

The Friends of Hinxtton Church Annual General Meeting May 11th 2026

Secretary's Report 2025/26

The last AGM was held in the village Hall on May 19th 2025.

Present were; Margaret Malcolm, Sarah Steele, H Taylor, Merv Russell, Alex Lake, Rev Lydia Smith, Graham Smith, Kate Riley.

Apologies;

Members; Ros Smith, Deborah Haris, Virginia Walker, Jane Chater, Mary Ellis.

Officers are; Mrs Malcolm (now Chair), Alex Lake (Treasurer), Kate Riley (Secretary), Merv Russell.

Nominated members; Sarah Steele (Hinxtton Parochial Council), Graham Smith (Hinxtton Parish Council).

Meetings this year were held in May, July, November, 2025, and February 2026. Membership Rates have remained at £10 single, £15 family and £50 Life.

The Hinxtton Fete returned this year and we were invited to hold a stall to publicise The Friends. This much loved event takes a lot of planning so it is hoped new comers may join & help in future.

In July we were back at The Oak House to celebrate our annual Garden Party, thanks to Jane & David Chater. This was well attended and raised £1382.38. And the raffle gave £420 to share between The Salvation Army and The Children's Society in memory of Andrew Walker and Julie Baillie respectively.

We held another Strawberry Tea in August, with chairs and gazebo beside the church. It was a quiet affair in late summer, but a happy occasion to share with neighbouring communities.

November was memorable for our first HinxFest. This week-long extravaganza raised £4093.08 for the church facilities under the auspices of The Friends. An enormous thanks to Mike whose dream it was, ably assisted by Alex and Hugh together with a team of willing hands. Alex set-up and performed a magnificent Son et Lumiere one evening in the church - a first for Hinxtton. Hugh somehow kept an eye on all permissions and assessments to ensure smooth running for all parties.

Support to the Church:

Hugh, as Church Warden, reports to the meetings with details of the support needed for the Church. However, suffice to say, Hugh has worked tirelessly to pursue the PCC goals and achieve the agreed outcomes. We will be ready to support financially.

The main focus this year has been on applications for the toilet and kitchenette facility. This has lately been coordinated with the application for a glass front to the main door (which we hope will follow). This demands long procedures and has required meetings with architects and builders at every stage.

Further work was also completed on the window beside the organ, as well as shrub management in the graveyard.

Detailed account of funds raised and spent are available in the Treasurer Report if requested.

At our last meeting Graham Smith announced that time has come when he wishes to step down. Graham has supported the Committee for many years and provided untiring help & advice - we can't remember a time without him!. May I thank Graham on behalf of us all, and hope he will continue to share his knowledge as needed, but from a relaxed stand.

My thanks once again to all the Committee for their commitment, and the many unseen helpers who keep us going.

Churchwarden's Report for 2025 for Annual Parish Meeting - 11 May 2026

Maintenance and Upkeep - January to December 2025

Remaining Items from 2022 Quinquennial Review (QR)

Repointing to base of flint wall either side of porch, shelter coat to external clunch work (ie apply protective coat), protect 'ferramenta' to windows 01 and 10.

Faculty to permit cleaning of Anne Howsden Memorial within churchyard.

Faculty for installation of kitchenette and increase of space at front of nave through removal of 1 x pew and 2 x pew seats approved - work on pews completed (kitchenette outstanding).

Donation and installation of a kestrel nesting box on churchyard perimeter.

Church clock bell sounded (in tribute) for first time for some years.

Advisory visit to review wildlife habitats in churchyard.

Restored window near organ re-fitted, various damaged small window small panes replaced.

Village flagpole re-lanyarded.

Second kestrel box installed in vicinity of churchyard.

VE and VJ 80th anniversary flags flown and bell sounded as part of village remembrance.

Churchyard 'project' progressed, eg clearance of scrub bushes near graves, 'pond' installed at back of churchyard.

Door near altar brought back into use as emergency fire escape.

HinxFest25 (in support of FOHC) took place centred on church and village hall with son et lumiere, remembrance tribute and grand finale taking place at the church.

Faculty and planning permission submitted for toilet and glass doors.

New Year's Eve sounding of church bells.

Other 'happenings', eg new hassocks, burials and interments, annual inspections (eg fire extinguishers), security 'alarms' (incl cctv monitoring), clock winding and maintenance, churchyard mapping . . .

Hugh Taylor

Hinxton Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2025/26

Firstly my thanks to all the PC members and to Anne the parish Clerk

We still have a vacancy for a PC member and are hopeful of filling this in the near future
Sadly we have again lost some long standing residents in the last year all of whom contributed to the village over many years. Our sympathy and thoughts to their families.

Key Developments .

Precept-We decided not to increase the parish precept due to the recent pressures on the cost of living

Hinxfest- support by the PC

Village hall progress

Wellcome-

The road works and associated infrastructure improvements have moved on significantly. There have been some weeks of road closures and diversions to contend with and we have fed back to Wellcome when we have had concerns about closure timings etc. This is likely to continue for some time.

New Road junction has been the subject of numerous concerns including a detailed critique of the layout . The local authority have supposedly reviewed the installation but we are yet to receive any update

We have had regular meetings with Wellcome to enable 2 way communications between us and to provide a forum for raising concerns. Thanks to all who have attended from the PC and particularly to Sarah, Hugh and Chris

A new director is in post as well as a new liaison officer for our meetings so hopefully we will see positive moves. The PC met the new director and liaison officer informally to introduce ourselves and set the groundwork for a productive relationship as we move forward. Early feedback is good.

These meetings will continue for as long as is necessary.

Village Hall

Andy has continued to keep the project moving forward.

A survey was circulated to give parishioners the chance to comment on certain design features, thanks to those who responded

Colin and Toni Moses have further developed the design and presented these at a PC meeting

We need to submit a BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) statement, this is underway.

Cost estimates are expected in due course.

Great credit and thanks to Andy for his continuing work on this .

Wetlands

Quarterly meetings with minutes published on the HPC website. Also information about guided walks etc. Meetings have been sporadic and we are still having issues with receiving minutes.

New clapper gates installed on permissive path with more improvements to follow

Highways

Engagement with Highways and Wellcome on the village traffic issues. We've applied and been successful in making a one way system in Hunts Lane, this is expected to happen within the next 18 months due to backlog.

We are looking to purchase a speed camera unit which we can deploy in the village. It will be a visual reminder for drivers who exceed the speed limit and record volume of traffic etc. Suitable locations to be agreed

A505 survey is being looked at again. Peter McD is leading on this

Playground

Thanks to Sarah and Anne for looking after this.

Safety inspections have been carried out and any issues addressed.

Moles caused a brief closure of the play area.

Planning

Multiple applications to review, most from Wellcome. Others from others in the parish.

We've commented where appropriate.

Hugh has taken the lead on this and has been very efficient in reviewing and feeding back to the PC. Thanks to Hugh for his work.

Allotments

Due to the proposed work on the village hall we need to be mindful of how we manage the plots as tenure may not be guaranteed.

Quiet Lanes

Mike is leading on the proposal to make Duxford Road a 'Quiet lane' This doesn't mean no traffic but it tries to encourage a more thoughtful use of the route. This is progressing with increased interest from the surrounding area

Weir

The installation of a Weir on the river to help prevent flooding and better manage the flow has been proposed but there are difficulties with funding. We will keep looking at our options and try to find a way forward, supporting as required

Village clean up

A successful and well attended litter pick. It looks like people are starting to pick up their litter without prompting as volumes collected on the litter picks has lessened. Thanks to Dick for his work along the main road

Potholes

Feedback about the number of potholes in the village was submitted and some have been sorted

Congratulations to Peter McDonald on his re-election and thanks for his continuing support of Hinxton

Particular thanks to Brad without whom the Hinxton website would not exist.

Thanks to all PC members for their time and support during the year and to the parishioners who attend meetings and reply to surveys.

Looking ahead

Continue to interact with Wellcome as their project develops

Continue to hone the VH design and progress to planning and building regs application.

Then invite tenders for the construction. Communication with the village to continue as required

New Dog poo bins sourced and installed

Hinxton Playground Report

Reporting Period: 2025–2026

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the condition, maintenance activities, and improvements carried out at Hinxton Playground during the 2025–2026 period. It highlights key issues identified, actions taken, and ongoing management to ensure the playground remains safe, functional, and enjoyable for the community.

2. Playground Inspection – April 2025

A formal Playground Inspection conducted in April 2025 identified several maintenance issues requiring attention. These included minor wear and tear on equipment and general site maintenance concerns.

Actions Taken

- All issues raised in the inspection report were reviewed and prioritised.
 - Necessary maintenance works were completed promptly to ensure compliance with safety standards.
 - Repairs and adjustments were carried out to maintain usability and extend the life of equipment. It was agreed to ask Playsource to carry out the works required for the equipment.
 - Quotes received in the region of £5,000 to £7,000 to replace the seesaw which needs some repairs, nothing urgent so this will be revisited next year where it may be better to go with a repair which will be in the region of £2000 to replace the timber beam with steel.
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3. Grounds Maintenance and Pest Control

Mole Activity

During the reporting period, mole activity resulted in the appearance of multiple molehills across the playground area. These posed potential trip hazards and affected the overall presentation of the site.

Response and Outcome

- A pest control contractor was engaged to address the issue.
- Targeted pest control measures were implemented over a period of a couple of weeks.
- The mole problem was successfully resolved, with activity significantly reduced and no further disruption reported.
- Affected ground areas were monitored and restored as needed

We apologise to users of the playground. We appreciate how frustrating it must have been to not have the Playground in use. Thank you for your patience.

4. Site Improvements

Memorial Tree Planting

A memorial tree was planted within the playground during this period.

- The planting contributes positively to the landscape and biodiversity of the area.
 - It provides a meaningful commemorative feature for the community.
 - Ongoing care will ensure the tree establishes successfully.
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5. General Condition and Ongoing Maintenance

Overall, Hinxton Playground remains in good condition following the completion of maintenance and pest control works.

Key Points

- Regular inspections and maintenance continue to be carried out.

- Safety standards have been maintained throughout the period.
- Grounds are kept tidy and usable for visitors.

6. Conclusion

The 2025–2026 period has seen effective management of Hinxton Playground, with key issues identified and resolved in a timely manner. The successful removal of mole activity, completion of inspection-related maintenance works, and the addition of a memorial tree have all contributed to maintaining and improving the site.

Ongoing monitoring and routine maintenance will continue to ensure the playground remains a safe and welcoming space for the community.

We give thanks to all those who water the trees regularly.

Councillor Sarah Robinson

REPORT FROM THE ANN HOWSDEN TRUSTEES FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HINXTON PARISH COUNCIL

May 2026

Since the last report to the Hinxton Parish Council, the Trustees have met in person on a quarterly basis, with an additional Zoom call to discuss the problems with plumbing and damp subsequent to installation of a wet room at one of the properties. Meetings were held on:

- 20th May 2025
- 11th July 2025 (extraordinary meeting by Zoom)
- 9th September 2025
- 25th November 2025
- 2nd March 2026 (Annual General Meeting)

The Report and Financial Statements for the year ending on the 30th September 2024 were submitted to the Charity Commission in July 2025. Those for the financial year ending on 30th September 2025 were approved at the AGM subject to minor revisions and will be reviewed by an independent examiner.

A programme of maintenance and improvements of the four Duxford Road bungalows has been undertaken during the year including repairs to soffits and guttering, but most significantly re-installation of a wet room at one of the properties with replacement of flooring and redecoration to address issues caused by damp.

There have been no changes in tenants of the bungalows in the past year; 3 bungalows are let out at an ‘affordable rent’ to people with a life-long association with Hinxton and the 4th bungalow, over which the Charity has market level autonomy, is let out at an ‘intermediate rent’.

Redmayne, Arnold and Harris (RAH) continue to manage the properties and conduct regular inspections on behalf of the Charity. RAH now take the lead in communication with tenants on property-related issues and have been very helpful in addressing maintenance issues using their own trusted contractors.

Various charitable donations, similar in nature to previous years, were made this year: a sum towards church heating/restoration and churchyard maintenance, Christmas gifts and heating disbursements for Hinxton residents known to be in financial need, funding of the children’s party and a contribution to the ‘Son et Lumiere’ during Hinxfest. Trustees have also delivered cards and given flowers or baskets of fruit to Hinxton residents who have been bereaved or unwell. Refreshments are funded for those who enjoy monthly coffee mornings in Hinxton Village Hall. The

Village Hall Committee very kindly allow use of the Hall rent free for these events, and for face-to-face Charity meetings.

The memorial to Ann Howsden is gleaming in the south-east corner of the churchyard after cleaning and restoration of the lettering.

The financial reserves of the Charity are invested with Ruffer LLP in an Absolute Return Fund that is regulated by the Charity Commission. The choice of investment fund was made with the objective of limiting volatility, keeping charges low and conformity with ethical investment. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the Fund.

Two new Trustees, Jackie Scott and Tim Robinson, have been appointed, so with Andy Brown, Chloe Brown (appointed chair in February 2025), Benoit Geneviev, Jacqui Gruby, Ian Pearson, Jenny Goodwin continuing and Reverend Lydia Smith as ex officio Trustee, we currently have a full Board of Trustees. The Trustees are supported by Alison King, a former resident of Hinxton, as Secretary and Nicholas Cliffe, a chartered accountant and resident of Hinxton, as Treasurer.

A summary of the Charity's objectives and activities have been added to the Parish Council website with links to the application forms that need to be completed for requests for financial support or tenancy of a bungalow to be considered. It is our wish to encourage applications for support, both in cases of financial hardship and for activities that benefit Hinxton as a whole. Notices about the Charity's purpose and the availability of help are periodically placed in the Village Hall and at bus stops, and occasional reminders are posted on the Hinxton Facebook page. Importantly, due to the longstanding knowledge and established relationships with residents in the village, a great community network often means individuals feel able to reach out.

If anyone in the village knows of cases of illness, hardship or need, they are encouraged to contact any Charity Trustee or Officer directly or to contact the Secretary via email to annhowsdncharity@outlook.com. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Hinxton Secretary's Report on the year ending 31st December 2025 for the Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 14th May 2026

Between January 1st and December 31st 2025 there were two Hinxton PCC meetings as well as the APCM.

There were two joint parishes' meetings, the details of which are to be found in Mrs Carolyn Meadows' separate report.

All meetings were chaired by Reverend Lydia Smith.

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The first meeting on 15th January 2025 was attended by all members of Hinxton PCC.

The Art Exhibition held in the church the previous November was very successful.

The church car park has been resurfaced.

Mrs Smith, Treasurer, reflected that a great deal has been achieved this past year, thanks primarily to the efforts of Mr Hugh Taylor, Churchwarden. A new, greener boiler has been installed, along with CCTV, repairs to the roof and replacement of the sound system. Two legacies, The Friends, Ann Howsden and a grant from Jesus College helped church finances greatly.

Our Deanery share rebate had been spent creatively on YOUTHINC, Science Chaplaincy and such actions benefitting the whole Deanery.

There was much discussion relating to the building and churchyard. There was a formal proposal that an application be made to temporarily remove three pews, along with a resolution to locate a kitchenette and toilet in the vestry. In addition the Village Hall Committee to be asked

how the church might best help in view of the upcoming closure of the village hall. Other items under discussion included work on the windows and doors, removal and replacement of trees and grave decoration.

Mr Andy Brown informed the meeting that the Parish Council is proposing that work be undertaken on the war memorial and refurbishing Ann Howsden's memorial.

Most members of the PCC had completed two rounds of safeguarding training.

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The Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting took place on 6th May 2025, attended by twelve people.

Mr Hugh Taylor was re-elected as Churchwarden and sincerely thanked for his efforts by all present.

Very sadly, Mrs Julie Baillie and Mr Andrew Walker, two long time prominent and respected members of Hinxtton church had passed away at the beginning of 2025. Both made a huge contribution to Hinxtton Church and will be very much missed.

The electoral roll now stands at 24.

Mrs Linda Russell and Mrs Carolyn Meadows were warmly thanked for their previously circulated annual summary reports.

Mrs Ros Smith read her (previously circulated) finance report. The overall total of our church accounts had improved by £16,350. The Art Exhibition and Fete were good fundraisers. £2,400 was raised in donations to the Kenyan school supported by our three churches.

There had been a good response to The Parish Giving Scheme.

A full copy of the independently audited reports is available for inspection on the church notice board. Mrs Smith was warmly thanked.

The churchwarden's report which was previously circulated, covered a multitude of subjects, and was much appreciated by the meeting. The bird boxes are now home to robins, blue tits and rock doves. The large owl boxes are awaiting owls. The altar door is being brought back into use. Emergency repairs were carried out to the main door which may need comprehensive refurbishment.

The Vicar's report was previously circulated and Rev Smith was congratulated on all her hard work and time so unstintingly given.

The School report noted that inspection reports by SIAMS and OFSTED were both very positive.

The Deanery Synod report mentioned that all Granta parishes paid their Deanery Share in 2024.

There were no other reports.

Mrs Malcom notified her intention to step down from the PCC and was warmly thanked by Rev Smith and all present for her many years of service. She will continue as Deanery Synod representative.

Mr Christopher Corfield was elected to the PCC and warmly welcomed.

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The last meeting of the PCC was held on 23rd September 2025, and was attended by eight people.

Before the meeting formally commenced, Mr Mike Boagey and Mr Alex Lake briefed the PCC on events planned to take place in and around the church during Hinxfest.

The Ann Howsden monument has been beautifully cleaned.

Mr Andy Brown reported that the offer of the church building for meetings, when the village hall is closed, was much appreciated.

Various seasonal service events and dates were discussed. Village Carol singing will again take place around the War Memorial with refreshments after kindly offered by Dr and Dr Munday, following last year's success.

The General Data Protection Regulation, and the Health and Safety Policy were formally

adopted.

The church fete was very successful, in particular with families. The Silent Auction will not take place this year due to Hinxfest running in November.

Mrs Russell had received a letter from the solicitors Smee&Ford. Mrs Julie Baillie left £5,000 to Hinxton church in her will, and a further £5,000 to The Friends.

Mrs Smith as Treasurer is making the move to internet banking.

Mr Taylor informed the meeting that the profit from the recent Red Lion quiz evening had been donated to the church.

There was discussion of toilet facilities, removal and possible repurposing of two or three pews, glass porch doors, the wooden mouse competition for children, siting of a proposed swift box and the need to re erect a gravestone.

The PCC discussed possible difficulties entering the church and navigating the chancel steps. It was thought helpful for us to be alert to communicants who might need assistance. A sidesperson welcoming people and staying by the door until the conclusion of the first hymn, plus large print order of service and hymns and more provision for children.

The recent data breach in the Church of England has resulted in temporary suspension of DBS checks. Any outstanding training needs completing, and Safeguarding posters need checking.

Linda Russell

April 2026

Report for Hinxton Village Hall AGM 2025 -2026

This time last year we were looking forward to dates for refurbishment of the village hall, but all plans take time and we are now able to say that we expect work to start early in 2027.

At present there is a balance of £31728.41 in the Village Hall accounts

This is roughly £700 less than last year. Bills are continuing to increase but we are pleased to be in such a healthy position. We have also promised the Parish Council up to £15000.00 towards the cost of the new kitchen.

This year we have had lots of bookings for children's parties, several to celebrate Eid, some seasonal The Cambridge Quilters group have enjoyed sharing their meeting here and will return again this year.

For the village we always welcome meetings & events for our community and fund raising for charities. We have had a Christening during the year and, sadly, several Wakes with services at the Church.

The Fete was on June 14th and a great success making full use of the hall and playground; tea & cakes for the Mill is always a huge attraction to benefit both the village & the Mill; Supper on the Run and wine tasting evenings are now well established in the hall diary as is Light Up in December which this year raised £300 for the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

In November the village was surprised by '*Hinxfest*', a week-long new event raising funds for the Friends of the Church at the same time as encouraging community creativity/participation.

Of course we welcome the Parish Council regularly, and the monthly Coffee Mornings.

The Committee remains firm in support of our Village Hall and always hopes to provide a great venue for village events.

We appreciate the hard work of the Parish councillors` and enjoy our working relationship

Rosemary Breen

Financial report

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
RECEIPTS				
Precept	£ 15,795.00	16585	16585	16,585
Allotments	£ 180.00	180	160	130
Bank interest	£ 35.21	227	501.48	501.17
Grants/Donations/refunds	£ 608.00	15000	43.6	4258.99
VAT refund	£ 1,422.00	1387	1997	2709.07
VHC Utilities	£ 657.00	417	1728.52	1116.5
Insurance claim			0	0
Sec 106				82793.16
Newsletter donation		600	900	1000
Grass cutting contribution	£ 2,800.00	281	281.16	287.77
TOTAL	£ 21,497.21	34677	22196.76	109,382
Clerk's salary	£ 4,432.00	6627	5920	6273.44
Stationery/Post	£ 120.00	0	0	0
Insurance	£ 2,626.00	2885	1226	1292.26
Subscriptions	£ 220.00	752	368	1133.39
HMRC	£ 1,090.00	2102	1480	1993.16
Training	£ 190.00	0	0	149.4
Professional fees	£ 897.00	2885	1451	2064
Website/IT	£ 961.00	979	1587	1690.38
Gas/electric	£ 582.00	1349	948	875
Village Hall	£ 5,730.00	812	359	71
Water charges	£ 118.00	0	96	
Street lighting	£ 17.00	12.22	0	1068
Playground	£ 3,697.00	625	4084.8	1400.4
Grass cutting	£ 5,863.00	940	780	1040
Maintenance/License PFP	£ 1,000.00	1000	1000	1000
General Expenses	£ 1,075.00	333	358	278.45
Hinxton News	£ -	670	1400	1418
Bank Charges	£ -	0	£4.25	51.5
Donations				1573
Village Hall expansion				12924
Grounds/village maintenance				2660
Equipment	£ 1,450.00	981	623	3563.32
Sub total	£ 30,068.00	22952.22	21685.05	42518.7
TOTAL				

Cash in Hand 1/4/25	£49,563.81
Receipts 1/4/24- 31/3/25	£109,381.73
Payments	£42,518.24
Cash in Hand 31/3/26	£116,427
Current acc	£3,539.30
Instant access	£40,935.18
Sec 106 Village Hall	£71,952.82
Total	£116,427