

The Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Shottisham

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For The Year Ended 31st December 2025

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 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Rector	Rev Mandy Reynolds - Wilford Benefice
Team Vicar	Revd Simon Cake (Chair) – Hollesley Cluster
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 2025 (2024)

The average numbers across all three regular services on Sundays at Shottisham during the year increased to 13 from 9 including 3 (2) children (some attending non communion services). Average at each regular service increased from 2024 and was: FC 13 (10), Morning Praise 15 (10), Evensong 10 (7). The highest attended service was yet again the Christmas Carol Service at 65 (48) but the Christmas Midnight Mass (at 9.30 pm) came a very close second at 59 (46). Regular attendance so far in 2026 is showing a further increase.

We also held the special annual services of Lent Lunch and Good Friday Walk - this time from Sutton. Attendance for other non regular services was Pet Service 23 (11) and Harvest at the Allotments 19 (30).

The regular service timing continued as previous years; 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 122 (102) people for the year but where a group has visited, this is counted as one person as it is not known how many would have been in the group.

There were no funerals, weddings or baptisms during the year.

There were 14 parishioners on the **Church Electoral Roll in 2025**, 8 of whom were not resident within the parish. (to be on the roll a person must be baptised and either be a resident or have habitually attended worship). Inclusion in the roll is a requirement of eligibility to vote at the APCM.

5. Review of the Year

The PCC met in full six times (22/1,26/3,11/5,16/7,17/9,12/11) during the year. The meetings were chaired by either Rev Simon or Pat Bendon. All were minuted. We also held event planning meetings on 12/2, 21/5,18/6,23/7,15/10,25/11 at which non PCC members were welcomed.

Four fund raising events for the church took place during the year compared to just two in 2024; these were the Pancake Party, Cycle Ride, Summer Fete and Winter Fayre. The events raised net £247 (£227), £85 (£0), £1845 (£1776) and £276.50 (£0) respectively; a total of £2454 (£2003).

In addition, two events took place for charities. The Autumn Concert for Gt Ormond St Hospital £350 (£247), and carol singing in the pub £64 (£85) for the Children's Society. The donation from the concert to GOSH was £200 and all money from the carol singing went to the CS.

Events arranged so far (at 26/4/26) for 2026. We have already hosted the Pancake Party, Lent Lunch and Good Friday Walk. Unfortunately we still do not have a project manager to organise the previously very popular garden walk. We will be holding the Pet Service again on 16th August, Church Fete on the August Bank Holiday weekend (actual day to be confirmed), Harvest at the Allotments on Sunday 20th

September and Concert on Remembrance Sunday. In December there will be the Winter Fayre, carol singing, nativity service, carol service and midnight at Bethlehem service.

6. Financial Review.

A separate detailed report was presented at the APCM and breakdown of income and expenditure approved by the Independent Examiner is available for general review in the church porch. In summary, general income was lower than 2024 at £5952 (£14351) and outgoings were a little less £9313 (£10616), giving a net deficit of £3361 (surplus £3735). There was no fee income from weddings or funerals as there was in 2024 and no legacy income which had been received in previous years. The largest item of expenditure was £5604 for the Parish Share which pays for our priests and some Diocesan costs, the next highest item was for insurance £1072. 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.

We would like to encourage more planned giving to the church with the aim of covering at least our Parish Share. The Parish Giving Scheme is a simple way to do this and leaflets with the QR code and details have been circulated in the village and are available and on display at the church.

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



Anne M. Buswell
Churchwarden