St Edmund's Catholic Church

# Parish Finance and Fabric Committee
## PARISH OFFERTORY TRENDS UPDATE - Report 10 April 2025

### Background

In previous meetings, members reviewed reports on parish offertory income trends and agreed to monitor offertory income quarterly, providing regular updates.

### Discussion

Cash & Card Offertory. *Figure 1* compares weekly offertory collections over the past 12 weeks with the three-year average for the first quarter.

- The Sunday Mass at Bungay has seen an increase in offertory contributions.
- The Harleston Mass has experienced a slight decline.
- The Bungay Vigil Mass has not taken place since March 2024.

Overall, the parish's weekly offertory income has decreased by around 10% compared to the three-year average. The primary factor behind this decline is the loss of the Bungay Vigil Mass. *Figure 2* presents offertory trends by Mass centre, including first-quarter totals. Key observations:

- Between 2022 and 2024, cash offertory at Bungay has steadily increased.
- Parish offertory income overall has declined since 2023 due to the loss of the Bungay Vigil Mass and the suspension of Harleston services from March to September 2024.
- If the current trend continues, cash offertory may decrease further this year. However, fluctuations in Mass attendance throughout the year mean this projection should be interpreted with caution.

### Standing Orders

*Figure 3* shows that standing order contributions have not yet returned to their 2023 levels. Due to differences in data recording, 2022 figures cannot be compared. There has been some recovery from last year's significant decline, aided by:

- The reinstatement of some standing orders at Harleston.
- A small number of new and increased standing orders.

### Financial Implications

Although the small increase in offertory at the Bungay Sunday Mass is encouraging, the overall decline in parish income remains a financial challenge. Additionally, last year's decrease in offertory income will affect Gift Aid recovery, which will not be finalized until June.To address this decline, efforts could be made to inform parishioners about the need for increased contributions, similar to the 2023 stewardship initiative.

### Budget Implications

The 2025 budget projects an offertory income of £39,000. If current trends continue, this target may not be met.

### Recommendation

*It is recommended that offertory income trends continue to be monitored every three months.*

Neil Mayhew (Treasurer)

Fig 1

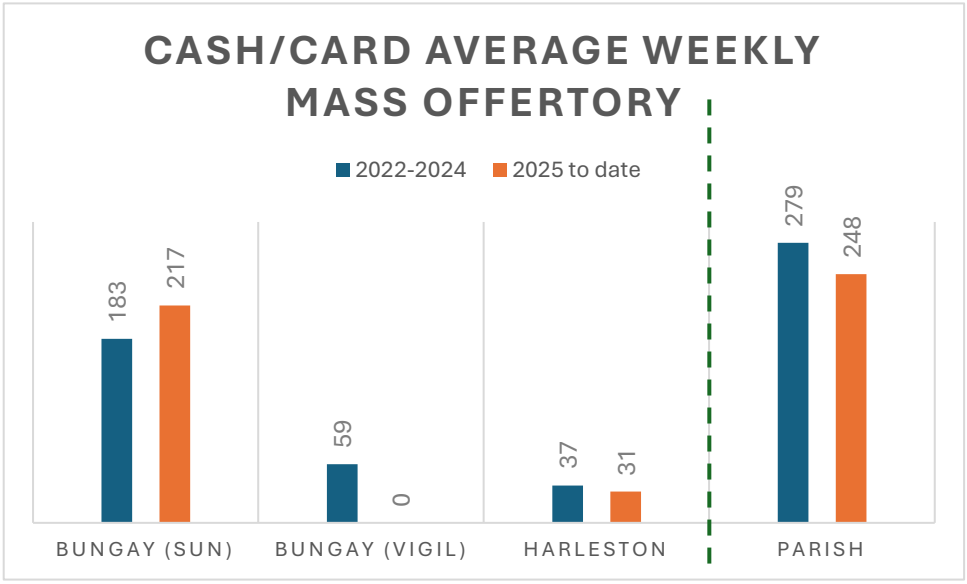
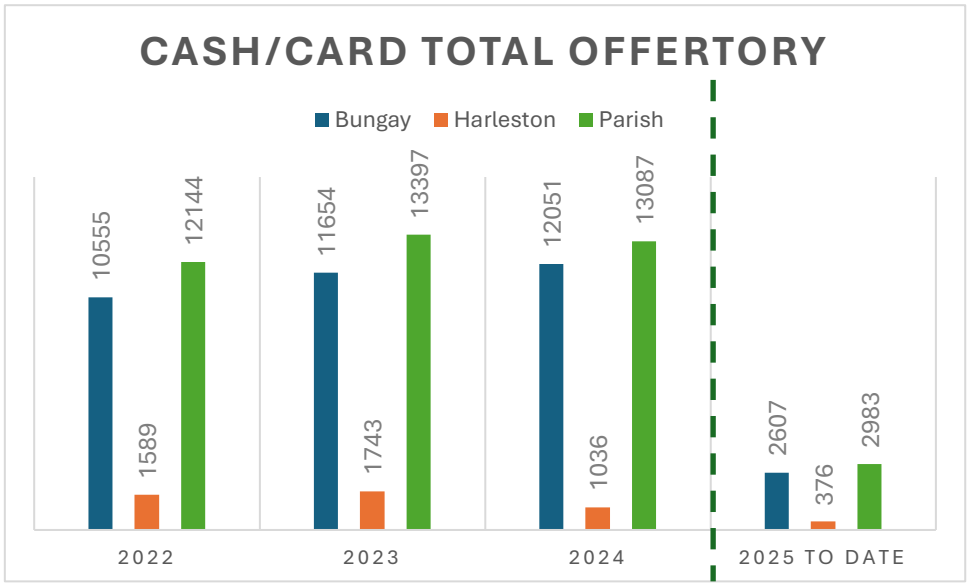



Fig 2



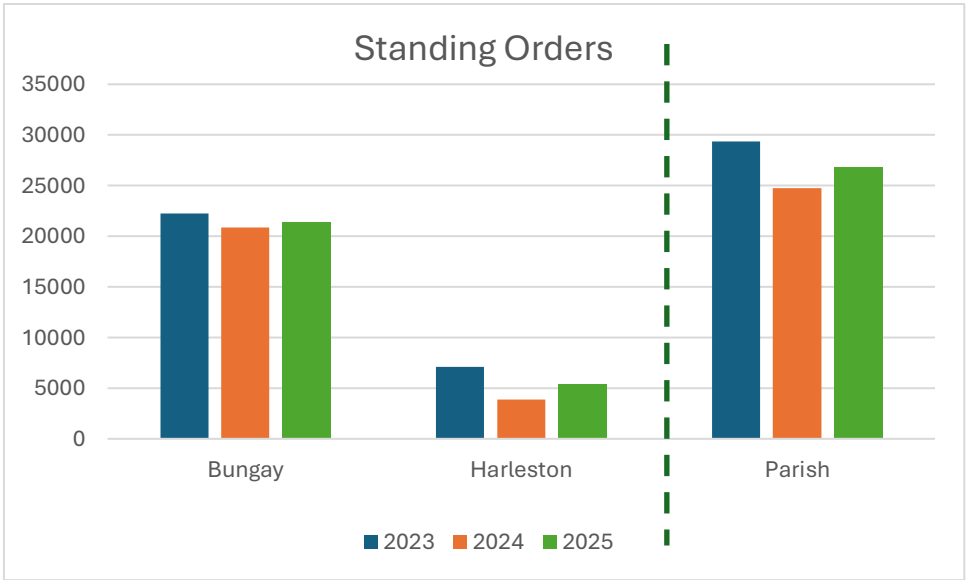


Fig 3