

Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2025
Parish Council Report

I would like to start by welcoming this year's new Councillor, James.

Barry, Mary, Peter James and Oli, thanks to you all for your continued support in what I'm pleased to say has been a much more proactive and positive year.

We continue to report on the state of our roads to the Highways team via the online portal and feedback via our meetings. Our emergency plan was updated this year and we have a bi-monthly report written on the condition of our public pathways, many thanks go to Wendy Seale.

We celebrated VE 80 at Godwick this month – it was a beautiful evening and well supported. Thanks to the village hall committee for giving their grant money to this event. We have installed a second fully automatic de-fib at Godwick, which can be used on children as well as adults.

The Sam2 sign has been installed now for some time and although this is meant to be a speeding deterrent, we are still recording speeds up to 65 mph. For anyone wishing to view the data it is downloaded and placed on the residents FaceBook page and our website. Unfortunately our Community Engagement Police team have been unable to persuade the Norfolk Police speed camera team to place Tittleshall on their monthly rota as they have only visited the village twice in year. However, some good news, the village speed watch team has been resurrected. All participants have been trained and will hopefully go some way to reducing the speed in our village. Thanks to Mary Osborne for her time and patience in this venture.

The village as a whole is looking well kept – thanks to BB Garden Services for their hard work keeping our greens, churchyard, verges and trods neat and tidy.

Financially we are looking in good shape. This year our auditor claimed “the accountancy records are of a very good standard”.

Finally, I would like to thank Donna our Clerk for her hard work this year. As a group, we will continue to learn and develop our knowledge and skills using the various training programmes, Conferences and drop-in sessions available via Norfolk Parish Training and Support and the supportive mechanisms via Norfolk County Council.

Kay Gingell
Chairperson
20th May 2025

FLIX IN THE STIX CINEMA REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON TUESDAY THE 19TH OF MAY 2025

Flix In The Stix Cinema is twenty two years old and as I have said in previous reports I am the most astonished at its longevity.

Cinema, has in the past, been written off on numerous occasions. The video era sounded its death knell (remember the Blockbuster shops), as did the arrival of dvd's and now we have streaming, but here we are alive and kicking in this cosy village hall showing films that people still want to attend. The big screen experience is still a favourite of many.

This is the second season where on a Friday night we screen films that I call the 'inbetweeners'. These are world films, foreign speaking films, archive and films from independent producers, who in my opinion do not get the oxygen their films deserve. Were you to research the location of some of these films you would find that they have disappeared after one or two weeks showing.

The big franchises get first pick of screenings at big cinema chains and their films are shown for longer periods. Flix now plays a small part in showcasing films from worldwide talented and creative directors and as a result we attract audiences who want to see innovative films.

The Saturday night cinema is more mainstream with the bigger and more recognisable names appearing. The film festivals such as Cannes, the Sundance are always an indication of some big productions nearing release - so I always keep an eye on them.

A small village hall cinema such as ours relies heavily on a good organiser to help them along the way, and in our case we have Creative Arts East who do just that. They take the pressure off us by arranging the licences from Filmbank without which we would not be able to screen films.

They help with advertising in the form of A5 inserts to go in the

Church&Village magazine and they provide us with a quarterly brochure listing films that are about to be released. Inevitably there have been price rises from Creative Arts brought on by funding cuts, but I believe their value to small village hall cinemas such as ours is calculable.

Film shows at this hall always create a communal interest, with a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake the chat flows between people and a connection is created and a discussion ensues. I get a lot of feedback from these conversations which gives me insights into what people like or don't like and give me pointers as to future film selection.

There are sixty four rural cinemas in Norfolk and we are the longest in existence so we must be doing something right!.

TITLESHALL POOR'S LAND TRUST
REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

20th MAY 2025

THE TRUST CURRENTLY HAS 3 TRUSTEES AFTER THE VERY SAD LOSS OF DAVID PURSER EARLIER THIS YEAR HE WAS A VALUABLE MEMBER AND IS MUCH MISSED. IDEALLY THERE SHOULD BE 4 AND APPROACHES ARE BEING MADE TO TRY AND BOOST THE NUMBERS.

I REPORT TO YOU NOT AS A TRUSTEE, BUT AS THE CLERK RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN THE MID 1800s ALTHOUGH THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE VILLAGE HAVE SO THAT THE NUMBER OF CORE RECIPIENTS FOR SOME OF ITS AUTOMATIC BENEFITS HAVE REDUCE DUE TO ANO DOMINI.

LIKE MANY SIMILAR LOCAL CHARITIES THE TRUSTEES ARE SEEKING TO HELP WHERE NECESSARY, BUT WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THEIR CONSTITUTION AND THE RULES SET BY THE CHARITY COMMISSION. AS SUCH WE CANNOT SETTLE DEBTS OR IN FACT DONATE TO OTHER CHARITIES THAT SAID THE TRUST IS OPEN TO IDEAS. RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING HOW WE COULD BENEFIT THE YOUTH IN THE VILLAGE, BUT HAVE COME UP AGAINST THE LACK OF ORGANISATIONS THAT EXIST. THE TRUSTEES DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY IN THEMSELVES TO SET UP SUCH THINGS AS A YOUTH OR SWIMMING CLUB.

THAT SAID WE DID HELP THE 2024 SANTA TRACTOR RUN IN FUNDING THE GIFTS HANDED OUT TO CHILDREN AS THE CREPT THROUGH THE VILLAGE.

IN FACT IN 2024/2025 THE CHARITY PAID OUT JUST SHORT OF £3500

MANY MAY NOT KNOW THAT WE DO NOT CANVAS FOR FUNDS AND OUR ONLY SOURCE ON MONIES IS THE RENT RECEIVED FROM THE FARMING OF LAND OFF WELLINGHAM ROAD. RECENTLY THE TENANCY HAS CHANGED AND THE CURRENT FARMERS ARE MAKING MUCH NEEDED CHANGES TO THE LIKES OF DRAINAGE HELPING TO IMPROVE THE GROUND AS WELL ENABLING THEM TO BETTER MANAGE THE PROPERTY.

THE CHARITY'S ONLY OTHER ASSET ARE TWO SMALL PIECES OF LAND OFF THE HEATH. ONE OF THESE HAS CAUSED US PROBLEMS CENTERD AROUND A SINKHOLE THAT APPEARED AND REPAIRS NEEDED. THE LATTER WERE NOT HELPED BY VEHICLES CUTTING THE CORNER AT THE JUNCTION ANDS WELL AS PEOPLE WALKING OVER FENCES TO GET ACCESS WHEN THE LAND WAS CLOSED DUE TO THE DANGER THE SINKHOLE PRESENTED. THESE HAVE BEEN REPAIRED ALBEIT WITH A DRAIN ON THE CHARITY'S ASSETS. IT IS WORTHY OF REPEAT THAT THESE 2 PIECES ARE PRIVATE , NOT PUBLIC LAND AND WHILST THE TRUSTEES DO PERMIT DOG WALKERS AND THE LIKE TO USE THE GROUNDS IT IS NOT BESTOWING AN ONGOING RIGHT AS SUCH.

SO TO END MY BRIEF REPORT ON A POSITIVE NOTE SHOULD ANYONE WISH TO PUT FORWARD A REQUEST THEN THE TRUSTEES WOULD BE HAPPY TO TAKE IT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU

A DRINK WATER

CLERK TO THE TRUSTEES

TITTLESHALL POOR'S LAND TRUST

TITLESHALL BOWLS CLUB

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

20th MAY 2025

I ADDRESS YOU THIS EVENING AS CHAIR OF THE BOWLS CLUB AND AS A MEMBER OF NEARLY 22 YEARS STANDING. OVER THESE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES IN THE CLUB WHICH A MAJORITY OF CURRENT VILLAGERS WOULD NOT BE AWARE OF.

LIKE MOST BOWLS CLUBS WE WERE STARTED AS PART OF THE PLAYERS WHO FREQUENTED A LOCAL HOSTELRY IN OUR CASE THE OSTRICH PUB, BUT FOLLOWING SEVERAL TRAUMATIC CHANGES THE CLUB PURCHASED THE LAND AND HAVE SINCE OPERATED AS A SELF FUNDING ORGANISATION. ALAS LIKE SO MANY OF THE VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS WE ARE RELIANT ON MEMBERS GENEROSITY TO SURVIVE AND PAY THE EVER INCREASING BILLS WE FACE.

IN 2024 WE PROVED HOW STRONG A CLUB WE WERE BY HOLDING UP MOST OF THE OTHER CLUBS IN THE LEAGUES WE PLAYED IN. WE WERE HAMPERED BY THE LOSS OF SEVERAL VALUABLE AND LOYAL MEMBERS.

IN 2025 WE ARE TAKING A SLIGHTLY MORE NUANCED APPROACH IN THAT WE ARE ONLY PLAYING IN ONE EVENING LEAGUE AND ONE AFTERNOON LEAGUE IN THE HOPE THAT WE CAN MUSTER THE TALENT WE HAVE AND IMPROVE OUR PERFORMANCES IN THE LEAGUES. I WOULD ADD THAT IN THIS OTHER SMALL CLUBS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA ARE ENCOUNTERING SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

ONE OF OUR MAIN FOCUSES IS TO MAXIMISE OUR OWN GREEN AND FACILITIES TO CUT DOWN ON TRAVELLING AND MAKING US MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE TO POTENTIAL NEW RECRUITS. WE DRAW OUR MEMBERS FROM MANY VILLAGES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY AND WELCOME ANYBODY WHO JUST FANCIES A TRY. IN FACT I WOULD GUARANTEE THAT IF YOU WANDER PAST THE GREEN WHILE A MATCH IS ON AND STOP A FEW SECONDS YOU WILL SOON BE VENTURING AN OPINION THAT YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE THAT SHOT, AND I WOULD CHALLENGE YOU TO TRY NOT GIVING YOUR OPINION OUT LOUD.

WE ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE OURSELVES AN OPEN AND FRIENDLY CLUB WILLING TO TAKE IN EXPERIENCED AND INEXPERIENCED PLAYERS GIVING THEM, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE A CHANGE TO PLAY GAMES AND ENTER COMPETITIONS AND IN THE SECOND TUITION AS TO THE HOW TO GO ABOUT PLAYING THIS FASCINATING GAME. CERTAINLY FOR NEW PLAYERS WE TRY NOT TO LEAVE YOU ON YOUR OWN AND WILL ENDEAVOUR TO GIVE INDIVIDUAL ONE ON ONE HELP ALBEIT ONLY ONE MEMBER IS A QUALIFIED COACH SO YOU MAY INHERIT SOME HABITS YOU MAY CHOOSE TO FORGET. IT IS A FUN GAME AND FOR NEW PLAYERS PROVIDED YOU HAVE FLAT SHOES WE CAN DO THE REST.

AS PART OF OUR OUTREACH WE HAVE INSTIGATED A REGULAR TUESDAY AFTERNOON "ROLL UP" WHEN ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY WILL BE WELCOME. WE WILL TAILOR GAMES DEPENDING WHO COMES AND WHILST IT IS FREE TO MEMBERS ANY VISITORS WILL PAY A NOMINAL FEE OF £3/GAME. WE WILL GIVE YOU A CUP OF TEA AND A BISCUIT SO I RECKON IT IS BETTER VALUE THAN YOUR LOCAL COFFEE SHOP AND MUCH MORE FUN.

ANY NEW OR INTERESTED MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT ANY CLUB MEMBER OR ACCESS THE CLUB WEBSITE.

A DRINK WATER

Good evening and thank you for inviting me to speak about St Marys at tonight's AGM.

In January this year, our vicar, Miriam Fife, left the Benefice for pastures new, having had 18 months of ill health. I fear she will not be replaced for quite some time. But, we are exceedingly lucky to have the Rev Hilary de Lyon living in the village, who takes our service on the fourth Sunday of each month. In the meantime., if you know of anyone who has a query about any service in the church, please ask them to contact me and I would be delighted to help.

Last year we continued with our restoration programme. The flooring on the north side has been replaced and three rows of pews were also removed, which makes for a much better space at both the front and back of the building. The clock has been repaired after many years and in March this year, the striking mechanism was returned and reinstalled.

We have held a number of fund raisers during the year and our bookshop goes from strength to strength due to the hard work of Paul Edmunds and the wonderful people who donate their books, without whom this enterprise would not be possible. There really is something for everyone, so do please drop in and see the huge range of books on offer and help St Mary's in the process.

I am incredibly lucky to have the most brilliant PCC who help in the running of the church in so many different ways, but we are always in need of new members should anyone be interested in joining us. I am also deeply grateful to the Parish Council for continuing to finance the cutting of the churchyard. Many of our visitors remark how smart it looks and that is down to your support.

We have a wonderful building in our village. Do please make use of it, whether it is to bring visitors, buy books, sit in a nice quiet space or even join us at 10.30 am on the 4th Sunday of each month.

TITTLESHALL METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MAY 2025

We are a small congregation, supported by one or two non-residents. We do not restrict our endeavours solely to religious services but try to carry our Christian convictions into the community. We are not 'an hour on a Sunday' group.

One member serves on and is active in the village Bowls Club. Also, one of our members is a published composer and has issued several CD's.

We attach a great deal of importance to our connection with the Trussell Trust Mid-Norfolk Foodbank branch at Fakenham where one of our members volunteers. We operate a collection point on Sunday 9-11am and Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. We have very good support from villagers and others with donations of food.

Our Wednesday coffee mornings continue, 10.30am to 12 noon with our regular band of supporters. There is coffee, tea, hot chocolate, biscuits and sometimes cake and there is no charge, it's 'donations invited'. It's a great chat-shop, not religious. If you do see a Minister they are there for conversation not preaching. We are a disabled access and dementia friendly Church with toilet facilities - everyone always welcome. Why not try it out one Wednesday?

In the autumn we join in the national MacMillan Coffee Morning and last year raised over £400.

We took part in the Tittleshall Summer Fete and raised £300 for Chapel funds.

We are part of the Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit which comprises 20 churches from. Our annual contribution towards the cost of running the Circuit is OVER £4000. On top of this we have to meet our utility cost, light, heat, water and insurance and we make contributions to several Methodist Charities. The majority of these costs are met by the direct giving of the members.

We have been blessed, during the last twelve months, with several organisations booking the Chapel for meetings which is much appreciated.

In the spirit of extending our mission outside the Chapel building we give our Harvest Thanksgiving collection to Ripples (formerly Send a Cow) which carries out agriculture and horticulture missionary work in Central and East Africa AND ALSO Food donations to Foodbank and our Christmas and Carol services collections go to Swaffham & Litcham Home Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Ailsa Warburton
Senior Steward