

St John the Divine Selsdon
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th May 2026
(for the year ending December 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 10th May 2026 at 11.30am

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2025
- 2) Election of Churchwardens. Nominations received.
- 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 11th May 2025

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

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2024.

These were agreed to be an accurate record and were accepted by all those present.

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, Sara Scott 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, Selsdon

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 11th May 2025

1. Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Debbie Brown, Jim and Marion Gordon, Suki Puttock and John and Brenda Williams.

3. Minutes of the APCM held on 5th May 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. It was proposed that they be accepted as such by Andrew Brown and seconded by Andrew Hicks.

Review of 2024

4. Report on the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for year ending 31.12.2024

Sue Tilley reported that the figures speak for themselves – the increase of £80,000 in our reserves means that the church will be in a good situation to pay for Phase 1 of the Heating system replacement. Gill Sharpe proposed that the Accounts should be accepted and Dudley Mead seconded this motion. Thanks were given to Sue for all her hard work during the year.

5. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC

Alice Hicks reported that she had produced this report although it was based largely on Helen Lishmund's work as she had been in the role until the end of 2024. The Rector praised Helen for all the time and hard work she devoted to the church and is dearly missed. He also thanked Alice for taking over the role of PCC Secretary.

6. Report on the Electoral Roll

Janice White reported that the total of 141 would rise as further forms were handed back and asked that everyone checked to ensure they are on the list.

2.

There are forms in the Church for anyone who has not yet completed one. Thanks were given to Janice for all her time spent - especially this year - when it is necessary to redo the list.

7. Report by the Churchwardens

Martyn Brown reported that the report was self explanatory but that from a Building and Maintenance side he was happy to say the new heating system had started. The churchwardens would try to keep the congregation updated but it was anticipated that this first stage should be finished around the middle of June. At this point there is only sufficient funding to complete Phase 1. The second phase would also require a Faculty and would cost approximately a further £150K which is still to be found. Planning permission has been applied for for the second phase but has not yet been granted. The churchwardens would be grateful for any ideas regarding the raising of the £150K! The Rector gave thanks to all those involved and the congregation for their support.

8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The report was written by Robin Orchard who had nothing else to add to it.

9. Other Reports (pages 23-34)

Michael Lishmund presented a report on the **Church gardens**, thanking everyone who helped and added that he was also happy for anyone to join the Saturday morning sessions.

Martyn Brown had nothing to add to the **Building & Maintenance** report.

Gill Salter presented a report on **Church flowers** and was happy to report that she had six new members to the team.

Laurel Hobbs, Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown had nothing to add to their **Church Hall** report.

The Rector spoke about the **Meeting God in Silence** report saying it was a wonderful way to sit, reflect and meditate and anyone who was interested in joining in would be welcomed.

Katie Notaro reported that the number of young people attending **Sunday School** was increasing and they are now taking an active part in the service. They are also becoming more confident in reading prayers and speaking to

3.

the congregation. Thanks were given to all the Team and Volunteers who helped each week.

The **Sacristan Report** was warmly accepted and thanks were given to Maureen Jupp and Andrew Brown for all their hard work in the background.

The **St John's Wives and Friends Report** was given by Jane Gugliemi who invited anybody who was interested to attend their meetings.

The **Toddlers and Baby Group Report** gave thanks to all those who help with the running and setting up of the Hall - including Marguerite Sparks whose name was omitted from the list. The mornings have a good feeling of friendship and belonging.

The **Prayer Circle and Meditation Group** report was presented by Barbara Woodhead. The Rector said their work, especially out in the Parish, was very important but mostly went on behind the scenes.

Peter Crocombe said that he had nothing to add to his report for the **Bereavement, Pastoral Care and Befrienders Teams**.

The Rector said how lovely it was to see the youngsters joining the team of **Servers** which is another way for them to take part in the services. There is still room for others to join if they think they would be interested as the role is so important for our worship.

10. Parish Priest's Report

Please refer to the rector's report on pages 35 to 39.

4.

Elections for 2025 onwards

11. Election of 4 lay persons to serve on the PCC

Gill Sharpe, Jim Gordon, Ian Harley and Janice White were duly elected.

12. Election of 2 lay persons to serve on the Deanery Synod

Ian Harley and Robin Orchard were duly elected.

13. Election of 2 lay persons to serve on Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington

Nicky Archer agreed to stand. There is still one vacancy.

14. Appointment of Sidespeople

Martin Brown mentioned that Robert Thornton had stood down and read out a list of sidespeople as follows: Janet Brown, Sue Condon, Penny Cook, Barbara Goldsmith, John Harris, Auvanel Jenkins, Libby Lawrey, Robin Orchard, John Rapp, Eunice Sinclair, Lesley Taylor, Wendy Moulton, Karen Wallace and Sara Scott.

15. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Sue Tilley proposed that St John's continue with the same Company and this was proposed by Andrew Brown and seconded by Janice White.

16. Any Other Business

There was none.

The Parish of St John the Divine, Seldon

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 10th May 2026 at 11.30 am.

Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM held on 11th May 2025 (enclosed – pages 4-7)

Review of 2025

4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2025 (pages 9-19)
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC (page 20)
6. Report on the Electoral Roll (page 21)
7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comment on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church) (page 22-23)
8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (page 24)
9. Other Reports (pages 25-40)
10. Rector's Report (pages 41-44)

Elections for 2026 onwards

11. Elections for 4 lay persons to serve on the PCC
12. Election of 4 lay persons to serve on the Deanery Synod
13. Appointment of sides persons
14. Appointment of independent examiner to the PCC
15. Any other business (Items to be advised at least 24 hours beforehand to the PCC secretary, churchwardens or Rector)

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

Treasurer's Report for 2025

Our Income for the year has decreased by £39K from 2024. This is due to receiving a legacy in 2024. The regular monthly donations have reduced by £4K due to members of the congregation moving away or dying. Hall Lettings are down by £3K and the expenditure is up by £6K. We have had several one-off costs for the Hall this year including replacing heating units and lighting. Our refuse and energy costs have also increased.

Our Expenditure has increased by £162K overall – the main increase was for the installation of Phase 1 of the Church heating system.

Our Reserves have decreased by £117K to £167K.

We are planning to use around £65K in 2026 to replace the Lighting in the Church and to replace the chairs in the hall.

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 2025

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

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Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

Annual Report 2025

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

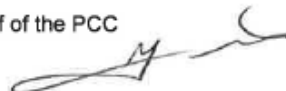
Deputy Churchwardens

Mrs Judith Coleman
Mr Andrew Hicks
Mrs Sara Scott
Mrs Monica Turton

The PCC met six times during the year. The Electoral Roll is 142.

This year we have completed the first phase of our church heating replacement at a cost of £158k. We have held many fund raising events which include a monthly Film Club and a monthly Meal which are open to both the congregation and the local community. We have also held quarterly services for Remembering Loved Ones which are open to all.

On behalf of the PCC


Revd Canon Younis Francis
Rector

Representatives of the Deanery Synod

Mr Simon Archer
Dr Robin Orchard
Mrs Susan Tilley

Elected Members

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
Mrs Sara Scott
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.

I report on the financial statements of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and Examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provision of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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: 
Rebecca Cossins FCCA
MJS Associates

Date: 17/4/26

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
	Note				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income	2(a)	109,270	16,843	126,113	163,827
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	55,262	2,965	58,227	59,946
Income from investments	2(c)	9,102	-	9,102	9,194
Church activities	2(d)	4,786	-	4,786	4,319
Other incoming resources	2(e)	508	-	508	422
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		178,928	19,808	198,736	237,708
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(a)	-	-	-	90
Fund raising costs	3(b)	6,426	-	6,426	4,934
Charitable Activities	3(c)	4,000	2,425	6,425	7,213
Ministry	3(d)	182,079	121,393	303,472	142,353
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		192,505	123,818	316,323	154,590
NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		- 13,577	- 104,010	- 117,587	83,118
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		- 13,577	- 104,010	- 117,587	83,118
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		105,903	179,012	284,915	201,797
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		92,326	75,002	167,328	284,915

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	5,373	5,276
Cafcash Current Account -Church		34,075	54,818
Deposits with CCLA		141,171	232,230
		<u>180,619</u>	<u>292,324</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors due within one year	5	13,291	7,409
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>167,328</u>	<u>284,915</u>
Represented by Funds			
Unrestricted Funds	6	92,326	105,903
Restricted Funds	6	75,002	179,012
		<u>167,328</u>	<u>284,915</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11th March 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 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial Statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2016.

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.

4. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

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 £1,000 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.

Major improvements

During the year ended 31st December 2025 there were the following major improvements:

Replacement of heating system	£158,528
Roof repairs	£8,680

As these are considered part of the property they have been shown as repair costs rather than capital.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

Note 2 INCOMING RESOURCES		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
2(a)	Voluntary Income				
	Planned giving				
	Gift Aid Donations	72,757	-	72,757	76,732
	Tax Recoverable	23,645	-	23,645	25,497
	Collections (open plate)	5,186	-	5,186	4,060
	Donations, appeals etc.	7,702	16,843	24,545	27,038
	Legacies	-	-	-	30,500
		<u>109,270</u>	<u>16,843</u>	<u>126,113</u>	<u>163,627</u>
2(b)	Activities for generating funds				
	Bookstall	300	-	300	415
	Church hall lettings (non church)	34,002	2,965	36,967	40,310
	Garden Room	4,771	-	4,771	3,742
	Events	16,189	-	16,189	15,479
		<u>55,262</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>58,227</u>	<u>59,946</u>
2(c)	Income from Investments				
	Bank Interest	9,102	-	9,102	9,194
		<u>9,102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,102</u>	<u>9,194</u>
2(d)	Income from Church Activities				
	Fees	4,786	-	4,786	4,319
		<u>4,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,786</u>	<u>4,319</u>
2(e)	Other incoming resources				
		506	-	506	422
		<u>506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>506</u>	<u>422</u>
	Total Incoming Resources	<u>178,928</u>	<u>19,808</u>	<u>198,736</u>	<u>237,708</u>
Note 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3(a)	Costs of generating voluntary income				
	Christian Stewardship	-	-	-	90
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90</u>
3(b)	Fund raising costs				
	Events	6,426	-	6,426	4,934
		<u>6,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,426</u>	<u>4,934</u>
3(c)	Charitable Activities				
	Missionary and charitable giving				
	Overseas	1,000	-	1,000	-
	Home	3,000	2,425	5,425	7,213
		<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,425</u>	<u>6,425</u>	<u>7,213</u>
3(d)	Ministry				
	Diocesan Parish Share	54,648	-	54,648	52,800
	Fees	3,175	-	3,175	1,636
	Clergy expenses	982	-	982	1,004
	Church running expenses	12,628	-	12,628	12,112
	Church maintenance	46,297	120,399	166,696	1,329
	Cost of services	23,316	-	23,316	20,439
	Upkeep of grounds	3,600	-	3,600	22,566
	Education	-	-	-	14
	Hall running costs	28,902	994	29,896	23,186
	Choir	3,244	-	3,244	3,325
	Organist	4,787	-	4,787	3,442
	Independent examiner	500	-	500	500
		<u>182,079</u>	<u>121,393</u>	<u>303,472</u>	<u>142,363</u>
	Total Resources expended	<u>192,505</u>	<u>123,818</u>	<u>316,323</u>	<u>154,580</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Divine, Selsdon

	2025 £	2024 £		
Note 5 DEBTORS				
Gift Aid Recoverable	<u>5,373</u>	<u>5,276</u>		
Note 6 CREDITORS				
Short term creditors	<u>13,291</u>	<u>6,909</u>		
Note 7 FUNDS OF THE PCC	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Legacies	-	30,500	30,500	30,500
St. John's Church R & M Fund	30,000	15,000	45,000	45,000
Church Clock Repair Fund	1,805	-	1,805	1,805
Donated for Gifts etc	-	2,795	2,795	2,795
Rector's Discretionary Fund	100	-	100	100
Training/Bursary Fund	800	-	800	800
General Reserves	38,566	12,000	50,566	51,601
Boiler Replacement / Lighting Project	21,055	14,707	35,762	152,314
	<u>92,326</u>	<u>75,002</u>	<u>167,328</u>	<u>284,915</u>

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC FOR 2025

The PCC met on 6 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, the Deanery Synod and CTSA meetings, together with Health and Safety and Safeguarding reports.

Other items discussed at the meetings throughout the year were –

- Penny Cook was appointed as minute secretary.
- St John's contribution to the Parish Support Fund was set.
- Charitable Giving was confirmed for Centrepoint, St Christopher's Hospice, Selsdon Contact and DEC.
- The work of the committee to upgrade the church lighting would continue. The PCC felt that this is a priority on health and safety grounds.
- The agenda for the parish conversation in July (the successor to the Parish Visitation) was set.
- It was agreed that the shrubs and hedges in the car park should be cut back.
- It was agreed that the Anniversary of the founding of St John's should be marked on Sunday 18th October and would be a celebration lunch. It was agreed to invite the Bishop of Croydon and the Archdeacon, along with previous clergy.
- It was decided that the addition of heat pumps to the new heating system would be deferred until funds were available.

Alice Hicks
PCC Secretary

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR 2025

The Electoral Roll began the year with 144 members and concluded with 145 members. Six new members were added during the year. Sadly, five members, Marguerite Sparks, Julia Barclay, Brian Huggett, Margaret Rutland, and Maureen White passed away and have therefore been taken off the register.

Janice White
Electoral Roll Officer

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT FOR 2025

It is always difficult to know where to start but we should begin by recognising that we are blessed by God in so many different ways. In a world which feels plagued by trouble and turmoil we are comparatively safe, warm, well fed and housed.

As Wardens Martyn and I could not function nearly as effectively without the immense support and diligence of our Deputy Wardens, Monica, Andrew, Jude and Sara. We are delighted that Sara has joined our Team.

The major achievement of the year is the completion of Phase One of Project Warm Church which has been immensely successful - sometimes too successful! Attending church this winter has been a far more pleasurable experience and we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to the fundraising in so many different ways. Our thanks go to all of the Project Warm Church Team who have worked so hard to bring this to fruition. Phase Two will commence in due course.

Nothing stands still in our church so our next initiative is replacement of the ageing and failing lighting. This is a Health and Safety issue and we hope to have new lighting installed by the end of the year. The "Let there be Light" Team comprises Andrew and Martyn Brown, Laurie King and Tim Coleman and we are pleased to report that they are making good progress.

The various groups are flourishing, Toddlers is regularly oversubscribed, Film Club now has forty plus people attending regularly and we hosted over one hundred quizzers at our most recent Quiz and Curry Night.

There are quite a few new faces at St John's and we are delighted to welcome you. Some have already become involved in various activities, please do tell us if you would like to do more as we need more volunteers. We are also very sad to have said goodbye to very dear friends who we have lost in the last year. The Remembering Loved Ones Service is invaluable in offering quiet support to those who need it.

It is impossible to thank everyone individually, so many of you are serving quietly in the background. Please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

This year the church celebrates its ninetieth birthday and to mark the occasion we shall be having a special lunch on October 18th (combining the celebration and Harvest lunch). The Bishop of Croydon will be in attendance. In addition, John Williams has kindly agreed to create a display for the church marking this special occasion.

Thanks to two very generous donations we have a brand new carpet in the Robing Vestry and hopefully by the time you read this, new chairs in the Hall which will add considerably to our comfort.

Our Choir continues to enhance our worship, ably supported by our Come and Sing Choir. It is not always appreciated how much work goes into selecting appropriate hymns and music for the Liturgy in the Lectionary and whilst we all have our favourite hymns clearly it is important to have hymns which reflect the season in

which we find ourselves. We are especially grateful to Professor Tim Orchard who serves us so well as our Director of Music on top of an extraordinarily busy professional life.

A special thank you too to Richard Pilliner and Bob Soper who have supported us so ably over the last year and who understand exactly the type of music that best reflects our style of worship at St John's.

Sadly, Martyn needs to step down as a Warden. He has completed three stints and is quite incredible but has had a challenging year. Fortunately, he will continue to advise us. I should have stepped down this year but will stay on if that is acceptable, however, I shall have to step down next year.

We want to give a formal thank you to Laurel who has a ferocious work ethic and provides a phenomenal amount of support to us all.

Finally, we are so fortunate to have Younis, Nancy, Michael, Stephen, Peter and Simon to lead us in our worship and we give thanks for their service and devotion.

**Debbie Brown and Martyn Brown
Church Wardens**

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2025

Area Dean. Father Prem. St Mary's New Addington
Lay Chair. Mrs Janet Davies
Secretary. Debbie Parker

Churches

- St Mary's Addington
- St Edward's New Addington
- St Francis Monks Hill
- 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

The Revd Debbie Foreman finished as Area Dean after Synod meeting on 9th June 2025 and Father Prem from New Addington took over on 24th September 2025.

Further meetings were held on 17th November and February 16th.

Activities included a Deanery Social at St Mary's Addington, a Deanery Pilgrimage round the Parishes, discussions on Parish Lay Ministers, Diocesan Diversity Adviser and the future, purpose and relevance of Deanery Synod.

At each meeting we share and discuss new and successful activities in each Parish.

Robin Orchard
Deanery Synod Member

CHURCH GARDEN REPORT FOR 2025

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 2025

Presented at the APCM May 2026

Project Warm Church

The Faculty was finally granted in April after much discussion with the DAC. The full faculty was for new pipework and heat emitters, 2 x ASHP with associated equipment plus 2 x 80kw gas boilers. In addition, electric convectors to be fitted in the vestries and entrance porch. The decision was taken, in agreement with the DAC, to split the installation into two phases. Phase 1 was the pipework, emitters and gas boilers for which we had sufficient funds followed by Phase 2, the addition the ASHP's, when funding allowed.

Work started in May and the system was commissioned in September.

The total cost for Phase 1 including electric convectors was £156,684. The quote for Phase 2 (2024 prices) is £151,992.

Let there be Light (New lighting for the church)

In 2024 the PCC gave authority for a project team to investigate and manage the installation of a new lighting system for the church. The basis for this was largely the same as the heating system in that the current lighting is old and reaching the end of life, is inefficient and fails to provide modern lighting coverage.

During 2025 the team completed the following: -

- Produced a detailed scope and a Statement of Needs
- Contacted four potential designers/installers.
- Held discussions with the DAC
- Held detailed discussions with two companies who provided proposals and indicative costs.

Quinquennial Report

Most of the outstanding issues raised in the 2022 Quinquennial Report have completed. These include capping the parapet walls above the Choir Vestry and at the East End to prevent water ingress under the flat roofs and subsequent long term damage.

A plan has been agreed to complete the outstanding jobs.

Planned Maintenance

All routine maintenance has been completed in accordance with the schedule.

Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown
March 2026

CHURCH FLOWERS REPORT FOR 2025

The Flower Team hopes that you have enjoyed the arrangements placed in church over the past year. Special thanks to all those who donated flowers 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. Once again, we placed a Passion Tree 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. We also decorated the church to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May.

The theme for Christmas was based on the beauty of the natural world. The church was filled with greenery and repurposed tree decorations 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. We also made a Jesse Tree with cards telling of Jesus' ancestors and of events leading to the Nativity. 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. We have sourced and are now using biodegradable flower foam and increasingly use containers with wire fixing and vases for arrangements. We use foliage from gardens and have purchased some silk flowers to supplement fresh flowers especially in the winter months.

I would like to thank our talented and hard-working flower team for bringing the beauty of flowers into St John's for all to enjoy. Special thanks for all she has done to Wendy Moulton who has retired from the flower team.

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

Gill Salter
26 February 2026

CHURCH HALL REPORT FOR 2025

The past year has brought a mixture of encouragement and some challenges for the hall. Rental income totalled £36,967 representing a decrease of approximately £3,000 compared with the previous year. While this is somewhat disappointing, it is largely attributable to the loss of two regular hirers towards the end of 2024, who had contributed significantly to income. There has also been a slight reduction in children's party bookings, likely reflecting ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

In addition, some payments relating to the final quarter were received later than anticipated and have therefore fallen into early 2026, impacting the overall income recorded for 2025. Expenditure has increased by approximately £6,000, due to a combination of unplanned maintenance works and the replacement of ceiling lighting and air conditioning issues.

Despite this, the hall continues to be well used and highly valued, with a wide range of regular hirers and community groups making consistent use of the facilities. New enquiries remain steady, particularly from occasional and ad hoc hirers, helping to ensure the hall remains active throughout the week.

Encouragingly, income from the Garden Room has increased by just over £1,000, reflecting its growing popularity as a flexible and well-suited space for smaller bookings.

Towards the latter part of the year, a review of hire charges was undertaken, and modest increases of approximately 3% were introduced. These were carefully considered to help meet rising costs while remaining fair and accessible to our users.

There has been a welcome focus on improving both the appearance and facilities of the building. The hall and toilet areas have been fully redecorated to a high standard, significantly enhancing the environment for all users. Signage throughout the hall has been refreshed and updated. Two ceiling lights have been replaced with more energy efficient fittings, and the addition of two new speakers has further improved the hall's functionality for our Film and Food Club.

In the kitchen, a new overhead heater and UV insect control unit have been installed to support practical use of the space. We also look forward to the arrival of new hall chairs in the near future, which will further enhance comfort. A new air conditioning fan motor is also due to be installed, which will address the ongoing issue of noise from the current system.

It has been encouraging to see existing resources reused effectively. The former Dramatic Society notice board, kindly donated by Ian Geddes, has been repurposed and now serves as the notice board for our Film & Food Club, which continues to grow in popularity.

The hall remains an important part of parish and community life, hosting a wide variety of church events throughout the year, including social gatherings, fundraising events, celebrations, and outreach activities. In particular, the hall was pleased to host refreshments for the Archdeacon's Visitation in June, followed by the

Archdeacon's Conversation in early July: both significant occasions in the life of the parish. The hall continues to be a valued place of welcome, connection, and hospitality.

Behind the scenes, regular maintenance is overseen by Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown, and we are most grateful for their ongoing time and commitment in ensuring the building remains in good working order.

We also extend sincere thanks to our team of 'meet and greet' volunteers, who provide such a friendly and reliable presence for our hirers: Martyn Brown, Andrew Brown, Sue Tilley, Laurel Hobbs, Sally Geddes, Michael Lishmund, and John Harris. We were sorry to lose Robert Ramdeholl from the team and thank him for his support. The current team continues to do an excellent job. There is always room for additional volunteers on the rota, particularly to assist with weekend birthday party bookings, so please do get in touch if you are able to help.

Finally, our thanks go to Neetha, whose hard work and care ensure that the hall, kitchen, and toilet areas are consistently clean, tidy, and ready to welcome all who come through its doors.

**Laurel Hobbs, Martyn Brown & Andrew Brown
Hall Management Team | April 2026**

MEETING GOD IN SILENCE REPORT FOR 2025

The Meeting God in Silence group has continued gathering together in the Garden Room throughout the year with the usual breaks for Easter, August and Christmas. We collect on Monday evenings at six o'clock and following a brief reading and a prayer which ends "Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus," we sit in silence for twenty-five minutes. At the end of this time, which is indicated by a recording of bird song or a gong, the leader ends with another prayer and the grace.

What happens during this time? How do we cope without speaking? What do we think about at this time? The answer to these questions is as individual as the people who meet together at this time, but all of us find this time invaluable, even compelling. The intensity of the silence deepens during the course of the meditation and we always end it in a shared place of peace and calm. We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us and see if it works for them.

Gill Sharpe
March 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2025

This has been another successful year for Sunday School, with a consistently good level of attendance. We regularly welcome between 8 and 10 children each week, which is wonderful to see. Throughout the year, the children have continued to grow in their faith and in their confidence. It has been wonderful to see their willingness to share what they have been learning with the congregation after communion. Several of our older children are now confidently taking part in the family services by reading and leading prayers once a month.

Each week, the children enjoy a range of games, crafts and stories linked to the lectionary, helping them to engage meaningfully with the themes and teachings explored in church.

Our Christmas Nativity was once again a great success. The children worked extremely hard to learn their lines and performed beautifully during both services. It was especially lovely to see them showcasing their musical talents, including six children who bravely sang solo lines in the first verse of Once in Royal David's City, as well as others who shared their instrumental skills. We were delighted that the children were able to perform the nativity twice this year: first to the congregation on the Sunday before Christmas, and again at the Crib Service.

We also enjoyed a very successful Easter Egg Hunt around the outside of church and in the vicarage garden. Two of our older Sunday School members took responsibility for hiding the eggs, a task they carried out brilliantly. The younger children thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of finding them. We were fortunate to have a lovely morning, allowing the hunt to take place outdoors.

We are pleased to report that our Sunday School team has grown, and we now have four teachers and six helpers. We are extremely grateful to all our dedicated teachers and volunteers for their continued commitment, enthusiasm and support, which play such a vital role in making St John's Sunday School the success that it is. If anyone feels called to join the team, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Katie Notaro
April 2026

SACRISTAN REPORT FOR 2025

The Credence Table equipment, vessels and silverware are accounted for and are in good order.

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

All the newer crack free glassware, procured last year, are working well.

All Oil candles continue to work well and maintenance, apart from oil top-up, and cleaning is minimal, including the Advent Wreath set. To date, the Lenten stand candles have not been converted to the Vinyl/Oil canister type owing to availability of this in the correct size and colour. We continue to investigate their availability.

As a result of the Church Heating being replaced and pipe routing, new Sacristy furniture units were procured. There is one further unit to be sought and installed. The new arrangement appears to be working well.

We have two new helpers in the Sacristy team. Welcome to Karen Cass and Sally Geddes who help Maureen out with the weekly chores which eases the load. Thank you to them.

We continue to use F. A. Dumont and Charles Farris for consumables supply. We have also adopted a newer supplier, Eden, when we find out of stock items.

**Maureen Jupp, Andrew Brown, Karen Cass & Sally Geddes
March 2026**

ST. JOHN'S WIVES & FRIENDS REPORT FOR 2025

The Wives and Friends group have enjoyed a very physical and entertaining, mind stretching year. We have had fabulous speakers, giving thought-provoking and informative talks. We provide a very varied programme for members to enjoy and take part in. The group has increased in number this year bringing membership up to 30 and membership fee is still only a small five pounds per year. We learnt about the conflicts in the Middle East, given by our very own Revd. Younis Francis; an excellent presentation. We invited along a Paramedic for an in-depth first aid presentation, and a look at Air Ambulance service, this was brilliant, and informative for members to learn about.

We had a very interesting talk about the charity work about the Samaritans given by Peter Crocombe, such a vital organisation for people to contact when needs arise. The members join together in the month of March who made the posies for Mothering Sunday, a great time to have a good old chat and many turn up for this workshop, and they always look fabulous for the church service. Then we supply the refreshments on Mothering Sunday wine and cakes for the congregation, again the ladies come and help host and serve. The Easter service was presided by Father Younis and enjoyed by all, followed by hot cross buns and sausage rolls, once again well attended and very informative. Our movie nights with popcorn are also very popular and showed the ever-popular Mama Mia. Our annual charity night took place supporting Christian Aid the group support this very important cause and the evening raised a very healthy amount of money.

We have taken several outings, one being the mid-summer walk to us to the Selsdon Bird sanctuary; stunning wood carvings, and scenery, finishing at the local watering hole for drinks and meal.

Our ever-popular soul dance gave us all the chance to show just how energetic we are (although sometimes getting it wrong) but Donna our instructor, was extremely patient. The group took off to the Silver Vaults in London; brilliant trip and so were the many silver objects on show. Then we held our Murder Mystery Play many members took part in this show based on the murder of the bride at her wedding, there was humour, murder, and much more. We will be repeating this again; very mind provoking and popular. A wartime singalong with flags food and hats was the next get together, thoroughly enjoyed by all. We enjoyed our Christmas meal out and aim to keep it in local areas. This year we ate at Med Kitchen - delicious. The ladies always help on the Wives' stall at Christmas and raise a large amount for the church funds and many thanks to them. Also, thanks to Brenda Williams who takes charge of the stall.

I would like to thank Father Younis for all the support he gives us through the year for his brilliant services and the talks that are so informative, and wonderfully executed, he also provides the equipment for all our film nights and music for the services. Once again, many thanks.

Jane Guglielmi Group Leader

TODDLERS REPORT FOR 2025

It has been another successful year for the Toddler and Baby Group. We opened in September after the summer break after a good clean of the toys, cushions, and costumes. We continue to be very busy with regularly over 30 toddlers and babies attending each session. There have been times when we have had to put the board 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, grandparents, carers, and children from babies to those starting school soon.

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 I help Ann on Mondays. We were very happy to accept the help this year from Anne Johnson, a grandmother who attended with her granddaughter. When she started school, Anne wanted to give something back to the group by helping us. We also welcomed back June Mason. 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 Marion Gordon, Suki Puttock, and Sue Tilley. We also welcomed a special partnership of Janice White and Katie Notaro and Katie leads the singing. We also welcome Mo Pretty who leads the artwork. 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 new drinking cups. 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 Andrew Brown). 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 Thursdays, and we are sure you will find it an enjoyable activity for a couple of hours.

Fiona McSorley – March 2026

PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT FOR 2025

“Lord, it is always your will to bring us to wholeness. We ask that your healing love will enfold, soothe, support and comfort all who are ill or in pain in mind, body or spirit.”

These are words we use from a short service we share in every two weeks, and we remember by name all 73 people needing support.

We are thirteen intercessors altogether, each of which includes a small number of people in our personal, daily prayer so everyone is remembered together with their families and carers.

St. John’s Prayer Circle began many years ago and we give thanks for all who have preceded us in this ministry, and we especially miss the loving care of Margaret Rutland, who was a founder member, and faithfully continued in prayer right up to the last days of her life.

If you or someone you know would feel comforted being supported in prayer, please let us know. We always keep 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 020 8657 3790 | Kathleen Holt 020 8651 1815

MEDITATION GROUP REPORT FOR 2025

‘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 10.15am to about 11.45am, with music, prayer and silence, and a chosen reflection for the day to help still our minds and be aware of God’s loving presence around us.

We find that this leaves us more calm and refreshed for the days ahead.

We are also keen to support morning courses, offered by Younis and we transfer to these in Lent and Advent.

If you would like to know more, please phone:

Barbara Woodhead 020 8057 3790 | Katheleen Holt 020 8651 1815

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TEAM, PASTORAL CARE AND BEFRIENDERS REPORT FOR 2025

Bereavement Ministry Team

One aim of this Team is to help to ensure that members of the congregation who have recently lost loved ones are being properly and effectively supported through their individual grieving journey – with Team members not necessarily undertaking that support themselves, but making sure that the bereaved are being supported by close friends from within the congregation. In all we plan to do, we aim to act as sensitively, carefully and as appropriately as possible.

Another aim of this Team is to offer the opportunity of care and emotional support for people who have lost a loved one whose funerals were recently conducted at St John's. An opportunity to offer this support takes place at our "Remembering Loved Ones" events three times a year, plus our special All Souls service and our Quiet Christmas service.

The Remembering Loved Ones events take the form of a very short service in Church, followed by light refreshments in our Garden Room, which give those attending the opportunity to meet together, support one another and swap thoughts and reminiscences of their loved ones. This event is, of course, open to all members of the congregation who would like to remember a loved one – indeed, we would really welcome and encourage other members of the congregation to come along and support this event.

Pastoral Care Group

The aim of the Team is to offer emotional support for anyone within the congregation who is in need of time and attention, or would benefit from a visit or Home Communion. Our congregation is already well noted for being a really involved and caring Christian community, and a great deal of fine and worthwhile informal support and caring already takes place.

While it is vital that this personal, informal care continues, we are aware that there are times when members of our congregation who need support and care seem to somehow "slip through the net". And this is where the Pastoral Care Team really need your active support. If you know of anyone in the congregation who is finding life difficult, has been taken ill, is about to go in to hospital, is in any other situation needing support, or you notice has been missing from the congregation for a while, do please see let me know.

Befrienders

The simple aim of this group is to actively participate in making newcomers to church feel welcomed, appreciated and at home. The group try to do this by:

- After our services, inviting those attending for the first time, or in the early stages of their attendance, to come over to the Church Hall for Tea/Coffee, to be “with” them and introduce them to other members of the congregation.
- Looking out for and sitting with/chatting to anyone or any couple or family group in the Church Hall who appear to be sitting on their own – just giving them time and the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- Taking any other appropriate initiatives to welcome and support anyone new to our church.

Since the last APCM we have lost two of our original team – Margeurite Sparks sadly died, and Robert Thornton stood down, we thank them both for all they did towards the welcome and fellowship at St John’s. But we have added three new members to our team – John and Brenda Williams, and Lindsay Farley.

Peter Crocombe, St John’s CPLM

SERVERS’ REPORT FOR 2025

We have twelve adult servers and four youngsters who regularly serve at our Sunday Services. They also serve at one-off services during the year such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass.

I am extremely grateful for their professional, loyal and punctual attendance for their designated duty times. They are among the first to arrive at church and often the last to leave as they go about preparing for the services that we all enjoy!

Thanks go to Ann Crocombe who regularly washes our Albs to ensure they are dazzling white with all their buttons and fresh smelling!!

If you would like to join our team, please speak to Ann Crocombe or Jim Gordon who will both be pleased to show you the ropes.

Sue Tilley
March 2026

CHOIR & MUSIC REPORT FOR 2025

During 2025/26, the robed choir has continued to provide full choral support to the worship at St John's, singing at the regular Sunday morning services for three out of four, or four out of five Sundays, depending on how many Sundays fall in a month. We are grateful to the Come and Sing choir who have allowed the main choir to have a break from time to time and throughout the summer holidays.

During Lent and Easter, we provided the Ash Wednesday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Easter Eve and Easter Day services and of course, have sung Evensong most months, topped up by Advent Carols and Nine Lessons and Carols services. It should be appreciated that we are one of a very small number of local churches, bar the Minster, that sing a full Choral Evensong regularly, maintaining a long tradition at St John's of providing this form of worship and sharing with you, a rich variety of Anthems, Preces and Responses, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis settings, Hymns and Psalms.

We are indebted to Prof Tim Orchard for not only his dedication of time to rehearse and conduct us at each service, but in choosing the music ahead of time, to reflect the themes of all services, the relevant seasons, and the availability of choir members and their respective abilities. It is not easy to balance choosing a mix of old favourites whilst introducing new music to increase the repertoire.

Our thanks also to Revd. Stephen Wright for presiding at Evensong and it was lovely to see Simon Archer officiate at his first Evensong as part of his Lay training. This year has been a challenge to the Parish Administrator, Church Wardens and our Director of Music, to find suitable and available organists to accompany services, following the departure of Jonathan Musgrave after Easter last year - thank you for organising the deputy's rota.

Our grateful thanks go to Richard Pilliner, who has played at most of the services (and thoroughly enjoyed being back at St John's) but also to Bob Soper. It has been greatly appreciated by the choir and congregation alike to have regular organ accompaniment.

We were also very fortunate to have the well renowned Lucy Morrell (organist at Dulwich College) play at our Carol Service enabling the choir to sing such a rich selection of music and create a really memorable service.

The choir have also had time to relax and enjoyed a lovely social evening in November at the Coombe Wood Restaurant. It was a very convivial way to share time with colleagues and to get to know them better. Recently, we have been encouraged by a small but very enthusiastic group of juniors who have been practicing after church on Sundays and sang on Mothering Sunday with the main choir. We hope more youngsters will want to join them and create a Junior Choir.

Finally, thank you to Father Younis, who has been such a great supporter of the choir and has always encouraged us to enhance the worship.

Laurie King | Choir Treasurer

'FILM AND FOOD CLUB' REPORT FOR 2025

Film Club is thriving! We have a regular attendance of around 40 people every month, both from St John's and others from the local community, Contact regularly bring a full minibus to the Club.

Film Club provides a lunch of a choice of two soups, one being homemade by Tim and Jude Coleman (which is always sold out) with a roll followed by tea or coffee and a biscuit all for £3 with the film costing a further £3.

Some of the titles we have viewed in the last year include Conclave, Twelve Minutes to Midnight, Ladies in Lavender and Paddington in Peru – an eclectic selection!

This Club is only possible with the assistance of Monica Turton, John Rapp, Viv Cawte, Tim and Jude Coleman along with myself. Father Younis gives up time on his day off to set up the projector and sound system.

If you haven't been to Film Club why not give it a try!! Lunch is at 1pm with the film starting at 2pm.

Sue Tilley

'FRIDAY NIGHT OUT' REPORT FOR 2025

In September 2024, following a conversation with Fr. Younis, Friday Night Out began. Seven people came to the first of these monthly events held at the rectory at 6pm for companionship, conversation, with a lovely curry made by Nancy and Younis, an alternative main choice and some desserts. We brought our own drinks and glasses. Everyone enjoyed the evening ending at 9 pm and on the second night at the rectory, 13 people came. Since then, numbers have been growing and we now meet in the church hall as 40 people usually attend. On one occasion, 50 came but there was still plenty of room to move around and talk to different tables. A sign-up sheet is placed at the back of the church before each event for choices to be made all for a minimum charge of £7.

Many come purely for an evening out, something perhaps they used to do regularly on a Friday with a loved one, or with a friend or as a couple but, perhaps through a significant change in their life, does not happen anymore. We receive a lot of good feedback but of course, we two alone could not do all the work. There is a large regular Friday Night Out team of helpers, who set up the hall, buy food, cook, make delicious desserts, provide teas and coffees as well as clear away afterwards. We also receive offers of homemade desserts and raffle prizes for which we are very grateful. To each of them and our spontaneous helpers on the night we say a huge "thank you". We have an excellent community spirit at St John's and many who come along, just see something, which needs doing and offer to help. We really do appreciate all the help we receive.

It is a pleasure for the team to see people enjoying conversations, hearing their laughter and enjoying each other's company for a few hours on a Friday night.

A big thank you to all who come to enjoy a Friday Night Out, all are very welcome and it really makes all the work a real pleasure.

Thank you again from

Fr. Younis, Margaret and all the Friday Night Out team

Margaret Mead
March 2026

RECTOR'S REPORT FOR APCM 2026 **(year ending December 2025)**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) provides an important opportunity to reflect on the past year in the light of God's faithfulness and guidance.

As a church community, we are called to worship God, to grow in faith, and to serve others in love. Over the past year, this calling has been expressed in many ways through our worship, fellowship, outreach, and pastoral care. We give thanks for the commitment and generosity of all who have contributed to the life and mission of the parish, whether through visible ministries or quiet acts of service.

The APCM is both a moment of reflection and a point of renewal. It allows us to review the work of the past year, to recognise both achievements and challenges, and to consider prayerfully the direction in which God is leading us. Through the reports presented, we are able to see how our shared ministry has developed and where further growth may be encouraged.

The meeting also fulfils an essential role in the governance of the Church, including the election of churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Deanery Synod representatives, who support the ongoing mission and ministry of the parish. Their service is vital in enabling the Church to function effectively and to respond to the needs of both congregation and community.

In all things, we are reminded that the Church is not simply an organisation, but the Body of Christ, in which each member has a unique and valuable role to play. As it is written in 1 Corinthians 12:12, *"For just as the body is one and has many members... so it is with Christ."*

As we prepare for the APCM, we do so in a spirit of thanksgiving, prayer, and hope. We seek God's continued guidance as we look to the future, trusting in His provision and committing ourselves afresh to His service.

Reflection on Worship and Services

Worship remains at the heart of the life of the Parish. It is through our shared worship that we encounter God, are nourished in faith, and are sent out to serve in His name. Over the past year, our services have continued to provide a space for prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth for all who gather.

I give thanks for the richness and variety of our worship, expressed through regular Sunday services, midweek Eucharist, Walsingham Mass etc. and special services marking the seasons of the Church year. From the joy of Christmas and Easter to times of remembrance and quiet reflection, these moments have drawn us together as a community and deepened our awareness of God's presence in our lives.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that our services are accessible and engaging for all. Efforts have been made to maintain a balance between tradition and openness to new expressions of worship, so that people of different ages and backgrounds may feel able to participate and grow in faith.

During the year we were also 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.

As we look ahead, we are encouraged to continue deepening our life of worship, seeking God's guidance in how we gather, pray, and praise. In the words of John 4:24, "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." May our worship continue to reflect this truth, drawing us closer to God and to one another.

Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

Discipleship and spiritual growth are central to the life and mission of the Parish. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to gather for worship, but to grow in faith, deepen our relationship with God, and live out that faith in our daily lives.

Over the past year, opportunities for spiritual growth have been offered through worship, preaching, teaching, and personal devotion. Whether through sermons, Bible study, prayer, or quiet reflection, members of the congregation have been encouraged to develop their faith and understanding of God's word.

We recognise that discipleship is a lifelong journey, shaped by learning, experience, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Growth often takes place in both shared settings and in personal moments of prayer and reflection, as individuals seek to follow Christ more closely.

As we look ahead, we are encouraged to continue creating opportunities for learning, prayer, and spiritual development, ensuring that all feel supported in their journey of faith. We seek to grow not only in knowledge, but in love, service, and commitment to Christ.

As it is written in Colossians 2:6-7, *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him."*

Reflection on Mission and Outreach

The mission of the Parish is to share the love of Christ not only within our congregation, but also in the wider community. Over the past year, we have sought to be a visible and active presence, responding to the needs of others with compassion, care, and generosity.

Through various outreach activities and partnerships, the church has continued to support individuals and families both practically and spiritually. Whether through acts of service, community engagement, or simply offering a place of welcome and belonging, we have aimed to reflect Christ's love in meaningful ways.

A big thank you to all those who give their time and energy to this work, often quietly and without recognition. Their commitment demonstrates the living out of our faith in action, reminding us that mission is not confined to organised activities, but is present in everyday encounters and relationships.

At the same time, we recognise that there is always more to be done. As we look to the future, we prayerfully consider how we might deepen our engagement with the community, reach those who may feel excluded or overlooked, and respond faithfully to God's calling.

I am grateful for the spirit of welcome that continues to characterise our church community. Newcomers are received with warmth, and long-standing members continue to offer friendship and encouragement. This sense of unity reflects the love of Christ at work among us.

As it is written in Matthew 5:16, *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* May our mission continue to be a light in the community, pointing others towards God's love.

Children and Young Families

Ministry among children and young families remains an important part of the life and future of our Parish. As a church, we are called to nurture faith across all generations, ensuring that children and families feel welcomed, valued, and supported within our community.

Over the past year, we have sought to provide opportunities for children to engage with the life of the church in ways that are accessible, meaningful, and appropriate to their age and stage of development. Through services, activities, and informal gatherings, efforts have been made to create an environment in which children can learn about the Christian faith and experience a sense of belonging.

We give thanks for all who contribute to this ministry, including those who plan and lead activities, welcome families, and create a safe and inclusive space for children. Their commitment helps to build strong foundations for the future life of the church.

As we look ahead, we are encouraged to continue developing this area of ministry, seeking new ways to engage children and young families and to support their spiritual growth within the church community.

As it is written in Matthew 19:14, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

Reflection on Pastoral Care

Pastoral care lies at the heart of the ministry of St John's. It reflects Christ's compassion and concern for each individual, reminding us that the Church is called to care for one another in both times of joy and times of difficulty.

Over the past year, pastoral support has been offered in many ways—through various services, visits, phone calls, prayer, and quiet acts of kindness. Particular attention has been given to those who are unwell, housebound, or experiencing loneliness, ensuring that they remain connected to the life of the church and are supported in practical and spiritual ways.

I am really grateful for the time and talents of those who faithfully undertake this ministry, often without recognition. Their willingness to listen, to offer comfort, and to walk alongside others is a powerful expression of God's love in action. This ministry extends beyond formal roles, as many within the congregation contribute through simple gestures of care and encouragement.

As we look ahead, we recognise the need to continue developing and sustaining this vital ministry, ensuring that all feel valued, supported, and included. We are called to be attentive to the needs around us and to respond with compassion and grace.

As it is written in Galatians 6:2, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."* May we continue to embody this calling in our life together.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

I give thanks to God for His faithfulness and guidance throughout the past year, and for the many ways in which His work has been made visible in the life of the Parish.

My heartfelt thanks to all the Members, Leaders, Organisers, Groups and Events Co-ordinators for their contributions in their various roles and activities.

So, in no particular order of importance, a big thank you to....

Clergy Colleagues, CPLM (Peter Crocombe), Simon Archer (Reader in Training), Churchwardens, PCC, PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary, Deputy wardens, Electoral Roll Officer, Parish Administrator, Churches Together representatives, Deanery synod Representatives, Buildings Maintenance, Church Hall Management, Warm church Team, Let There Be Light Group, Director of Music, Choir, Organists, Sacristan and the Vestry Team, Servers, Sunday School Team, Church Refreshments Team
Pastoral Care Team, Bereavement Group, Prayer Circle, Meeting God in Silence, Meditation Group, Baptism Support team, Befrienders, Welcoming team, Flower Arrangement Team, Readers, Intercessors, Events organisers, Book Sales Organisers, Church Grounds Team, Toddlers, Church cleaners, Wives and friends group,
Film and Food, Friday Night Out and many others who work behind the scenes.

My sincerest apologies if I have forgotten to mention anyone or any of the groups.

I also acknowledge the wider congregation, whose presence, prayers, and generosity continue to strengthen and encourage one another. Together, we form the Body of Christ in this place, united in faith and purpose.

As it is written in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up."* May we continue to support and uplift one another in the year ahead.

Finally, I give thanks for God's continued provision and look forward with hope, trusting in His guidance as we seek to serve Him faithfully in the life of our parish and community.

With prayers and Best wishes

Younis Francis (Rector) April 2026

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