

# Parish Report 2025

At the beginning of 2025 the house was still being refurbished, and I was living at St Ives and commuting each day to Mass at St Michael's, but the work was nearly finished and many of you helped me to move back into the house during the first few days of January. The work was not quite finished, but a new priest had been appointed to St Ives, and I did not wish to be in his way as he began working in his new parish. The builders finally moved out at the beginning of February and at last all our work was completed, and our buildings are now in good condition for several years to come.

Parish life continued in its usual rhythm; we had a Burns Night Supper again, what an enjoyable evening, Scottish food and the accompaniment of the poetry of Burns with the address to the haggis. This has now become a regular part of our calendar and very much enjoyed by all attending. February saw our rather elderly keyboard giving us trouble, we took delivery of a brand-new keyboard giving many more options for our musicians. Very many thanks to the three parishioners who very generously paid for it; I think we are all enjoying the new sounds during Mass. 2025 was a year for the Sacrament of Confirmation, in February 21 young people began their preparation sessions, they were a very lively group and it was enjoyable for all who took part, including the parish priest and catechists. The young people entered the spirit of the programme during which they would have 12 sessions and go to the Diocesan Ignite Festival at Bury St Edmunds. We had our usual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday at the beginning of March.

Throughout Lent our programme was busy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, soup lunches and our Lent course on the Seven Last words of Jesus from the cross. By the time we came to Easter at the middle of April the winter was over, and spring was in the air many of you came to celebrate the wonderful liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. Many went to the Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral to join with the Diocese for this great liturgy of Blessing the Oils and the recommitment of the priests to their service of the Church. Our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham followed in just over two weeks at the beginning of May. A coach of pilgrims travelled from St Michael's to Walsingham, it was a lovely day coming together, with Bishop Peter and others from around the Diocese to ask Mary's prayers and protection for our parish and our families.

2025 marked my Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, the date Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 1975; 50 years of service in 9 different parishes. Many of you did a lot of work to bring together a wonderful celebration of my Jubilee, thank you to you all for making it such a special remembrance for me. The celebration was a shared international lunch on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Commemoration Hall in Huntingdon. The Masses that Sunday were jubilee Masses, and I was very pleased to welcome members of my family to join us at the 11.00 Mass. My brother concelebrated with me, my brother-in-law was Deacon at the Mass, and my sisters were in the front row of the Church, it was truly a lovely celebration of the Mass. We adjourned for lunch, there was a wonderful spread of food from many different nations that make up our parish and a huge turnout of people, thank you all for coming to share with me on that day and for the wonderful and very generous gift you gave me. It was a very a very memorable day for me.

Our young people had their celebrations of First Holy Communion, almost forty children in the group and wonderful celebrations for families when the great day for their children came round. Many thanks to our faithful catechists who teach and prepare the children. The Confirmation programme came to its conclusion with the celebration of the Sacrament in September, our 21 young people were all very smartly dressed for the occasion and received the sacrament with great devotion and dignity. Again, many thanks to our catechists who prepared them over the months before.

We had not been permitted to enlarge of church a couple of years ago, but the numbers continue to grow, and the church is too small. In the end the only option left available to us is to add another Mass on Sunday morning thus taking the pressure off the building; in mid-October we changed our Masses to introduce a third morning Mass, and the desired effect has been achieved, the Masses are full but not overcrowded. It was announced at the beginning of December that Fr Philip, after 50 years' service and now 75 years old would be retiring at the end of January 2026 and that Fr Peter Raj, currently parish priest of North Walsham in Norfolk would be the new parish priest. A chapter ends and new chapter in parish life begins; I am sure you will welcome Fr Peter when he arrives in February.

Many thanks to all of you for your support over the last 8 years and I wish you all every blessing for the years ahead, I pray for God's blessing on the ministry of Fr Peter with you. I look forward to seeing you at Diocesan events in the future.

May God bless you all,

*Fr Philip Shryane*

# St Michael's Parish, Huntingdon.

## Financial Statement, 2025

We have presented our accounts to the Diocese for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and anyone who wishes to view the full accounts is welcome to request a copy from Fr Philip. The following reflects the accounts accurately but is given in more accessible form to enable you all to see the financial picture of St Michael's Parish. Many thanks to Julie who prepared the parish accounts for us.

The beginning of 2024 our parish local bank account showed a credit of **£14,136** and our account with the Diocese stood at **£125,226**, giving us a total credit of **£139,362**. Our closing balance in our parish account was **£11,813** and at the Diocese was **£86,028**, giving us a total credit of **£97,841** at the end of the year.

### Income

Collections	50,027	Priest's salary	6,001
Gift Aid payment	6,838	Christmas & Easter Offering	4,111
Donations	9,217	Housekeeping	2,316
Rents	2,485	Car expenses	1,959
Interest	1,867		
Christmas & Easter Offering	2,841	<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,387</b>
Fundraising	2,022	(Last year this total was £15,947)	
Pilgrimages & Outings	5,505	<b>Diocesan Levies</b>	<b>19,370</b>
Repository & Votive candles	2,764	Office, paper, postage & Phone	2,088
Mass Stipends	5,027	Repository & books	783
Stole Fees	6,045	Votive candles & flowers	524
		Catechists	629
<b>Total</b>	<b>£94,638</b>	Liturgical expenses	2,537
		Equipment	230

(Last year £102,277)

Our total for all retiring collections, including CAFOD came to a total of £7,786; all of these have been paid through our account to the relevant charity.

### Our expenses

Church maintenance	6,021
Household maintenance	73,709
Council Tax	1,991
Utilities	3,366
Insurance	1,205
Other	1,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>£87,400</b>

(Last year this total was £161,048)

This is much reduced from the previous year because most work on the church had finished, but some work on the house continued into 2025.

**Total** **£14,931**  
(Last year this total was £13,794. The large sum both income & expenditure for Pilgrimage was for handling the Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage and coaches to Walsingham & Chrism Mass.

This makes a grand total for our expenses of **£136,088**

(Total expenditure last year was £209,089)

This shows that our expenditure was **£41,450** more than our income last year this is because of the work we did in the church and the house. This deficit is £65,000 less than last year. Our situation will get better now that we have completed our works on church and house, our credit will soon begin to grow again.

Please think about Gift Aid, and a standing order; maybe time to increase your standing order, this is the easiest way to support our parish.

Thank you.