

grace-full thank-full faith-full joy-full hope-full



Annual Reports for 2024

(As prepared for the APCM on 6th April 2025)



Registered Charity Number: 1130172

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Foreword

The week after the Makin Report was released In November 2024, I stood in front of my clergy peers at the Winchester Diocesan Synod offering to be their representative on the Bishop's Council and to chair the house of clergy. It was justice issue that prompted me to offer myself but that evening it felt a foolish thing to do, to have confidence in an institution that seemed to be failing at the basic Christian practices: protecting the vulnerable, upholding justice and loving our neighbour. We don't even seem to be able to love our brothers and sisters in Christ - the church is becoming deeply divided, reflecting the warring world we live in.

But then I remembered that the local church is God's best idea for making his love manifest to the world! In Ephesians, Paul says that the church is God's plan to make his wisdom and glory known. Through followers of Jesus like us, gathered in local churches the extraordinary plan to redeem the world by the riches and generosity of his grace and power, is to be made plain. What an awesome responsibility God gives us and of course helps us to achieve if we are willing to serve him.

I believe passionately in the local church as an agent for good in our world, a place where all can find acceptance and love, care and kindness, healing, grace and forgiveness in the name of Jesus and through the Spirit's power. When I notice this happening at St Johns, as I do regularly, it fills me with such a sense of wonder and praise. So, I hope as you read this report you will see glimpses of God's glory in our life as a local church in 2024. There is so much to be thankful for and to encourage and inspire us to keep going!

It is always an honour to witness others make the commitment to lead the local church through ordained ministry as a deacon and priest, and so it was with very great joy that many of us were there to support Amy as she was ordained in Winchester Cathedral in June and with a wonderful celebration lunch afterwards. 2024 was the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women and special year for Pauline too who was one of the first. Ordination is just one way of living out the call to be a disciple of Jesus – not better than any others, but just different – and so as you read on, I wonder if you might see how you might grow in your discipleship and serve him in our church?



I think the highlight for me was the PCC and Leaders retreat day at Waverley Abbey in November 2024. We had been prompted by Bishop Jill Duff's word about discovering local 'wells', places of ancient spiritual riches and organized a day away there. Our speakers were Tony Horsfall and his wife Jilly (seasoned writer and retreat leaders) who ministered to us with kindness, maturity and real sensitivity.

In the text box below is the 'word' that Tony received as he prayed for us, which I am keen that we engage with as we go forward. It seems to me to be a call to humble ourselves and to ask for God to ignite in us a renewed passion for him.

The words flowed out of the verse of a hymn by Charles Wesley, an invocation of the Holy Spirit:

*O thou who camest from above
The pure, celestial fire to impart
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart*

God wants to kindle a fire in your hearts. The heart is an altar. 'Mean' is simply, lowly, humble - God's fire burns in ordinary people.

First one, then two, then five or six will experience this, then the fire will join together to become a bonfire - the whole congregation will be filled with the love of God.

The bonfire will be bright and will draw people by its warmth and light.

There will be love and joy and peace.

Perhaps you might begin to use the words from Daily Prayer to pray this in:

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen

The report is long, but I encourage you to make yourself your favourite drink and sit down to read and be encouraged at where you see God's glory in our church in 2024.

With my gratitude to God and prayers for you all

Angie

Rev'd Angie Smith, Vicar, April 2025

Churchwarden's Report

We continue to be encouraged with a steady flow of new faces joining St John's, both young and old, and both services have fully recovered numbers after Covid.

Despite a gloomy financial forecast going into the year, we ended with a small surplus – for which we give thanks. Utilities and Staff costs being lower than budgeted have helped with finances this year. We anticipate a full staff complement for 2025 and more stable utility costs with fixed term contracts in place.

Over the last year we have been able to invest in the Church Centre with PV panels (Solar) installed on south facing roof of the Church Centre in August and are working well. This helps to give us energy price security, reduce our carbon footprint and could help to power a replacement heating system for the Church.

The Church Centre is busier than ever, which leads to the inevitable wear and tear. We have replaced the coffee machine in the coffee shop, and the dishwasher in the kitchen. Given the age of the Church Centre, we are seeing the need for an increase in maintenance costs as equipment reaches the end of its life.

Prayer on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 5pm has continued throughout the year and grown in support as we continue to see the Lord moving in the Church.

We have been very blessed that the PCC continues to work well together, and this year we have been able to strengthen the Finance team with the appointment of Linzi Lawrence to the (very) part time position of Church Accountant.

Our thanks to Martin Barnes who has managed and overseen the work on the Organ and for his patience and tenacity in face of endless ongoing delays. Though it can be played and enjoyed again, there remain a few finishing touches before it is fully restored.

Our thanks and very best wishes to Dave Collier who retired from his role as Operations Manager in the summer, and for his ongoing support to the life of the Church.

We now have a Project Manager in place for the church heating project, and are very grateful to James Rankin, as the project will now gather momentum.

Our thanks to all those who serve on regular Sunday rotas, welcoming and making sure our services run smoothly. The many lovely and important activities at St John's, held during the week rely on our amazing volunteers who make a real difference to the local community. There is always a need to for volunteers in all sorts of areas of church life, both visible and behind the scenes. Please prayerfully consider if you could support, even in a small way, one of these many ministries.

Angela Southern, Justin Hooper, Churchwardens

Section 1 - Administration and Financial

Activities of the PCC

The PCC of St John's met 6 times during 2024. The APCM took place on 28th April 2024. Our Christmas social event held in January with a curry supper and review of the year.

The Parish Clergy (licenced to the Benefice):

Rev Angie Smith, Vicar (Clergy Deanery Representative on Diocesan Synod, Chair of House of Clergy from November 2024)

Rev Sam Chandler, Assistant Priest

Rev Helen May Curate (Returning from maternity leave August 2024)

Rev Amy Bianchi, Ordinand (until July 2024), Curate (from July 2024)

Supported by Rev Pauline Moyse who holds the Bishop's PTO

Licenced Lay Ministers (to the Benefice):

Ian Coster

Alison Harris (LLM Representative on PCC until April 2024)

Richard Blore (LLM Representative on PCC from April 2024)

Sarah Groombridge

Churchwardens:

Angela Southern

Justin Hooper (Laity Deanery Representative on Diocesan Synod until June 2024)

Deanery Synod:

Camilla Deane

Trudy Rankin (Treasurer)

Dave Collier (Laity Deanery Representative on Diocesan Synod, Bishops Council from November 2025)

Andrew Moyse

Elected Members:

Matt Pitcher (until April 2024)

Andie Painter (until April 2024)

Jess Arthur (until April 2024)

Jim Dewes

Lesley Churms

Ray Kelly

Helen Harwood

Sarah Lello

Clive Walden

Helen Budd (from May 2023)

Betty Key (from April 2024)

Rhys Minterne (from September 2024)

Hugh Fawcett (from May 2024)

Lisa Walker – PCC Secretary (co-opted from May 2024)

Worshipping Community:

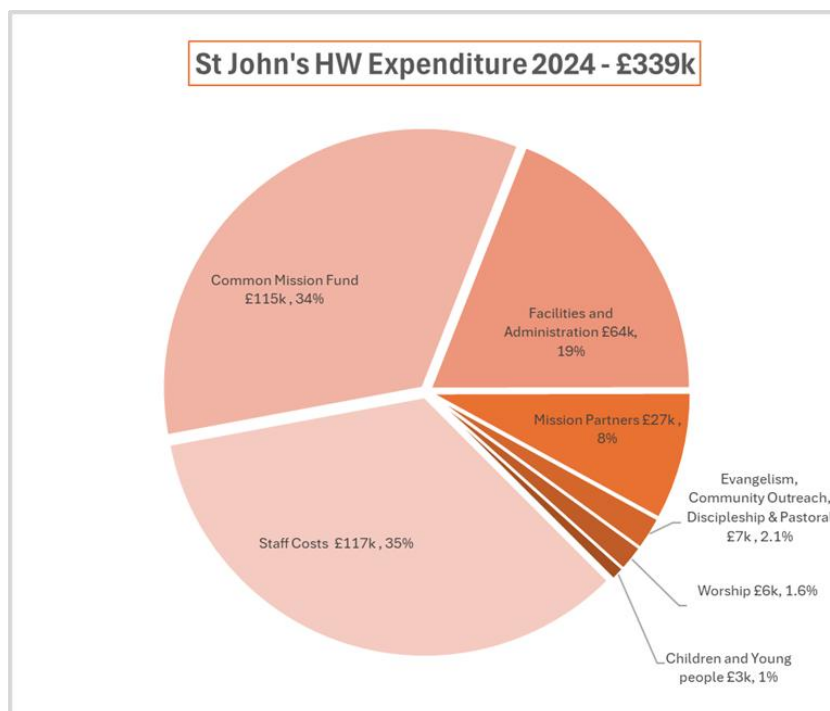
We returned a Worshipping Community figure of 276 (266) to the Church of England's Statistics for Mission Online System in January 24. Of this figure there were 229 (224) adults and 47 (42) children. Usual Sunday attendance is around 150 (155). (figures in brackets are 2023 returns). Further statistics are in Appendix D

Angie Smith

Treasurer's Report

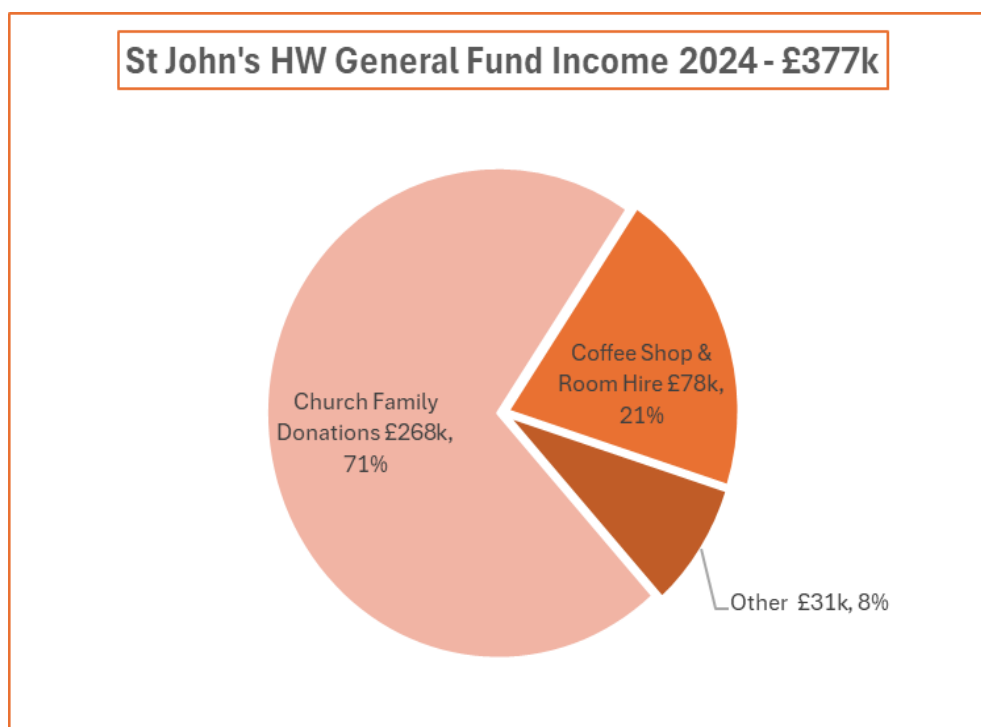
The full accounts for the PCC are included in the separate document called Annual Trustee Report and Financial Statements 2024 and can be found on the website. Paper copies may be requested from the church office if required. Please feel free to ask questions either in person or email Treasurer@StJohnsHW.org.uk

In simple terms, it costs just over £1,000 a day to run St John's. The chart below shows the key costs. The largest costs are employment costs of lay staff, and our contribution to the Winchester Diocesan Common Mission Fund to enable the Diocese to provide and support our clergy and support parishes in less affluent areas of the Diocese.



The continued growth of our ministry and mission is dependent on funding. As shown in the chart below, church family donations provide the majority of our income. In 2024, £268k (71%) of our income came from donations and we are very grateful to all who contributed. 21 % of income was derived from room hire fees and coffee shop sales. The PCC would like to thank Lesley Churms for her tireless work (on a volunteer basis) over many years administrating the hire of rooms in the Church Centre as well as organising the room bookings for internal events and meetings. Our grateful thanks also go to the many volunteers who give generously of their time to serve in the coffee shop which has become such a special part of St John's, offering a warm welcome to all. The coffee shop and room hire are operated under licence by a separate trading company called St John's HW Ltd and 100% of the company's profit is donated to the PCC charity. This provides much appreciated income for the mission of the church.

The remaining 8% of income in 2024 came from other sources such as bank interest, wedding and funeral fees, a legacy of £4k, ticketed events such as the community lunch, the licence fee paid by the trading company and an administration fee paid by Winchfield and Dogmersfield towards the costs of employing a Benefice Administrator.



Overall Financial Results for 2024

I am pleased to report that our finances are in a healthy position. Income in 2024 at £377k was in line with budget but expenditure was £37k below budget at £338k which led to a healthy Net Surplus of £38k, much higher than the budgeted surplus of just £2k. We also ended the year with a healthy bank balance. However, the key reasons for the savings in expenditure were firstly that the Youth Pastor role remained vacant throughout 2024 and secondly the uncertainty re utility bills had led to the 2024 budget being over prudent in respect to this.

Although total income for 2024 was in line with budget, donations were slightly below budget and prior year. This shortfall in donations was mitigated by the receipt of an unexpected legacy of £4k and better than anticipated income from the coffee shop, room hire, bank interest and occasional offices (weddings/funerals) but is a signal that we need to strengthen our regular donation stream.

Budget 2025

An overview of the 2025 budget is included in the table at the end of this report. The PCC are currently projecting a deficit of £22k in 2025 and are confident to do this as it can be covered by the surplus from 2024. The reasons for projecting a deficit are:

- Expenditure will be higher with all staff positions now filled and the addition of a Church Intern.
- At current run rates donations are expected to be slightly lower than previous years
- Other Income is expected to decline this year for the following reasons: interest income is likely to be lower than 2024 with reduced interest rates and a reducing bank balance as we spend reserves on the heating project, fewer weddings are booked for 2025, and 2024 included a legacy which is unlikely to happen in 2025
- In addition, there is a need to replace the heating system in the church over the next couple of years which will require a separate appeal for funding.

How can you help?

Over 70% of our income comes from donations from church family. Please consider making a regular donation via the Parish Giving Scheme and gift aiding this if you are a tax payer. Please ask me for details.

If you are already donating, please consider whether you are able to increase your regular gift.

The legacy kindly donated in 2024 is helping us to employ an Intern in 2025 giving a young person an opportunity to explore their vocation. Could you consider leaving a legacy in your will?

Finance Team

Many thanks to Linzi Lawrence who has been employed as Church Accountant since May for 4 hours a week, very efficiently and effectively keeping on top of the many receipts and payment transactions each week, we are very blessed to have her in this role. Many thanks also to all who work together to look after the finances at St Johns including Sarah Lello, Justin Hooper, Christine Andrews, Sally Hall, Dave Collier and Lisa Walker.

Finally - for those who prefer to see data in a table, here is a summary of General Fund Income and Expenditure 2024 compared to budget and prior year. Giving to restricted funds are not included but are shown in note 10 on the last page of the full financial statements.

General Fund Income and Expenditure 2024

	General Fund 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	General Fund 2023 £	Budget 2025 £
Income				
Donations	268,283	277,044	271,348	264,937
Trading Co donation*	77,452	75,541	74,885	81,192
Other Income	31,652	24,600	24,505	17,600
Total Income	377,388	377,185	370,738	363,728
Expenditure				
Exp excluding depn	(337,762)	(373,835)	(339,107)	(381,186)
Depreciation	1,554	(1,554)	(950)	(4,955)
Net Surplus/(loss)	38,072	1,796	30,355	(22,412)

*St Johns HW Ltd operates as a separate trading company. It donates all of its profit from the coffee shop sales and church centre room hire to the PCC.

More detail about our 2024 finances is included in the Trustees' report in Appendix B.

Trudy Rankin, Treasurer

Church Centre Buildings and Grounds

The church is not defined by its buildings, but by the people who gather in the name of Christ. We are called to come together, to worship and to serve, and this requires a common place for the body of Christ to meet. Therefore, this part of the annual report highlights some of the practical achievements and challenges of 2024. Other parts of the annual report will cover specific activities and events, church bookings and the coffee shop.

Usage of the church centre and facilities has continued to increase in 2024. It is estimated that around 45,000 separate visits were made to the centre in 2024 (excluding church services) – an increase of around 3000 over the previous year.

Maintaining the church buildings is not an end in itself. The buildings and grounds can be looked at as tools that are used to further the overall mission of the church in Hartley Wintney. However, as with every year, the building and facilities are now one year older, and with increased age and usage comes increased running and maintenance costs. Throughout 2024 there has been a continued tight focus on the balance between keeping costs in check, and also maintaining the premises in good condition for future years and generations. As can be seen in more detail in the finance reports, in 2024 our combined operations and maintenance spending (excluding utilities) was around £40,100 against a budget of £44,800. Our utilities spend of £17,500 was considerably lower than budget of £32,300, primarily due to locking in lower prices than expected and a one-off backdated solar credit of almost £4,000. Whilst these figures are encouraging, there will be both expected and unexpected operations and maintenance expenses going forward. In order to prevent unnecessary expenditure, it is essential that everybody treats the buildings and contents with care and respect, to avoid unnecessary wastage, breakages and costs.



One of the biggest and most visible projects of the year was the installation of 50 additional solar panels with a generation capacity of 15 kWh on the centre roof, at a cost of £21,100. The panels went live on 8th August 2024. Between installation and year end, the panels then generated 3,700 kWh, along with an additional

3,165 kWh from our existing older 20 panels throughout the whole year. Based on these figures, it is expected that the centre will be nett powered entirely by solar energy for the majority of April through September going forward.

The day-to-day organisation and management of the buildings falls on the Operations Manager. In August 2024, Dave Collier, the current operations manager, took early retirement for family reasons, and was replaced by Robin Spicer. Sadly, Robin then resigned on medical grounds and by year end the post had not yet been filled.

Finally, as always, this report would not be complete without expressing our gratitude and appreciation to the many people who, silently, loyally and often invisibly, carry out various practical (and, in some cases, unglamorous and unpleasant) works of service around the church, centre and gardens. Without this assistance, the church and centre would cease to be presentable and well maintained, services and other activities could not happen and, most importantly, the church's outreach to Hartley Wintney would be hindered. It would not be right to mention specific individuals, so instead a warm and genuine thank you to you all.

Dave Collier and Robin Spicer, Operations Managers



Health and Safety

During 2024 there were 11 accidents recorded, all of them of a minor nature. Seven involved children and babies, the others relate to minor accidents in the kitchen, or visitors being unwell.

Leaders of all groups are deemed to be Responsible Persons under H&S legislation, so should be aware of the PCCs H&S policy and the need for risk assessments. They should never hesitate to call the Fire Brigade when a fire is discovered and quote our post code RG27 8ED.

Andrew Moyse, Health & Safety Officer

Bookings

Our regular bookings continued throughout the year to almost complete capacity on most days – as could be seen by the full car park.

A large proportion of the room bookings were not charged as they were church based groups or activities reaching out into the community.

Our weekly hall bookings continued with Bumps and Babies starting the week on Monday mornings and Forget Me Not Café every Tuesday afternoon. The monthly Community Lunch was held on each first Wednesday of the month, Naomi's Footsteps on the second Wednesday afternoon and the cookery course, Come & Cook, on third Wednesday afternoons. All were very popular!

The children and youth groups met in various rooms around the centre on Sunday mornings and on some evenings during the week. The church and halls were used for a very successful Children's Summer Holiday Club for the last week of August along with several popular Family Fun afternoons during the year.

A daytime Alpha course ran in the spring term up to Easter and an evening Alpha course in the autumn. Daytime and evening Kintsugi Hope courses ran from January to March. The Well reached out to the community on Monday mornings. Two daytime and one evening life groups met regularly in the smaller rooms upstairs. Other upstairs rooms were used for church and PCC meetings on an ad hoc basis. The amazing Contact magazines were sorted once a month at the back of church before distribution to volunteers for delivery over the whole of Hartley Wintney.

The October Women's Breakfast was very well attended as was the ever popular Create for Christmas in November.

During the past year, other visiting churches enjoyed the use of the Youth Room and Prayer Room on Saturdays for their Alpha Away Days or PCC Away Day meetings. These events used our very well-equipped modern kitchen, often with 2 groups sharing the space with ease and good humour.

The Coffee Shop made good use of the foyer and the coffee shop to supply the local community with drinks, cakes and a warm welcome every morning - with the added bonus of bacon and/or egg rolls on Saturdays. A great outreach along with a steady supply of caffeine.

The halls continued to be hired weekly with 4 adult exercise classes, 3 art group sessions and a music and movement class for babies and toddlers. One u3a group regularly held a French class in the Prayer Room - as the acoustics are so good there. The local Repair Café continued to meet in the halls on Saturdays every 3 months and a local choir started rehearsing once a week in the halls from June.

Due to their own success, the local Explorer Scouts needed extra space and started meeting in St John's one evening a week from September.

Sady for the local WI, the closure of their own building meant they needed another venue and we were glad to be able to offer them space for their monthly meetings from September and for their weekly craft group. We were also very grateful for their generous donation of tables etc and use of their car park for large events. St John's was also able to offer a hall to ballet classes who had previously met at the WI Hut.

The Hartley Wintney Desk Hub started offering shared office space in Meeting Room 2 on weekdays from May.

Various businesses hired upstairs rooms for meetings, workshops and training. The halls were also hired for wakes, afternoon teas, wedding receptions and very many and varied parties. The charges made for these bookings made a considerable contribution to the overall running costs of the church and its mission to Hartley Wintney.

It is wonderful to see the church centre in so much use, although sometimes this means we cannot accommodate all of the requests for hire that we receive – and the car park may be full.

With many thanks to so many volunteers within St John's and also in the local community who worked together to make such a busy schedule of events run smoothly. It is so good to hear from our visitors to St John's of their appreciation for the amazing facilities we offer and word of this is spreading through the local community.

Lesley Churms, Room Bookings Administrator

Odiham Deanery Synod

St John's Hartley Wintney is part of the wider Church of England. Locally, we are part of Odiham Deanery, which consists of 26 separate churches throughout 18 parishes, organised within 6 benefices. At the end of 2024 St John's had 4 elected lay and 4 clergy members on Odiham Deanery Synod.

Odiham Deanery Synod met twice in 2024. Each meeting always includes sharing knowledge, advice and lessons learnt in dealing with the varying challenges of the day in our local situations. In April, at St John's Hartley Wintney, there was an open meeting, with a specific additional focus on the Persecuted Church with Bishop Philip. In November, we met at St John's Hook, with an additional focus on Creation Care with Rev Sam Scott, the Diocesan Environment Officer.

St John's Hartley Wintney is also one of the 234 parishes, with an average combined weekly attendance of 16,344, that together comprise the Diocese of Winchester. In 2024, Bishop Rhiannon King was installed as the new Bishop of Southampton, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese. The primary governing body of the diocese is Diocesan

Synod, although the majority of Synod’s work is strategic, or ‘big picture’. In 2024, Synod met formally three times, along with additional informal meetings of laity and clergy and various operational sub committees (on which St John’s also has representation). At the end of 2024, St John’s had 1 elected lay member and 1 elected clergy member on Diocesan Synod.

Dave Collier – Diocesan and Deanery Synod representative

Communications

This year, we’ve seen great progress in how we communicate and stay connected as a church. Our Instagram and Facebook insights have been really encouraging, showing that the more we post, the more people engage, especially around big events like Holiday Club and Christmas. We’re excited to keep using social media to connect with our community and share what’s happening at St. John’s.

We are also trying and aiming to be more intentional about making our E-News and social media more than just announcements. By sharing photos & encouraging content, using these platforms to disciple and inspire throughout the week. We’re looking forward to seeing how these tools continue to help us grow together as a church family.

INSTAGRAM INSIGHTS 2024					
	Post Reach	Engagement	Follows	Unfollows	profile visits
January	122	14	4	1	40
February	228	17	1	0	34
March	106	12	1	1	48
April	88	12	1	2	19
May	247	18	1	0	38
June	103	2	5	3	15
July	115	17	0	2	15
August	126	66	2	1	68
September	140	38	4	1	41
October	105	8	3	2	28
November	145	36	3	0	42
December	136	47	4	1	47
SUMMARY	1,661	287	29	14	435

FACEBOOK INSIGHTS 2024					
	Post Reach	Engagement	Follows	Unfollows	Page Visits
January	1,339	129	4	0	243
February	1,100	63	1	0	272
March	1,400	44	1	0	394
April	709	5	2	0	149
May	2,400	43	2	2	252
June	987	17	1	1	146
July	3,900	135	2	1	324
August	4,754	343	8	1	617
September	2,800	77	8	1	337
October	2,900	38	5	1	317
November	2,800	113	7	2	287
December	4,300	192	8	1	498
SUMMARY	29,389	1,199	49	10	3,836

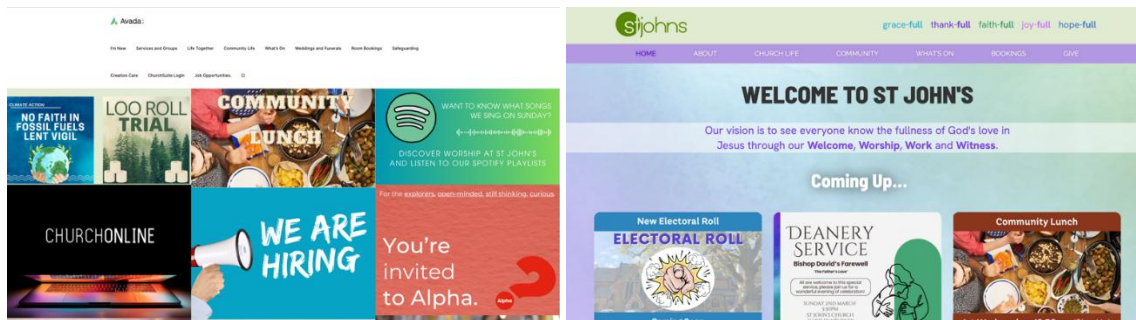
TOTAL FOLLOWERS	
2024	261

TOTAL FOLLOWERS	
2024	945

Website

This year, our website journey had a bit of a rocky start when it went down unexpectedly. While it was inconvenient for those who rely on it, we saw this as a chance to upgrade and revamp our website. Throughout the year, we've been working hard to make the website more user-friendly, ensuring that information is not only accurate but also easy to find. It’s been a project of continual progress, and we’re committed to keeping it fresh and up-to-date.

A huge thank you to James and Giles, who have played massive roles in making this revamp possible. The new site has already made a positive impact, helping our community stay informed and engaged with everything happening at St. John’s.



Administration

The staff team in the church office at St John's continue to provide administrative support to the clergy and staff team and across the benefice including the arrangements for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. They also continue to work closely with Hartley Wintney Parish Council and the local community.

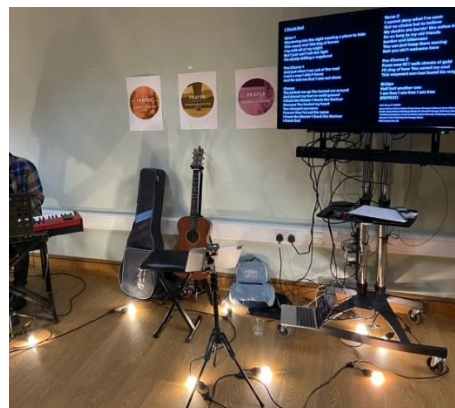
Lisa Walker

Section 2 – Worship and Services

Worship

This year has been a season of growth and renewal for worship at St. John's. Worship has continued to be at the heart of our church life, not only in our Sunday services but also through various ministries and events. It has been a joy to incorporate worship into gatherings such as the Women's Breakfast, Enthuse (our Sunday night youth group), Holiday Club Sunday, and our wide range of Easter and Christmas services. These moments have provided opportunities for people of all ages to connect with God through song, prayer, and community.

One of the most significant milestones for our ministry this year was the complete replacement of our AV system. This long-awaited upgrade included a new sound desk, lyric PC, and other essential components. A huge thank you to James and Ollie, whose expertise and dedication made this project possible. The worship team has thoroughly enjoyed learning to use the new system, which has already enhanced our worship experience. This upgrade not only improves the quality of our services today but also gives us longevity and flexibility to expand the band and further develop our worship ministry in the years to come.



A heartfelt thank you to our incredible worship team and tech volunteers who faithfully serve each week. Your commitment makes all the difference in leading our congregation in worship

Chloe Hale

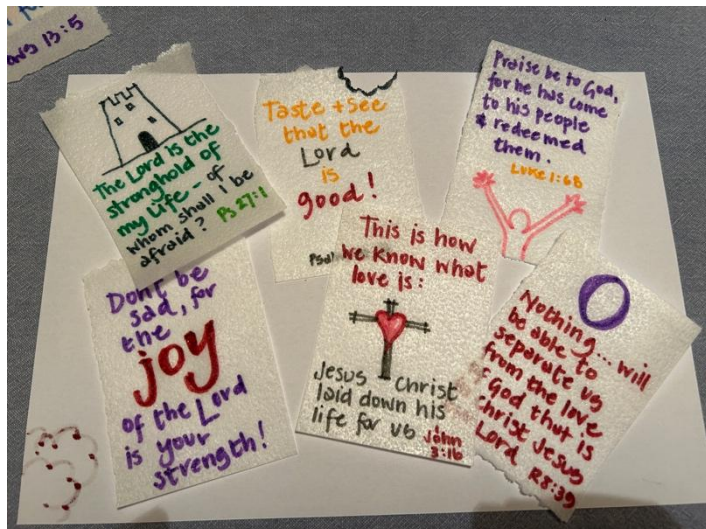
Sunday and Mid-week Services

We have an established weekly pattern of worship with a celebration of Holy Communion at 9 (Sundays) and 11.15 (Wednesdays) and a more contemporary service at 10.45. I am grateful to all the teams who enable these services to run, especially our sacristans, tech and music teams wonderful welcomers, readers and pray-ers.

It has been such a delight as the numbers at midweek on Wednesday grow (up to 20 some weeks now) and a beautiful community has formed, and also the families with young children who listen, worship and pray from the sofa and toys at the back of the 10.45. At half terms and festivals we have all age services at 10.45 and for 6 weeks in the summer we worship Together@10 recognising that many are on holiday and it is sabbath time!

I often thank God for the riches of his word as I pray before I preach and looking back we had a feast in 2024! We started the year delving into Romans from January until Easter, and after looking at the resurrection appearances of the risen Christ, we had 2 mini-series on 'Grace' and 'Proverbs' as we saw in a new government and thought about wisdom. We revisited our values – the 5 'Fulls' -over the summer with stories from the Gospels and preached on discipleship through Ezra-Nehemiah in a series called 'Living Stones' inspired by 1 Peter.

Having used 'journey sticks' as a way of tracking our journey through Holy Week we



finished the year reflecting on the 'joy in the journey' in Advent.

In 2024 we welcomed Sam Scott the Diocesan Environment Officer to preach in June and recognised Safeguarding Sunday in November with special readings and liturgy.

(Left: edible rice paper verses in the All Age on Bible Sunday)

Angie Smith

Organist Report

Services

With the pipe organ undergoing overhaul during the whole year, a digital organ loaned by the organ builders has been the instrument providing organ music this year. It has been used each Sunday for the 9am service, and at the together@10 services. It has also been played for most of the Weddings and funerals at St John's.

Schools and Pre School Groups

At Christmas, Claire Parker (Children and Young Families) had various school, pre-school and nursery groups in the church to tell them the Christmas story. The digital loan organ was used for some little carols and songs for them to sing.

Organ Students

We had no organ students this year but when the pipe organ is complete, I will be promoting this again.

Friday Lunchtime Organ Concerts

Sadly, there were no Friday Morning Organ Concerts whilst we waited for the pipe organ overhaul to be completed. These will resume in 2025.

Carol Extravaganza

As usual we held the Carol Extravaganza on a Saturday before Christmas on the digital loan organ. As it is too much to sing carols continuously for an hour, I announce certain criteria that if it applies to you, you stand and sing that line and if not, you sit. For example, 'sing the first line of verse 2 If you like Brussel sprouts, sing the second line, if you don't like Brussel sprouts, sing the third line, if you like Christmas pudding and sing the last line if you don't like Christmas pudding'. Some criteria are more fun, and some is more in the form of a quiz, linking possible answers to the different verse lines. Also, poor one liner Christmas jokes are told, and in 2024 I had a new elf costume to wear! The church was full and the coffee shop very busy, it seems a very popular event.

Carol Service

As usual we managed to get a good scratch Choir assembled for the Christmas Carol Service. This was kindly conducted and trained by Amanda Pennington for the last time as she is moving to Norfolk. I am extremely grateful for her taking on this role over the past number of years and will miss her next Christmas.

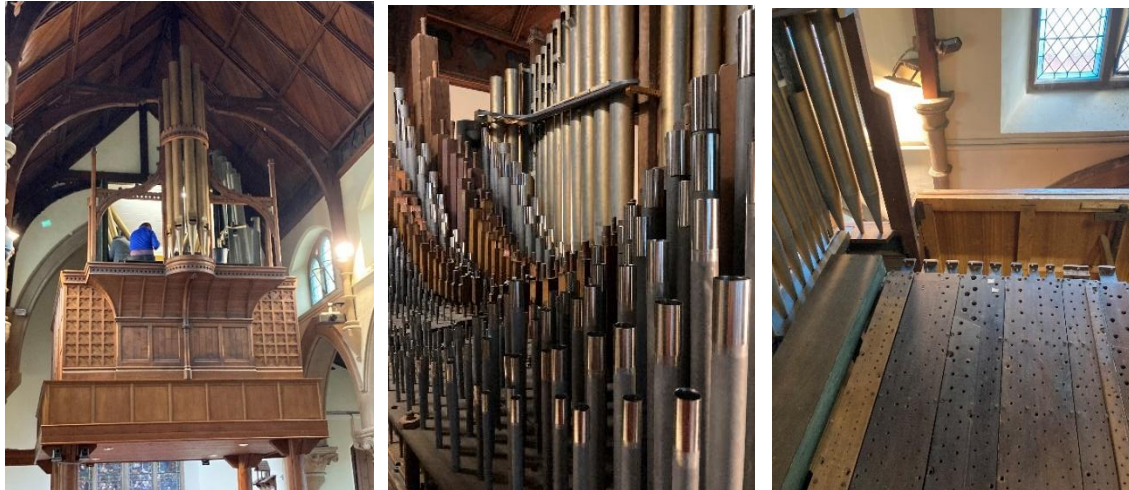
Marriage Preparation Day

We introduced a 'meet the organist' section in the marriage preparation day in 2024. The pipe organ, whilst not finished, was usable for this. I moved the console round, so I had contact with the couples. I talked about choosing hymns, the music for entry and exit, and during the signing of the register. It is hoped that this will encourage a wider choice of hymns and music. It certainly persuaded one couple to change their minds and have organ music.

Organ Overhaul

Sadly, Bishop & Son have been more than slow with the organ overhaul. What was estimated to take two to three months has now taken twenty months, and although the organ is now operational, it is still not complete. The pedal Trombone pipes are not installed and the final tuning and snagging not sorted out.

Although slow, the work appears to be of the highest quality with the brackets to support the new slider solenoids made to the highest quality. There appears to be an attention to detail, and as far as I can ascertain, the problem is just that they have too much work on for the number of staff they employ.



Martin Barnes, Organist

Occasional Offices

Baptisms and Confirmations at St John's

There were 9 baptisms at St John's, out of a total 15 across the benefice. We have begun to prepare families for baptism as a group on a Saturday morning using the story of the lost sheep as our key theme and including input on parenting (delivered by Vince Smith and David Lello), growing faith in families (Sue Cooper and Claire Parker) and the promises and meaning of Baptism (clergy team). It has gone well so far, helping to strengthen some friendships formed through Bumps and Babies.

Funerals

We conduct funeral services in a number of different formats and venues depending on the wishes of the deceased and family. In 2024 we conducted 13 church funeral services with burials afterwards at Old St Mary's graveyard; 1 church service with crematorium committals afterward, 14 Crematorium funeral services and 6 interment of ashes. All out of a total of 38 in the Benefice in 2024.

Marriage Preparation Day

A marriage preparation day was held on Saturday 15th March, 6 couples attended the day with a full programme of sessions including love languages, conflict resolution, money, parenting and Marriage in the sight of God delivered by a team from St John's. The day includes lunch, giving the couples the opportunity to have more informal conversations.

Marriages

During 2024 there were 8 weddings at St John's with a total of 16 weddings across the Benefice.



Section 3 – Prayer

Daily Prayer

'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them'

Matthew 18:20

We continue to meet on Zoom each weekday morning to study God's word using the Church of England's Daily Prayer app. We read the Psalm of the Day followed by the Gospel reading and then after a brief reflection on the passages we pray together for our Church, our community, individuals in need and the world. We usually end by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Morning Prayer is led by a small team, and we are joined each day by a faithful group of individuals with a heart for prayer. We would love for more of our Church family to join us even if it is just once a week. Over the past year, we have prayed for 51 weeks of the year - only taking a break between Christmas and New Year.

We also operate a Morning Prayer Whatsapp group where prayer requests with prior permission can be posted. Confidential requests are shared only amongst those who lead the morning sessions on a separate Whatsapp group and prayed for in the Zoom sessions making sure to keep the identity of the individual private. We strive to adhere to safeguarding good practice when praying for young people and vulnerable adults.

Author - Megan Hill says *'The church is not merely a roster of individuals who pray privately; it is a congregation that ought to pray together.'*

Spending time in prayer is probably the most important thing we can do as Christians. Whilst most of us will regularly pray privately or with our families it is also important for us to gather as the Body of Christ because a praying church is a powerful church. In our morning group, we have seen real answers to prayer - we know prayer makes a difference. Come and join us.

Sam Chandler

Prayer Meeting



Prayer threads its way through our Life Groups and weekly services. The Wardens hosted 5pm prayer on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays which had a small but faithful attendance and was encouraged by seeing prayers answered! Prayer ministry is offered and accepted in both Sunday services every week, with words of knowledge at the 10.45 often responded to and healing and help found.

Angie hosted a “Lament for Gaza” installation on Remembrance Sunday – an experiment in praying totally immersed in the images of war and sound of the psalms.

Section 4 – Pastoral

Pastoral Care and Discipleship

As I reflect on 2024, I am grateful to all those on our Pastoral Care Teams and many other individuals from our church family, who have, throughout the year, faithfully and tirelessly, reached out and cared for those in need. With your support, we offered meals to those recovering from surgery and those who were ill, we tidied gardens, offered friendship, delivered enews to those without internet access and gave lifts to those wanting to come to church services. Each of these acts of kindness takes time and thought from those offering it, but it can be an invaluable blessing to those on the receiving end.

In November I had the joy of inviting members of the Pastoral Care Teams to come together for a team lunch. Many thanks for Millie for preparing a lovely meal for us. It was a great opportunity to spend time with one another and share our experiences of pastoral care.

Kintsugi Hope

2024 saw our Kintsugi Hope ministry continue to grow with another 2 courses running at St John's from January to April, as well, as another short course running at The Hope Hub in Camberley through April and May. Once again, I am grateful to Helen Timpany, Carolyn Marshall and Ray Kelly for leading the courses at St John's, bringing their own gifts and stories to help support the participants as they worked together to grow positive mental and emotional wellbeing. Many thanks to Carol Service for stepping out of the boat to take Kintsugi Hope into The Hope Hub, alongside Helen Robinshaw. It was encouraging to see the diversity of what the course has to offer to those facing the challenges of homelessness.

Throughout the year, every Monday morning in term time, we continued to run The Well community wellbeing drop in space. It was lovely to see this ministry grow. We now have a core group of people who attend most weeks, as well as others who pop in every now and again. Guests value the opportunity to chat and connect with one another, as well as colouring, knitting, painting stones or just browsing the books and leaflets. I am grateful to Mandy McGinnes for willingly stepping on board to help run The Well from May onwards, bringing her warmth and caring character, as well as her skills as an experienced counsellor. In the Autumn Amy Bianchi and Rhys Minterne also joined the team and it has been really good to see them coming alongside others, listening and welcoming with their friendliness.

Back in November 2023 we had celebrated 10 years of the church centre and asked those gathered for their prayerful ideas of how they would like to see our Pastoral Care grow in the next 10 years. Many people shared that they would like us to help those who are lonely. In response to this, with the help of Chloe Hale, I made a short series of films exploring different aspects of loneliness and sharing the ways we can tackle this problem, both as a church community and as individuals. These films were shown during the church services throughout Lent and can now be found on the church website. Many thanks to Chloe for helping produce these films, as well as the individuals who bravely shared their stories with us.

Come and Cook

Come and Cook went from strength to strength in 2024. These monthly cooking lessons, where people learn how to cook healthy, budget friendly meals, having started in October 2023, continued through the winter, with the first series coming to an end in March. We had such positive feedback from those who attended, saying they enjoyed the camaraderie as well as learning new ideas and tips for their cooking. In October 2024 we launched the 2nd edition of the course, with more people signing up. As the course evolves, we have been able to offer a more hands on approach, so everyone gets to practise chopping, dicing and mixing. Millie Deane and Jane Cook have both been fundamental in developing this course, sharing their cooking expertise and knowledge, alongside offering a warm and friendly welcome.

Dying Matters

In July we hosted Dying Matters; an event where people come and talk in small groups about the subject of death and dying, over a cup of tea. This was the 2nd year we have run this event and while less people attended, those who came found it helpful and some valuable conversations were had. We will continue to explore how to offer this event in different ways going forward. Thank you to the team who helped with the refreshments, welcome and small groups.

Christmas in the Dark

On 7th December we held Christmas in the Dark, for those who have lost loved ones or suffered bereavement. As with previous years, the service was well attended and gave people a chance to reflect on God's light and comfort in those places of darkness. Thank you to all who lead and supported the service so sensitively.

If you would like to know more about how you can help with pastoral care at St John's, please get in touch with me.

Sylvia Evans-Pritchard, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Bumps and Babies

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others."

2 Corinthians 1:4

In 2024 Bumps and Babies had another successful year, opening for 46 weeks of the year for the first time since 2019. We welcomed more than 5,300 visitors and met 148 new families and we welcomed several new helpers too. In February, Shirley Charlton and Sonia Bartlett joined the team, followed by Caro Baylis in June and Lynn Sellick in November. It has been a pleasure to welcome them to the team and having a good number of helpers means that we can meet the needs of all our visitors much more effectively.

One of the most pleasurable moments of the year was seeing our youngest helper Vicky Harris become Mrs Tyler on June 13th. It was a beautiful day, and she looked radiant, we wish her and Ronnie every happiness for a long and healthy marriage.

Sadly in 2024 we lost Janet Upward who was one of the founder members of Bumps & Babies. Since COVID and lockdown Janet had not been able to join us, but we have very fond memories of her wonderful knitting and craft skills, and the amazing geraniums that she grew.

I would like to finish with a huge thank you to the whole team, whose enthusiasm and dedication make Bumps what it is. It is such a pleasure to start our week with this wonderful service to the Lord.

Sue Cooper

Forget-me-not-Café

Attendees who come from far and wide and the Care Group's volunteers, continue to recognise what an important role St John's plays in Forget-Me Not Cafe's continued success. The provision of the facilities free of charge will always be important, but what is also key is the Carol Service before the Christmas Lunch and the St John's volunteers who assist with the lunch itself, such an important part of the year's activity.

September 2024 saw Forget-Me-Not Cafe's 10th anniversary and in due course there will be a pdf on the Care Group's website plotting important milestones along the way, coupled with some personal memories, which demonstrate how important this continues to be for carers and their families.

Chris Cornwell, HW Care Group

Naomi's Footsteps

Naomi's Footsteps, an outreach group for ladies who live on their own, continues to flourish and meets once a month with a few new ladies regularly joining us.

We have enjoyed some interesting speakers including David Stiles on Decadent Fishing with a Sheik, Sheila Rost on Fashion in the 1950s, Michael Edgar on Bionic Man, Clive Walden, our local stationmaster, Dave Collier on musical theatre, Sammy Egerton Kemp on being deaf, Pauline Moyse, and so it goes on. Dave Collier also drove 13 of us to Chichester to see the musical 'Come from Away', and Martin Barnes treated us to one of his humorous organ recitals featuring happenings when playing at certain weddings.

We are always on the lookout for new speakers so if anyone could come forward, we would be delighted.

Pippa le Roux

Section 5 – Discipleship

Life Groups

Throughout 2024 there have been 13 life groups running as part of the St John's community, where people have met regularly to read the bible, grow in discipleship and share life together. Lead by very committed and gifted leaders they are a valuable source of encouragement, support and prayer. This year the groups have studied many different subjects and books of the Bible, including the Romans Course produced by the Bible society and 24/7 Prayer's Lectio course.

In May, Sylvia Evans-Pritchard took over the role of life group coordinator temporarily while Amy Bianchi was on study leave. Ali Harris then took on the role from September onwards. There have been two life group leaders' meetings this year in January and May. Our January evening was led by Mark Bramah with a focus on safeguarding, which provided hugely valuable insights into this vital area. We also had a day away at Waverley Abbey which gave time and space for leaders to reflect on their own spiritual health and relationship with God. Life groups this year have also worked together by signing up to support and run various outreach events over Christmas, and been involved helping to host Alpha and other events when people have been welcomed into St Johns.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in life groups this year, particularly the leaders who have served their groups so lovingly and faithfully, and to Sylvia and Ali who have worked alongside the leaders too. Your generosity with your time and commitment is really appreciated.

Amy Bianchi, Life Group Coordinator

Men's Breakfast

Focused on study materials developed for men, in 2024 we studied "Resilient: Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times" by John Eldridge. This focused on how to find joy and strength in God, and offered tools and wisdom from scripture and Christian tradition to navigate life's challenges and emerge stronger.



Over the year we have attracted an additional 4 men to the group who attend consistently, and as a result we host on average 11 men at our monthly breakfast meetings.

This cohort has been called upon to help as part of our practical community outreach, and in 2024 we embarked on some gardening!

Vince Smith & David Lello

Section 6 – Children and Young People

Youth Work

We are so blessed to have such fantastic young people as part of our community here at St John's. Our youth work this year has been coordinated by Angie and I and run by a group of very wonderful and dedicated volunteers while we've been seeking to appoint a new youth pastor. We are so thankful for all those who have supported and journeyed alongside our young people this year. We'd also like to say particular thanks to Becky Gardner and Nikita House who have recently stepped back from leading in our youth ministry. They have given so much time over the years to support and serve the young people here at St John's and we are very grateful to them for all they've given to this community.

Enthuse

Enthuse is our group for young people in school years 9-13 and runs every Sunday evening in the Church centre. This year we've had a pattern of prayer and worship, bible study and shared meals together. There's been time to discuss questions of faith, build community together and learn some cooking skills too! We've looked at topics such as Justice, and discussed the character of God. In May the young people also did a sponsored sleep over in the Church and raised £540 for Opens Doors and the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund.

DisCo

Disco is for young people in school years 6-8, running during the 10.45 service on a Sunday morning. This group of young people meet for games, snacks and discussion. This year they've looked at The Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' Parables as well as looking practically at what following Jesus looks like in their every day lives.

Amy Bianchi

Satellites

Last year, we attended Satellites for the third time, which took place at the Bath and West Showground in early August, just like the previous year. Around 16 to 17 youth came, accompanied by 3 leaders. The weather was sunny, though not particularly warm, and it was much drier than the previous year, although the nights were quite chilly. A key aspect of Satellites is the opportunity for the youth to spend time together, along with the various activities and seminars held throughout the day. The worship during the main meeting is truly amazing, creating a real sense of the Holy Spirit among the young Christians present.



A memorable moment for many of us this year was the chance to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, followed by a Q&A session with him.

Rhys Minterne,
Intern

Children & Families

Kids Church

Our Kids Church groups, Blaze and Sparks have continued to enjoy meeting together on Sunday mornings.

Our under-fives group, Sparks, love exploring Bible stories through play. We spent the Spring term learning about the life of Jesus and in the summer we explored the story of creation. In the Autumn term we met some of the main people from the Old Testament.

Blaze, our primary school aged group have had a great year. We have started to include elements of Godly Play into our sessions. This is a way of exploring Bible stories through play, asking wondering questions and then allowing the children to respond to the story in their own way whether that is through reading the story, playing the story, creating through art and craft or some other unique way. A particular highlight was our summer term where we learnt the names of all the books of the Bible whilst doing a whistlestop tour of the big story of the Bible. The children also particularly enjoyed rebuilding Jerusalem with Nehemiah in the Autumn.

In November all the children learned to 'Raise their Roar' and speak up for themselves and other people as part of Safeguarding Sunday.

Thank you to all the children's teams for your hard work and dedication. We always need more people to help so if you would like to join the team and help the children of our church grow in their faith please do come and talk to Claire, we'd love to have you on board.



Family Fun Days

We have continued to hold events every term using crafts and activities to help families explore faith together. These are extremely popular events attracting between 60-70 people each time. A particular highlight was our Harvest Family Fun event with tractors and making bread over a campfire.



We also held a light party as alternative to Halloween, a pancake party and a Christmas advent event.

As well as all the events held at St John's we have also been out and about engaging with children and families in the community. The Children's trail at the Christmas market proved once again to be popular despite the rain and this year we brought Leo the Lego man to the Village Festival and encourage people to create Lego masterpieces whilst thinking about God our creator.



Holiday Club

In August our popular holiday returned. Over 60 children explored our emotions learning that God loves us Inside and Out. Lots of fun was had through Bible stories, crafts, games and this year we introduced a prayer space giving the children the opportunity to reflect. A big thank you to the magnificent team of volunteers who worked incredibly hard giving their time and talents to engage the children.



Schools Work

We have had a good year of engagement with the local schools. At Easter we once again ran an 'Easter Experience'. This was an interactive journey around several reflection stations following the events of Holy Week. We set up the experience in both All Saints Church, Dogmersfield and St John's and had several hundred children visit over the week. A big thank you to the team that helped to set up and run this experience for the children.

We were also able to go into the schools for assemblies and lessons on Christmas and Easter.

As always it is wonderful to welcome the Greenoaks Federation schools, Oakwood and Greenfields, to the church for their Christmas Carol Concerts. The children sang beautifully and both services were packed with parents and grandparents enjoying the occasion.

We have also worked with the preschools in the village inviting them for Christmas celebrations and to explore the church. Caterpillars preschool also came into learn about the food bank and helped us with sorting donations.

A small team continue to lead collective worship at Dogmersfield Primary School every week. Each term has a particular theme which we explore using relevant Bible stories and think about how it applies to our lives.

Claire Parker

School Uniform

Over the course of two weeks (one during Holiday club), we distributed new and pre-loved school uniforms, coats, and other essentials, supporting over 80 families in our community. This initiative was a great way to support, ease the financial burden and bridge the gap for local families. It was great to see the amazing impact this had on those that came.



Chloe Hale

Governors

Angie Smith and St John's church members, Sue Cooper, Philip Baylis and Lauren Weeks continue to be Foundation Governors at Dogmersfield C of E Primary School, because of our benefice connections. In February 2024 the school received a SIAMS inspection and the encouraging report recognised the work of the staff of the school in providing a good Christian foundation for the pupils saying 'The values of love, courage, and respect are an embedded expression of the Christian vision. These are skilfully woven through the curriculum so that pupils recognise how they influence their lives.' We are very proud to be governors of this wonderful school!

Angie Smith

Section 7 – Mission & Evangelism

Mission Partners Local and Overseas

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

St John’s HW provides regular support, through prayer, friendship and finance, to a number of local and overseas mission partners. Our overseas mission partners for a number of years have been the Anglican Diocese of Sittwe in Myanmar, the Diocese of Bunyoro Kitara in Uganda, and the Peart Family working with the Anglican church and community in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, through the Church Missionary Society (CMS). Locally we support The Hope Hub, a charity working with the homeless and vulnerable in



Camberley, Junction 5, a money advice charity in Hook, and Nazareth Way, working to support women in Send Prison, including preparation for leaving prison. We also have an allowance available for overseas emergency aid or local support at the vicar’s discretion and for encouraging young people to undertake mission.

The mission partners for 2023 to 2024 were selected during the 3 year mission review which took place at the end of 2021. In 2024 the funds were allocated as follows:

	2024
Uganda, Bunyoro-Kitara Diocese	£2,000
Myanmar, Sittwe Diocese	£6,666
CMS – Peart family in Bolivia	£6,666
The Hope Hub	£4,667
Nazareth Way (Send Prison)	£3,000
Junction 5	£1,000
Vicar's Discretion/ Emergency funding	£1,000
Youth and children matched funding	£500
As budgeted in the 3 year plan	£25,500

Additional Vicar's
discretionary/Emergency funding to
bring to 10% of prior year voluntary
donations £1,635

The situation in Myanmar is very difficult. Due to UK sanctions imposed because of the Military Government it was not possible to transfer funds to Sittwe Diocese in 2024 so the budgeted donation for Myanmar has been given to Tearfund, a Christian charity working through local partners in Myanmar, to provide urgently needed emergency relief for displaced people.

The Peart family visited from Bolivia in the summer of 2024 which provided a number of opportunities to catch up with their work with CMS in Bolivia. They spoke in church services and also organised a fun inter-active Bolivia evening for those interested to hear more about their work.

During the year, the young people in the St John's Enthuse youth group organised a fund-raising sleepover in the church with funds raised from sponsorship being matched from the Mission budget. As a result, a total £778 was donated to Open Doors and £555 to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, charities selected by Enthuse.

The next 3 year mission partner review is now due and volunteers are sought to assist with that review and to make recommendations to the PCC with regard to mission partners and allocations for 2025-2027.

Trudy Rankin

Section 8 - Local Outreach

While we support external mission partner organisations, our local day to day activities at St John's HW provide the key opportunities for St John's to engage in mission. Our vision at St John's is to reach out to our community to see everyone know the **fullness** of God's love in Jesus through our welcome, worship, work and witness.

Throughout the week the Church Centre is bustling with activity with helpful courses such as Alpha and Kintsugi Hope, Community events such as the monthly Community Lunch, the weekly Bumps and Babies group and weekly well-being drop-in spaces (The Well for adults, and the Youth Cafe for teenagers), and occasional community events such as Create for Christmas. In addition, underpinning all of this activity, our vibrant coffee shop is open 6 mornings a week, plus for a short time following the 10.45am Sunday service, offering great coffee, home-made cakes and a warm welcome to all. Through all this activity, the staff and army of volunteers from St John's aim to share God's love in our community.



The Hartley Wintney Summer Festival and the Christmas market offer annual opportunities for outreach. In 2024, in addition to having the church centre and coffee shop open at the summer festival, we ran an activity under a gazebo on the common asking the provocative question 'If

you were God what would you create?', with a Lego competition for children. While the children made Lego creations, there were opportunities to have conversations with their parents and carers. The stall at the summer festival was undertaken in association with other churches from the village under a Christians Together in Hartley Wintney banner.

Trudy Rankin

Alpha

Alpha is a ten week course which provides an opportunity to explore and question the meaning of life and the Christian faith. Many people at St John's and around the world have come to faith, or gone deeper in their faith, through Alpha. Each session starts with a meal together, followed by a film and discussion in small groups.

In 2024 we ran Alpha in the church Centre on Thursday evenings, from late September to December. Each evening started with a home-cooked 2 course meal prepared and served by one of the St John's Life Groups. With 10 guests and 4 leaders it made a perfect "life group" size group for discussions and we saw the Holy Spirit move and lives changed. The group have continued meeting together on Thursday evenings, forming a new life group, now being led by Godlisten and Charlotte Pallangyo.

Many thanks to all those who so generously and willingly gave of their time and energy to enable these courses to take place. Particular thanks to Noel Armstrong, Helen Harwood, Richard Blore, Hugh Fawcett and Noel Armstrong who joined me in leading the courses but also we are very grateful for the generosity and love demonstrated by the Life Groups who provided and served the meals. The opportunity to get to know each other during a meal together each week is a major feature of the Alpha course so thank you to all who contributed in any way. Many thanks also go to the group who faithfully provided prayer support for these Alpha courses. It is wonderful that the whole body of the church works together to make Alpha possible.

Attending Alpha has made a big difference to the lives of many and we want to see this continue. Our next course is likely to begin at the end of Sept 2025. Please invite your friends and neighbours and, if you have never attended Alpha yourself, come and try it. It is a fantastic opportunity to review the basics of your faith and to deepen friendships with others within the church. Also, if you are interested in getting involved in leading a future course please let me know.

Trudy Rankin

Creation Care

'Therefore, the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.'

Hosea 4:3

Our news is dominated by worldwide disasters and the impacts of our lack of care for the climate. Extreme weather like the flooding in August which damaged the local businesses on the High Street bring it closer to home. We are even more committed at St John's to do what we can to 'tend and care' for God's beautiful creation.

As we work towards the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award we have done the following:

- Chloe has been including a 'Creation Care Idea' in most newsletters
- We ran a trial of different recycled toilet papers with a survey for users. The winner of the survey rather wonderfully happened to be the Ethical Consumer Best Buy in terms of its ethical criteria!
- Representatives from St John's, including Angie and Sam Chandler, participated in the 24 hour vigil outside Parliament during Lent, praying and calling for our country to protect God's creation
- Supported the Climate and Nature Bill in the run-up to the General Election, adding our logo to the website to show moral and religious support for science- and justice-based legislation on climate and nature.
- We met with our new MP Alex Brewer, and thanked her for supporting the Climate and Nature Bill and asked her to support the Stop Rosebank campaign to end new oil licences in the North Sea.



We have exciting plans for 2025 and are looking forward to working with you all to make St John's a beacon of creation care.

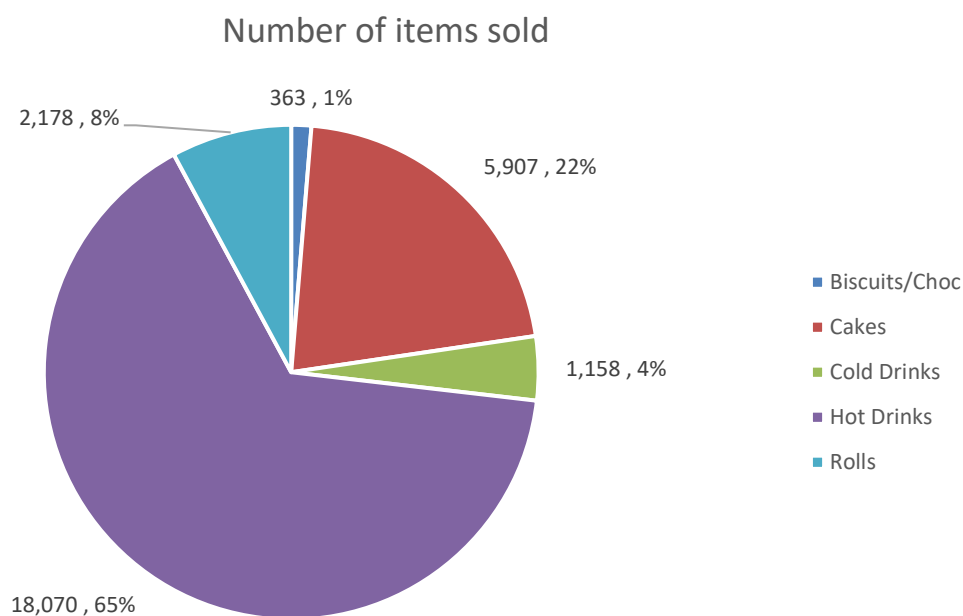
St John's Creation Care Group:
Sam Chandler, Ruth Jarman, Lucinda Pitcher, Alison Tebbs

Coffee Shop






This has been an excellent year for St Johns Church Coffee shop! We have had the joy of serving more customers, our regulars keep coming and our reputation is ever stronger as a place where you can be sure to receive a warm welcome, a good cup of coffee and excellent cakes. If you are a group of walkers, runners, cyclists, dancers or Pilates enthusiasts then you can find a large table and space to enjoy the companionship of friends.

These are all observations but below you can see some interesting figures to support this view

- In 2024, the coffee shop sold just over £58,000 worth of food and drink. This was £9,500 more than the previous year.
- In April 2024 we successfully adopted a new till system. This has been welcomed by the team, who say it has made taking and charging for orders so much simpler. It has also made a huge difference to the Saturday bacon roll operation, allowing us to get rid of using paper and saved us from running back and forth between the coffee shop and the kitchen with order details.
- Added to that, the new till app also gives us data about what we have sold, so now we have a better understanding of what we are selling and when. So here are some fun facts for you:
- In the last 11 months* we sold 18,070 hot drinks, 5,900 slices of cake and nearly 2,200 bacon rolls.



- Our top bestselling items accounted for 59% of total sales. Can you guess what the top items were...?!

Top 5 items	Net sales
 Latte	£9,834.20
 Cappuccino	£8,450.60
 Breakfast Roll	£7,530.50
 Americano	£7,282.20
 Flat White	£3,262.40

So how does this all happen? I thought I would share a snapshot of life behind the scenes. At our core we are an outreach for St Johns Church and an outreach for all who work alongside us. So many of our customers comment how amazed they are that we are all volunteers giving of our time and skills, making everyone feel so welcome with our open hearts.

- Management team of 5 people who oversee the day to day running of the coffee shop, product supply, cakes supply, rotas x 3, training and communications and systems. Glenn represents the coffee shop on CCOT. We are grateful for the support and help we receive from Angie, Justin and Sarah Lello to help us align with the needs of the Church.
- Each shift has a team leader and we find ourselves needing 4 on a regular weekday shift to cope with the high level of demand and 6 on a Friday and Saturday. Saturday is bacon roll day. Our bacon rolls produced by Gary and his team of Bacon Bashers are incredibly popular, a busy day can see 70 rolls coming out of the kitchen. Church family can enjoy a cup of coffee after the 10.45 service currently there are four teams covering this rota many of whom already serve on other rotas. We would welcome further offers of help!
- We have a volunteer team of just short of 40 people plus Gary's team of 9 in the kitchen. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme continues to provide us with a number of young volunteers particularly on Saturdays. We are so grateful for their help on these busy mornings.
- Every week volunteer bakers deliver our cakes, approx. 10 regular offerings plus specials. We have three volunteer bakers generously baking for us with busy working lives precluding them from working in the coffeeshop.
- We are proud of the steps we have taken to modernize our operation.

- Implementation of our point-of-sale system which provides us with data on our sales, has done away with our pieces of paper and inclusion of an integral cash till.
- Installation of a new Coffee Machine to replace our 10-year-old unreliable model
- A new cake display unit which not only looks more professional and shows our cakes off to great effect but also gives us back more space for serving and chatting to our customers.
- New dishwasher in the kitchen.

Helen Timpany

Kitchen Report

In January, Feb and March we ran Come and Cook sessions with approx. 8 people attending each session, these are run to help people in the village/ area on a tight budget or no /little cooking ability. We teach people to cook meals from scratch, meals that are balanced, healthy and nutritious to help with budgets, with full costings.

In March, Millie Deane completed and passed Hygiene Level 3 and Allergen training Courses



The monthly Community Lunches continue to be successful, with 60 to 70 people attending regularly. This is a good outreach opportunity.

Summer Club ran in August with lunches provided for approx. 60 children per day. During August we served almost 500 meals out of the kitchen in less than 3 weeks!

Catering has continued with lots of events including some of the following; Pancakes were made in February for approx. 70 people, which was a good outreach

occasion. The APCM sandwich lunch, Enthuse youth cooking for themselves once a month, Over 55 Forum lunch and the Forget Me Not Christmas Meal was cooked by the kitchen team making money for St Johns - rather than outside Caterers.

In October we started a second batch of monthly Come and Cook sessions x 5. We have had approx. 12 people to the sessions, it been a good mix of ages, gender and abilities, this group have become a good team. We have made the course much more interactive, with knife skills being an area to concentrate on, I think we are learning as we go and this course has improved a great deal.

We had a vigorous Hygiene Audit by Hart Council on the 3rd October. St Johns maintained a top, 5 rating, with Allergens being an area to concentrate on. Thank you all who helped with the difficult session.

In autumn the Disher washer was coming to the end of its 10-year life. The PCC agreed to upgrade the machine, to suit the usage it now requires. On 15th October we fitted a new Hobart Dishwasher, with approx. 10 training sessions and a flow chart to help users.

In Oct we have purchased 10 more licensed for Level 2 Hygiene and are training Kitchen and Coffee Shop volunteers on an ongoing basis, as required

Please may I take this opportunity to thank all the people who help in the kitchen, it's a great team to be part of. Blessings to all.



Millie Deane

Hart Foodbank

Donations from Hartley Wintney to the Hart Foodbank totalled just over four tonnes in 2024, a drop of more than 30% compared to the previous year. Having previously been the second largest contributors (behind Morrisons), we've now been overtaken by Waitrose.

The level of our giving to the foodbank has fallen steadily since the peak of 6¼ tonnes in 2022. Sadly, over those same three years, the demand for foodbank support has continued to grow as more people encounter financial hardship and genuine need, often resulting from illness, job loss or relationship breakdown.

Our thanks go to everyone who supports the foodbank by making regular donations or hosting a drop-off point.

Thank you for your support.

Ken Shorey

We are authorised to issue vouchers for the Foodbank and do so discretely to any in need who approach us. Sometimes it is necessary to bridge the gap until the Foodbank is open which we do on a case by case basis. Please contact the clergy or Sylvia if you know anyone who would like this support.

In September 2024 the PCC agreed to create a 'St John's Community Fund' which will come into operation later in 2025.

Angie Smith

Contact Magazine

During the year the Chairmanship of Contact passed from Mike Sisson to Diana Harvey.

Contact magazine has continued to provide useful information and features for the villages including the popular interview series and photographs from a variety of local photographers.

Appendices

Appendix A – Agenda & Minutes

Please see attached.

Appendix B – Financial Reports

Please see the associated Annual Trustees Report and Financial Statements.

Appendix C – Safeguarding Policy 2024

The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Hartley Wintney

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 6th April, 2025.

This Parochial Church Council has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
 - Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
 - Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
 - Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
 - Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
 - Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
 - Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM) and statutory agencies immediately.
 - Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
 - Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, support and manage the safe involvement of any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
 - Ensure that procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
 - Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy; the Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance; and the procedures/guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Moira Lewin as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Reverend Angie Smith

Churchwardens: Justin Hooper Jim Dewes

Signed on behalf of PCC: (Incumbent) Date

Appendix D – Statistics for Mission Return 2024