

**“Seven whole days not one in seven”**

**Inspiring people through worship and word to live out God’s love in their daily lives**



The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin

### **Rector’s Report for St Mary’s Horne April 2026**

Dear friends, I am pleased to be delivering my second report for the APCM. It’s hard to believe that it’s over a year since our last annual meeting and much has happened during that period.

As you all know, I have been off work for the last few weeks due to ill health and this is my first week back on duty. I am very grateful to Steve and Charles, and the Wardens for looking after things so well during my absence and am pleased to be back again among you. I am grateful for your support and prayers during my time off and for making sure that everything continues to run smoothly. We are very fortunate to have such a great team of people working at St Mary’s on the PCC, on the musical side, arranging rotas, looking after the Church and the many other things that go on behind the scenes.

I would like to begin by thanking, Andrew, our Church Warden, for all he has done over the last year, often going well beyond the call of duty. As you know, Sue decided to step down as Warden last year after many years of faithful service for which we are very grateful. Unfortunately, this has left a gap and created additional work for Andrew. We urgently need to appoint a new Warden, and I would encourage you all thoughtfully and prayerfully to think about whether or not God might be calling you to this role or you might want to recommend someone else who you feel would have the right skills and aptitude to take this on. Please speak to me or Andrew about this if you need any more information on what might be involved.

Sue was also Parish Secretary, and we still have a vacancy there. Again, we urgently need someone to take on this role which is so vital in the smooth running of the Parish. I am very grateful to Helen and Sara who have kindly taken notes at our PCC meetings and hope that we can find someone to become our new Parish Secretary asap

I would like to thank Lauma, our Parish treasurer for the faithful and diligent work she has done on Parish Finances over the last year. The Parish Giving scheme has proved to be very successful in helping us with better planned, regular giving that helps in setting accurate budgets. Again, like Andrew Lauma goes well beyond the call of duty and has come up with some wonderful ideas on how we can improve our church and outreach to the local community. We look forward to hearing Lauma’s report.

Thank you to all the other members of the PCC and the many other people who help to run the church, clean the church, arrange flowers organise fund raising and other events behind the scenes.

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One of the great strengths of the Windmill Benefice is our Choir and music. I would like to thank Ginette, our Director of Music and Peter who is Organist here at Horne for the amazing work they do in enhancing our worship. It is so uplifting to have such a high standard of choral music each Sunday which is very rare in a rural context like ours. I am also very grateful to the Horne Band who provide such a great musical support for our monthly family service here at Horne and Café Church. I would also like to thank Helen and Liz and other members of the Family Service support group for all they are doing to develop our Family Service and link it more closely to Café Church and other more informal expressions of worship that we might consider in the future.

There are many other things we could potentially do as a community to further the work of God’s Kingdom in this place and some of the projects currently being worked on including the proposed Prayer Garden in the Churchyard and reordering of the Church building to create a more welcoming and practical space will undoubtedly help. We also need to work more closely with the other churches in the Benefice to provide more effective outreach and service to the people of Horne, Smallfield, Outwood and beyond so that we can pool our limited resources more effectively for the future

Thanks again for all that you do in the service of Christ and his Church  
God Bless you all

Alan, Rector.