

Stradishall PCC: Summary of activities March 2025 to March 2026

Special Note

It should be noted that unfortunately there was an objection by the Edmundsbury Diocese to my carrying out the work on the church refurbishment that I had been doing up until the end of last year and was reported in last year's PCC meeting. Fortunately, by this time most of the work was finished.

The net result we had a holding period in which very little work was done. After a few months the situation was 'resolved' and it was agreed by the PCC that any work that was done in the church would be done with at least 2 members of the PCC present. The majority of this was divided into two parts

Church building work

- The main effort was investigating the leak on the south aisle roof which was still leaking at the west end. An investigation was commissioned and it was that it was likely that the ends of up to 5 rafters inside the outer south wall were rotten and Philip Orchard was commissioned to prepare a proposal, planning permission and Faculty so that grants could be applied for

This is almost finished (Philip Orchard and PCT) (named "Refurbishment" in last year's report)

- Recently a different temporary method sealing of the leak is being attempted from inside the church (PCT and Jon Pyzer) (£30 JP) still ongoing.

Church yard maintenance

The Diocesan restriction did not apply to the churchyard, so my efforts have been concentrated here. As with the church building the churchyards are in a neglected state. So, the improvement work is underway. Before September 2025 the grass was kept under control by Mr Adrian Lee, but he is now retired.

The following work has been carried out

- A suitable ride on lawnmower and trailer has been purchased (PCT - £3'400) and so far the following has been done:
- The grass has been mowed twice, and all the gravestones have been strimmed (PCT £80 strimmer maintenance)
- Much of the edges of the graveyards are dominated with bushes which have been allowed to run wild. A programme of getting them back under control has been initiated. The first phase of this is: £480 of lopping work been carried by GMS using the Parish Council church yard maintenance money. The loppings have been disposed of by GMS (£318 PCT)
- Pile of elderly loppings - pile removed by bull dozing into a redundant ditch (£30 PCT)
- This process will continue as funds allow.
- A number of obscured gravestones have been found, and these are being recovered
- It has been noticed that a large chestnut tree in the east corner of the front graveyard is pushing the ancient wall over. Someone needs to do all the bureaucracy that is required to fell the tree.

Conclusion

The work has continued in spite of the hold ups



Peter Thompson