

**St John the Divine Selsdon**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 11th May 2025**



**Rector**  
Revd Canon Younis Francis

**Hon Clergy**  
The Rev'd Dr Stephen Wright  
The Rev'd Michael Skinner

**Churchwardens**  
Martyn Brown  
Debbie Brown

## The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon

A meeting of parishioners\* to elect churchwardens will be held on

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.30am

### Agenda

1) Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

2) Election of Churchwardens. Nominations received.

Debbie Brown	proposed by Ian Harley seconded by Andrew Hicks
Martyn Brown	proposed by Sue Tilley seconded by Monica Turton

3) Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens.

Nominations remain open until the meeting commences. For further nominations to be valid they must be received in writing by the priest-in-charge before the commencement of the meeting.

*\*For this purpose, "parishioners" means those whose names are on the electoral roll of the parish, or those persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on the register of local government electors by reason of such residence*

## **The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Rev'd Canon Younis Francis welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

##### **1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2023.**

These were agreed to be an accurate record and Margaret Mead proposed they should be accepted as such; Alice Hicks seconded this motion.

##### **2. Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations for the two positions –Martyn Brown and Debbie Brown. There being no other nominations, it was unanimously agreed that they be elected. The Rector thanked them for their support over the past year.

##### **3. Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens**

Debbie Brown advised the meeting that the current Deputy Wardens, Monica Turton, Andrew Hicks, Robert Thornton and Judith Coleman had agreed to serve for the forthcoming year. She thanked them all for their help and support which had been invaluable during the past year.

# **The Parish of St John the Divine, Seldon**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.30 am.**

### **Agenda**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (enclosed – pages 5-8)

#### **Review of 2024**

4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (pages 10-18)
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC (page 19)
6. Report on the Electoral Roll (page 20)
7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comment on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church) (page 21)
8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (page 22)
9. Other Reports (pages 23-34)
10. Parish Priest's Report (pages 35-39)

#### **Elections for 2025 onwards**

11. Elections for 4 lay persons to serve on the PCC
12. Election of 2 lay persons to serve on the Deanery Synod
13. Election of 2 lay persons to serve on Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington
14. Appointment of sides persons
15. Appointment of independent examiner to the PCC
16. Any other business

*There will be a short meeting for all PCC members straight after this APCM – both those currently serving and those newly elected.*

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

### **1. Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rector, the Rev'd Canon Younis Francis.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from: Robin and Ann Orchard, Janice White, Katie Notario, Amanda Sinclair, Dudley and Margaret Mead, and Michael Skinner.

### **3. Minutes of the APCM held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Following the correction of minor typographical errors, the minutes were held to be an accurate record. Proposed by Anne Skinner, seconded by Wendy Moulton, and passed unanimously.

## **Review of 2023**

### **4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were available at the meeting together with the Treasurer's Report.

Susan Tilley, PCC Treasurer, apologised for a minor typo in the report. She also explained the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds, saying that the PCC had the right to move funds from unrestricted to restricted funds if, for example, it was held necessary to do so for a specific purpose, such as the Project Warm Church. Peter Crocombe asked what effect this would have on the running of the day-to-day finances of the church. The Treasurer said she would investigate this, and report back. The Financial Report was accepted unanimously by the meeting: proposed by Michael Lishmund and seconded by John Rapp.

### **5. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC**

Helen Lishmund had submitted a report included in the APCM booklet outlining the proceedings of the PCC during 2023. There were no further questions.

### **6. Report on the Electoral Roll**

In her written report Janice White gave the number of members on the Electoral Roll as 186. The Rector encouraged the meeting to look at the list on the table at the back of the church to see if it needed updating. He thanked Janice for her work and report.

## **7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comment on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church)**

Debbie Brown began the report with thanks for the work of the Standing Committee, and presented wine and flowers as a token of gratitude from the Churchwardens.

Martyn Brown presented the meeting with a brief written report about the situation regarding the church's proposal for the new heating system, which has been rejected by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Currently, the situation seems to be deadlocked, but he was hopeful that a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June with the new Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager at St. John's, would produce advice about how to proceed with replacing the church's out-of-date and inadequate boiler. He had been advised that the General Synod had agreed to the church reaching Net Zero emissions by 2030, which was proving difficult for many churches in a similar position to us. However, he had been told that this goal was an aspiration, and that if St. John's could show that the church was on a journey to reaching net zero emissions, that would be acceptable. He warned that costs would inevitably increase, and probably double. He reported that the 'boiler fund' now stood at £131,000. The meeting thanked the Project Team for their dedication to St. John's throughout the year.

## **8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

Helen Lishmund presented a written report about the affairs of the Deanery Synod, which was accepted by the meeting.

## **9. Other reports.**

Michael Lishmund presented a written report on the **Church Grounds**. He added that he was always looking for extra help in tending the gardens. The Rector thanked him and Sarah Scott for her help in keeping the children's garden well-tended.

Gill Salter presented a written report on the **Church flowers**. She also added that she would welcome any other offers of help in arranging the flowers, etc. Rev'd Younis thanked her and her team for their much-appreciated help throughout the year.

Anne Skinner spoke to the **Meeting God in Silence** Report, saying that the group was expanding and that several people came from other churches to join us.

The **Sunday School Report** was received very warmly by the meeting. The Rector said that it was obvious how much children enjoyed it, and how good it had been for their confidence in standing in front of the church each week reporting on what they had been doing. Sue Tilley and Wendy Moulton said how their visiting grandchildren enjoyed their occasional attendance and talked about it afterwards. The Rector thanked very warmly those who organised and ran it, saying what a good addition it was for the ministry of St. John's. He also thanked Peter Crocombe for organising the young people's monthly reading and intercessions rota.

**The Sacristan Report** was warmly accepted, and thanks given to Maureen Jupp and Andrew Brown.

The **St. John's Wives and Friends Report** was presented by the Group Leader, Jane Guglielmi, who extended a warm welcome to anyone who would like to attend any of their meetings. The Rector thanked Jane for her hard work and said he always enjoyed their interesting and lively meetings.

The **Toddlers and Baby Group Report** was presented to the meeting and Sue Tilley reported how well it was run and what an amazing place it was. Attendance was always very high, leading on occasion to the doors having to be closed to hopeful participants. The people involved always worked very hard to ensure that it was a warm and exciting place for the children and their mothers. As always, extra help would be much appreciated.

The **Prayer Circle and Meditation Groups** reports were presented by Barbara Woodhead. Rev'd Younis said that this was a ministry which was not seen but which was of vital importance to St. John's work in the Parish, and he thanked Barbara for her work. She reported that it was a time for quiet reflection, starting with coffee and quiet talk.

The **St. John's Dramatic Society** gave a written report on their activities through the years, and reported that it was, sadly, closing from lack of support. They were making every effort to tidy up the backstage areas. The Rector said that the Dramatic Society would become part of the Church's history.



The reports of the **Bereavement, Pastoral Care and Befrienders Teams** were presented by Peter Crocombe and he was warmly thanked by the Rector for his very valuable service. The meeting was told that they were dependent on the congregation passing on any information of anyone in need of their help in the Parish.

The Rector gave the **Servers Report** and said how grateful he was to have such a splendid team. He spoke of their kindness, efficiency and hard work in enhancing the worship of St. John's.

Rev'd Younis presented his written **Rector's Report** in which he gave thanks to everyone in the congregation for making him so welcome in the three years he has been at St. John's. He spoke of his great happiness at being Rector of St. John's, finding particular gratification in the fact that he could always find people willing to undertake necessary tasks. He thanked Rev. Dr. Stephen Wright and Rev. Michael Skinner for their support as Honorary Clergy, saying what a blessing it was to have them available to step in and help when necessary. Peter Crocombe spoke for the meeting when he said how very blessed the parish was in having him as their Rector.

### **Elections for 2024 onwards**

#### **11. Elections for four lay persons to serve on the PCC.**

Helen Lishmund reported that there were four nominations for four vacancies on the PCC, and Alison Graham, John Harris, Suki Puttock and Kenneth Sey were duly elected.

#### **12. Appointment of sides persons**

The list of sidespeople were read out including three new names: Janet Brown, Sue Condon, Penny Cook, Barbara Goldsmith, Auvanel Jenkins, Libby Lawrey, June Mason, Wendy Moulton, John Rapp, Eunice Sinclair, Lesley Taylor, Brenda Webb, Robin Orchard, Anne Orchard, Sue Tilley, Sharon Wallace, John Harris, and Sara Scott.

#### **13. Appointment of independent examiner to the PCC**

Sue Tilley asked that Mrs R Cossins be reappointed to this role for the coming year. The meeting was in full agreement.

#### **14. Any other business.** None was raised.

*There being no other business, the Rector thanked everyone for their support and closed the meeting with the Grace.*



## **Treasurer's Report for 2024**

Our Income for the year has increased by £37000 from 2023. This is mainly due to receiving a legacy of £30000 from Pat Hall's estate. The income from Events during the year has increased by £6000 and Hall Lettings are up by £3000 and we have also benefited from an additional £6000 in interest.

Our Expenditure has increased by £7000 overall – the main increase in expenditure was for the resurfacing work in front of the hall and driveway together with the line painting. This has been a huge improvement to the grounds. Some savings have been made in all other areas which has offset some of the additional costs.

Our Reserves have therefore increased by £80,000 to £284000.

We are therefore in a good situation ready to pay for Phase 1 of the Heating system replacement.

Once again I have been ably assisted by Laurel Hobbs, Hall Lettings, Michael Lishmund, Gift Aid, and Jim Gordon, Banking.

Many thanks to all of you who donate monies to the church whether it be on a regular basis, one off basis or by attending Events.

**Sue Tilley**  
**Hon Treasurer**

**Parochial Church Council  
of  
St. John the Divine, Selsdon  
Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**The Revd. Canon Younis Francis  
The Rectory  
Upper Selsdon Road  
Selsdon  
Surrey CR2 8DD**

**Bankers  
  
CafCash Ltd  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4TA**

**Independent Examiner**

**Mrs R Cossins FCCA  
MJS Associates  
Eagle House  
Cranleigh Close  
Sanderstead  
CR2 9LH**

## Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

### Annual Report 2024

#### Background

The PCC of St. John the Divine has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Younis Francis, to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church buildings and the hall.  
The PCC meets regularly to discuss matters arising during the year.

#### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative rules.

##### Rector

The Reverend Canon Younis Francis

##### Honorary Staff

The Reverend Michael Skinner  
The Reverend Stephen Wright  
Peter Crocombe SPA

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

##### Churchwardens

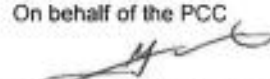
Mrs Deborah Brown  
Mr Martyn Brown

##### Deputy Churchwardens

Mrs Judith Coleman  
Mr Andrew Hicks  
Mr Robert Thornton  
Mrs Monica Turton

The PCC met seven times during the year. The Electoral Roll is 183.  
The Restricted Funds represent over 50% of our assets this money is allocated for the replacement of the heating system in the church. We are still waiting for the Faculty to be granted to enable us to proceed with the installation of the new heating system. Unfortunately this has been ongoing for over two years. We finished paying off the the loan from the Diocese in July.

On behalf of the PCC

  
Revd Canon Younis Francis  
Rector

#### Representatives of the Deanery Synod

Mrs Helen Lishmund  
Dr. Robin Orchard  
Mr Stephen Srikantha  
Mrs Susan Tilley

#### Elected Members

Mr Simon Archer  
Mr James Gordon  
Ms Alison Graham  
Mrs Jane Guglielmi  
Mr Ian Harley  
Mr John Harris  
Mrs Alice Hicks  
Mr Andrew Hicks  
Mrs Sarah Parsons  
Mrs Suki Puttock  
Mr Ken Sey  
Mrs Gill Sharpe  
Mrs Janice White

#### Committees

The PCC has a Standing Committee this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

St. John the Divine has several committees and sub-committees of the PCC, some of which are mentioned below.

##### Buildings and Maintenance Committee

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of plant such as church buildings and fabric, and the church grounds.

##### Hall Committee

Oversees the running of the hall, the cleaning and maintenance.

## Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

### Independent Examiner's Report

to the PCC of St. John the Divine, Selsdon.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out herein is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition.

That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with any examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*RCCoslin*

Date:

*28th April 2025*

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon,

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
	Note				
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	111820	52007	163827	137778
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	53582	6364	59946	51001
Income from investments	2(c)	9194	0	9194	3185
Church activities	2(d)	4319	0	4319	6265
Other incoming resources	2(e)	422	0	422	2602
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>179337</b>	<b>58371</b>	<b>237708</b>	<b>200831</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(a)	90	0	90	90
Fund raising costs	3(b)	4934	0	4934	3694
Charitable Activities	3(c)	7213	0	7213	5467
Ministry	3(d)	140671	1682	142353	138626
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>152908</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>154590</b>	<b>147877</b>
<b>NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>26429</b>	<b>56689</b>	<b>83118</b>	<b>52953</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>26429</b>	<b>56689</b>	<b>83118</b>	<b>52953</b>
<b>BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY</b>		<b>79474</b>	<b>122323</b>	<b>201797</b>	<b>145844</b>
<b>BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER</b>		<b>105903</b>	<b>179012</b>	<b>284915</b>	<b>201797</b>

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER

		2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	Note 4	0	0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	Note 5	5276	4880
Cafcash Current Account -Church		54818	53810
Deposits with CCLA		232230	153158
		<u>292324</u>	<u>211848</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors due within one year	Note 6	7409	10051
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>7409</u>	<u>10051</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>284915</u>	<u>201797</u>
<b>Represented by Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	Note 7	105903	79474
Restricted Funds	Note 7	179012	122323
		<u>284915</u>	<u>201797</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Canon Younis Francis  
PCC Chair

## **Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

### **Funds**

Endowment funds, are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

### **Incoming Resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

### **Resources Expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.



### **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1973

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected, at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

<b>Note 2 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
2(a)	<b>Voluntary income</b>				
	Planned giving				
	Gift Aid Donations	76732	0	76732	77830
	Tax Recoverable	25497	0	25497	22995
	Collections (open plate)	4060	0	4060	4109
	Donations, appeals etc.	5531	21507	27038	22839
	Legacies	0	30500	30500	10005
		<u>111820</u>	<u>52007</u>	<u>163827</u>	<u>137778</u>
2(b)	<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
	Bookstall	415	0	415	300
	Church hall lettings (non church)	37171	3139	40310	37379
	Garden Room	3742	0	3742	4171
	Events	12254	3225	15479	9151
		<u>53582</u>	<u>6364</u>	<u>59946</u>	<u>51001</u>
2(c)	<b>Income from Investments</b>				
	Bank Interest	9194	0	9194	3185
		<u>9194</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9194</u>	<u>3185</u>
2(d)	<b>Income from Church Activities</b>				
	Fees	4319	0	4319	6265
		<u>4319</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4319</u>	<u>6265</u>
2(e)	<b>Other incoming resources</b>				
		422	0	422	2602
		<u>422</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>2602</u>
	<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<u>179337</u>	<u>58371</u>	<u>237708</u>	<u>200832</u>
<b>Note 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
3(a)	<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>				
	Christian Stewardship	90	0	90	90
		<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
3(b)	<b>Fund raising costs</b>				
	Events	4934	0	4934	3594
		<u>4934</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4934</u>	<u>3594</u>
3(c)	<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
	Missionary and charitable giving				
	Overseas	0	0	0	0
	Home	7213	0	7213	5467
		<u>7213</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7213</u>	<u>5467</u>
3(d)	<b>Ministry</b>				
	Diocesan Parish Share	52800	0	52800	51000
	Fees	1636	0	1636	3523
	Clergy expenses	1004	0	1004	1122
	Church running expenses	12112	0	12112	13182
	Church maintenance	767	562	1329	7425
	Cost of services	20439	0	20439	21598
	Upkeep of grounds	22566	0	22566	4428
	Education	14	0	14	4240
	Hall running costs	22066	1120	23186	24545
	Choir	3325	0	3325	3698
	Organist	3442	0	3442	3355
	Independent examiner	500	0	500	500
		<u>140671</u>	<u>1682</u>	<u>142353</u>	<u>138626</u>
	<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<u>152908</u>	<u>1682</u>	<u>154590</u>	<u>147877</u>

**Note 4 FIXED ASSETS**

		Computer equipment	Other Fixtures & Fittings Office Equipment
Gross Book Value	At 1 January 2023	0	0
Additions in 2023		0	0
Gross Book Value	At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		2024 £	2023 £

**Note 5 DEBTORS**

Gift Aid Recoverable	5276	4880
	<u>5276</u>	<u>4880</u>

**Note 6 CREDITORS**

Short term creditors	6909	10051
	<u>6909</u>	<u>10051</u>

**Note 7 FUNDS OF THE PCC**

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Legacies	0	30500	30500	10066
St. John's Church R & M Fund	30000	15000	45000	35609
Church Clock Repair Fund	1805	0	1805	1805
Donated for Gifts etc	0	2795	2795	2795
Rector's Discretionary Fund	100	0	100	824
Training/Bursary Fund	800	0	800	792
General Reserves	39601	12000	51601	28054
Boiler Replacement	33597	118717	152314	121913
	<u>106903</u>	<u>179012</u>	<u>284915</u>	<u>201797</u>

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC FOR 2024**

The PCC met on seven occasions since the last APCM. Officers are appointed at the initial meeting following the APCM including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with the Electoral Roll Officer. The Standing Committee is appointed being the Rector (Chair), Churchwardens, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary. The Standing Committee meets regularly to agree the agenda for PCC meetings and can agree items of expenditure under £500 without needing PCC approval.

At each meeting of the PCC, after approval and matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, any correspondence is notified. Reports are then received from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. Every meeting receives up to date reports on Church Hall Management, Events and Deanery Synod meetings together with a Health and Safety and Safeguarding report.

Other items discussed at the meetings throughout the year were –

- Parish Support Fund
- Salaries and Honoraria
- Hall Rentals
- Charitable Giving confirmed for Selsdon Contact, St Christopher's Hospice, Nightwatch & DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal
- Resurfacing of the car park
- Appointment of Mrs Sue Kent as our architect
- Winding up of the drama group and clearing of the hall of their equipment
- Support and approval of Simon Archer's Lay Reader training
- Formation of a team to review church lighting
- Discussion on hymn books

And, of course, several times and at much length – Project Warm church. After correspondence with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, our submission was finally accepted by them in January and they forwarded it to the Chancellor for the granting of the faculty. The public consultation notice was displayed from February 2024 and we await his granting of the faculty. The warm church committee will then put the work in hand.

**Alice Hicks**  
**PCC Secretary April 2025**

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR 2024**

One in every six years the preparation of the new church electoral roll takes place, which means that everyone had to come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of the rolls is in 2025.

The Electoral Roll as at April 2024 had 186 members and ended in March 2025 with 183 members. 2 people very sadly passed away, Oliver Ramdeholl and Helen Lishmund and one member asked to be removed. This role was completely discarded, and a new roll has been compiled.

At the time of preparing this written report the Roll is still open for revision; however, the total on the roll currently stands at 135. The final number of those enrolled will be reported to the APCM.

**Janice White**  
**Electoral Roll Officer April 2025**

## CHURCH WARDENS REPORT FOR 2024

The last year has been particularly busy and challenging.

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the sudden, and unexpected, death of Helen Lishmund on January 3rd. Helen was a much valued member of the Standing Committee and a close friend and we miss her in so many ways. We are very grateful to Alice Hicks who has taken on the role of Parish Secretary.

We are extremely fortunate to have great Deputy Wardens, Monica, Judith, Andrew and Robert. They ensure the smooth running of the services and it is a great help to have such reliable team members. Sadly, Robert has decided to stand down, we are very grateful for all that he has done over the last few years. However, we are pleased to appoint Sara Scott in his place.

Whilst we are thanking people, we want to express our thanks to the entire congregation, you help in so many ways and much of the activity is done quietly and unobtrusively but it contributes to the smooth running of the church and for that we are thankful. It makes a huge difference.

At last, we are able to report that the Project Warm Church Team have been successful in obtaining a Faculty from the Diocese. This has been hard won and doing battle with the archaic practices of the Church of England has been extremely frustrating. The Team are to be commended for their forbearance and perseverance. There is a financial shortfall which will require further fundraising but we feel that this is achievable.

Project Let There Be Light has been formed to oversee the upgrading of our church lighting and have had their initial meeting. More information will follow in due course but we sincerely hope that they will not be plagued with the challenges that the Project Warm Church have faced.

Our groups continue to flourish, coffee mornings, quizzes, toddlers groups, film club etc. are all well attended, and we are pleased to welcome quite a few new members of the church.

We are hosting the Archdeacon's Visitation Service in June and all members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

As ever we remain so grateful for Tim and both our Choir and the Come and Sing Choir who enhance our worship week by week. For the last sixteen years we have had the privilege of listening to our immensely talented Organist, Jonathan Musgrove. Sadly, he has stepped down and we are aware that he will be an extremely hard act to follow. We thank him for his dedication, skill and commitment and hope to welcome him back occasionally.

Finally, we give thanks for Younis and Nancy, Stephen, Michael, Peter and Simon, our Trainee Lay Reader. We are fortunate that they lead our worship with such dedication and enthusiasm.

**Debbie Brown and Martyn Brown | Church Wardens**

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2024**

Area Dean The Rev. Debbie Forman. Lay Chair Mrs Janet Davies, Sec. Debbie Parker

### **Churches**

St Mary's Addington

St Edwards's New Addington

St Francis Selsdon

St John the Divine Selsdon

St George's Shirley

St John's Shirley

All Saints Spring Park

St Francis of Assisi West Wickham

St John West Wickham

St Mary of Nazareth West Wickham

Alice Hicks resigned from being lay chair and was replaced by Mrs Janet Davies 5<sup>th</sup> June Deanery Synod.

Activities Deanery Pilgrimage June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024, Deanery

Deanery Social 22<sup>nd</sup> June St Mary's Addington

There have been meetings of Synod in June and October 2024. February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025. Subjects discussed include Bereavement Support (in collaboration with St John's) modern slavery, youth affected by violence, Green Pastures, Makin Report (sexual abuse reporting). In addition at every meeting individual churches report activities and innovations.

**Robin Orchard**  
**Deanery Synod Representative**



## **CHURCH GARDEN REPORT FOR 2024**

Firstly, thank you to that stalwart band for keeping the grounds going – you know who you are – although more help is always needed.

The main aim over the years has been to minimise the work required and also create a smart appearance to the Church, however, the main grass needs regular cutting and the hedges maintained, the latter with have to be put out to tender as energy and manpower is waning.

GreenThumb continue the seasonal maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance lawn but this does not include grass mowing should anybody wish to take this on.

**Michael Lishmund**

# **BUILDING & MAINTENANCE REPORT FOR 2024 & to April 2025**

## **Project Warm Church**

In early April we had notice from the Chancellor of the Diocese that our faculty for a new heating system had finally been granted. This is the culmination of nearly three years work by the Project Team and after much, and often fraught, discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The discussions have centred around the Diocesan target of net zero carbon emission by 2030 with a virtual ban on new gas boilers and requesting the use of green electricity and in particular heat pumps. We argued that because of the design of the church, heat pumps on their own would not be sufficient but would need gas boilers as back up in very cold weather. Finally, this argument was accepted but at a cost to us of an additional £150,000 bringing the total cost with VAT to nearly £300,000. We plan the work in two phases; firstly, new pipework, heat emitters and gas boilers with the heat pumps installed once we have the additional funds.

Work is planned to start on the 6th May 2025.

## **Parapet Walls above Choir Vestry, Robing Vestry and Entrance Porch**

Progress has been slow to cap the walls to prevent moisture ingress. We have now agreed the colour and the builder has made templates for the capping to be manufactured. Start date to be agreed.

## **Inspecting Architect**

We have appointed Sue Kent of Howard Fairburn MHK, Chartered Architects to replace Clive England who has retired.

## **Sound System**

Additional speakers have been installed in the nave and two new speakers installed in the choir.

## **Planned Maintenance**

All routine maintenance has been carried out in accordance with the schedule.

**Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown**  
**April 2025**

## CHURCH FLOWERS REPORT FOR 2024

The Flower Team hopes that you have enjoyed the flower arrangements placed in church over the past year. Special thanks to all those who donated flowers bought for arrangements and to Michael Lishmund and the Garden Team for growing flowers and foliage for cutting in the church garden.

At Easter we had arrangements of spring flowers and lilies. We provided a Lily Easter Tree to give people the opportunity to write the names of loved ones on remembrance cards to be placed on the tree with donations being used to buy the lilies for Easter in memory of those named. A new initiative this year was the Passion Tree placed in the baptistry during Lent enabling Lenten giving in support of local food banks.

Other special festivals during the year were the fruitfulness of Harvest and our Remembrance Day celebration kindly supported by Ann Orchard and Robert Thornton.

The theme for Christmas was based on the beauty of the natural world. The church was filled with greenery and tree decorations from previous years making a stunning display which was environmentally friendly and low cost. Thanks to all those who donated foliage and flowers. Once again we provided the Remembrance Tree in church to offer the opportunity to write a card in memory of a loved one to display on the tree through Advent. In addition we also made a Jesse Tree with cards telling of Jesus' ancestors and of events leading to Jesus' birth. The branches were covered in labels asking for food donations in aid of local food banks.

We continue to examine the way we use and arrange flowers to be as environmentally positive as possible. To this end we have sourced and are now using biodegradable flower foam and have used vases and fixing wire in arrangements.

There have been some changes to the team during the year with one member moving away and it was with sadness we received the news that Helen Lishmund died in January. We miss her support and the artistic flair she brought to flower arranging in St John's.

We are delighted to welcome six new members onto the Flower Team and I am sure they will enjoy being part of our talented team bringing the beauty of flowers into St John's for all to enjoy.

Please do contact me if you would like to be a part of the team – all skill levels or none are welcome.

**Gill Salter**  
**April 2025**

## CHURCH HALL REPORT FOR 2024

We are pleased to report that hall rental income remained steady in 2024, totalling £40,310 a figure not dissimilar to the previous year's £37,379. Hall related expenses stood at £23,186 slightly down from the previous year's £24,545.

As part of our annual review, Martyn Brown kindly reviewed the hire rates and they were revised to reflect rising costs and to ensure the hall remains sustainable for future use. Regular hirers saw a very modest increase of 3%, while weekend party rates were adjusted by just a little over 3% too. While we did say farewell to two users of the Morris Chapman Room, the Ballet class and RTC Resources—we've welcomed a growing number of smaller groups, particularly into the Garden Room, with the addition of the Cocaine Anonymous meetings held every Tuesday evening, a new Japanese Calligraphy class being held on Saturday mornings and an u3a art group who meet every Monday morning. Line Dancing booked in a further Wednesday session in the hall. Children's weekend parties continue to thrive, proving as popular as ever.

The hall remains at the heart of parish life and continues to be a hub for fellowship and celebration. Over the past year, it played host to a variety of church events, including our Seder meal at Easter, CTSA Good Friday refreshments, an incredibly popular Arts & Crafts workshop for children, successful plant sale, the Christian Aid Lunch, and our much-loved Harvest Festival gathering. We also held multiple community quiz nights for Contact, the Rotary Club, as well as our own very popular Quiz & Curry nights. The introduction of our new initiative, the Film Club—has been met with great enthusiasm.

Routine maintenance is undertaken regularly to ensure the hall remains in excellent condition. A particular highlight was the correction of a noisy whistling fan unit in the air conditioning system, which meant that events were no longer interrupted by unwelcome intrusions.

With the closure of the Dramatic Society, we were able to conclude the process of clearing the undercroft, which had long been home to an eclectic mix of props, staging, and costumes. This space has been happily repurposed to accommodate the parish's ever-evolving storage needs. We expect the space to be utilised even further once work commences on the church heating upgrade.

Last but by no means least, sincere thanks go to our invaluable 'meet and greet' hosts, who faithfully support our weekend bookings and provide a welcoming face to our hirers. We warmly welcomed new recruits on board in this respect – Sally Geddes, Michael Lishmund, Robert Ramdeholl and John Harris.

Finally, a huge thank you to Neetha, whose tireless efforts ensure the hall remains clean, tidy, and inviting for all who use it.

**Laurel Hobbs, Martyn Brown & Andrew Brown**  
**Hall Management Team | April 2025**

## MEETING GOD IN SILENCE REPORT FOR 2024

This group has been meeting for several years, initially in the Lady Chapel and then in the Garden Room, under the leadership of Susan Oakes, who was qualified to lead others in this simple, but profound experience. Recently, Susan and Paul have moved to the West country, and we have continued to meet under the leadership of Peter Crocombe and Gill Sharpe.

The meeting takes place on Mondays and begins at 6 o'clock. It starts with a quotation and a prayer. A chime (from someone's phone!) starts a period of 25 minutes of complete silence.

It can initially be a little challenging, but those of us who attend regularly find it an increasingly rewarding way of approaching God and renewing our faith. Another chime signals the end of the silence, and we close with a blessing. We then have some time to share thoughts.

It is not for everyone, but those who attend regularly have found that Monday evenings at 6.00 has increasingly become a special time in the week, when we meet to remember God's injunction: 'Be still: and know that I am God'.

*Heavenly Father,  
Open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your son.  
Lead us into that mysterious silence  
where your love is revealed to all who call:  
Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus,*

**Gill Sharpe**  
**April 2025**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2024

This has been another wonderful year at Sunday School, with a consistent group of children attending regularly. More recently, we've been delighted to welcome several new young families to our church, and it has been a joy getting to know their children as they join us in Sunday School.

The children continue to grow in confidence, particularly when speaking in church. When asked, "Who would like to read today?", it's heartwarming to see so many eager hands raised. Members of the congregation often comment on how lovely it is to see the children sharing their work and how impressed they are with their confidence using the microphone.

Each week, the children enjoy a variety of games, crafts, and stories aligned with the lectionary, and these activities have become a much-loved part of their Sunday experience.

One of the highlights of the year was our Christmas nativity. The children embraced their roles, learned their lines, and acted out the key scenes of the Nativity beautifully. We were also thrilled to showcase the musical talents within the group. This year, we held two performances: one on the Sunday before Christmas, allowing those unable to attend the Crib Service to enjoy it, and the second at the Crib Service itself. For the third year running, we were fortunate to have a real baby play the role of baby Jesus—and a very smiley one at that!

Another memorable moment was our Easter Sunday egg hunt. This year, the children worked in teams, searching from the Garden Room around to the Vicarage front garden. Thankfully, the weather held, allowing us to enjoy our first outdoor hunt in several years.

In recent months, we've been grateful for the help of a returning student from Whitgift School, who joined us as part of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The children have enjoyed having a teenager in the group, especially as he has taken the lead in running the opening game each week—something they've looked forward to.

A big thank you goes to our wonderful, dedicated team of teachers and helpers. Your support and commitment are what make St John's Sunday School such a special place for our children. **If anyone is interested in joining the rota as a teacher, we would love to hear from you.**

Thank you all once again for a fantastic year.

**Katie Notaro**

## **SACRISTAN REPORT FOR 2024**

All the Silverware and Credence Table equipment and vessels are accounted for and in good order.

Maureen Jupp continues to look after all the linen, including weekly washing, any required maintenance and organising dry cleaning. She diligently prepares the Credence Table vessels for our weekly services for which we are grateful.

We have invested in a new set of glass cruets for wine and water as the existing ones developed cracks. All other glass vessels have been deep clean/de-scaled after becoming noticeably murky.

The conversion of all of the candles used for the Church services (high altar and acolytes) to oil is working very well. They make maintenance and cleaning much easier.

This is also true for the Advent Wreath Candles. Having used up the existing stock of wax variants, we aim to move to using oil type of candles for the Lenten Wreath. Confirmation is required of the availability of correctly coloured variants as there was a supply issue.

We continue to source consumables from F A Dumont, who continue to carry better stocks and deliver in a timely manner. Charles Farris is the back-up firm.

**Maureen Jupp & Andrew Brown**



## **ST. JOHN'S WIVES & FRIENDS REPORT FOR 2024**

The Wives' group have enjoyed another exciting year both physical entertaining and mind-blowing events, the year has flown since our last report. We started the year with a very informative talk given by our very own Rev Younis Francis, his talks are superb and most appreciated by the group. He also provides all equipment for our movie nights and was very surprised to find us still there at nearly midnight our film was extra my fault as it was 4 episodes whoops.

But a very good murder mystery all enjoyed. We have been lucky to secure brilliant speakers, and our very own committee member's husband gave a talk on the history of the Vanguard Way the trail that takes us past local areas, and then later on the actual walk, in the finer weather fantastic. We all got together on the Friday before Mother's Day to put together the posies for church service a very keen and brilliant group enjoyed the morning having a good old chin wag and coffee in the rectory many thanks to them all. After the service the wives and friends hold the refreshments and supply traditional simnel cake and wine much appreciated by the congregation. Rev Younis Francis then preceded over the Easter Service followed by hot cross buns and sausage rolls. A serving police officer joined us on the subject of home security and self-defence very important to keep us all aware and safe.

We held a great musical evening and singalong many members joined in fabulous night. The Christian Aid along with chocolate bingo then raised a healthy amount, we always aim to support charities when possible. The group were given a fabulous insight to past items, and we were challenged to whether we recognized the household items this in turn gave away many of our age secrets, but it was truly mind blowing. After the summer break we enjoyed a very laid back keep fit class so much so we have booked our instructor again for another round. The chance came round for us all to partake in producing our all-time favourite puddings, they were truly mouth-watering and we all were rolling out the door full to the brim. On our very own doorstep we have the most talented Songsations who entertained us, and we took part as well some may have been less keen but did singalong.

The group enjoyed a craft evening making super wine bottle arrangements ideal for home or gift for someone special many of the creations were used to decorate the church hall.

A great and enjoyable Christmas meal in the local restaurant to start the celebrations of the season and once again our annual Advent Service followed by mince pies and led by Father Younis a special time to reflect the true meaning of Christmas. The girls help out at the ever popular Christmas Market both collecting the items sorting and serving this raises very substantial funds for the church especially towards the warm church funds. At this point I would like to thank Father Younis and the clergy for all the support over services during the year most appreciated by the group and myself. The wives and Friends group are open to all aiming to give friendship and enjoyment during the year we hope that we are an outreach group to many ladies wanting a friendly group to join.

**Jane Guglielmi Group Leader**

## **TODDLERS REPORT FOR 2024**

It has been another successful year for the Toddler and Baby Group. We opened in September after the summer break and after a good clean of the toys, cushions, and costumes. We continue to be very busy with regularly over 30 toddlers and babies attending on Mondays and Thursdays. There have been times when we have had to put the sign out saying we were full. It is a notable sign of the times that we have had an increase in grandparents looking after their grandchildren whilst the parents are working. We are fortunate to have a great mix of adults, parents, grandparent's, carers, who are also very happy to help with the packing away.

We are very grateful for our good friends who volunteer to help at the group on Mondays and Thursdays and welcome our visitors. Many thanks to, Ann Woods who helps every Monday. Janet Brown, Monica Turton and myself help Ann on Mondays. A special thank you to Heather Jeffries and Diana Ogg for their help on the craft table and to Ann Woods for leading the singing. On Thursdays, thanks go to Monica, Marion Gordon, Suki Puttock, and Sue Tilley. Special thanks go to Ann and Peter Crocombe who, every Thursday, help and set up the toys in the morning. We are also grateful to Laurel Hobbs for setting up the toys on Mondays and supplying the goodies. The pink wafer biscuits continue to be very popular with the youngsters but we always make sure there is fruit as well!

We have had some new purchases to keep the interest in the activities fresh including magnetic bricks. In December we had our annual Christmas Party. It was very busy and the children enjoyed their special treats and each received a present from our guest, Father Christmas, (thank you Martyn Brown and Peter Crocombe). There was special entertainment from a guest elf and lots of fun was had. Thank you to everyone who helped make both days a success. We were fully booked for both parties.

We always enjoy seeing so many children at St Johns and we continue to advertise the group in the local community and hope that if a parent/grandparent/carer feels isolated, they will have the opportunity to meet others in a safe environment. We are always looking for more volunteers to help, especially on Mondays, and we are sure you will find it an enjoyable activity for a couple of hours.

**Fiona McSorley – April 2025**

## **PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT FOR 2024**

*“Intercession is not a pleading with God but rather a uniting and cooperating with him.*

*Before any words, we should spend as much time as possible resting in and rejoicing in His presence. It is then far easier to see the people we pray for as surrounded by the love and power of God.”*

David Adam “Traces of Glory”

Over the past year the number of people requesting this ministry has grown and we have been grateful to add another member to our group of intercessors to help with this.

We also give thanks for the many faithful years of ministry Jean Williams has given to the group, who now sadly has had to withdraw.

The people who share their concerns with us are all held in daily prayer, a few individuals being allocated to each intercessor. All are remembered twice each month when some of us meet together for an informal service of worship and intercession.

If you or someone you know would feel comforted by being supported each day in prayer, please let me know.

We always keep any information we are given in confidence, but it is important that the person concerned is happy that their name is known to us.

**Barbara Woodhead**

## **MEDITATION GROUP REPORT FOR 2024**

*‘Be still and know that I am God’*

Would you appreciate a time of silence and prayer, a time to reflect and just ‘be’?

Our Meditation Group meets twice a month on Tuesday mornings at 10.15 AM to about 11.45 AM with music, prayer and silence and a chosen reflection for the day to help us still our minds and be aware of God’s loving presence.

If you would like to know more, please phone

Barbara Woodhead	020 8657 3790
Kathleen Holt	020 8651 1815

**Barbara Woodhead and Kathleen Holt - Meditation Group**

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TEAM, PASTORAL CARE AND BEFRIENDERS REPORT FOR 2024

These three groups have continued as reported to last year's APCM – the Bereavement Ministry Team have continued to make contact with the bereaved within the congregation and hold "Remembering Loved Ones" and other services/events; the Pastoral Care Group continue to identify anyone in the congregation who needs physical or emotional support, and identify what sort of support they need; and our Befrienders aim to actively participate in making newcomers to church feel welcomed, appreciated and at home.

While we were thinking about establishing these groups about three years ago I came across the following reflection on Our Lord's washing of his disciples feet on Maundy Thursday, which seemed to me to express the fundamental ethos of the care and compassion that a Christian Community ought to embody:

*Think of all the feet that pass through our lives in a day, a month, a year, a lifetime.*

*What have we done with those feet?*

*What will we do with them?*

*Maybe we ignore them. Maybe we have stepped on them.*

*Maybe we have received them into our life.*

*So many feet. Young, old, tired, lost, angry, hurt.*

*There are all sorts of feet.*

*Feet that have walked through the muck of life.*

*Feet that have trespassed into places they shouldn't have gone.*

*Feet that have stood on holy ground.*

*Feet that have carried the message of good news.*

*Feet that dance to a different beat or walk a path different from ours.*

*Those are the very feet Jesus washed.*

*They are the feet of the world.*

*They are the ones he commands us to wash.*

*They are really no different from our own feet.*

*We too have walked through the muck of life.*

*Our feet have trespassed into places they shouldn't have gone.*

*Our feet have stood on holy ground.*

*Our feet have carried the message of good news.*

*Our feet have sometimes walked a unique, if not strange, path.*

*But you see it's not simply about toes, ankles, and heels.*

*It's about the life of God in this world.*

*Somehow through the mystery, the sacrament,*

*of receiving and washing the world's feet we move*

*from being spectators of Jesus' life to participants in Jesus' life.*

*To separate ourselves from one another's feet*

*is to reject our share, our heritage, in Christ.*

But it is not only the organised designated teams noted above that undertake pastoral ministry within the parish – I believe that the whole congregation does take an active part the care, compassion and welcome that express the pastoral mission of the Church in this place, and makes St John's such an open and welcoming place to be.

**Peter Crocombe, St John's CPLM**

## **SERVERS' REPORT FOR 2024**

The team of Servers continue to support and enhance our Services. Unless you are or have been a Server you cannot appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes providing the Priests with the equipment they need to carry out The Services at 8am, 10am and Choral Evensong and all the Special one off services that occur throughout the year.

I am also grateful to Ann Crocombe who washes and maintains the Albs on a regular basis to ensure they are clean and fit for purpose.

Many thanks to all The Servers who fulfil their duties in a timely fashion making sure all services are covered.

If you would like to join the team please speak to Ann Crocombe or Jim Gordon.  
Sue Tilley

**Sue Tilley**  
**APCM 2025**

# **RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2024**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

We give thanks to God for another year of ministry, worship, and community at St John's. Despite challenges and changes, we have continued to grow together in faith, service, and fellowship.

The APCM gives us an opportunity to reflect and review the past year with honesty and hope, to receive reports from various ministries, and to look ahead to the opportunities and responsibilities that lie before us. It is also a time to elect leaders, affirm our vision, and renew our shared commitment to the mission of God in this parish.

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, we do so with grateful hearts for all that God has done in and through our parish over the past year. This meeting is not merely a formality—it is a moment of reflection, thanksgiving, and renewed commitment to our shared mission as the body of Christ in this place.

This year has brought both blessings and challenges, and yet through it all, we have seen God's faithfulness at work in our church community. Whether through acts of worship, moments of pastoral care, outreach to those in need, or the everyday faithfulness of prayer and service, we have continued to live out our calling to be a beacon of hope, love, and faith.

Our parish has maintained positive relationships with other local churches through shared worship services, joint Lent groups, and a united Good Friday walk of witness

Our priorities this year have included:

- Reinvigorating worship, both in church and online

- Supporting parishioners through pastoral care and practical help

- Reconnecting with families and the wider community through our outreach activities.

- Encouraging spiritual growth through bible study sessions, Lent groups, prayer, and study

None of what we have accomplished would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of so many. From clergy and wardens to our various group leaders, volunteers, and faithful attendees, every person plays a part in the life of this church. We give thanks for each of you—your prayers, your service, your encouragement, your generosity and your presence.

We also remember with love those who have moved away from the parish for various reasons and remember with love and sorrow those we have lost during the

past year, giving thanks for their contributions and the legacies they leave in our midst.

Let us give thanks for all that has been, and trust God for all that is yet to come. “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.” — Psalm 127:1 In this report I would like to reflect on some of the key areas of our mission and ministry.

### **Worship and Services**

Worship in at St John’s has remained vibrant and central to our identity as a faith community. We continue to seek new ways to enrich our worship experience while honouring the traditions that ground us. Thanks be to God for the gift of worship and for all who contribute to making our services meaningful and welcoming.

Our regular Sunday services continued at 8:00 am and 10:00 and Choral Evensong offering both a said Eucharist for those seeking quiet reflection and a Sung Eucharist and Evensong with choir for those drawn to a more celebratory style of worship. Attendance figures have been steady, with an encouraging number of visitors and occasional worshippers returning or joining us for the first time.

A quieter midweek Eucharist was held every Thursday followed by refreshments providing an important opportunity for prayer and reflection during the busy week. This service has been particularly appreciated by those who are retired or prefer a more intimate setting.

Throughout the liturgical year, we marked key Christian festivals with special services, including:

Ash Wednesday and Lent reflections, Holy Week and Easter celebrations, including Passover Seder Meal, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle Service and Mothering Sunday, Advent and Christmas, culminating in well-attended Carol Services, Crib Services, and Midnight Mass etc.

We were privileged to host baptisms, weddings and funerals throughout the year. These important pastoral services offer opportunities to welcome new families into our church and to minister to those in times of joy and grief.

St John’s is blessed with a wonderful director of music, organist and choir. Our music ministry continues to enhance our worship. Highlights included special musical offerings throughout the year, especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The choir’s dedication has been vital in maintaining the beauty and richness of our liturgical celebrations.



In addition to our regular services, we also had some concerts during the year which were well attended and supported. So, thank you to all those involved in organising and those who performed at these events.

### **Discipleship and Spiritual Growth**

Discipleship lies at the core of our Christian life—it is the ongoing journey of following Jesus, being transformed by His Word, and growing in faith, love, and service. In the past year, our parish has continued to invest in creating opportunities for spiritual formation, deeper biblical engagement, and active Christian living.

This year's highlights include:

Advent sessions

Lent Course

Confirmation Preparation: A group of 8 young people and adults prepared for Confirmation through a series of sessions on faith, sacraments, and Christian living.

Beyond programs and gatherings, we continue to encourage all members of the church to live out their faith in everyday life: In workplaces, homes, and neighbourhoods through acts of kindness, justice, and service.

Discipleship is not a destination, but a lifelong journey. Our role as a church is to walk alongside each other as we follow Christ, growing in love, truth, and service. We give thanks for all who have taken steps forward in faith this year and pray that God will continue to lead us deeper into a life shaped by His Word, His Spirit, and His mission.

### **Outreach Ministry**

Our commitment to living out Christ's love beyond the church walls has remained a central focus this year. Through a range of outreach activities, we have sought to be a visible and compassionate presence in our local area and beyond.

Our mission and outreach efforts reflect our desire to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We are incredibly grateful to all who contribute time, energy, and compassion to these ministries. Moving forward, we hope to expand these efforts, deepen our community partnerships, and continue to respond to the needs around us with love, humility, and grace.

I would like to give thanks to God for these opportunities and I am really grateful to all those who help in planning and organising these events.

Toddlers Group, Coffee Mornings, Sunday Breakfast, Film and Food

Quiz and Curry Night, Lunch in the Pub

Easter Workshop, Book sales, Various concerts, Markets and other fundraising and many other community events.

### **Children, Youth, and Families**

Engaging with children, young people, and families continues to be a vital and joyful part of our parish ministry. This past year has seen both growth and challenges in this area, but we give thanks for every opportunity to nurture the faith of the next generation and support family life within our church community.

Our Sunday School, running alongside the main Sunday morning service, remains a key way of introducing our younger members to the Christian faith in a fun, age-appropriate setting. This is led by a team of dedicated leaders and helpers.

Recognising the importance of family-friendly worship, we have continued to offer regular All-Age Services, designed to be inclusive, interactive, and engaging for all generations.

### **Pastoral Care**

At the heart of our parish life is a deep commitment to caring for one another—offering comfort, presence, and prayer in times of need, as well as companionship and encouragement in the everyday journey of faith. Pastoral care is not just the work of clergy, but of the whole church community, and we give thanks for the many quiet acts of love and service that have taken place this year.

Beyond organised events, many members of our congregation quietly and faithfully offer care and practical support to others: Regular home visits to the elderly, ill, or recently bereaved,

Transport assistance for those with mobility challenges to attend church.

### **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

We give heartfelt thanks to:

Our clergy and lay ministers,

Churchwardens, PCC members (some of the members take on extra duties to fulfil important roles besides being PCC members) Deanery synod and Churches Together representatives, Duty wardens, Director of Music, Organist, Choir, Parish Administrator, flower arrangers, Church Grounds and Garden Team, Children's Garden Team, Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary, Vestry Team, Servers, Readers, Intercessors, Church Hall Management Team, Church cleaners, Various rota teams, Welcoming team, Baptism Support team, St John's wives and friends group, Event organisers, Walsingham Pilgrimage organisers, Parish Outings team, Book sales Warm church Team, organisers, Sunday School Team, Befrienders, Pastoral Care Team, Bereavement Group, Prayer Circle, Church Refreshments Team and many others who work behind the scenes. My sincerest apologies if I have forgotten to mention someone.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity of serving Him and his people in this place, and for the gifts that each one of you brings to the ministry in the Church of God. Once again thanks to all, each and every member.

The strength of our parish lies not only in our worship and outreach, but in the way we care for one another through life's joys and trials.

We pray that all who come into contact with our church may find not only welcome, but also healing, comfort, and the love of Christ.

With prayers and Best wishes,

**Younis Francis (Rector)**

**April 2025**

As we conclude our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I want to **thank each of you** for the part you play in the life of our church.

Every offering of time, prayer, care and service is a blessing, and it is through our shared faithfulness that the body of Christ is strengthened.

Your time, talents and generosity are appreciated more than you know.

May God bless and uphold you in all you do, and may His love continue to guide our life together.

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

Colossians 3:17