

Annual Report 2025-6

1. Aim & Purpose

The Purpose of St Leonard's PCC is to further the mission and outreach of God's Church in our Parish, as both an Inclusive and an Eco Church.

2. Objectives and Activities

These continue to be:

I. Support the Vicar, Deanery and Diocese in their Mission

II. Maintain outreach in the Parish through the sharing of our facilities with all members of our community, shop and café.

III. Provide channels for worship and spiritual communication for our community

IV. To raise the required funds to stay operational

3. Achievements and Performance

I. There has been a full programme of services across St. Leonard's in Yarpole and St. Michael's at Croft. This has included Clergy led services on 1st – 3rd Sundays and Community led 4th Sunday services every month, plus seasonal services. This year there has been an additional clergy led Celtic worship on the afternoon of 3rd Sundays

II. St. Leonard's Management continues to run and enhance the fabric and facilities of the Yarpole Church. The PCC works closely with SLM; Gordon Ewing is their representative who attends PCC meetings.

III. The PCC has had a full membership of 11 for most of the year, however Sandy Ewing has resigned for personal and health reasons and has been thanked for her support of the PCC; we wish her well. We have welcomed Anna Morley, as Church Warden, to work alongside Jane Higgins.

IV. Outreach activities have included: 1. Cafe Church discussion groups on 2nd and 4th Monday evenings in the Cafe 2. Be Still reflections taking place on the 1st Weds of the month which has been well supported and facilitated by a rota of volunteers, to whom we're very grateful. 3. We have continued to liaise with Orleton and Eye Parishes with shared courses and better communication 4. A Lent course was run by Matthew.

4. Other events

- Vida Vojic, with glass harp concert, was well attended
- Mine Advisory Group (MAG) table top sale raised £450
- The Crib Festival was supported by many/varied crib donations and a huge success with viewers
- "Made in HR6" was well supported in terms of stall holders (stalls in St. Leonard's and The Bell) plus plenty of customers
- Carol singing was held in the "The Bell" pub, due to adverse weather conditions.

5. The Churchyard is professionally mown March to October and this is jointly financed between the PCC, SLM and the Shop. In addition, plant maintenance and clearing is provided by two groups of volunteers on each side of the main path. The Burial Ground is also professionally mown March to October with the Parish Council making a significant financial contribution towards the cost of this. In the Burial Ground the Adopt A Grave scheme members undertake care of neglected graves. David Nightingale continues to oversee the care of each site.

6. Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £25500, a decrease on 2024 of almost £1700. This in the main is due to the reduction in monthly covenants, standing orders and in turn the reduction on the HMRC Gift Aid funds.

- I. Income from Regular Givers was £6225, down on the previous year, and representing 24% of our unrestricted income. Funds from donations through the contactless machines totalled £4120 with 75% (£3092) being from Croft and 25% (£1028) from St Leonard's. Cash donations totalled £3789 with the split 16% St Leonards, and 84% Croft. Gift Aid is recoverable on these donations and the total HMRC Gift Aid and Gasds refund amounted to £4063, including Gift Aid recoverable on Regular Givers donations. HMRC recoverable Gift Aid and GASDS was down on 2024 by £500, in part as a result of reduced regular givers.
- II. Unrestricted spending amounted to £22241, with the main outlay being Parish Offer and Team Ministry expenses amounting to £9722. An additional £2000 was paid out to SLM in support of the automatic doors.
- III. The net result for the year on unrestricted funds was a plus of £5259. Restricted income amounted to £8646 with £2090 being designated. Restricted expenditure was £7541.
- IV. Held in the current account are restricted and designated funds for Croft totalling £2894 and further restricted funds totalling £8139 leaving £12248 for general expenses.
- V. We will look to transfer further funds into the deposit account while interest rates offer better returns. In 2025 a further £10000 was transferred to the deposit account, £3300 for Croft and £6700 for general funds.
- VI. The deposit account now holds restricted funds of £14000 and designated funds of £26300 specifically for Croft and a further £25457 for general expenses.
- VII. *The works carried out at Croft in 2022 still have a retention invoice that will be due when the architect signs off the work as complete and all snagging issues are sorted. Funds for this are in the restricted funds in the Deposit account.*

7. Plans for 26-27

- Development of spiritual posters for display

8. Risk Management

Our 3 main challenges are:

I. Finding new recruits for the PCC

II. Continued support and management of Croft Church; maintenance challenges of falling plaster and uneven floor

III. Finding new ways of Outreach

9. Structure Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. We are exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. The appointment of members is conducted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Other points of note are:

I. We have 5 PCC meetings per year.

II. Revd Matthew Burns continues as our Chair whilst also being responsible across multiple Parishes. Our Lay Co-Chair is Jane Higgins.

III. We have 2 Church Wardens; Jane Higgins & Anna Morley. Jane has served as our representative to the Deanery Synod

IV. Our accounts are inspected.

V. The physical management of the Building is now the responsibility of St. Leonard's Management.

11. Administrative Information

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton PCC, St Leonard's Church, Green Lane Yarpole HR6 0BB

PCC Members for whole year:

Jane Higgins - Church Warden

Anna Morley - Church Warden

Sue Smith - Treasurer

Caroline Seaman - Secretary

David Nightingale - Burial Ground

Jane Higgins & Anna Morley - Electoral Roll

Richard Fletcher - Joint Council Rep & Deanery Synod Rep (from July '26)

Miriam Graham

Val Ainsworth

Gordon Ewing - SLM rep

There are 33 members on the electoral roll at 31st March 2026.