

## APCM Report May 2026



## Putting Down Deeper Roots

### Vicar's Report

At last year's APCM, I wrote about fresh starts, significant changes, and exciting, rapid growth in the life of St Stephen's.

It was a year that went by in a flash. I felt like a surfer riding a big wave, trying to cling onto my board.

Mercifully, things have settled down a bit at St Stephen's. I don't know about the rest of the church, but even I couldn't have kept going at that pace!

This year has felt no less exciting, but much less frenetic.

Not stagnant - but steadier.

The rapid numerical growth of St Stephen's has slowed to a more manageable, healthier pace.

Slow and steady growth is almost always the most sustainable kind in church communities.

Trees that shoot up too quickly can be fragile; trees that put down deep roots endure.

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So this year - and looking ahead to the next - our focus has been simple: putting down deeper roots.

I've realised more clearly that my primary role here is not simply to start new things or generate momentum, but to keep pointing us downward — into the places and encounters where God can shape us.

I want to make sure that St Stephen's has really strong foundations and is a little less fragile. Our discipleship life will be key to that resilience.

There has been much to give thanks for.

We have continued to build strong foundations through the development of our admin hub. Anna is doing a wonderful job.

The growth of our Oasis work with children and young people has been a constant delight this year. Abigail and her team are so creative and full of joy. It has had a great impact not just on the young people, but on their parents and carers too. The Monday Oasis Create nights have become like a worshipping community of its own. Our young people are now beginning to step into leadership, and we believe this will continue to grow and develop.

We have been enriched by our supportive clergy and lay ministers, all of whom are helping to shape and strengthen our shared life. We have seen new areas of prayer and worship emerge, and it has been particularly encouraging to see our small group life grow. It is important to me that what we hear from the pulpit on Sundays is something we can discuss, wrestle with, and put into practice during the week.

These spaces are vital - they are where depth is formed and relationships are strengthened.

Alongside this, our social and serving life has continued to grow, helping us become not just a gathered congregation, but a genuine community. Initiatives like People and Planet, the community choir, and the walking group are really helping us in this area. Perhaps the greatest highlight of all has been seeing people come to faith, and others step up into new areas of service and leadership.

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That is always the clearest sign of a healthy church - not just attendance, but transformation and participation.

I have sensed a quiet maturing among us: a greater hunger for prayer, a steadier commitment to serving, and new leaders beginning to emerge.

Shared leadership is a sign of depth. It means the roots are spreading. Of course, there are challenges.

Our buildings continue to give me migraines - particularly at Fellbrook and St Aidan's.

These bring both financial and practical pressures.

There are ongoing pastoral demands, too, as we seek to care well for one another in times of need.

We also continue to discern how best to grow our outreach, especially into Chapelfields.

At the same time, we are developing a stronger sense of identity across our different congregations and expressions of church life.

That, too, takes time - but it is good and necessary work.

I am incredibly grateful to Tim Marvell.

His time as churchwarden has been vital, and his friendship has sustained me personally more than I can say.

I'm excited to see what our new churchwardens will bring to the party.

Consolidation does not mean complacency. We continue to look outward, to welcome, and to serve our community in ways both large and small.

But outreach is always strongest when it flows from rootedness.

I keep coming back to a line from Psalm 42:

“Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls.”

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, this time next year, all of us had heard God's call to go deeper with Jesus — and dived in?

There are many ways to grow deeper - through worship, prayer, serving, giving, learning, leading, and simply showing up consistently.

If you sense a nudge from God, please speak to me.

Let's not be a church stranded in the boat — close to Jesus, but never quite stepping into deeper water.

Let's be a people who trust him enough to go further, deeper, and discover the life he has for us there.

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So let me finish with heartfelt thanks.

To our churchwardens, PCC, staff team, clergy, and lay ministers - thank you for your leadership, wisdom, and faithfulness.

To those who serve week by week in ways seen and unseen - welcoming, leading, praying, setting up, making tea, running groups, counting money and caring for others - thank you.

To those who give so generously of time, energy, and finances - thank you for sustaining the life and mission of this church.

And to every single member of St Stephen's - simply by showing up, being present, and seeking God together - you are part of what God is building here.

It is a privilege to serve you as Vicar, and I am deeply grateful for all that you bring to the life of this church.

Ever onwards in Christ,  
**Rev Matt**



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## **Worship Services:**

10am Thursday Holy Communion

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Worship

Special Services: Taize, Gather and Grow

## **Discipleship/Fellowship/Prayer:**

Weekly Monday Grow Groups: At 4 locations. Whatever we have learnt on Sunday mornings, the groups discuss and wrestle with on Mondays. Sessions include fun, prayer, sharing, Bible study and questions that relate faith to real life. Groups change at appropriate times so people can get to know each other. Socials have included meals, and theatre and pub trips. Rev Matt and Anna have started a new grow group for newer and 'younger' adults.

Other Discipleship Groups - Fortnightly Tuesdays at the Erridges; Fortnightly Thursdays at Andrew Bailey's. Fortnightly women's Bible study at the church hall.

Men's Coffee and Cake gatherings

Prayer Gatherings: Thursday morning; Prayer Chain; Sunday prayer ministry.

Monthly dynamic prayer evening. Morning Prayer at Tuesday Open Church.



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## Church Warden's Report 2025/26

This will be my last warden's report. Wondering what to say, one word keep coming to mind 'joy'. Each time I attend a service at St Stephen's I find myself smiling. Whatever issues we have had to manage during the week (successfully or not) no-longer matter as I worship with such an enthusiastic and warm hearted congregation. So many have joined us over the last two years and so quickly we have become one congregation, it has been a wonder to witness the Holy Spirit moving amongst us. Not only have people joined us but so many have quickly become involved and I am able to finish my time as warden secure in the knowledge that our Vicar has very capable and willing teams around him who will support and take our mission forward. I can truthfully say we are a thriving church. Praise the Lord. We are also a very busy church and we have been able to make some additions that will assist and improve the activities taking place; lighting, cameras, improvements to our already excellent sound system, external sockets (allowing activities in the church yard) and a cleared and tidy vestry. As with all old buildings there are some maintenance issues to be addressed but following a meeting with our church Architect plans are in place to address these with minimal disruption ensuring that worship will continue at St Stephen's for many decades to come. May I take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to have held the role of Church Warden at St Steven's over the last six years during such a wondrous revival. I believe I have witnessed a miracle - **Tim Marvell**

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## St. Stephen's Church Children and Youth Ministry APCM Report

This last year has been an exciting and encouraging year for our Children and Youth Ministry, with continued growth in both participation and engagement with families. Through our regular Oasis and Oasis Create groups, school partnerships, and special events, we have sought to develop and sustain opportunities where children and young people can explore faith, forge friendships, and feel a strong sense of belonging within the church community.



### **Growing Weekly Groups – Oasis and Oasis Create**

Our regular Oasis Group, set up last April for our children and youth, continues to be a vibrant part of church life, providing a welcoming space where children and young people can explore faith in a safe and meaningful way. We try to incorporate the teaching from the regular services into these sessions so that the children and families have a common thread that they can discuss at home. Each week, children engage with Bible stories, creative activities, discussion, and prayer. These gatherings remain a key point of connection for many families within the church community. The Oasis Create Group has gone from strength to strength with us now regularly getting 25+ children each week. This group provides a creative way for children to develop their faith and offer something back to the church community through performances and projects.

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## **Developing Young Leaders**

A key focus most recently has been investing in our Youth. Several young people are now stepping into Young Leader roles by assisting in the children's groups, helping lead activities, and work with the children on the creative projects that Oasis Create undertake. We are beginning to use the Diocesan materials for Young Leaders with the aim that through mentoring, encouragement, and practical opportunities, we are seeing young people develop both their faith and their leadership skills.

## **Holiday Club Summer 2025**

Last year's Holiday Club was a significant highlight, welcoming over 50 children from across the community. The days were filled with games, sport, crafts, storytelling, and worship - creating an energetic and joyful environment. It was encouraging to see many new families engaging with the church through this event - many families who have since started coming to Oasis Create and special services which are held in the church. We are planning to go bigger and better this year!

## **Special Services and Creative Participation**

Children and young people have played an important role in several special services, including Christmas, Easter, and Mothering Sunday. The Oasis Create group contributed creatively through performances of singing, dancing and leading prayers, helping make these services meaningful and engaging for the whole congregation.

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## **Schools and Community Partnerships**

We have continued to strengthen our presence in local schools. I have worked closely with Acomb Primary on several projects and for the first time they held their Nativity in the church where 200 parents and families came to watch their children. From this, many families attended the Christmas services. I continue to work alongside YoYo and will be supporting work in Westfield Primary School and York High School. In addition to this, I have coordinated the work in Acomb Primary for them to complete the Archbishop's Young Leaders Project, equipping young people to explore leadership, faith, and service in their communities.



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## Developing Relationships

Much of the emphasis of my work this year has also been to develop meaningful relationships with families, This is a vital part of our ministry. Sunday groups and the Creative projects are a fantastic way to do this, but it is through conversations and relationships that lasting connections are made. We are at the point where some of the parents of the children within the groups are wanting to explore their own faith and take part in Start courses themselves.

## Building a Strong Team and Community

Finally, none of the work that we do would be possible without our wonderful team of leaders and volunteers. We are so blessed that this team brings so much experience, wisdom and creativity to the children and youth work and I wish to say a huge thank you to everyone involved. I also am so grateful for all the prayer and financial support given by the congregation. This makes everything we do possible.

Together, we continue to nurture and develop faith in the next generation. It is truly exciting and something I will always be incredibly passionate about! - **Abigail Savage.**



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## Walking Group

With so many new people joining St Stephen's over the last year, we started regular walking groups to help people get to know each other better. Monday walks are local. Monthly Saturday family walks go further afield and have started from places like Huggate in the Wolds, Bishopthorpe, Askham Richard and Pocklington Canal. There are plans for occasional longer, pilgrimage-style walks - **Carys Tew**.



## Men's Group



The Men's Group coffee mornings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. We alternate between Acomb Library and The Bluebird Bakery.

We have now included Books & Bevs (see picture) in our choice of coffee shops. Books & Bevs is a new independent book/coffee shop near Acomb Library that sells (apart from books), freshly brewed coffee and a nice selection of cakes. Our meetings start at 11:00 and usually finish at around 12:15. Topics of conversation vary, anything and everything is open for discussion. If you would like further information, please have a chat with me - **Ian Sangster**.

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## People & Planet

Introduction In September 2025, we launched People & Planet as an umbrella for our church's mission to live out the love of Christ through care for our community and the environment. The initiative brings together a wide range of activities already taking place within the life of St Stephen's and encourages new opportunities for engagement. The guiding values for People & Planet are compassion, justice, and stewardship. A People & Planet planning meeting took place on 22nd March where we explored our priorities and future plans in more detail. Members of the congregation who came to the meeting were encouraged to contribute ideas and to consider how they might become involved. Two key strands of People & Planet are Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard and Eco Church.

### Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard

The Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard group continues to meet on the last Saturday of each month from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. The group follows a wildlife conservation plan alongside undertaking a range of practical tasks to maintain and care for the churchyard. The atmosphere is quiet, friendly, and welcoming to all ages. Around 20 people regularly participate, with approximately half drawn from St Stephen's congregation and half from the wider local community. The group provides a valuable opportunity to care for our church grounds as well as to build relationships with local residents.



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## Eco Church

Eco Church St Stephen's is registered with A Rocha's Eco Church programme, which helps churches assess and improve their environmental impact. Our motivation in participating in Eco Church is not just to work towards an award, but to consider how care for creation can be integrated into the culture, faith, and mission of St Stephen's. The programme assesses churches across five key categories: Worship and Teaching; Buildings and Energy; Land and Nature; Community and Global Engagement; and Lifestyle. We are encouraged to report that we are currently in line to achieve Silver Award level in both Land and Nature and Worship and Teaching, reflecting the work already being done in these areas. In Buildings and Energy we are currently at Bronze level, and there may be opportunities to make further progress through practical improvements and energy awareness. At present we are behind in the areas of Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle, and these will be particular areas of focus in the coming months as part of the ongoing development of People & Planet.

Next steps: The development of the People & Planet initiative offers an opportunity to bring together environmental care, community outreach, and Christian discipleship under a shared vision. Over the coming months we will be encouraging wider participation in People & Planet activities, strengthening links with the local community and addressing the areas identified in the Eco Church framework where further progress can be made - Dan Savage.



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## **Acomb Parish Church Hall**

During 2025, the Church Hall continued to be well used by both the local community and for Church based events and outreach.

This has resulted in an income of £23,000 and an overall surplus for the year of just over £7,700. The biggest two items of expenditure were the creation of a separate vestry within the Ellis room, costing just over £3,000 and white lining the forecourt to create dedicated parking spaces which cost £1,200.

Once again bookings have been buoyant with an increase in one off hires, especially children's birthday parties and the hall hosted a wedding reception too. Conversely the Thursday afternoon Tea Dance which has used the hall for many decades finished at the end of the year due to falling numbers amid an ageing population.

The Terms and Conditions for prospective clients to sign have been updated, further highlighting, the need to keep the front door closed on the latch during sessions for the safety of all.

Moving forward into 2026, a new regular weekly group has started, Tai Chi, and another wedding reception is booked in - **Val Atkinson**.

## **Electoral Roll**

A new Electoral Roll was completed in Spring 2025, in accordance with the rules of the Church of England. St Stephen's has been blessed with many new members joining the church family since then and choosing to join the Electoral Roll. An updated and revised roll will be available to view 15 days before the 2026 APCM, after it has been approved by the PCC. As at 9th March 2026, we have had two people leave the roll because they have gone to glory, one minor revision because of a name change and 27 apply to join.

## **28th April 2026**

The revisions to the Electoral Roll were approved by the PCC on 23rd April 2026. The Electoral Roll of Acomb St Stephen's stands at 148.

- **Jill Shaw**.

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## **St Stephen's Church Building**

At long last the vestry roof has been replaced and the vestry decluttered transforming the vestry from a junk room to a usable space.

We have upgraded our emergency lighting system which is easier to test and ensures lighting over each.

Two external sockets have been fitted one near the main entrance and the second on the eastern wall of the south transept. These assist activities in the churchyard and are very useful for the temporary lights in winter.

Additional internal coloured lighting has been installed as well as a camera linked to our screens.

Several maintenance issues will need action over the next two years: redecoration of the transepts, relaying the nave roof, and some issues with our stained-glass windows. We also need to carefully consider how we can ensure that the church building continues to meet the needs of our now much larger congregation. To address these issues a small team has been established to look at these problems in detail, plan and prioritise. This team commissioned a report from York Glaziers Trust, employed Silkstone Surveys to make accurate measured plans of the building and has met with our church architect who is currently preparing a specification for relaying the church roof.

## **St Aidan's**

Acomb Parish Church continues to own, St Aidan's church, Ridgeway which due to unsurmountable problems with the roof was closed 4 ago after 60 years of worship. We are grateful to Rob, Dan, Allister, Don and John who mowed the lawns and maintained hedges and garden. This maintenance is now completed by a contractor. John and Rachel Parker continue to check the building and grounds weekly, removing litter and fly-tipping and politely asking locals not to park their cars, vans and lorries.

We ask for your prayers that a sale might be achieved soon. - **Tim Marvell**

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## **Fellbrook Avenue**

The last tenants, a Ukrainian refugee family have remained in the property for much of the year, paying a rent of £ 875.00 per month. However, they have now vacated the house for a more suitable home and 36 Fellbrook Avenue is being prepared for sale. The property has been well looked after and maintained so remedial works and general expenses have been relatively minor for the year.

## **Church Hall**

The Church Hall continues to be well maintained and self-sufficient, paying for all its own remedial work. Major projects completed this year include having thermostats installed to enable the heating to be set and monitored remotely, a separate vestry was created within the Ellis room and designated parking spaces marked out on the forecourt. The stage area needs work on it when finances allow as the curtains and mechanism have been deemed unsafe and are no longer in use - **Val**

**Atkinson**

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## Financial Review

We held a successful Generous Living campaign in January 2025 where we launched the Parish Giving Scheme. We now have 30 people giving regularly using this scheme. As a result of the campaign and the increase in attendees at church the Stewardship and Cash Collection income increased significantly to £66,747 (2024 £45,331). The credit card machine in Church continued to be very popular. The Freewill Offering totalling £52,000, an increase of £4,000 on the previous year, was paid in full. The parish continued to receive income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and Fellbrook Avenue, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme which were used to pay other expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2025 by £18,203 from the Gift Aid Scheme (2024 £12,348). One reason for the increase is that the gift aid from the Parish Giving Scheme is paid out monthly.

We continued to support charities. The total amount of money donated by the PCC in 2025 was £7,250 (2024 £5,579 of which £1,279 was from special collections). This included the reserve of £1,000 from 2024.

Expenditure increased in the year as we employed a Parish Administrator. The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2025 was £21,751 (2024 £17,084).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported, and we had several generous donations. Half the income from the Craft and Coffee mornings is paid into this fund. The fund's balance increased by £6,645 to £49,494 at the year-end. This fund employed a Young Peoples worker and total expenditure of £10,967 included her remuneration.

Lettings income from the Parish Hall decreased to £22,973. The Parish Hall cash and bank balances at the end of year increased to £36,693.

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The value of investments, both general and restricted, increased to £128,461. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £63,104 (2024 £58,688).

Only the accrued income from the investments of The William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese is available for use in respect of insurance and maintenance of the fabric of St Stephen's church. On 31st December 2025, £14,707 was available.

The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance increased to £70,262. The major spending in the year was the reroofing of the vestry at St Stephen's Church which cost £13,836.

## Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £58,444 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was almost in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank - **Nigel Atkinson**.

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## Tech Report

### Audio, Visual & Lighting - System Performance

The audio and visual systems continued to support weekly services, weddings, funerals, and special events throughout the year.

### Improvements and Upgrades

Some equipment additions were made to improve sound clarity and coverage in the church. A microphone has recently been added to the Pulpit, giving another option for Presentation.

A link has been installed to allow audio to be run from the front of the Church and operated remotely, increasing flexibility.

A 2nd wireless headset has recently been added to allow presentation to be improved and give more flexibility.

Lighting improvements have been made in 2 stages, the Chancel was initially lit to give a colour wash effect lighting to the walls in this area.

The larger Scheme has been the addition of front lighting 4 pan, tilt & zoom coloured lights fitted to the balcony rail all controlled from the rear of Church, able to be preset making it easy to use and train people. This has now incorporated the Chancel lights into one system.

A Camera has been installed to allow the focus at the front of Church to be shown on the 3 large screens, for use during special services. This will allow people at the back to see the front and allow people sat at the sides to see the altar.

Internet coverage and reliability across the Church has been improved and was necessary to allow fast connectivity for new equipment and also allows remote set up of the sound system from anywhere in Church. This is powered by a limited data 4G Sim.

A Desktop Windows computer has been installed next to the Sound Desk with a new Modem

Additional borrowed microphones have supplemented special events through the year, particularly the Christmas Services - **Philip Bewers**.

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## **Little Acorns (formerly Squeals on Wheels)**

From September 2025 the name was changed to Little Acorns. This reflects the meaning of Acomb – place of the oaks – Isaiah 61:3 “oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord”, as well as our heart to see our families grow and flourish, and we have a lovely new poster, courtesy of Dan Savage.

Many of our children left to move on to nursery at the end of the summer term 2025. However, since then we have steadily grown in numbers and now have around 25 babies and toddlers attending each session. Our parents and carers really appreciate the group with comments such as, “Little Acorns is the best toddler group in York, a lovely big room and well organised!!!” and a grandma said her granddaughter “will really miss coming when she starts school as they have both made lovely friends.”

All our children are given gifts at Christmas, Easter and the end of summer term, enjoying a visit by Father Christmas and a summer party. We have a fantastic, creative and committed team and looking forward to welcoming two new volunteers after Easter - **Jen Deamer.**



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## Coffee and Craft Fair (formerly Craft and Coffee)



We rebranded as “Coffee & Craft Fair” last year with a new poster and banner designed by Dan Savage. We welcome regular customers plus many new faces and provide an accessible, comfortable, warm space for people to relax, socialise, meet friends and support local crafters and our Fairtrade stall, plus a family room. Our extended Christmas C&CF last November was very successful and we have acquired an air fryer and can now offer bacon butties, which have proved popular. Thanks to a new coffee machine we are now able to offer fresh filter coffee.

We regularly get enquiries requesting stalls and have recently changed our booking system, sending out emails about 2 weeks before each C&CF for people to reply to book, resulting in a wider variety of craft stalls and to include new people.

Over the last year our Coffee & Craft Fairs have raised approximately £2,300 for church funds. We are grateful to our committed team of helpers who set up on a Friday and/or serve on Saturday mornings and bake cakes, without which C&CF would not be possible - **Jen Deamer**.

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## Quiz Nights

Our Quiz Nights in the Parish Hall are excellent outreach events to which people can invite family, friends and neighbours, as well as those who attend on their own – we help them find a team to slot into. We create a friendly and welcoming space with subdued lighting so people can feel comfortable as they gather together, chat, socialise and have fun. Many who attend comment that they have enjoyed themselves and can't wait for the next one!

Our excellent quizmaster prepares a 'themed' quiz to suit the season and we really appreciate the thought and work that goes into preparing all the questions.

We held 2 last year, one at Easter and another just before Christmas and they were very well attended by around 80 or so people at each -Jen Deamer.

## Verging

Kirsty Parr, our previous vergger, has recently moved on to a new role outside St Stephen's. We are grateful for all she contributed during her time with us and wish her every blessing in her new position.

We are pleased to welcome Ricky Blake as our new vergger. Ricky is already working hard to ensure the smooth running of all vergging processes at the church, and we are delighted to have him as part of the team.

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## Administration

Since starting at St Stephen's as Administrator in April 2025, I have worked to bring greater structure and consistency to the church's administrative processes, which were previously managed on an ad hoc basis.

We now produce a weekly newsletter, distributed every Thursday, as well as a monthly Dispatch, helping to improve communication across the church community.

In terms of day-to-day administration, I have established clear processes for managing weddings, baptisms, and funerals. This includes handling initial enquiries through to final invoicing, ensuring a more streamlined and professional experience for those engaging with the church.

More recently, the installation of The Church Organiser system has significantly enhanced our efficiency and record-keeping, providing a more centralised and effective way to manage information - **Anna Armstrong.**

## Community Choir

St Stephen's Community Choir is a welcoming, informal group that meet every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at the church. Launched as an initiative to bring "soulful singing" to the local area, it is a fun, low-pressure environment where newcomers are always welcome, regardless of previous experience. Started in January 25 with just a handful of singers, this year has seen numbers grow to 64. This year the choir performed at the themed event 'St Stephens Sings the Shows,' the Acomb Community Carols on Front Street, a joint initiative with Gateway Church, a fundraising even for Café No. 12 on Tadcaster Road, as well as their main Christmas concert which filled the church with the local community Whilst fostering a strong sense of belonging within the Acomb parish, the choir is run be a highly experience choir master, Manton Dumville who, accompanied by his daughter Bethany Wheeler, have lead the choir to a high-calibre sound with a broad ranging repertoire - **Lizzie Tulip.**

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## Safeguarding Report

Thankfully, it has been a largely non-eventful year for safeguarding at St Stephen's. However, safeguarding remains a key priority, and I continue to work to ensure that our church is a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Safeguarding concerns are logged appropriately in line with diocesan guidance so that any issues can be monitored and responded to if needed.

I have been sending reminders to group leaders about the importance of volunteers completing the required safeguarding training, particularly the Basic and Foundations safeguarding e-learning, and ensuring this is completed within the required timeframe. I have also been reminding leaders about safer recruitment practices, including the need for group leaders to complete safer recruitment learning and to follow the correct processes when recruiting new volunteers.

Looking ahead, I am planning a Safeguarding Week to help raise awareness across the whole church community. This will include posters and information designed to make safeguarding clearer, more accessible, and easier for the whole congregation to understand.

I am also continuing to ensure that the Safeguarding Hub remains up to date, with relevant information, contacts, and guidance available for anyone who may need support or advice.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and I am grateful to everyone who supports this important work at St Stephen's - **Fiona Parr**.

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