

The Church Of St Margaret of Antioch, Shottisham

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For The Year Ended 31st December 2024

1. Administrative Information

St Margaret's Church is situated at the centre of the village of Shottisham, above and behind the Sorrel Horse Public House. It is in the Wilford Peninsula Team Benefice, part of the Woodbridge Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, within the Church of England. Within the Wilford Peninsula Team Benefice, there are three clusters and Shottisham Parish is part of one which comprises seven parishes.

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The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Rector/Vicar(s)	Revd Simon Cake (Team Vicar & Chair)
Churchwardens:	Anne Buswell (also Treasurer) Micky McBurnie
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Vacant
Elected Members:	Pat Bendon (Vice Chair) Helene Berry (also Elder and Secretary) Jeremy Emerson
Ex Officio	Rev Kathy Wilson

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules, with the following provisos.

The following Resolutions have been adopted, with reference to the Synodical Government (Amendment) Measure 2003:

- (a) That the PCC will continue to have 6 Lay Representatives elected to the PCC in 2005 and thereafter.
- (b) That every place shall be filled by annual elections.

The PCC also passed this Resolution, lifting some restrictions on Churchwarden appointments.

- (a) That the PCC will set aside the provision of the Churchwardens Measure 2007 until a future Resolution re-instates it. In particular, the measure limiting the term of office of a Churchwarden is disregarded.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

3. Objectives and Activities

St Margaret's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Churchyard of St Margaret's. The incumbent is the Team Rector.

Achievements and Performance

4. Church Attendance 2024 (2023)

The average numbers across all three regular services on Sundays at Shottisham during the year remained at 9 including 2 children (some attending non communion services). Average at each regular service changed very little from 2023 and was: Evensong 7 (8), Morning Praise 10 (7) and FC 10 (11). The highest attended service was yet again the Christmas Carol Service at 48 (35) but the Christmas Midnight Mass (at 9.30 pm) came a very close second at 46 (25). Regular attendance so far in 2025 is showing an increase.

We also held the usual special services of the Lent Lunch and Good Friday Walk - this time to Sutton. Attendance for non regular services has increased with Pet Service 11 (10) and Harvest at the Allotments 30 (20).

The regular service timing continued as 1st Sunday - Family Communion 9.30, 2nd Sunday Morning Praise 11.00, 3rd Sunday Evensong 6.00, 4th Sunday – elsewhere. Grateful thanks to the leaders of these Services.

The visitors' book lists 102 people from 63 visits (110 from 65) for the year but where a group has visited, this is counted as one person as not known how many in group.

There were two funerals during the year and one baptism.

There were 16 parishioners on the **Church Electoral Roll in 2024**, 5 of whom were not resident within the parish. (to be eligible a person must be baptised and either be a resident or have habitually attended worship). On the new electoral roll just compiled (has to be done every 5 years), there are 14 members. Although some people have left the roll, new people have come on and we would welcome more.

5. Review of the Year

The PCC met in full six times (24/1,20/3,14/4,3/7,18/9, 30/10) during the year. The meetings were chaired by either Rev Simon or Pat Bendon. All were minuted.

Just two fund raising events for church funds took place; these were the Pancake Party and Summer Fete. There were no riders for the National Cycle Ride and the Winter Fayre date clashed with other events on the peninsula so it was decided to cancel it. The two events raised net £227 (£173) and £1776 (£1619) respectively; a total of £2003 (£2223).

Two other events took place for charities. The Autumn Concert for East Anglian Air Ambulance £247 (£216), and Carol Singing around the village £85.61 (£139) for the Children's Society.

Events arranged so far (at 11/5/25) for 2025. We have already hosted the Pancake Party, Lent Lunch and Good Friday Walk and Rev Kathy arranged an extremely enjoyable outing to "Narnia" at the New

Rectory over Easter. Unfortunately we still do not have a project manager to organise a garden walk. We will be holding the Pet Service again on 17th August, Church Fete on the August Bank Holiday Sunday and Harvest at the Allotments on Sunday 21st September. There will also be the Autumn concert In November on Remembrance Sunday. In December we will have the usual carol singing – hopefully in the pub - the winter fayre, a nativity service, carol service and midnight at Bethlehem service.

6. Financial Review.

A detailed separate report is (was) presented in the AGM. In summary, general income was £14351 (£6670) and outgoings £10616 (£8257), giving a net surplus of £3735 (deficit £1587). However it should be noted that we were fortunate enough to receive some unexpected donations totalling £7270 which are included in the above figures. The largest item of expenditure was £5505 for the Parish Share which paid for our priest(s) and Diocesan costs. No major expenditure took place during the year. The contactless device continues to account for the majority of the regular offerings received in the church. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure is available for general review in the church porch.

Thanks to all who support the church as an organisation, its services, the building upkeep and wonderful displays of flowers at appropriate times.