

“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
The Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
(Churchwarden report) for 2025-2026

Worship in Church

The Rev Alan Bayes, ably supported by clergy Charles Sargent and Steve Bishop have continued working diligently to maintain regular weekly worship in all three Benefice churches. The warden is immensely grateful for the ministries of Alan, Charles and Steve, their extraordinary guidance and support in worship – both Charles and Steve have also been a huge support during Alan’s health issues, and have always stepped in when necessary to keep things running smoothly. On the few Sunday occasions when no clergy were available, Andrew Goudie and Sue Wates have also led services of Morning Worship and Family Service with Band. I am extremely thankful to everyone who has helped with maintaining the continuity of worship in our church each Sunday and other occasions.

As warden and congregation we have enjoyed the different styles and various themes of the talks and sermons that Alan, Charles and Steve have given as they share their thoughts and knowledge with us - recent initiatives for the Family service have been welcome and both more involving and uplifting for the congregation, (the recent St David’s Day service was very well received and similar topical / congregation engaging family services/events are planned that is hoped will increase our outreach and congregation numbers - please refer to the APCM report regarding Working Group for Family Services).

The warden is also grateful to Peter Nye who has continued to provide a weekly online service using the sound library, sermons recorded by Charles and Steve and using readings recorded and provided digitally by parishioners.

Thanks are also due to both Liz Copeland and Peter Nye who have worked together in developing and refreshing the Benefice website and bringing our updated content to the worldwide web – St Mary’s and the Windmill United Benefice have a significant number of online visitors and worshippers, and our online presence includes past and present services, notice sheets detailing upcoming services and events across the benefice. Website content has recently been supplemented by an online calendar as a resource for churchgoers and the local community - please take some time to visit our webpages and see for yourself - <https://www.windmillchurches.co.uk>

On the subject of worship, last and definitely not least, I am especially thankful for the work by our Director of Music Ginette and Organist Peter Nye – their gifts and spiritual inspiration of the music and singing that so enriches our worship in this church and the other Churches of the Windmill Benefice; this includes rehearsing and directing the Choir, the additional / special joint benefice services, evensong, organ and choral recitals, support for music at Café Church, Band services, rehearsing and directing the Windmill Songmen – please see the Director of Music’s annual report for a more comprehensive summary of all the activities concerned, none of which would have happened without the preparation, planning, rehearsal and performances led by Ginette, Peter and as assisted by all those who participate in our music and praise.

Duties in Church

The warden thanks David Spruce for his work on the monthly rota to allocate people to the various key duties in our Church services. Sometimes, it can be difficult to find enough people who are available so if you feel called to take part in one or more of the rota duties please tell Andrew or David or any member of the PCC. Please note that ongoing training & guidance is available for readers, organising refreshments, intercessors (leading prayers), minister of Communion (offering the Chalice) and sides people. These are valued roles and you are very welcome to join the duties team, and I

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give thanks to all those who have supported our services in this way over this last year and will hopefully continue to do so going forwards.

The Church and Churchyard

Following the Quinquennial Inspection on 30 May 2025, (superseding that of June 2020), the proposed work on both recommended repairs and improvements as identified in the Architect’s Report are being addressed in a prioritised manner,(and in an ongoing project management consultation with the church architect staff). As an example PCC discussion has just commenced on recently received / more detailed architect plans to reorganise the back of the church, (including improved disabled and pram access (ramps, floor levelling, wider passageways etc.,), some flexible seating, a relocated font, better refreshment and catering facilities, and hopefully a loo with disabled access) – it will take some time to get quotes and revise / finalise the plans in discussions with PCC and those affected even before works commence. Thanks are due to Lauma for all her work in moving these issues forwards, and initial advice on financing – further finance appeals and seeking available grants will be part of next steps.

Routine maintenance and inspections at St Mary the Virgin, Horne have been carried out; for example, fire extinguisher and lightning conductor checks, the boiler serviced, (and repaired following a recent ‘fortunately’ short-lived breakdown), oil tank refilled, and gutters, downpipes and drains checked and cleared.

As warden I am grateful to Bozi and Julie Mohacek for their work to maintain the grass and hedges in the churchyard and for generally keeping an eye on things - Bozi has recently retired from his ride-on mower duties and I want to thank him especially for all the many years he has mowed the grass and circled the churchyard dodging the gravestones and overhanging branches.

Thank you to the regular strimming and mowing team for their dedication to keeping things tidy in places that the mowers can and cannot reach. New team members are always welcome, (including for the newly inaugurated ride-on mower team), so if you think that you can join either or both team(s) to help, then please have a word with the warden or David Spruce.

Thank you to the many others who come along unseen to work in the churchyard as and when you are able. I hope that I notice when you’ve been (most times if I am not hurrying up the paths too fast?!) and it’s much appreciated.

Our church interior cleaning regime is important as it not only ensures that St Mary’s looks as good as possible but also is a way of regularly inspecting the fabric of St Mary’s to identify items that might need attention and for damage that needs repair. Thank you to Suzanne Robinson for organising the cleaning rota and leading the cleaning team on a regular basis and during our regular big ‘spring clean’. Thank you to all the members of the church cleaning team who keep our church looking clean and cared for.

I also thank Lauma Kazusa who coordinates the flower arrangers at St Mary the Virgin and continues to promote an awareness of important environmental issues when providing flowers in church. At St Mary the Virgin, we discourage the use of floral foam in arrangements as it is harmful to people, flora, fauna and the environment. Thanks to all those who provide and arrange flowers on both a regular basis and on special occasions - if anyone wants to commemorate a special occasion or loved one with a floral tribute than please contact Lauma.

Lauma has also continued to enhance our Christmas festivities with the Christmas Crib under the Altar, the suspended Epiphany Star and flying Christmas Angels; many visitors and regulars have commented on how special the church looks during this season. During Remembrance the suspended poppy display and rood screen photo display is widely appreciated as each year we all remember those who fought and died for our freedom.

Horne Parochial School Building

Lauma and Andrew have helped to arrange routine safety inspections for fire extinguishers, electrical matters and service/repairs as required for the heat pumps and air conditioning installations.

Following last year’s electrical safety inspection the cooker and associated wiring was also replaced.

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Solar power generation from our solar cells now provides some or all power for the heat pumps and lighting etc., depending on the weather and time of year, and when there is excess generation the power flows back into the national grid to provide green energy to the wider community, (and we can also receive some income to offset the church lighting and heating costs, etc.,).

In recent news a defibrillator has been installed in a cabinet outside / to the right hand side of the school door facing the road – this cabinet is open and accessible to the general public and includes instructions on use - it is intended to publicly 'launch' the installation and to promote local community awareness. Thanks go to Lauma, British Heart Foundation and Fusilier Electrical for their inspiration and assistance in installing this potentially life-saving piece of equipment.

Andrew Goudie

Joint Churchwarden - St Mary the Virgin, Horne (April 2026)