headline issue.

If you see anywhere that you think we need to display any more posters, please let me know.

On a final note, thank you for your support on Safeguarding. Whilst Revd. Ben and I are the named contacts we can't do this without your help.

Kathy Drakes

Electoral Roll

This year 2026, is a revision year for the Electoral Roll, so very few changes will be made. Any changes that people are aware of should be reported to the Electoral Roll Officer, during the revision period.

I will prepare two versions of the Roll; the Porch copy which has names only and the Record copy which has both names and addresses. If the revised copy of the roll is approved by the APCM the Porch Copy can then be displayed in the church porch. The Record Copy will be held by the Electoral Roll Officer, Fr Ben and the PCC Secretary. This has been our approach for some years now; it embodies the spirit of data protection.

Details of the new Roll:

The revised Electoral Roll was completed on 17th May 2026.

The number on the Electoral Roll on 17/05/2026 was 36.

Upon approval by the APCM I will:

Place a copy of the Public Copy on the church noticeboard.

Advise the diocesan office of the new roll numbers.

Send an email copy of the Record Copy to Fr Ben and PCC secretary.

Ann Reeve

Great Barton and Thurston Tower Bells : 2025 – 2026

Yet another year has passed since my last report, and your Great Barton and Thurston Bell Ringers have had another busy year.

We have five fully paid-up members of the Suffolk Guild at Great Barton and one at Thurston.

We hold a practice at Great Barton on Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9.00 and then, on Friday evenings, we alternate our practice between Rougham and Pakenham, 7.30 – 9.00. These are well attended practices and include seven people who are starting out on their tower bell ringing journey – it's lovely to see the improvement over the time. I also help out at the Troston and Mildenhall practices which alternate on Tuesday evenings.

On Sunday mornings we alternate between Thurston and Great Barton except on the third Sunday when we ring at Pakenham and Rougham. I'm afraid ringing on Sundays has been a bit sporadic just lately, but we ring whenever we can.

We managed to ring for both Harvest Festivals as they were on different Sundays this year. We rang at Great Barton for Remembrance and also at Pakenham as they have an afternoon service. On Christmas Eve we rang for both Crib Services and also the 9 pm Midnight Service at Thurston. Mothering Sunday fell on the third Sunday so we rang at Pakenham and Rougham – apologies for this, but maybe next year ! Over the year, we rang for eight weddings, but only one each at Great Barton and Thurston. Also, two funerals. We had one group of visitors each at Great Barton and Thurston. We also decorated a Christmas Tree to be in Great Barton Church over the Christmas Season.

Your bell ringers attend most District Practices on second Saturdays of the month, also extra teaching practices. We attend the Guild and District AGM's, both of which involve ringing at various open towers beforehand, then a service and tea, and finally the meeting commences.

On the 21st April 2025 there was a District Outing to the Cambridge area, visiting six towers. And we had another on the 9th August visiting five towers including Gt. Yarmouth Minster.

A good time was had by all !

On the evening of V E Day, 8th May, a team of us managed to ring the bells at Tostock, Rougham, Thurston, Pakenham and Great Barton.

Great Barton entered a team for the District Striking Competition on the 13th September at Horringer, and we managed third place.

Also, over the year, your members have been involved in several Quarter Peals (lasting approximately 50 minutes) and the “madder ones” Peals (lasting approximately 3 Hours – on six bells anyway!) commemorating various people and events.

As I said at the beginning of this Report, another busy year !

Sally Veal, Tower Captain

Church Flowers

I am afraid I have nothing new to add to a Report, except to thank my small band of volunteers for their sterling support. No one has come forward to help and also the prospect of attending the church alone to put flowers in place and also to water is not something I relish in this day and age, also someone is not always available to accompany me and perhaps others feel the same. Perhaps the time has come for the church to donate funds to purchase silk flowers for each season. I am not getting any younger along

with many of my volunteers. Such a system with silk flowers on occasions would alleviate people having to attend for watering. I leave these thoughts with the meeting.

Wendy Jones

Gt Barton and Thurston Mothers' Union

Currently we have 19 members including 5 indoor members.

Sadly, during the year two members died : Liz Stevenson and Beth Harris. Both had been members for many years and are missed by all of us.

We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 11.00

We welcomed various speakers during 2025 including Alison Brain who spoke about her work with an orphanage/school in Uganda, the Rev. Steph Van Der Toorn who told us about how she came to be a vicar, and Mary Edwards who spoke about the winter garden.

We crafted Easter wreaths with Sheila and Vonnie and prepared flags to decorate the Christmas trees in both churches.

Kathy Drakes led us in two bible studies, and we were led by Fr. Ben in our Corporate Communion Service in Holy Innocents church in September.

We organised the World Day of Prayer Service in March. This had been compiled by Christian women in The Cook Islands and was held in the chapel at Montana. It was well attended and we were able to send £123 to the W.D.P. movement.

As the average attendance at our meetings is only 9 and we have been unable to take part in Diocesan events, we have decided to become a Fellowship Group. This means that we pay our subscriptions directly to the Diocese and no longer have a bank account.

We are all grateful to Peter Jones for his services as our treasurer over the years.

We continue to advertise in the Church Pew Sheet and the Thurston Village Newsletter.

Gill Flower & Linda Scoles

Choir Report : 2025 - 2026

Our benefice choir continues to lead the music at services throughout the year and have sung anthems at the major festivals.

We have been part of the very successful Deanery Evensong, which was held at St Peter's this year.

The choir rehearses at Holy Innocents each Friday at 7.30pm February through to December.

New members are very welcome.

Chris Bartrop

GDPR

Very little change with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) . The latest updates published were in 2023. However, we must continue to ensure that we do not share personal information, without prior written consent. When sending an email to multiple addresses please use the BCC function. This way all addresses are hidden.

We should also remember that if an officer of the Church, e.g. Church Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Officer, or anyone leaving the Church, that holds personal information. We must ensure that this information is deleted from their computers and hard copies destroyed or returned to the Church. The Data Protection Co-ordinator must also receive confirmation from the member that this has been done. A copy of this confirmation should be held on file.

Benefice Website and Facebook

Our website and Facebook pages continue to be an important part of communication for our churches, especially the articles from Fr Ben which create a lot of engagements. Great Barton is likely to be a fast-growing village, and most new residents will be young families, which look for their news and information online. So, to reach these new people, we must continue to utilise our Social Media pages and website. We are receiving extremely good numbers of people viewing the Holy Innocents Facebook, especially if we can include photographs of events and special occasions.

Our figures for views on the website continue to be encouraging, but we need to ensure that we continue to update our pages on a regular basis with new and exciting news and events. Please keep the information coming.

Peter Robinson

Electoral Roll

This year 2026, is a revision year for the Electoral Roll, so very few changes will be made. Any changes that people are aware of should be reported to the Electoral Roll Officer, during the revision period.

I will prepare two versions of the Roll; the Porch copy which has names only and the Record copy which has both names and addresses. If the revised copy of the roll is approved by the APCM the Porch Copy can then be displayed in the church porch. The Record Copy will be held by the Electoral Roll Officer, Fr Ben and the PCC Secretary. This has been our approach for some years now, it embodies the spirit of data protection

Details of the new Roll:

The revised Electoral Roll will be completed on 17th May 2026.

The number on the Electoral Roll on 17/05/2026 was 56.

Upon approval by the APCM I will:

Place a copy of the Public Copy on the church noticeboard.

Advise the diocesan office of the new roll numbers.

Send an email copy of the Record Copy to Fr Ben and PCC secretary.