St Edmund's Catholic Church

Parish Finance and Fabric Committee
PARISH OFFERTORY TRENDS UPDATE - Report 17 July 2025

Background

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

Discussion

Cash & Card Offertory. *Figure 1* compares average weekly offertory collections over the past 26 weeks with the three-year average. The amounts are low and subject to seasonal variation, but parish cash collections have dropped by £20 per week from those presented in the treasurer's report from April this year.

- The small increase from Sunday Mass at Bungay is now declining.
- The Harleston Mass has experienced a decline.
- The Bungay Vigil Mass has not taken place since March 2024.

Figure 2 presents cash offertory trends by Mass centre for the half year to June. Key observations:

- Between 2022 and 2024, cash offertory at Bungay steadily increased but has now declined.
- Parish offertory income overall has declined since last year. The April first quarter report projected this downward trend.
- Harleston cash offertory has not returned to pre-2024 levels.
- A comparison with 2022, when factored for RPI (May), shows a significant decrease in the value of cash income purchase power.

Standing Orders

Figure 3 offers a projection of annual standing orders. These contributions have not yet returned to their 2023 levels at both Mass locations. Due to differences in data recording, 2022 figures cannot be compared. There is some recovery from last year's significant decline but when factored for RPI there is again a considerable drop in value of purchase power since 2023.

Financial Implications

Although the small cash increase at the Bungay Sunday Mass is encouraging, the loss of the Bungay Vigil Mass has a lasting impact. Monthly standing orders increased by £70 at Harleston in May. Again, this is encouraging but the overall decline in parish offertory income remains a financial challenge.

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

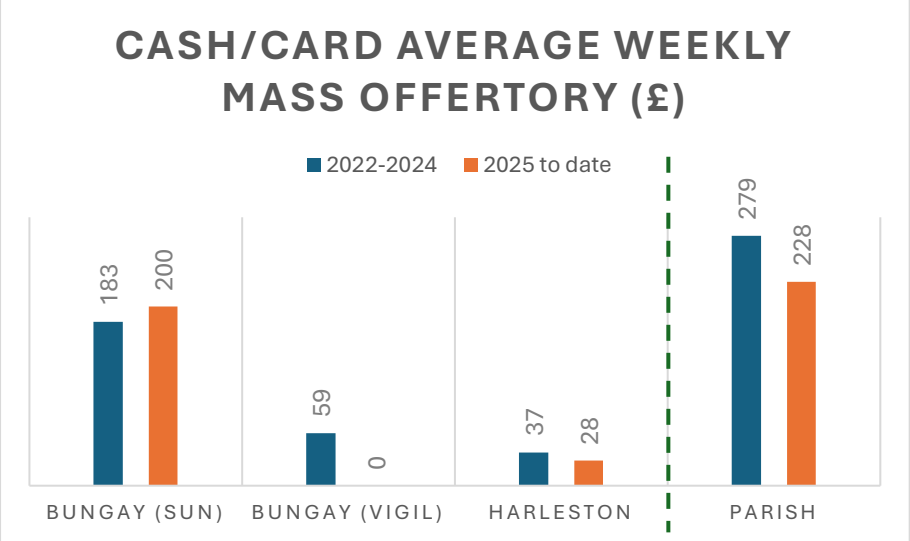


Fig 2

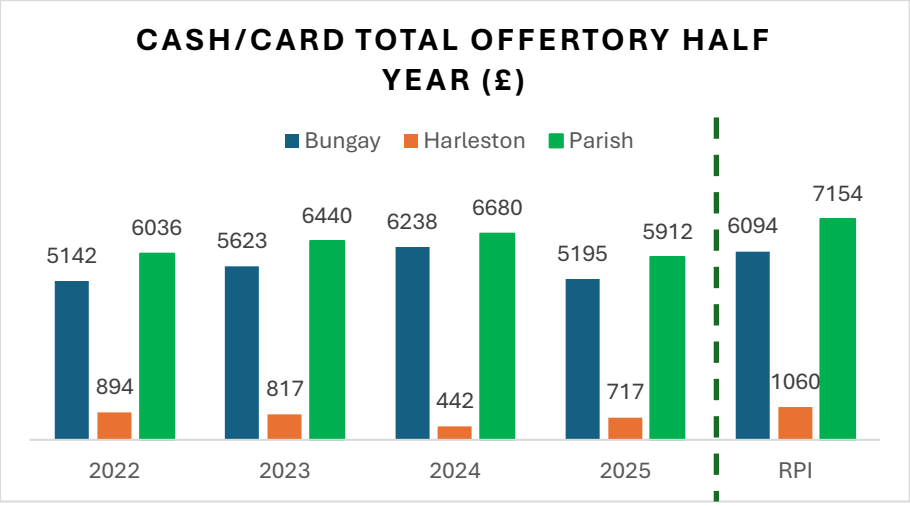
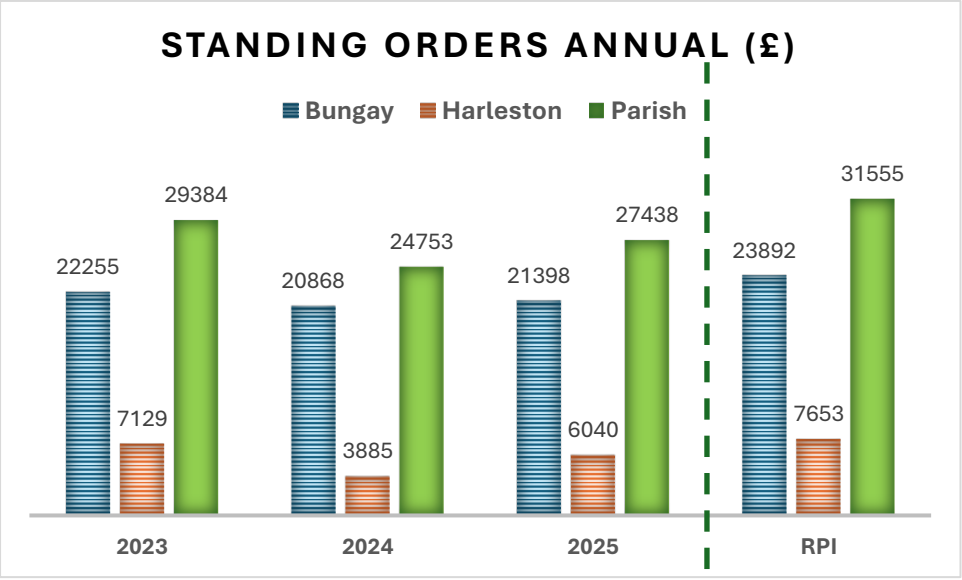
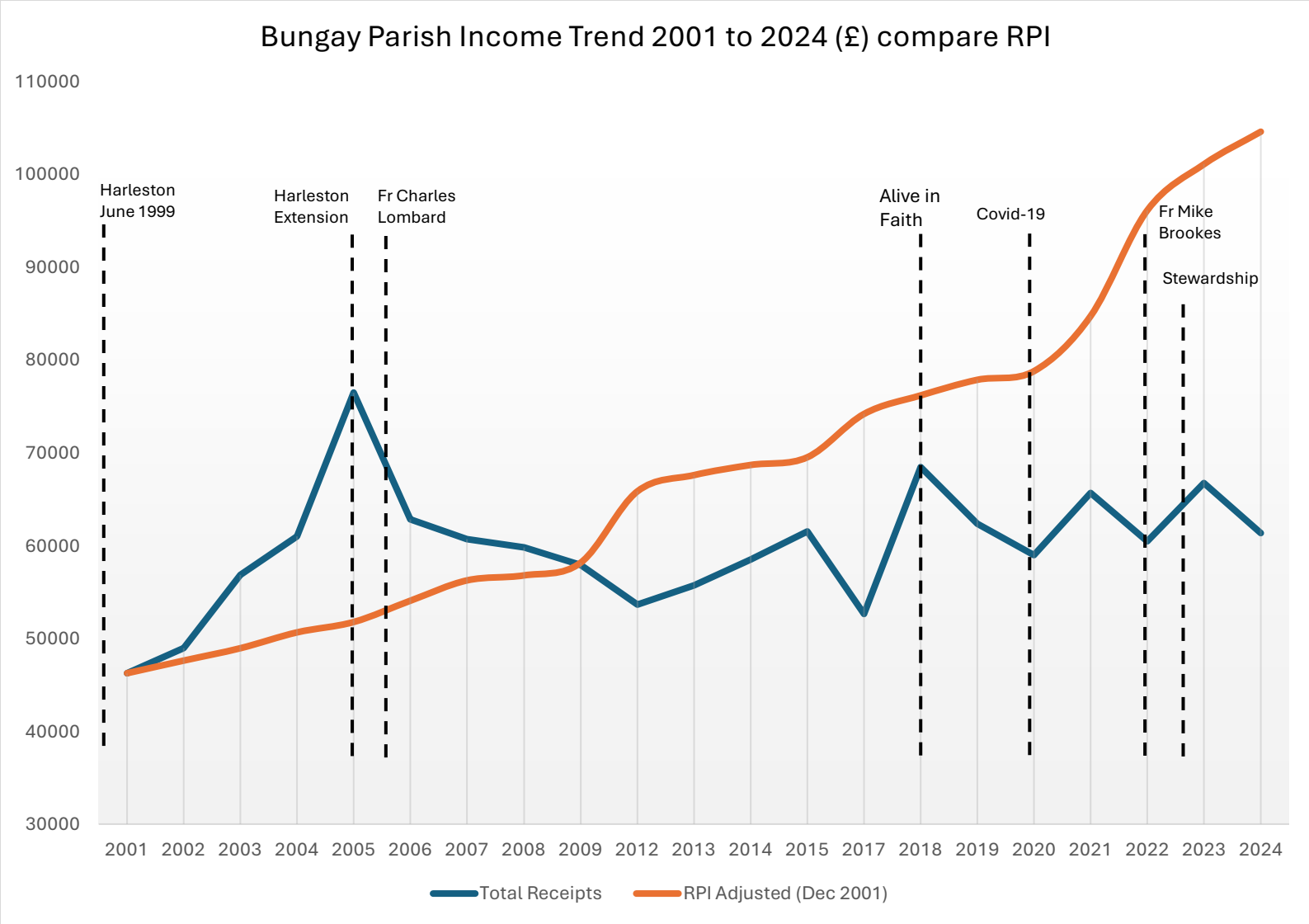


Fig 3




Bungay Parish Income Trend 2001 to 2024 (£) compare RPI
110000
100000
90000
80000
70000
60000
50000
40000
30000
Harleston June 1999
Harleston Extension
Fr Charles Lombard
Alive in Faith
Covid-19
Fr Mike Brookes
Stewardship
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2012 2013 2014 2015 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
Total Receipts
RPI Adjusted (Dec 2001)