

The Benefice of Holme on Spalding Moor & Seaton Ross



Profile 2026

Welcome from our Area Dean, The Rev'd Mark Poole

On behalf of the South Wold deanery thank you very much for your interest in this post. My name is Mark, and I was appointed as the Area Dean in March 2025 having joined the deanery as Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Barmby Moor Group of Churches in 2023.

The picturesque deanery of South Wold sits at the foot of the stunning Yorkshire Wolds and straddles the main arterial route from Beverley to York (A1079). The deanery has 31 parishes formed into six benefices, with predominantly very small rural churches in their communities. The main centres of the population are Market Weighton, Pocklington, Holme-on-Spalding Moor and Stamford Bridge. Housing development continues in each of these towns. The main industries are agriculture and tourism.

The successful applicant will be joining the deanery at an exciting time. Under the excellent leadership of the previous Area Dean clergy, lay ministers and deanery officers worked effectively as a team to produce a deanery plan aligned to the priorities of the diocese of York's strategy, 'Living Christ's Story.' The plan was committed to bringing the Good News of the gospel afresh to those we don't currently reach across our rural parishes. We are now seeking to evolve the plan into its next phase of God's mission in our deanery, and the new Priest, together with the wider deanery team, will make a significant contribution to its development and implementation. We are united in our passion for rural communities and the unique opportunities that churches can make to their flourishing and vibrancy. We believe that schools offer

auspicious opportunities for mission and ministry as we seek to grow the Church younger.

Chapter and Greater Chapter colleagues of the South Wold deanery, which include Prison and School Chaplains, are friendly, welcoming and encouraging. We work well together and support one another in prayer as we serve our parishes across the deanery. We are very much looking forward to the prospect of a new colleague joining us with fresh ideas and unique giftings.



Welcome from David Millican, South Wold Lay Dean

It has been my great pleasure to work and worship alongside the folks of the Holme on Spalding Moor & Seaton Ross Group of Churches. As a group they represent a strong community, and as individual churches they are warm and welcoming to both visiting preachers and to visitors.

As a group, and during this vacancy, they have self-managed all church activities and greatly encouraged lay involvement in all parts of church life.

Each Church has its own challenges, but all of these are met head on and at all times seeking God's will. The group is privileged to have a non-stipendiary priest, active lay readers who will lead worship, but are also supported by visiting priests who happily share in worship rotas.

As part of South Wold Deanery, this group is recognised as one who wants to meet the challenges of Living Christ's Story. This vicar will enjoy the continuing support of laity as well as the encouragement and support of clergy within the deanery.



Welcome to Our Benefice

Who we are

We are a people journeying spiritually, living across six villages: Holme on Spalding Moor, Bursea, Seaton Ross, Everingham, Bielby and Harswell.

We are caring for each other, and sharing with each other, as a benefice. Whilst each village and church has its own unique character and traditions, we live together as one worshipping community.

We welcome a diversity of worship patterns, including BCP, CW and more contemporary and innovative forms of praise. We are inclusive of everyone, encouraging our present and future church family and growing in faith.

As one Church, each of our members brings their different strengths and skills:

- building community through social interaction
- family and children's work
- foodbank collections
- small groups for Bible study and prayer
- through the Mothers Union we keep in touch with families who have brought children for baptism, holding supporting events such as teddy bears picnics with the families.



Our Vision: where we need your help

We recognise the challenges our benefice has faced, of static numbers and insufficient income, which is why **our focus is on growth and financial sustainability**. The vacancy has energised us to meet those challenges, and we have already begun that journey. Nevertheless, for our churches to prosper and grow under this vision we need a Leader (0.5 incumbent) with whom we can work and support.

We are looking for a Leader who is:

† **inspirational and a strong communicator, who is passionate about the Gospel, with an open and flexible approach to worship, including seeker-friendly worship styles.**

† **comfortable about going into schools, working with families of all ages, caring for the spiritual needs of the elderly and infirm – someone who by ‘working the room’ can more effectively reach out across and within our communities.**

† **prepared to do things differently, in order to encourage the coming generation, by making Christ’s teachings meaningful to them, including exploring all avenues for worship, whilst acknowledging the need for traditional worship for parts of our congregations, including BCP and CW.**

† **willing to work with and encourage lay ministry. You will be well supported by our Curate, LMs and ALM.**

In short, we are looking for a leader whose drive, passion, and enthusiasm can help us explore new ways of connecting across all generations and backgrounds, and grow our churches.

What we can offer you

By joining our benefice, you would:

- be working with a team comprising established and experienced people, a Curate in training, lay ministers, dedicated churchwardens, committed PCCs and a willing community of volunteers, that would support you in upholding your ordination commitments.
- have more time and space to focus on ministry because our seven places of worship are maintained by volunteers, and who are also keen to take on the more administrative aspects of the post, something which has become a necessity during the vacancy.
- be part of a team of enthusiastic people, who wish to develop better links between the church and the community, who are open to fresh ideas in order to grow our congregations.
- join a Diocese supportive of its clergy, especially in wellbeing, training, administration, and maintenance.

The group is active, engaged and energetic, and people are committed to living the gospel in their lives outside the church. Anyone willing to serve alongside us will experience unqualified support and help in developing the spiritual life of the church and we look forward to sharing in that journey ahead with you.

Our Strategy for Growing Mission and Sustainable Finances

Central to the realisation of **Our Vision** is **growth of congregations** in all of our parishes, as well as **imaginative initiatives** that would take advantage of the tremendous love for our churches and institutions by local communities: they are the centre of village life.

The vacancy has brought this need into sharp focus. Indeed, we believe that it is our duty as God's servants to reach out to those around us who do not yet know fully the love and power of the Living Christ.

Whilst the benefice is passionate in this regard, our work will be made immensely more effective by having the leadership of a priest (0.5 incumbent) who shares the same values.

As well as growing our congregations, we need to **grow our finances**. Our 2026 contribution to a priest's salary hovers around £34k, although this has increased steadily in recent years. Based on the current size of our congregations and present fund-raising activities, and assuming a realistic 10% increase in contribution year-on-year, this would yield around £55k by 2031 (see page 19).

Our current situation has catalysed ideas and efforts to increase both our mission and fund-raising. Examples include:

- engaging with and using the resources of the diocese, specifically the Generous Giving Team and the Church Growth section of the Mission and Ministry Team. Benefice wide meetings are already planned for the early summer.

- making services more welcoming and attractive to parts of our community with whom we have been poor at engaging.

- stepping up our activities that engage directly with the wider community such as nativity plays, Harvest and other feast lunches and suppers

- providing mechanisms to allow those who are not regular attenders to give on a regular basis through schemes such as Deeds of Covenant and Friends of the Church.

- establishing card and phone readers in our churches, in particular for occasional services, to increase giving in a modern world.

We do not see all of these activities merely as ways to increase funds to the church, but also to give back to the communities that support us, since we depend on each other. Our churches receive huge support from the local communities in which they are embedded and we need to capitalise on this support in order to grow our congregations and to improve our financial position. Whether or not they are regular church-goers, in rural areas the church has always been a pivotal part of community life.

Further details of all these examples, and more, can be found on page 19 and in the Business Plan

The benefice is committed to this vision and we welcome your help in making it a reality.

Your Team

Benefice ministry team	Anne-Marie Breewood (Curate in training), Paul Dorrington (LLM), Anne Ingham (LLM), Val Featherby (ALM)
Deanery Support	Numerous Priests, LLMs and other clergy
Parochial Church Councils	Each parish has its own PCC, members of which are keen to help with the running of the benefice.

Church Wardens

We currently have 8 church wardens who manage our 7 places of worship, support the vicar, and who, with others, have been the powerhouse in developing our vision for the future during this vacancy. The church wardens meet throughout the year to co-ordinate worship planning, manage Benefice business, discuss pastoral matters and safeguarding, and more recently to formulate our vision.

Pattern of worship in the benefice

Prior to the vacancy, there has been a Sunday service at Holme on Spalding Moor, at All Saints on the hill or during the worst of the winter at the Old School, twice monthly services at Seaton Ross, Bielby and at Everingham, and we have monthly services at Bursea and Harswell. If a fifth Sunday occurs in the month this has been a joint service for the benefice at one of the five churches. There is also a mid-weekly service of Holy Communion at the Old School in Holme on Spalding Moor.

The vacancy has forced us to refocus on the worship style at these services. Whilst each church has at least one communion service a month, we see the current situation as a chance to experiment with different styles, especially lay-led family services, such as the monthly Family Service at Seaton Ross in week 4.

1 st Sunday	9.15 Bielby 10.45 Harswell 10.45 HOSM
2 nd Sunday	9.00 Seaton Ross 9.15 Everingham 10.45 HOSM
3 rd Sunday	9.00 Bursea 9.15 Bielby 10.45 HOSM
4 th Sunday	10.00 Seaton Ross 9.15 Everingham 10.45 HOSM
5 th Sunday	Joint benefice service

At regular services typically there are between 10 and 20 regularly attending parishioners. Numbers swell at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There is a communion service at the Old School every Wednesday morning. BCP and CW have been the books of choice for communion services, and we are keen to explore other service books for seeker-friendly and family services.



Our ministry team. From top left clockwise: Anne-Marie Breewood, Paul Dorrington, Anne Ingham, Val Featherby.

A Welcoming Benefice



For anyone thinking of moving to our benefice, you would receive a very warm welcome and become part of a caring and friendly community.

The individual parishes vary greatly in size, providing different opportunities and challenges for growth. The total population of the benefice is around 3,745, comprising Holme on Spalding Moor, including Bursea (2541), Seaton Ross (550), Everingham & Bielby (296 & 258), and Harswell (35). There are PCCs for Holme on Spalding Moor, Seaton Ross, Everingham and Harswell and a DCC for Bielby. The main primary school is at Holme on Spalding Moor (next section), whilst many of the children from Seaton Ross attend Melbourne School (not in our benefice). Both these schools have governors who are on the Benefice Team.

The landscape is one of farms and villages within a beautiful rural setting that changes with the seasons. Over the centuries, this rural landscape has moulded our spiritual life and our communities, and continues to do so. We would love you to join us on our continuing journey as we grow as a Church Family.

Here are some experiences of folk who have done just that...

"I moved to the village in 2010 to join my now husband at his family farm. He was born in the village, christened at Bursea Chapel and attended primary school in HoSM. We married at All Saints and both our children were Christened here and attend the village school. All Saints is also the final resting place of our dearest family members.

"I love walking and in particular walking around the perimeter of the village with the highlight being the views from the top of 'Church Hill'. I have enjoyed being part of the village and farming community including being a Governor at HoSM Primary, our family being part of the vibrant Scouts movement and supporting Bursea Chapel with cleaning and flower arranging.

"Having previously moved around the country for many years with work, it has been wonderful to finally settle in a rural village and feel the same sense of belonging that I benefitted from during my childhood in Nottinghamshire."

Zoe Thompson, Holme on Spalding Moor

"We moved here with my job from north-east Scotland, where we lived and worshipped in a rural parish for 20 years. It was with some apprehension therefore that we wondered how we might settle in this area.

"We needn't have worried! From the first day, we were embraced by the friendly village community, as I believe would be the case for all the parishes. I can honestly say that the benefice has been the most welcoming of any place where we have lived and worked. There is plenty to get involved with for all age groups and personalities, and it is quite simply a beautiful place in which to live."

Dave Raffaelli, church warden Seaton Ross

Living in the Benefice

Traditionally, the vicar has lived in the Rectory in [Holme on Spalding Moor](#), which, like all the parishes, has a strong sense of community. The village has many local amenities, including butchers, bakers, takeaways, a café, a garage, a post office, a pharmacy, and a GP surgery, and is in a beautiful countryside setting in the scenic landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds. There are two pubs in the village and a well-supported Village Hall was built by volunteers and serves as a community hub, as do similar halls in the parishes of Seaton Ross and Everingham. The village offers a peaceful environment with many public footpaths, with nearby options like the old rail trail for walking and cycling. There is also, of course, the historic church of All Saints sitting proud at the edge of the village and the Old School also used for worship in the centre of the village.



Holme on Spalding Moor is also conveniently close to larger towns for further amenities such as Pocklington, Market Weighton and Howden, as well as the historic City of York, to which there is a regular bus service. Many residents describe a welcoming and friendly community with a strong community spirit.

The [Rectory \(Church House\)](#) is located in the village of Holme on Spalding Moor, at the foot of Church Hill and near the centre of the village. It is a modern family home with good sized accommodation which consists of a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, study and cloakroom/wc on the ground floor. On the first floor there are four bedrooms with a family bathroom. Outside, the property has a garage with large gardens laid to lawn. The property has gas-fired central heating.



The rectory at Holme on Spalding Moor

Holme on Spalding Moor Primary School

<https://www.holmeprimary.co.uk/>

Within the benefice, there is one local primary school, located in Holme on Spalding Moor. Although it is not a Church of England School, the Rector visits it at least once a term by invitation. The most recent OFSTED report (March 2025) is available at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/117852>.

The school has an excellent ethos:

“We will offer children the opportunity to:

- *develop self-confidence, independence as learners and a positive self-image*
- *develop physically, taking increasing responsibility for their health*
- *use confidently, and keep pace with, modern technology in their learning*
- *experience a broad, balanced and enjoyable curriculum, which both promotes creativity and develops skills and knowledge vital for their future economic wellbeing*
- *appreciate the value of learning outside the classroom through participation in clubs, productions and educational visits, including residential visits*
- *develop as ‘active citizens’, gaining a sense of what it means to be a member of a community and see the cultural diversity of our country and the world in a positive light*
- *understand the benefits of working co-operatively with others and develop a sense of respect for all*
- *celebrate successes at all levels.”*

(From school website).



Secondary education within the benefice is at Woldgate School in Pocklington and at Market Weighton School. Their respective Ofsted reports (both ‘Good’) can be found at: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50275649> <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50196208> There is also an independent school in Pocklington (www.pocklingtonschool.org)

Woldgate Secondary School

<https://www.woldgate.net/>

From the school website: *“Woldgate School is a school where everyone lives and works by our motto; that everything we do should be worthy, of great merit, character and value’ – trying our best, being our best and embracing our British values. We aim to deliver a world-class curriculum containing the best of what has been thought and said, taught by the best teachers in inspirational classrooms.*

Our lessons are interesting, engaging and exciting. All pupils, regardless of ability, needs or background, are able to make rapid, sustained progress, achieve exceptional outcomes and grow into lifelong learners and successful individuals. A school where all children can access a range of enrichment opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop their life experiences.”

The Market Weighton School

<https://www.themarketweightonschool.co.uk/>

From the school website: *“Our aims are for students to: Have the skills and confidence to thrive in a changing world. Have the independence and resilience to take charge of their own learning and lives. Become active and responsible as local and global citizens. Have unlimited aspirations.*

In order to achieve these aims we will seek as a school to: Provide outstanding learning opportunities to meet individual needs. Challenge all students to

achieve ambitious personal goals. Expect the highest standards of behaviour and mutual respect. Establish meaningful relationships with our parents and the wider community. Deliver up to date professional development for our staff."

Our Churches

Holme on Spalding

Moor

All Saints Church

The Church of All Saints (Grade 1 listed), stands in an elevated position on the only hill near the village. It dates from the early 12th century with 14th century additions. It has undergone extensive restoration within the last century, the most recent work being completed within the last 15 years when the lead on the main nave was replaced with stainless steel and the roof timbers were restored and treated. The church has many interesting features including a peal of 6 bells, a Jacobean pulpit, a 14th century font and a 15th century Parclose screen separating the Chantry Chapel from the Nave. The church also has a modern kitchen and disabled toilet inside. The churchyard is reputed to be the largest church graveyard in East Yorkshire, with Commonwealth war graves. There is also a close link with former 76 Squadron RAF.

Worship at All Saints

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10.45, with additional services held throughout the year to celebrate Ascension Day, All Souls' Day, Christingle, Midnight Mass at Christmas and various other Holy Festivals including our Patronal service. The church enjoys fellowship and refreshment after Sunday morning service. Children are welcome. At the service of Remembrance, the Scouts and Guides parade and join in the service. The church also has 'The Old School House' within the village, where a Said Mass is held on a Wednesday morning at

9:30. This building has a modern kitchenette and disabled toilet. It is also used for various other activities throughout the year.

All Saints has a magnificent pipe organ used for weddings and funerals; regular worship music is

supplied by a computerised system. The hymn book we use is 'Common Praise'.

The congregation in the main is ageing, but younger worshippers attend on a regular basis. The average numbers on a Sunday vary between

15 to 20. We hold various fundraising events throughout the year. We have also held a Safari Supper and other activities during the year. The Church has two Churchwardens and a Reader.



The Old School

We are fortunate in having the Old School premises within the village where a said mass is held every Wednesday at 9.30. The building is also used for Benefice meetings, and fundraising activities open to the whole village (quiz nights, bring-and-buy sales, etc.).



All Saints has close links with the former Bomber Command's 76 Squadron.

Bursea Chapel of Ease

The building of Bursea Chapel (Grade 2 listed) is 154 years old (opened in 1872), built on a small piece of ground already known as Chapel Field. The need for it was well expressed in a letter of 1867 from the 'far flung parishioners' of Bursea, Hasholme and Welham Bridge to the agent for the landowner at Holme Hall, Thomas Sotheron Estcourt. They pleaded for 'a settled and appropriate place of worship for the inhabitants who, at risk of health and great personal inconvenience to themselves and their families travelled 3-5 miles to the public worship' (i.e. Holme Church on the Hill). Since then, Bursea has maintained itself as a separate place of worship, distinct from All Saints, Holme on Spalding Moor. The leading Victorian Gothic Revival architect William Butterfield, famed for his many buildings throughout the country including Keble College, Oxford and All Saints' Church, Margaret Street, London, designed the Chapel in 1867. The Chapel is an architectural gem and was carefully restored in 2005-6 with extensive repairs to the roof and foundations. It continues to be used on a regular basis.

Worship at Bursea

A BCP Communion Service is held on the third Sunday of each month at 9.00am, attracting around 8 worshippers. Extra services take place at Christmas, Easter and Harvest attracting a large congregation as befits an agricultural area.

In addition, Bursea Chapel is also used for occasional weddings, funerals and baptisms as well as other events such as lectures, music concerts and other social events.





A highlight of the benefice year is the annual picnic held at Bursea



Seaton Ross

Seaton Ross is about 6 miles west of Market Weighton and 3 miles north-west of Holme on Spalding Moor. The village has always been a farming area, and several large working farms survive to the present day with private housing infilling along the long ribbon-like main road.

St Edmund's Church

The church of St Edmund occupies the major focal point in the centre of the village and stands within its own churchyard. The present building stems from a major renovation in the 1790s, but there has been a place of worship on the site since the 11th century, a time from which the present Norman font dates. The church tower (recently renovated) holds a fine Abraham Smith bell dated 1626. The church is open every day and the churchyard, which hosts a large cremation plot, is regularly visited by many villagers and from further afield. The church pews can accommodate up to 90 people.

St Edmund's has one church warden. Average attendance for Sunday services has, like most rural churches fallen over the years, but we still attract 10-15 folk, whilst numbers at the less formal family services (Harvest, Carols, Mothering Sunday) range from 20-60. and typically include a large number of children.



The present church was rebuilt in 1871 on the site of a previous one which was believed to date from around 1180 in the reign of Henry II. It stands half a mile to the west of the road through the village next to what was the Manor House. The roof inside has an unusual colouring. There is a 14th century tombstone in the floor at the west end. We have one churchwarden at St Peter's who is also an ALM.

Worship at St Peter's

We presently have one communion service each month. Our attendance in 2024 averaged 9 with the majority of the congregation coming from outside the village by those who appreciate the tranquil setting of Harswell and the BCP service. The churchwarden regularly leads the intercessions. There is a holiday let in the former Manor Farm house adjacent to the church, the users of which occasionally boost our congregation, especially at Christmas and Easter. The majority of the villagers attend the annual Harvest festival (the village is predominantly agricultural) and Carol Service after both of which services we have a village supper. These are the main occasions on which we meet together as a community and are thus very important in the life of the village. We have the occasional wedding, baptism and funeral in the church. The churchyard is open for burials. The church is open during the day and we have a book which is signed by regular visitors.



Harswell

The original boundaries of Harswell Parish were thought to have been laid down in the 13th century, and adjoin the parishes of Shiptonthorpe, Market Weighton and Holme on Spalding Moor. There are at present 15 dwellings, one of which is the Old Rectory, with around 35 inhabitants living in the hamlet.

St Peter's Church



Everingham

Everingham is a historic village, originally a farming estate village for Everingham Hall, and as such was predominantly Roman Catholic, although the Catholic Church, attached to the Hall is now redundant.

Apart from farming, the production of commercial grass supplies is prominent.

The village is small with no shop, school or public house. However, there is a vibrant Village Hall (originally the village school) owned by the village and managed by trustees, which has catering and bar facilities along with a children's playground and tennis court. The village has a strong sense of community with many social events and support for fund raising, including those for the Church.

St Everilda's Church

St Everilda's Church is one of only two churches in the country attributed to St Everilda, a Saxon Saint who founded a convent for 80 nuns on land bequeathed by the bishop in the 7th Century. We celebrate St Everilda's Day with a service of Holy Communion and a Village Fete and BBQ, which is supported by the majority of the villagers.

The Church (Grade 2*), retains the original Norman tower, housing some of the oldest bells in Yorkshire (sadly not in use at present) and a nave rebuilt in the 18th century.

The church is small with a capacity of about 50. The average Sunday congregation is 8, but builds on major Christian events and the Church is always full for our own special Christmas Carol Service, The Blessing of the Cup Cakes! We have two BCP Communion Services a month. The Curate was priested in June this year and lives in the village.

There is a War Memorial in the village and we hold a service of Remembrance at the memorial.

This service has always been well attended and this is increasing year on year, the latest attendance (2024) was 55.

The PCC is determined to maintain the Church and we actively support the archbishop's vision to encourage wildlife in church grounds by planting a Jubilee copse in 2001 and developing a wild flower area.



Bielby

Bielby is a small village, some four miles from the well-serviced market town of Pocklington and a good mile from neighbouring villages.

Surrounded by fields, it adjoins the Pocklington Canal, an SSSI and a noted wildlife haven.

The village has about one hundred households and a population of some 250. It is a broad mix, ranging from young families to retired couples.

There is a private residential home for the elderly. Employment is principally in farming, business, trades and services like health and education. Children attend state and independent schools in other villages and Pocklington.

The community is close and active, organising an annual show, music and other festivals and a range of events supporting the church and charities.

St Giles Church

The church of St Giles (Grade 2* listed) dates from c. 1180 and can seat about seventy. It has been handsomely restored, literally from top to bottom, since the turn of the millennium thanks to significant funds raised by villagers over the years and a number of grants. St Giles is a daughter church in the parish of Everingham.

The congregation is small at between 4 and 8, principally middle-aged and retired, but swells significantly in size and age range at festivals, reflecting villagers' interest in, and support for, church life. There are two Sunday services a month, at least one of which is Holy Communion (Common Worship) and the hymn book is Ancient and Modern Revised. The tradition is simple, homely and, we hope, welcoming. The DCC works hard to keep up the church's profile in village life. There is no church hall and,

following the closure of the pub, the church is now the only public communal building in the village for hosting concerts, presentations and the like.



Our Safeguarding

The benefice is committed to welcoming and serving young people and vulnerable adults within our communities. Across the benefice, we are therefore committed to following safeguarding guidance from the Diocese and have rigorous procedures in place to enable this to happen.

These include ensuring that DBS checks are undertaken and that all PCC members undergo diocesan awareness and training with respect to safeguarding, with support from our local safeguarding officer and the wider diocese. Our policies and points of contact are displayed in all our places of worship.



Our Safeguarding Officer, Val Featherby

Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED:
 All known reports in respect of children, young people or vulnerable adults should be reported to the local safeguarding officer (LSDO) or the national helpline: National Child Protection Service on the Helpline (0800 1111 111)

DIOCESAN COMMITMENTS:

- Promoting a safe, respectful and caring environment
- Fully recruiting and supporting all those with appropriate qualifications and experience
- Promoting equality in every safeguarding context
- Calling publicly for the removal of anyone of whom we have serious concerns
- Cooperating fully with those who are the subject of concerns and those of whom we have serious concerns
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk

HELP LINES:

- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- Childline: 0800 1111
- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- NSPCC: 0800 330055
- NSPCC: 0800 330055

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Our Finances

Each of the parishes has its own PCC and accounts, but the present vacancy has encouraged us to move towards a more integrated benefice system. As a benefice, we need to become self-supporting of the costs of a 0.5 incumbent within a few years. We have developed a formal [business plan](#) with dated targets to meet this challenge (see below).

Our benefice finances are as shown below for year-ending 2025.

Accounts as of end-2025	HoSM & Bursea	Seaton Ross	Harswell	Everingham	Bielby
Current account	19,908	6,331	1,165	3,319	4,127
Unrestricted deposits	45,631***	26,129	12228**	12,327	602
Restricted deposits	70,184*	3,773	0	10,400	10,790
FWO 2026	14,000	10,000	1,900	5,800	2,750

* of which £10,000 is designated for major reburishment

** of which £10,000 is allocated to major refurbishment

*** of which 18,000 is designated for fabric

Plans for growth in the medium- to long-term

(use of unrestricted reserves can only be a short-term solution)

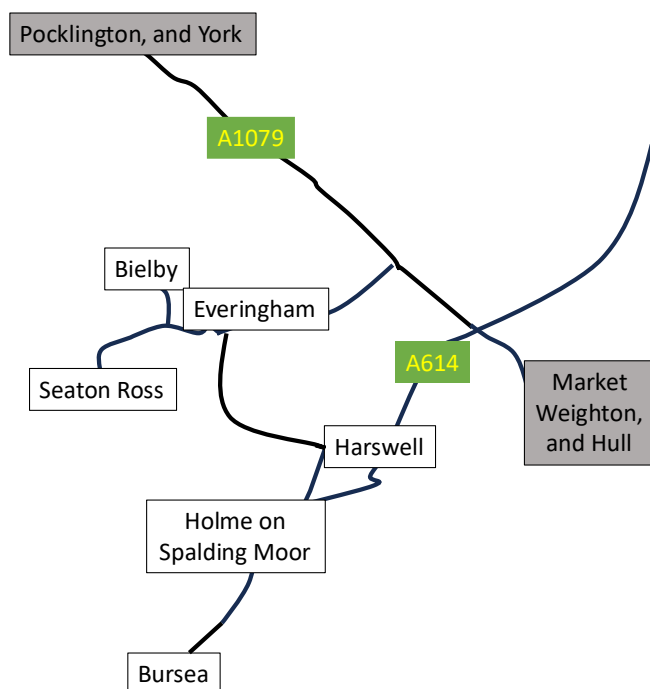
1. *Growth in the numbers worshipping*, gradually built up over the next 5 years. We would expect an eventual spread of giving by new members similar to that currently experienced in each parish. The mechanisms to achieve this growth include: diversifying our service types to attract more young families with children as well as new worshippers; embedding our activities within our local communities to contribute to their needs as well as increasing awareness of the relevance of the church in peoples' lives; having a priest who is outgoing and willing to 'work the room' to encourage people into church life. We have begun engagement with the diocesan programme of Growing Healthy Churches (Multiply, Mustard Seed and Revitalise) through initial discussions with The Rev'd John Day who will meet with the benefice in the Spring.
2. *Medium-term giving schemes* (e.g. Deeds of Covenants by Friends of the Church), targeted at those who value the central place and role of the church in their community, but who are not regular Sunday attenders. Schemes are in development for Holme-on-Spalding Moor and for Seaton Ross and are expected to increase income by several thousand pounds. The introduction of these schemes is on hold until we meet as a benefice with Phil McBride of the Generous Giving Team, again in the Spring. That team will also advise on the best and most sensitive way to increase the efficiency of our present giving.
3. *Introduction of card readers* for services that attract larger numbers of people (funerals, baptisms, weddings, festivals such as Christmas carols, Christingle, Harvest, Mothering Sunday, etc.). We have noted that younger people tend not to carry cash, and other churches that have introduced card readers have seen giving increase considerably. A recent benefice-wide talk by the Generous Giving Team has already

resulted in Holme-on-Spalding Moor purchasing a card reader which can be used by other parishes on specific occasions. QR codes on posters are also being considered.

4. *Specific fundraising events and activities* that generate income additional to that collected in previous years, as well as creating links and co-operation with our wider communities that increase opportunities for mission. Many of these are entirely new ventures, some are resurrections of events which were successful in the past but have lapsed, others are existing activities that can be expanded in scope. Not all events and activities have been quantified at this stage, and not all are expected to take place every year: several will be every two or three years. A list is provided in the appendix to illustrate the diversity of events proposed for 2026 and future years so far. Fundraising in Harswell parish will be compromised in the early years due to the need for substantial church renovations (many thousand pounds). Of course, the success of all of these in raising income and in growing numbers would be greatly enhanced by having a priest in post.

Whilst we can estimate income from fundraising events fairly well, additional income from card readers, uplifts in personal giving, DoCs and numbers of new members are impossible to quantify exactly. However, they would all bring in additional funds over and above the £5000-£7000 that events could bring in. On that basis, we are confident that we will be able to meet the full (100%) costs of a half-time priest.

Where are we?



Distances from vicarage at Holme on Spalding Moor

St Edmund's Seaton Ross	11 mins, 6 miles
St Peter's Harswell	5 mins, 2.7 miles
St Everilda's, Everingham	7 mins, 3.6 miles
St Giles's, Bielby	11 mins, 5.4 miles
Bursea Chapel	7 mins, 3.7 miles