

St Oswald's Church Fulford

PCC Secretaries for the Parochial Church Council Report 2025

Introduction

The PCC met six times during the year (January, March, May, July, September and November). Average attendance at meetings was 87%.

Rev. Canon Sue Sheriff is licensed as Priest in Charge. Sue Baughan continued to co-chair the PCC throughout 2025 with Rev. Canon Sue Sherriff. The annual report gives details of the membership of the PCC throughout 2024.

The PCC continued its practice of making church members aware of the content of its meetings by publishing the key points by email and giving a brief update in the service following the PCC.

Key issues discussed and decisions made by the PCC in 2025

Finance

The PCC approved a deficit budget for 2025. By the end of 2025 the actual deficit of expenditure over income was £2,337 (See annual report for further details of our financial situation). The PCC receives monthly financial reports and reviews its position at each meeting.

The PCC and the Building and Finance groups considered the financial position of the church during the year, particularly in relation to its designated and restricted funds. The Charity Commission encourages its charitable bodies not to hold on to funds. The PCC intends to spend a significant amount of its designated and restricted funds on building work which will commence in 2026 (Porch, kitchenette, toilet and heating in church).

The PCC agreed to increase the freewill offering from £60,000 in 2025 to £64,800 in 2026. The PCC is very grateful to Terina Hurley for continuing to support us as our treasurer. We continue to look for a replacement from within our congregation.

The PCC acknowledges the fact that it has set deficit budgets for a number of years. It recognises the need to ensure ongoing sustainable funding for its activities. The PCC has appealed to the congregation early in 2026 and they have responded generously.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

The PCC receives a report at each meeting and ensures that the appropriate policies and procedures are in place and are being followed. The PCC is very grateful to Tricia Giltrap and Pippa Ensor who are the Safeguarding lead and deputy and to Tricia again for her work leading Health and Safety for most of the year. Calvin Russell took over the role of Health and Safety lead in May 2025.

The PCC were delighted that St Oswald's is now on level 3 on the Diocesan safeguarding dashboard and have been working on the safeguarding hub.

Building work

Throughout the year the PCC discussed and made decisions to enable the church building programme to go ahead. The PCC delegated much of the detailed discussion to the Building Group which was chaired by Michael Courcier. The PCC is very grateful to Michael Courcier for the work he has done and continues to do to take the building programme forward.

The PCC decided that a handrail was needed for the emergency ramp installed at the side of the church hall in 2024. Faculty permission was granted and the work carried out in 2025.

The PCC approved plans for the West End reordering project which includes the rebuilding of the church porch, the addition of a disabled toilet and kitchenette, the removal of the redundant overhead gas heating and the addition of radiators round the pillars. Grant applications were made and a congregation appeal planned for early in 2026. Tenders were received in November. At an extraordinary meeting held in January 2026 the PCC gave its approval for the work to go ahead.

Church Wardens

Bryan Milner stepped down as church warden at the 2025 APCM. The PCC recorded its thanks to Bryan who had served as a church warden (and latterly as the only warden) for a significant number of years. The PCC recognises that it is vital to appoint a new warden and preferably two at the APCM in 2025. The PCC oversaw work to identify and delegate the many tasks which Bryan carried out in his role as church warden.

Other key aspects of PCC business during 2025

Good place warm place

Once again, the City of York Council awarded St Oswald's church a grant to provide a Good Place Warm Place. The church has done this through its weekly cafes, Tots group and Time Out and through extending the café to run in school holidays and provided a food share (see church activities report for more detail).

Administrator

The PCC acknowledged that in order to support the vicar, it was vital to have more administrative support. The PCC has agreed to the appointment of a paid administrator. Work was done in 2024 to prepare the job description and an appointment was made in May 2025 for a period of 2 years and 10 hours per week.

Installation of a defibrillator outside the church hall

British Heart Foundation funding was granted and Townend Chartered Accountants donated the rest of the cost and agreed to cover the maintenance costs. The defibrillator was installed in Summer 2025 and is regularly checked by a church member.

Church grounds

A team of volunteer gardeners and our Forest Church group (see church activities report) help to maintain and develop the ground around our church. In 2025 ward funding was received for the provision of two raised beds. Following a survey, it was identified that a horse chestnut tree was in danger of splitting. Following a debate which took into account the ecological implications and the possible risks, it was decided to have the tree felled but to keep the felled material on site and to carve the stump into a seat.