

Parish Council AGM 2026 – Report from St. Mary’s Church PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continues to support Rev. Daniel Harrison in managing and maintaining the Church of England presence in the village, including providing for the spiritual needs of the population and maintaining the historic building. In addition to our regular services the church conducts baptisms, weddings and funeral services when required.

Dan is responsible for 8 parishes in all. As a result, we perhaps don't see as much of him in Somersham as we would like but his telephone number and email address are included on the back cover of the Link magazine each month so anyone can contact him if they want/need to.

Everyone is welcome at our services and we regularly hold 2 per month; a communion service at 9.30am on the second Sunday and a less formal 'Family Service' at 10am on the 4th Sunday (except August). Details are published in the Link magazine. Attendance at the regular services is generally quite low but loyal and enthusiastic. Rather more people attend the 'big' services such as Harvest Festival, Carol Service and Service of Remembrance.

In respect of outreach, we are particularly pleased that we are still able to visit the school most weeks (as 'Somersham Storytellers') and share bible stories with the children. The reception we receive from the children is always encouraging and the head teacher and his staff continue to be very supportive of our efforts. We have also been pleased to welcome a small number of new and enthusiastic volunteers during the year.

We continue to support the 'Lighthouse' Women's Refuge and locally hard-pressed families as well as the annual Christian Aid appeal.

Our main preoccupation with the building in the past year has been the urgent repair of ceiling plaster above the chancel. The cost of this was covered by money in the Fabric Fund although this means that the fund is now significantly depleted.

More generally we are very grateful to people in the village for the support that they give to all of our fund-raising activities throughout the year. Even so, we continue to struggle to meet the costs of the day to day running expenses and are once again very grateful to the Parish Council for their generous help towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard. We hope that you will be able to continue this support in the future.

Thank you.

Stephen Dines

28th April 2026