

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



# Annual Reports for 2025

(As prepared for the APCM on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026)



Registered Charity Number: 1130172

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## Foreword

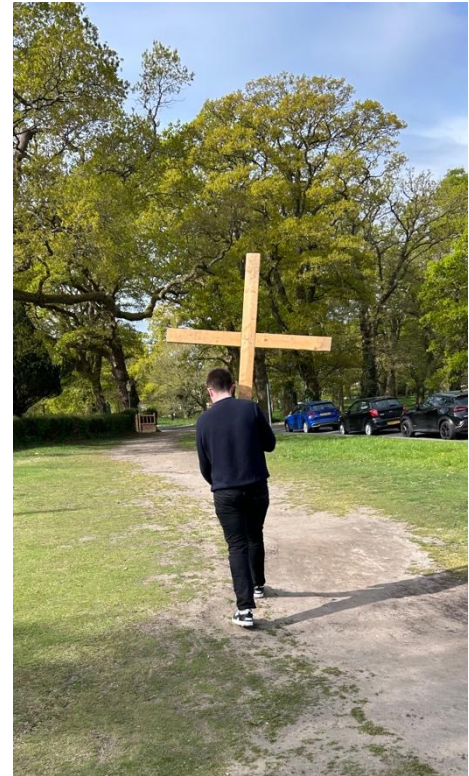
*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"*

*Matthew 16:24-26 NLT*

What follows in this report is an awesome example of the fullness of life. We are a busy church family, worshipping, welcoming, working and witnessing in Jesus name to our community. It would be easy to think that all that busy-ness means that we have made it, and to some extent we have because that's what our vision is. Yet Jesus teaches us that it's in the emptying of ourselves that we find his grace and our salvation. It's not in what we gain but what we lose that we find our true worth.

There is a sacrificial element to all our serving at St John's and I am deeply grateful for those who do give of their time, talents and treasures (finances). So many give of their time generously but also find that in doing so they receive through deeper relationships with others and the joy of helping and making a difference. As I have met with Life Groups over a meal at The Vicarage since September, I have been asking 'How have you grown spiritually?' wanting to know how St John's has helped and noting that we grow as we give not just through what we get. As we give, we become invested and interested, we are drawn to pray. Sometimes serving is challenging though. We are stretched a little, we have to step out of our comfort zone, we have to overcome anxieties, we have to be brave, we have to lean on God more. What we find when we do though is that he supplies our needs, he equips us, he is faithful and our faith grows!

We all have a vocation. God has something for each of us to do to make his kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven. It is a joy for me to see others discover their vocation and serve God by doing what he has called them to do. Whether it is feeding the elderly and isolated at the Community Lunch each month, chatting with teens at the Youth Café on Tuesdays, leading a Life Group or standing at the doors welcoming people on a Sunday. I wonder what yours is? Maybe reading this report will give you a clue, so take note of what attracts your attention or peaks your interest!



Not everyone is called to ordained ministry, but by serving in this way, we try to set an example of what it means to sacrificially follow Jesus and work for the growth of God's kingdom here in this place.

In June it was a delight to celebrate Amy's ordination as Priest at Winchester Cathedral and a wonderful lunch back at St John's afterwards. For those of us called to be priests this is often the most significant moment as we are authorised to bless others in Christ's name and inhabit that calling fully. On a practical note, we use 5 different communion



liturgies across the Benefice (without counting the seasonal variations) so she had a lot of new things to learn, before she even started on weddings!

We had a visit from Bishop Kelly and Bishop Philip on the day she was announced as the new Bishop of Basingstoke (photo on the front cover). They visited the Uniform Give away and made a guest appearance at Holiday Club, Bishop Kelly telling the children about the lighthouse charm on her bracelet that reminds her that she is called to shine the light of Jesus in her ministry.

In November Archbishop Stephen of Myanmar visited us for 24 hours when a number for us were able to hear from him about his extraordinary courage leading in the Anglican Church in a country in civil war. God is using him to build bridges with the military junta, and we must continue to pray for him in this vital work.



One of the highlights of the year for me was camping with other church family at the New Wine Festival. There were 25 of us - adults and children - and we ate together, discussed things of faith and fun, worshipped and studied the bible with others and grew together. The weather was even kind too!



After Easter I had a much appreciated sabbatical for 3 months. Initially it was hard to relax, but in the end, I was able to pursue some research into artistic depictions of Phoebe (Romans 16) and understand her ministry better, inspired by our stained-glass window at St John's. These studies found me talking to academics, visiting the London galleries, and together with Vince, travelling to Rome and Pompeii by train. I am very grateful to Helen, Amy, Lisa and Sam whose capable leadership meant I didn't worry about St Johns!

Angie

Rev'd Angie Smith, Vicar, April 2026

## **Churchwarden's Report**

We continue to be encouraged and grateful to God for the steady flow of new faces joining St John's for Sunday worship. Many are encouraged to come by their welcome at Bumps and Babies and at Community events.

Prayer for the ministries of the Church has continued through the year, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 5pm, and has grown as we continue to see the Lord moving in the church.

### **Vicar's Sabbatical**

Our vicar, Angie was able to take a 3 month sabbatical during the summer and our thanks to Helen and Amy and Lisa for picking up the additional responsibility ensuring that everything continued to run smoothly.

### **Heating project**

We have formally applied for a Faculty from the Diocese and are currently exploring funding options. We are targeting a start date in the autumn – funding permitting.

### **Maintenance**

A busy year on the maintenance side with tree work and removing a sick tree in the south east corner of the site. Repairs to hall 3 flooring and the replacement of most of our exterior and security lights. The car park, especially its entrance, needs ongoing maintenance – our thanks particularly to Martin Barnes and Andrew Hazell for their regular and ongoing support with this. Our Quinquennial will be due in 2026.

The Church Centre gets very busy, please be gracious with other users and the need to maintain safe escape routes.

We would like to record our thanks to Noel Armstrong for filling the role of Operations Manager for the first half of the year and we wish him every blessing in his new role in Sussex. We were very pleased to welcome to John Callaway to the staff team in September as our new Operations Manager.

Our thanks to all those who serve on regular rotas, welcoming and making sure our services, activities and facilities all run smoothly. If you would like to get more involved in church life, both visible or behind the scenes, please do talk to one of the clergy or the wardens.

Justin Hooper & Jim Dewes, Churchwardens

## Section 1 - Administration and Financial

### Activities of the PCC

The PCC of St John's met 6 times during 2025. The APCM took place on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Our Christmas social event held in January with 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

Rev Amy Bianchi, Curate

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

#### **Lay Ministers** (serving in the Benefice):

Ian Coster (PTO)

Alison Harris

Richard Blore (LLM Representative on PCC from April 2025)

Sarah Groombridge (PTO)

#### **Churchwardens:**

Angela Southern (until June 2025)

Justin Hooper

Jim Dewes (from Churchwarden's Admission service in June 2025)

#### **Deanery Synod**

(until April 2026):

Camilla Deane

Trudy Rankin (Treasurer)

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

Andrew Moyse

#### **Elected Members:**

Lesley Churms (until April 2026)

Clive Walden (until April 2026)

Helen Budd (until April 2026)

Alison Tebbs (until April 2026)

Betty Key (from April 2027)

Rhys Minterne (until April 2027)

Mark Bramah (until April 2027)

Hugh Fawcett (until April 2027)

Sarah Lello (until April 2028)

Carolyn Hazel (until April 2028)

Ruth Jarman (until April 2028)

Wendy Green (until April 2028)

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

**Worshipping Community** (those attending church 12 times or more in 2025):

We returned a Worshipping Community figure of 242 (276) to the Church of England's Statistics for Mission Online System in January 26. Of this figure there were 216 (229) adults and 26 (47) children. Usual Sunday attendance is around 147 (135) adults and 12(20) under 18s. (figures in brackets are 2024 returns). Further statistics are in Appendix D

Angie Smith

## Treasurer's Report

### St John's Hartley Wintney - Treasurer's Report Year Ended 31 Dec 2025

<b>2025 Income</b> <b>£376k</b> £1030 per day	<b>2025 BAU Expenditure</b> <b>£373k</b> £1021 per day before preliminary heating project costs £14k	<b>Total BAU Net Surplus</b> <b>£3k</b> Budgeted net deficit £17k before preliminary heating project costs £14k	<b>Total Net Deficit</b> <b>£11k</b> after £14k heating project costs per financial statements
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#### Key Points

##### **Balanced Budget achieved in 2025 re Business as Usual Income and Expenditure**

In 2025 we balanced the books on a normal "business as usual" (BAU) basis with BAU Income (£376k) exceeding BAU Expenditure (£373k) producing a small surplus of £3k, this compared to a budgeted deficit of £17k. However, in addition to normal expenditure, it was necessary for the PCC to spend £14k on professional fees relating to the replacement of the heating system in the church building. After these costs there is an overall net deficit on the Unrestricted General Fund for the year of £11k as shown in the Trustee Report and Financial Statements.

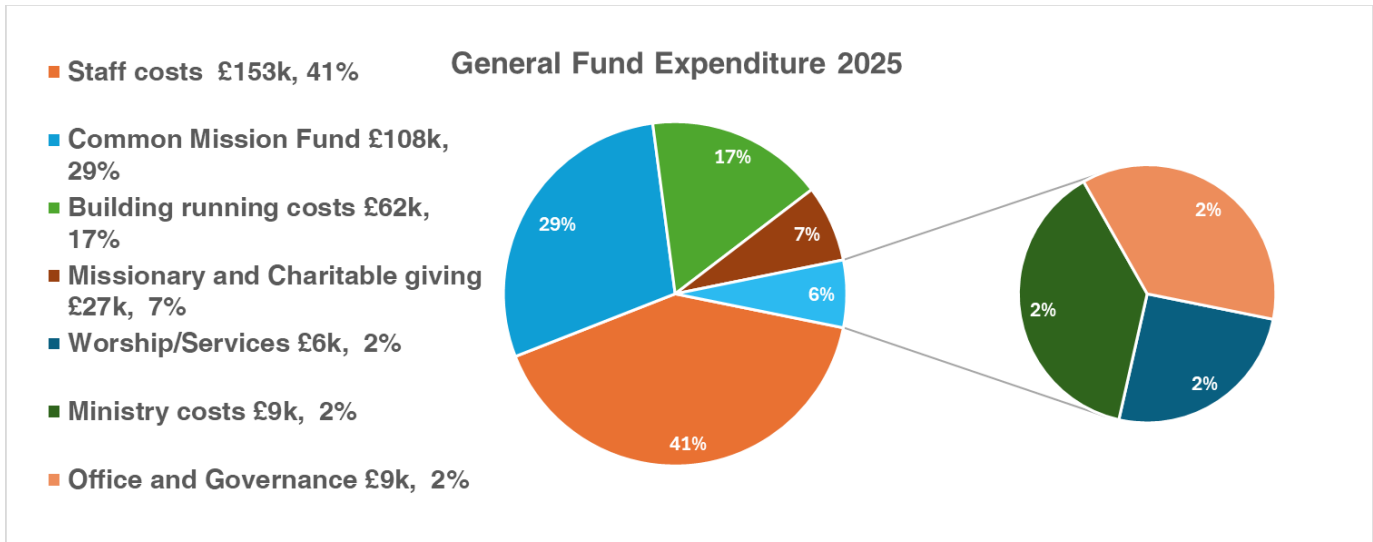
Although the outcome in 2025 was relatively positive it is necessary to highlight to the wider church some serious concerns re financial sustainability going forward.....

##### **Critical Risk - Declining Planned Regular Donations - projected deficit of £53k in 2026 Budget**

72% of our 2025 income comes from church family donations and the associated Gift Aid. Monthly regular donations have been on a downward trajectory over the 18 months to Dec 25 and as a result have fallen from £256k in 2024 to £237k in 2025 – a decline of £19k (-7%). This decline was masked in the total income number by unusually high one-off sundry donations of £20k (£25k including gift aid) which by their nature we cannot rely on for future budgeting. For example, in 2024 sundry donations were only £1k. If regular giving is not increased, we expect to see a deficit of around £53k in 2026. The majority of our costs are fixed and therefore there is little opportunity to reduce expenditure. The PCC have reserves which could cover that deficit in the short term but this would use up funds ear-marked towards the replacement of the church heating system. Operating on a deficit budget is not sustainable longer term.

##### **What are our key costs?**

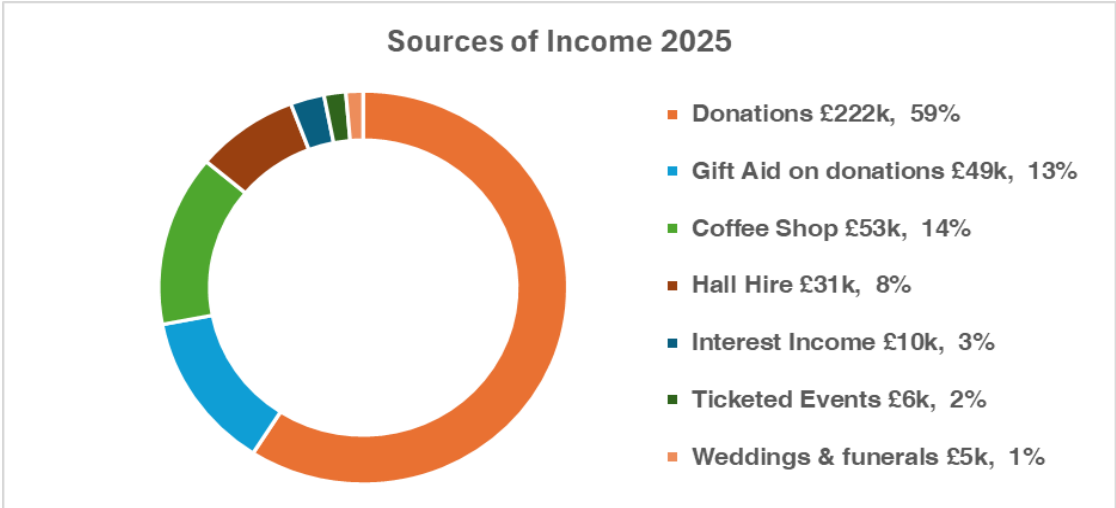
On a BAU basis, it cost £1,021 a day to run St John's in 2025, £373k for the year. Staff costs (£152k, 41%) and the Common Mission Fund contribution paid to the Diocese (£107k, 29%) together consume 70% of all expenditure. Building running costs add another 17% (£62k) and our Mission and charitable giving was 7% (£27k, under our policy of donating 10% of the previous year's voluntary donations). These are largely fixed costs meaning that 94% of the budget is effectively non-discretionary. The chart below shows the key costs in 2025 on a BAU basis:



**Sources of Income**

The sustainability and growth of our ministry and mission is reliant on funding. Church family donations plus the associated gift aid provide 72% (£271k) of our income. The Coffee Shop (£53k, 14%) and Room Hire (£31k, 8%) together generate 22% of the income (£83k). This income is underpinned by the work of many volunteers. Approx 102 volunteer hours contributed by around 30 people per week combine to operate the coffee shop providing a warm welcome to all and a very helpful contribution to the cost of operating the church and church centre. Valued at 2025 Living Wage this calculates to around £61k per annum of donated labour. In addition, many hours are generously donated from our committed team of volunteer cake bakers. We are very grateful to all who contribute. Room Hire for the last few years has been managed by the late Lesley Churms, and the PCC are extremely grateful for her tireless work on a volunteer basis administrating the hire of rooms in the Church Centre as well as organising the room bookings for internal events and meetings. She will be greatly missed.

The remaining 6% of income comes from other sources such as bank interest, wedding and funeral fees, and ticketed events such as the Community Lunch, Create for Christmas, Come and Cook and the Children’s Summer Holiday Club. The chart below shows the sources of funds:



## General Fund Budget 2026

2026 Budgeted Income  
£330k

2026 Budgeted Expenditure  
£383k

Net Deficit before heating  
project costs £53k

Based on current run rates of committed regular giving, the PCC are projecting a deficit of circa £53k in 2026 and are appealing to everyone in the church family to review their giving. This budget includes filling the current vacancy for a part time (16 hours per week) Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. If the funding could be made available the PCC would like to consider increasing the number of hours, given the needs in the parish.

The budget does not include any costs associated with the need to replace the heating system in the church over the next couple of years which will be a major project and will require a separate appeal for funding from the church family in addition to a large amount of work applying for grants.

### How can you help?

Over 70% of our income comes from donations from church family. Giving is a biblical principle and is part of our worship. Please prayerfully consider whether you can do more to help by making a regular donation and gift aiding your gift if you are a tax payer. If you are already a regular giver, please consider whether you are able to increase your regular gift.

### The best way to give with no fees:

**For regular gifts** - the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

You can set up a regular gift to St Johns with PGS by calling 0333 002 1271 or online via their website: [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) We will receive the whole of your gift plus any gift aid if applicable. You will be asked to provide your bank details and our PGS account details which are:

Diocese: Winchester    Parish: Hartley Wintney    Account: 416005062

**One-off gifts** - direct to the church Metro bank account: (preferred to PGS as PGS charge a 1.5% fee for one-off donations)

Bank sort code: 23-05-80    Account: 34070407    Name: St John's PCC Hartley Wintney

**Other methods of giving:** There is a Giving Stand at the back of church for donating by card. Gifts can be gift aided. However, for regular giving by church family the methods above are preferable as a fee of around 1.5% will be deducted when donating by card.

Could you consider leaving a legacy in your will?

### Finance Team

Many thanks to Linzi Lawrence, Church Accountant, for all her work in 2025, and to Christine Andrews and Sally Hall for their assistance with occasional offices and other items.

**Financial Statements:** The full accounts for the PCC are included in the separate document called Annual Trustee Report and Financial Statements 2025. 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](mailto:Treasurer@StJohnsHW.org.uk)

Trudy Rankin, Treasurer

## Church Centre Buildings and Grounds

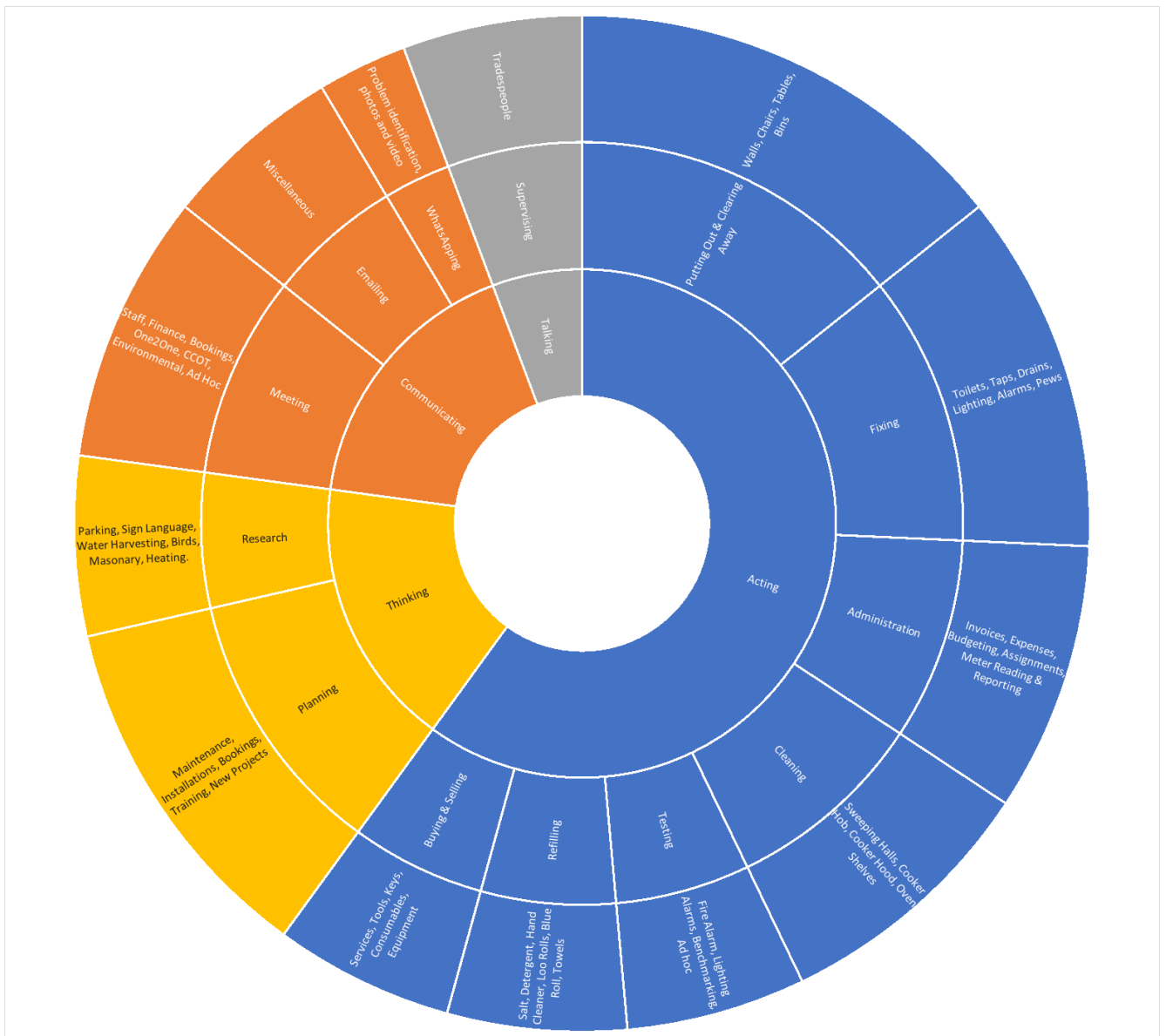
The excellent support of my predecessors, Noel Armstrong, Robin Spicer, Dave Collier, Norman Leversuch and of the staff team, was invaluable, in teaching me how to be an Operations Manager at St John's. Thanks too to Lesley Churms, Vince Smith, James and Trudy Rankin, Millie Deane, David Wilson, Andrew Ewbank and many other volunteers for their ongoing help.

Apart from routine maintenance, a highlight of 2025 was Noel's management of the repair of the Hall 3 floor, which had cracked and lifted; another was the installation of a pool table in the youth room and a third, the replacement of the office printer/scanner.

Here's a snapshot of how I am spending my time:

It is estimated that around 45,000 separate visits were made to the centre in 2025 (excluding church services) – about the same as last year.

Here's a snapshot of how I am spending my time:



- Talking
- Communicating
- Thinking
- Acting

Regarding our solar and electricity performance:

Generation	kWh	Usage	kWh	kWh Difference between Used and Generated
20 Original Panels	4248	Church	4514	
50 Panels installed in 2024	16450	Centre	20661	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20698</b>		<b>25175</b>	<b>4477</b>

The centre’s 70 solar panels generated approximately 82% of the total electricity used throughout the church and centre.

John Callaway, Operations Manager

## Health and Safety

During 2025 there were 15 incident reports, the majority of which were children in slip trips and falls category. One child necessitated a hospital visit, a further two incidents involved the elderly.

Some 5 reports concerned employees and volunteers, and related to moving tables and kitchen operation.

The Diocese has asked the PCC to carry out a review of disabled access to the Church.

2026 will see the review of the Parish H&S Policy and Arrangements.

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.

As a church we make good use of the building using it for outreach activities (for example Bumps and Babies on a Monday morning, Community Lunch monthly on Wednesdays, The Well drop in on Monday mornings, Come and Cook, and Youth Café on Tuesday afternoons) and hosting community groups (Forget Me Not Café every Tuesday afternoon, the WI).

We also use it for our own courses and discipleship groups: 2 life groups meet in the centre, our children and youth groups on a Sunday and courses like Alpha and Kintsugi Hope on weekday evenings. 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.

During the past year, other visiting churches continue to enjoy the use of the Youth Room and Prayer Room on Saturdays for their Alpha Away Days or PCC Away Day meetings and the diocese run some events for the northern archdeaconry from here too. These events used our very well-equipped modern kitchen, often with 2 groups sharing the space with ease and good humour.

The Coffee Shop overflows daily into the foyer in the winter and the patio in the summer as the coffee, cakes and bacon rolls (on Saturdays) continue to be very popular with the community.

The halls were 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.

Meeting Room 2 continued to be used as an office space moving from The Work Hub to Bramah HR in May. Various other 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.

The centre timetable is carefully managed to ensure that there is space for church and particularly missional activities. Due to the demand from the community and private hirers this is quite a challenge!

*Lesley, who has been our Rooms Booking Administrator since 2020 very sadly died before this report was written. We are indebted to her for managing this busy ministry so capably, sacrificially and with such good humour. She welcomed so many, enabling them to use our facilities and enjoy the space we offer. She is sorely and deeply missed.*

Angie Smith

## **Odiham Deanery Synod**

St John's Hartley Wintney is part of the wider Church of England. It is one of the 255 parishes in Winchester Diocese - a mixture of rural and urban, new and old, innovative and traditional, serving a population of 1.27 million, of whom over 20,000 regularly attend worship in one of the 375 church buildings, led by our 202 ordained clergy, 87 Licensed Lay Ministers and a growing number of lay people commissioned for ministry. In 2025, Bishop Kelly Betteridge was installed as the new Bishop of Basingstoke. The primary governing body of the diocese is Diocesan Synod, although the majority of Synod's work is strategic, or 'big picture'. In 2025, Synod met formally five times, along with additional informal meetings of laity and clergy and various operational sub committees. At the end of 2025, St John's had 1 elected lay member and 1 elected clergy member on Diocesan Synod, both of whom have been additionally elected to Bishops Council and Angie also continues as Chair of the House of Clergy on Diocesan Synod.

Locally, we are part of Odiham Deanery, which consists of 26 separate churches, organised within 6 benefices, in contexts from suburban, through small town and large village to tiny hamlets, as well as a school chaplaincy. Multi-parish benefices typically have larger town churches teamed with smaller rural churches, each having its minister licensed by the diocese. There is a variety of theology, spirituality and ways of doing church and we value and respect this.

In 2025 our Area Dean, Rev. Marion de Quidt, retired and Rev. Angie Smith continues to be Assistant Area Dean. At the end of 2025, St John's had 4 elected lay and 4 clergy members on Odiham Deanery Synod. The Synod met twice in 2025. In March, there was a focus on Diocesan finances, whilst in November we met with the new Bishop of Basingstoke.

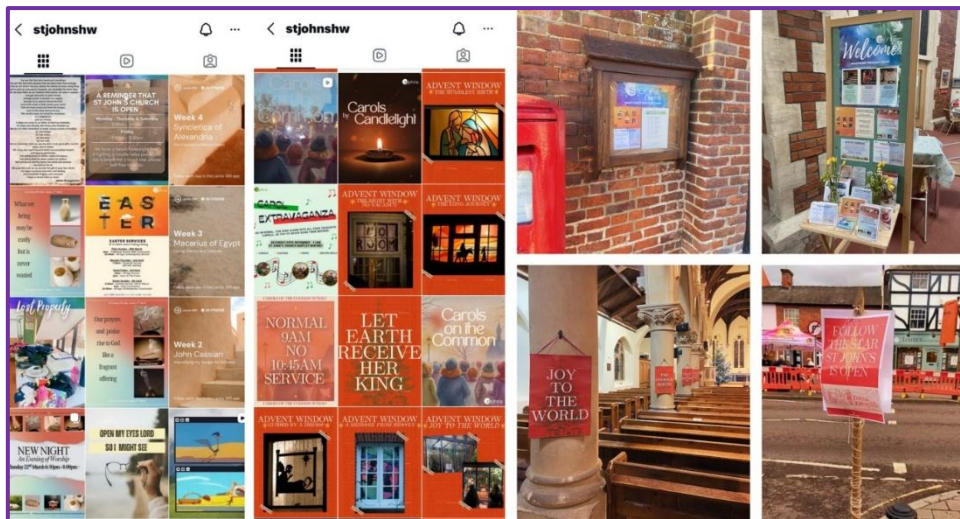
Dave Collier – Diocesan and Deanery Synod representative

## Communications

Over the past year we have continued working to strengthen how we communicate with both our church family and the wider community. A key focus has been improving **brand consistency**, ensuring that our marketing materials, advertising, and communications share a clear and recognisable style, voice, and visual identity wherever possible.

We have also sought to be more creative in how we promote events and engage people with content. This has included refreshing notice boards, updating flyers in the coffee shop and pews, and improving the village notice board so that information is more eye-catching and accessible.

On social media we have worked more intentionally with our sermon series, creating posts with a consistent aesthetic, and sharing content during the week... such as poems, images, and reflections, that connect with the themes of the sermons and encourage people to engage beyond Sunday.



Our most effective communications campaign this year was around Christmas. We worked to carry the same visual ideas across E-News, social media, notice boards,

FACEBOOK INSIGHTS 2025					
	Post views	Engagement	Follows	Unfollows	Page Visits
January	7,287	263	2	1	269
February	3,200	403	2	4	230
March	11,200	749	3	4	290
April	4,900	309	2	1	211
May	8,800	217	3	1	275
June	8,800	412	4	2	438
July	7,800	234	6	0	319
August	6,200	689	2	2	427
September	5,500	276	11	4	290
October	4,500	73	4	2	227
November	7,700	175	4	4	381
December	14,700	821	10	8	569
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>90,587</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3,926</b>
<b>COMPARISON</b>	<b>+61,198</b>	<b>+3,422</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>+90</b>
<b>TOTAL FOLLOWERS</b>					
2025	964	+19			

INSTAGRAM INSIGHTS 2025					
	Post Reach	Engagement	Follows	Unfollows	profile visits
January	187	-	-	-	23
February	173	-	-	-	21
March	286	188	4	0	34
April	183	35	1	1	23
May	287	83	0	1	24
June	239	107	3	0	32
July	140	76	2	0	23
August	185	127	2	0	44
September	131	63	0	1	20
October	118	19	3	3	19
November	157	57	1	1	23
December	338	197	4	4	97
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>Comparison</b>	<b>+763</b>	<b>+665</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-52</b>
<b>TOTAL FOLLOWERS</b>					
2024	277	+16			

and materials within the church. Sharing updates about the Advent Trail throughout the season also helped engage the wider community and resulted in particularly strong engagement across our social media platforms.

One area we continue to review is E-News, which currently sees around 30% of recipients opening it. Looking ahead, we will keep exploring the most effective ways to communicate with our congregation and community across a wide range of ages.

## **Website**

Our website continues to be an important way for people to find and connect with St John's. For many, it is the first place they encounter the church, so keeping it clear, welcoming, and up to date is an important part of our communications.

Over the past year we have worked to keep key information such as service times, events, and contact details easy to find. The website also supports our wider communications by hosting event information and helping people explore more about the life of the church.

Looking ahead, we hope to keep developing the website so that it remains a helpful and engaging resource for both our congregation and those in the wider community who are discovering St John's for the first time.

Chloe Hale, Worship and Creative Communications Pastor

## **Administration**

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

Lisa Walker

## Section 2 – Worship and Services

### Worship

#### Introduction

Worship continues to be a fundamental part of our church life at St. John's. It is a privilege to serve the congregation each week as we gather to worship God together.

#### Team Challenges

Over the past year the worship and AV team have faced some challenges, as several key members have moved on from St John's. This has meant our team has reduced in size, creating some practical difficulties in ensuring we have enough people to run services each week. In response, we have had to consolidate two of the AV roles into one.

While this has helped us manage with fewer volunteers, it has sometimes meant things have not always run as smoothly as we would like. We are very grateful to those who have stepped in and adapted to help make this possible.

#### Encouragement & Growth

Despite these challenges, I have been greatly encouraged by the unity and commitment within the team. The band has continued to serve faithfully, growing in confidence in their gifting and leadership. It has been a joy to see members of the team develop and support one another as we continue to serve together.

Over the past year there has been a growing sense of freedom in our congregation as people lean in and engage more fully in sung worship. It has been encouraging to see growth in our corporate worship as a church family.



## Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the vision is to continue growing the worship and AV team, and we would warmly welcome anyone who feels called to serve in these areas. Our hope is to keep developing a culture of worship where the whole church feels able to participate and encounter God together. We are excited for what lies ahead as we seek to offer humble, honest worship that is Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who serves so faithfully on the worship and AV teams, your commitment makes it possible for us to gather and worship week by week.

Chloe Hale, Worship and Creative Communications Pastor

## Sunday and Mid-week Services

We continued to meet to worship at 9am and 10.45am on Sundays and 11am on Wednesdays. Thank you to our clergy, lay ministers, sacristans, readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, prayer ministers, sidesmen, welcomers and Duty Wardens (who are our PCC members) who enable these services to happen week in week out. For 6 weeks during July and August we worshipped together at 10am to enable those who serve regularly to share the load and have a little sabbath!

Our sermon series in 2025 were as follows:

Epiphany and Ordinary time (January to March): 'Blessed, broken, given' and 4 weeks in Jonah.

Lent: Rule of life and Spiritual Disciplines

Easter to Pentecost: 'Disciples into Apostles' focusing on some stories in Acts

Ordinary Time: A series on the Lord's Prayer and some Parables in the Together@10 services. Ken spoke on 'First fruits', Mark Mabin was a guest speaker and we moved our collection for the Hart Food Bank to this time.

Creation-tide: 'Fruitfulness' in Colossians with guest speaker author Paul Kunnert on one Sunday.

Ordinary time: A series on 'The Creed' to celebrate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

November: Remembrance Sunday Service for the community with an Act of Remembrance at the war Memorial and an afternoon outdoor family event. We observed Safeguarding Sunday in both services.

Advent: We used lines from Isaac Watts hymn 'Joy to the World' as a rich source for our preaching to prepare for Christmas.

In July Sam and Amy also led a service at Old St Mary's to celebrate the feast Day of St Mary Magdalen by invitation of The Friends. It was well received, and we hope will be a regular event.

Angie Smith

## Organist Report

### Organ Overhaul

Bishop & Son finally completed the organ overhaul, and it has been a quality job, however the estimated time scale of 'two months, perhaps three' has turned out to be 21 months! There have understandably been a few snagging issues as the organ has settled down and they have been unsurprisingly slow to rectify these, but they are not charging for this work and honouring the guarantee when they do eventually come out. There are two pedal contacts that are causing bad connections which are still outstanding, otherwise the organ is sounding well.

### Services

The pipe organ has been used and enjoyed each Sunday for the 9 o'clock service, and at the together@10 services in the summer months. 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 has various School, pre-school and Nursery groups in the church to tell them the Christmas story. The organ has been used for some little carols and songs for them to sing.

### Organ Students

The quest for an organ student is still ongoing. Following an email from the North Hampshire Organists Association to their members for anyone to help a 15 year old girl who is learning well and being taught at Guildford but wants church service experience, I offered her the option of shadowing me at the services. She has been to some of the services and played an exciting voluntary at the end one Sunday. She is having a slight break now due to exams but is planning to carry on soon. Also, a young man of about 25 came in and showed interest in the organ and I have linked him up to an organ teacher.

### Friday Lunchtime Organ Concerts

The Friday Morning Organ Concerts commenced again this year with good numbers coming along, averaging 78 with the highest being 91. The average cash taken was £183 plus whatever went on contactless giving. I played at the opening concert in May and another one in July, guest organists including Geoff Willis (Chairman of the North Hampshire Organists Association) playing in June, Gillian Lloyd (Organist at URC Guildford) in August and Stephen Davies



(Organist at St John's, Hook) playing in September. It seems to be a popular time at 11.00am as the audience enjoy coffee and cake. The threefold aims still stand, to encourage people into St John's Church, for people to experience the excellent coffee shop and to give the opportunity for people to hear the organ and hopefully find all these experiences are good!

### Hymn Extravaganza



In May we held a Hymn Extravaganza where in the weeks leading up to it, we invited people to vote for their three favourite hymns. 60 voted and we had a list of 71 favourites. We sang 16 hymns and counted down to the favourite, which was 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' closely followed by

'Jerusalem'. The style was very much the same as the annual Carol Extravaganza where we sing particular verses by applying different random criteria and topical quiz questions. I also delivered poor one liner jokes ... and all appeared to have a good time! A good spin off was the coffee, cake and bacon roll sales in the coffee shop.

### Carol Extravaganza

The Carol Extravaganza was held the Saturday before Christmas. Again, carol verses or lines are sung by applying different criteria and topical quiz questions. Poor one liner Christmas jokes are told and I dressed up in an elf costume to everyone's amusement! The church was full and the coffee shop very busy, it still seems to be loved by the community. The coffee shop also benefits from increased sales of not only tea, coffee and cakes but also bacon rolls.



### Traditional Carol Service

We were delighted once again, to gather a group of volunteers to join the Choir especially for the Christmas Carol Service. Special thanks to Hannah Sutton for leading, rehearsing and conducting the choir. After various promotions to encourage more singers, we had a great number come along for the choir and consistently had great attendance at the rehearsals than ever before. I believe it was one of the best carol services we have ever done.

### **Marriage Preparation Day**

I now have a regular 'Meet the Organist' slot in the marriage preparation day agenda. When the couples gather round the organ console and I talk about hymns and the many choices available, 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 last year to change their minds and have organ music!

Martin Barnes, Organist at St John's, Hartley Wintney

## Occasional Offices

### Baptisms and Confirmations at St John's

There were 17 baptisms (including 6 adults) at St John's, out of a total of 21 across the benefice. We held two Baptism Preparation Mornings in 2025, on Saturday mornings, to prepare families for baptism, as a group, and using the story of the lost sheep as our key theme. The morning includes presentations 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 continues to work well, and helps to strengthen many friendships formed through Bumps and Babies.

Joshua Lello was baptised and confirmed at Long Sutton along with fellow pupils from Lord Wandsworth college by Bishop David. Congratulations Josh!



### Funerals

We continue to conduct funeral services in a number of different formats and venues depending on the wishes of the deceased and family. In 2025 we conducted 7 church funeral services with burials afterwards at Old St Mary's Cemetery; 7 church services with crematorium committals afterwards, 4 Crematorium funeral services and 3 interment of ashes (including one at All Souls Churchyard). All out of a total of 43 in the Benefice.

### Marriage Preparation Day

A Marriage Preparation Day was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2025 there were 3 weddings at St John's with a total of 10 weddings across the Benefice.

## Section 3 – Prayer

### Daily Prayer

*‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.’ Philipians 4:6*

We continue to meet on Zoom each weekday morning to study God's word using the Church of England's Daily Prayer App. We usually 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 50 weeks of the year - only taking a break between Christmas and New Year and during Holy Week.

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 good safeguarding practice when praying for young people and vulnerable adults.

Everyone in our group is valued and given the opportunity to pray in their own style. Pete Greig says in his book 'How to Pray' "The best bit of advice I ever received about how to pray was this: keep it simple, keep it real, keep it up." Praying doesn't have to be complicated – most importantly it should come from a compassionate heart.

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. Remembering the famous quote 'Prayer doesn't change God, but it changes us'. Come and join us.

Sam Chandler, Assistant Priest

## Section 4 – Pastoral

### Pastoral Care and Discipleship

#### **Kintsugi Hope**

The Kintsugi Hope Course is a wellbeing course which encourages participants to explore their mental health and provide a supportive and encouraging environment to grow and flourish. Two Kintsugi Hope Courses ran last year in January, attracting many people from our local community as well as from our congregation. Mandy & Amy ran the evening course with a group of 12 people. Sylvia, Ray and Carol also ran a day time course with 3 participants. In January we also had a Sunday celebration of the Kintsugi Course attended by its founder Patrick Regan who preached at both services and then stayed for a lunch afterwards. It was great to welcome back many participants and leaders who had been involved in the course over the years and to celebrate the positive effects this course has had for many.

#### **The Well**

The Well is our weekly wellbeing group which meets every Monday 10am-11.30am in meeting room 1. This year it's been led by Sylvia, Mandy, Rhys and Amy. At the Well people find a warm welcome, a hot drink and time to chat together. This is an easy space where you can just be. Some people like just to sit and chat, others to engage in a craft activity. This year some of our ladies have been knitting a beautiful blanket which was donated to the Hope Hub. Many poppies were also knitted to decorate the church for Remembrance Day Each week we have between 2 and 9 people. Whatever the size it's been a really positive space to come along to.

We are so grateful to all those who have led and supported these groups this year. Sadly, in October we said goodbye to Sylvia as the church's Pastoral Care-coordinator. Her kind and thoughtful ways have blessed many among us and we are grateful to her for seeing need and responding to it often discretely and always with love. Initiatives she began or shaped, like Christmas in the Dark, Kintsugi Hope and the Well have become part of our shared life now.

#### **Elm Lodge**

This year we started a monthly worship service at Elm Lodge, a new care home in our parish. We have a short communion service, sing some popular hymns together and there is also the opportunity to spend time with and to chat with the residents. It has been a real joy for us to get to know the residents who attend. Amy leads the service and she has been very grateful for Jac and Rhys who have been a brilliant part of the team and have used their gifts so generously to serve this little community. Thank you!

Amy Bianchi, Curate

## Christmas in the Dark

On 6th 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 a member of the clergy team.



## Bumps and Babies

'As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace'

*1 Peter 4:10*



In 2025 Bumps and Babies had another successful year, opening for 46 weeks of the year and welcoming more than 5,000 visitors and meeting 142 new families. We also welcomed two new helpers, Alison Tebbs who is well known to the church community for her Eco work and one of our mums Kerrie Rudge whose daughter is now at school. It has been a pleasure to welcome them to the team. Vicky Tyler, whose wedding we celebrated in 2024, left at the end of 2025 as she became a mum and now joins us as a mum and baby. We are all loving watching her daughter grow!

The most momentous event of 2025 was in February when we marked Dorothy Harvey's retirement from Bumps, 20 years after she first started it. We had a lovely celebration with some of our first ever bumps and babies' mums coming back to visit with their offspring. Catherine Ewbank, the first ever baby, helped Dorothy to cut the celebration cake!



It is impossible to over stress the impact that Dorothy and the original members of Bumps and Babies have made on the lives of mothers, fathers and children, not only from the village but from as far as Reading and Godalming. We are honoured to carry on this legacy and continue to support mothers, fathers and children plus the many grandparents and carers whom we now have visiting too. As always, I must thank the whole team for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm, it is a great pleasure to work alongside them all.

Sue Cooper, Bumps & Babies Leader

### **Forget-me-not-Café**

We are now in our twelfth year and continue to flourish, as one of four Cafés in Hart who provide a similar facility on different days of the week, for those living with dementia, their partners, family and friends.

In addition to the facilities that we have always offered, we now have a 'Therapy Dog' attending once a month and make available the Care Group's Trishaw for 20 minute trips around the village, when it is warm enough!

St. John's support with providing the venue free of charge, along with a team of homemade cake makers and donations from both individuals and local organisations, means that our weekly sessions are still free, except for the modest contribution sought for the summer BBQ and Christmas Lunch.

Chris Cornwell, HW Care Group

## Naomi's Footsteps

This group for ladies who live on their own has enjoyed an interesting year of welcoming new ladies, making new friends, and hearing some interesting talks as well as the usual conversation and tea.

Amongst the speakers we have received a return visit by David Stiles. Sammy Egerton-Kemp and his hearing dog Rosie came in February, Diana Skellern, wife of David Skellern, Joyce Wallander, the poet, Alison McGregor, a specialist in Autism. Mags Mercer of the Hope Hub visited us again, Ken Shorey spoke about parenting and grand parenting, Reina told us about Christmas celebrations in the Netherlands, Margaret Filley talked to us about her book 'In Praise of Difference', giving insight into the world of Autism. In January, Sue Hyland having enjoyed a long career as a detective, had some very interesting cases to tell us about and then in February, Gee came and told us about his life growing up in Tanzania and his love of Christianity and youth work. We also paid a wonderful visit to the Camberley Theatre where Dave Collier was performing in Made in Dagenham. It was a wonderful show and Jim Rankin kindly drove us there in the community bus.

We must give thanks for the incredible support we have received from Dave Collier, Noel Armstrong and John Callaway. We could not have managed without their help.

Sadly, after nearly five years, the decision was taken to close down Naomi's Footsteps as we felt it had run its natural course. So many new activities are now on offer in the village and other reasons made us take this difficult decision.

Pippa le Roux

## Section 5 – Discipleship

### Life Groups

Thanks are due to our faithful life group leaders for all the work they have put in during the year running life groups. Life groups have continued to provide discipleship, fellowship and pastoral care to members. Two groups met fortnightly and other groups met weekly. Nearly all of life groups followed the teaching series set out by the church leadership and also used for Sunday services.

Three groups ceased formal meetings during the year, as the leaders had to step down for personal reasons, leaving four day-time and seven evening life groups meeting. We have struggled to place some people who would like to join life groups due to a lack of capacity particularly in the day-time. We hope to start a new day-time group in May. We are always on the lookout for potential new life group leaders, training and support can be given.

Life group members have continued to provide support to our missional activities including support to the Hartley Wintney festival and provision of meals for Alpha. During the year life groups were invited to attend a meal at the vicarage and give views on the vision of the church. This programme of meals continues. In April I was asked to run an afternoon at Waverley Abbey for one of our life groups. I gave an open invitation to all life group members to attend a similar session in the morning. Attendance was good. We were blessed with lovely weather and a had a peaceful day.

Ali Harris, Life Group Coordinator

### Men's Breakfast

The Men's Ministry Group continues to meet for bible study over breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of each month, from 8 to 9:30am, alternating between the Vicarage and Taplins House. We praise God that he has motivated a regular dozen or so men to attend each month from a faithful cohort of nearly thirty throughout the year.

We have been delighted to see some younger men attending faithfully, and so are able to be more representative of the life ages of the church.

This year we have been studying "Nobody Left Out: Jesus Meets the Messes" by Michael Murray, described as "a devotional for messy, broken people (like me)." Michael was born with cerebral palsy and brings his personal perspectives on God's grace and mercy. The series studies people from the Bible, often at the margins of society, including: a thief on a cross; Mary Magdalene; Nathaniel; a woman accused of adultery; a blind man; and a poor widow.

Conversations continue to lively and informative, drawing us closer to God and his teaching from the Bible.

We are always keen for more men to experience this amazing "band of brothers" so if you are interested, please reach out to Vince Smith or David Lello, you are always welcome!

Vince Smith & David Lello

## Section 6 – Children and Young People

### Youth Work

In 2025, the youth team have focused on:

- Growing the **number of young people** (DisCo, Youth Café and Enthuse)
- Growing a committed **team of volunteers**; and
- Supporting young people's growth in **Knowing Jesus**.

At the beginning of 2025, we had approximately 3-6 attendees at DisCo on a Sunday morning, 7-10 attendees to the Youth Café on a Tuesday afternoon and 3-5 attendees for Enthuse on Sunday evenings. We have seen positive change over the course of the year – approximately 3 attendees at DisCo, 21 to the Youth Café, and 8 to Enthuse.

### Update on Youth Groups

The low number to **DisCo** is mainly due to the few number of youth of that age group at St Johns and whether their parents come on a Sunday or not.

At the **Youth Café**, we have seen a number of boys attending (was previously all girls) and younger age groups coming due to word of mouth. We have changed the meeting times for Youth Café from 3:30- 6pm to 3:30 – 4:30. The main reason was to attract more volunteers who could manage the time commitment (about 2 hours with set up and tidy up) however we have found this to be beneficial as the young people value the time and it helps it to be more intentional with time, connecting and building relationships with young people. Parents have particularly appreciated this space that young people have, especially the boys having a male role model where they do not have one. One parent said to me recently: *"I really appreciate you being here because my son who does not have a father, now has a father figure who he can see on a regular basis and I am very grateful for that."*

We have changed the **Enthuse** venue from the youth room at church to Gee and Charlotte's house in order to see if young people were more comfortable in a home environment and enabling us to easily cook for the youth and have dinner together to start our evenings. This has proved to encourage attendance and help build relationships and a safe space for young people to speak freely. Gee holds one-on-one chats, particularly with Enthuse young people in St Johns café on a regular basis to support them where needed and when new people join the group.

We held a youth Christmas dinner for DisCO, Enthuse and the Youth café. We had 22 youth on the night. The team of volunteers worked really hard to make the evening a wonderful experience for all of them, many of who don't come to church. All young people were given a Gospel of Luke book and a bar of chocolate. Gee gave a short talk on how Jesus is relevant to us today

We also held a Youth Café Christmas event with pizza where we also gave out Gospel of Luke books and a bar of chocolate. Gee also gave a short talk about the Bible, what it is and why we read it and all the young people opened up the Gospel of Luke 6:31 together and some stayed reading it for a little longer. We are using the Alpha conversation cards which encourages young people to think and share their thoughts about themselves and God.

### **Other Updates**

Other things we have achieved this year is to buy a new, better and bigger toastie maker which has made the process of making toasties much quicker and efficient, particularly with the increase in numbers this year, meaning volunteers have more time to connect with the young people rather than spending the whole time making toasties with our previous small toastie maker.

Gee has also worked on connecting with other youth leaders in the churches close to Hartley Wintney which is in his heart to see young people coming together, knowing each other, building relationship and worshipping God together. Gee will continue to develop this in 2026.

Gee attended 'Youth Autumn Essentials course' run by YouthScape which has been helpful in supporting young people. We also spoke to Scripture Union to support us in material, training and resources. We now have a good number of reliable and committed volunteers however we continue to try and get more people DBS checked so we can have additional volunteers and a bank of people we can ask when others cannot make it.

Godlisten Pallangyo, Youth Pastor

## **Children & Families**

### **Kids Church**

Our Kids Church groups, continue to enjoy meeting together on Sunday mornings.

In the Autumn we relaunched our preschool Sunday morning group, Sparks. Our 3-5 year olds have loved exploring Bible stories through play, crafts and fun.

Blaze, our primary school aged group have also had a great year. We have been following the main church teaching – travelling with Jonah and then delved deeper in the Lord's Prayer and the creed.

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 Ministry

We have continued to hold events every term using crafts and activities to help families explore faith together. A particular highlight was our Harvest Family Fun event with tractors and outdoor activities.



As well as all the events we have been putting on at the Church we have also been out and about engaging with children and families in the community. We opened up the Church for the village festival offering a board game café and face painting both of which were very popular and we had some great conversations about life and faith.

At Christmas we replaced our usual Children's Christmas trail with an Advent Window Trail throughout December. We displayed different scenes from the Christmas story in windows around the village, encouraging people to explore the story more.



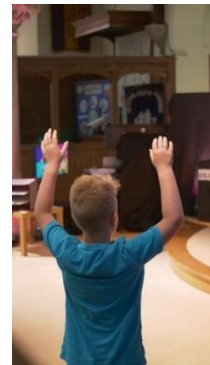
An intrepid group of families set out to do the trail in one go at the beginning of December!



### Holiday Club

In August over 75 children joined our Mission Possible holiday club training to be secret agents for God. Lots of fun was had through Bible stories, crafts, games looking at how God has given us a message, He equips us to share it and then sends us out to tell the world. We even had a visit from the new Bishop of Basingstoke!

On the Saturday we held a family holiday club activity day – allowing the parents and families to share in the fun. 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.



As always, it is wonderful to welcome the Greenoaks Federation schools, Oakwood infants and Greenfields juniors, 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 in to learn about the food bank and helped us with sorting donations. A small team continue to lead collective worship at

Dogmersfield 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.

In October, at the request of the pupils we launched a new lunch club at Dogmersfield School. Each Thursday we explore a Bible story in different ways. The children have been particularly enthusiastic about our prayer time at the end of each session

Claire Parker, Children & Families Pastor

## School Uniform

Operation Back to School helped over 100 families over the summer. Launching at the village festival proved especially valuable, allowing us to engage with a much wider group of people than usual. It has been a real eye-opener to see the level of need within our community, and the impact that providing free school uniform and supplies can have for local families.



We were also very grateful to receive generous financial support from the Rotary Club last year. It has been encouraging to see such strong local support, through donations of good-quality preloved uniform. People value the opportunity to give back and to be part of something that makes a tangible difference to others in the community.

Chloe Hale

## Governors

Philip Baylis, Sue Cooper and Angie continue to serve as Foundation Governors at Dogmersfield Primary school, Philip as chairman. It is very rewarding serving our local Christian primary school in this capacity and being part of the wonderful community there. We were delighted that a few children from Bumps and St Johns joined the Reception class in September. In May 2025 the school received an Ofsted inspection, and the report rated the school as good in all areas except Personal Development which was outstanding! Inspectors praised the school's strong leadership, and excellent practice, specifically noting the work with children with SEND and the development of character through the foundations of character that are taught throughout the school. Congratulations again to the hardworking staff on this report!

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.

In 2025 the PCC allocated mission funds as follows:

	£
USPG - Myanmar	6,666.00
CMS - Peart family Bolivia	6,667.00
The Hope Hub	5,667.00
TearFund	2,400.00
Open Doors	2,400.00
Nazareth Way (Send Prison)	2,000.00
Hart Food Bank	1,000.00
Total disbursements 10% of 2024 voluntary donations	<u>26,800.00</u>

We have supported the Anglican Diocese of Sittwe in Myanmar for many years but funding in recent years has had to be sent through other Christian Charities working in Myanmar. In 2025 we sent funds to Myanmar through USPG following advice from Bishop James of Sittwe Diocese that he is in contact with them. We also continued support for the Peart Family working with the Anglican church and community in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, through the Church Missionary Society (CMS).

Locally we continued to support The Hope Hub, a charity working with the homeless and vulnerable in Camberley, Nazareth Way, working to support women in Send Prison, including preparation for leaving prison, and the Hart Food Bank.

In addition this year the PCC donated to TearFund and Open Doors.

## Local Mission Activities

While we support external mission partner organisations, our local day to day activities at St John's provide the main opportunity for all of us 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 2025 the Church Centre bustled with activity. Courses offered included Kintsugi Hope, Come and Cook, and the evangelistic course 321. Weekly community events were held including the Bumps and Babies Group, Youth Café, Forget Me Not Café for those suffering with dementia and their carers, and a weekly well-being drop-in space. A community lunch was held each month for around 70 guests whilst annual events included the Childrens' Summer Holiday Club and Create for Christmas, a fun craft evening. Underpinning all of this activity, our vibrant coffee shop was 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.

## Evangelism

### 321 Course

We normally run the Alpha course at least once a year but in 2025 we tried something different! In Oct/Nov 2025 we ran 321, a 4 week course on the Christian faith designed to help people think about God and themselves. We wondered whether it would be a useful pre-Alpha course prior to running Alpha in Spring the following year. 16 guests and 3 leaders attended the course. A good proportion of the guests had attended the previous Alpha course and, having enjoyed it, signed up as soon as 321 was advertised. 321 is presented by Glenn Scrivener on a series of videos and the end of each section contains a set of questions for reflection. The course is really designed as an online course which you could watch at home on your own.

However, we ran the course in a similar way to Alpha, starting with a home cooked meal before watching the videos and discussing the questions in small groups. The material was good and the course was well received. The 321 guests who have not previously attended Alpha have subsequently joined the Spring 2026 Alpha Course.

Trudy Rankin

## Section 8 - Local Outreach

### The Hartley Wintney Village Festival and Christmas Market

In June 2025 we once again opened up the Church and Church Centre for the Hartley Wintney Village Festival. The coffee shop was open as usual in the morning and we extended the opening hours into the afternoon operating on a simplified basis without barista style speciality coffees. Claire Parker and Gee Pallanygo, (our Children and Families Pastor and Youth Pastor respectively) and a team of volunteers ran a games café in a marquee in front of the Church. Darcy made many children happy by offering face painting. The Church was open with volunteers available to pray with visitors if they wished. It was a wonderful event with a great atmosphere.



Following the success of the summer festival, when it came to December and the Hartley Wintney Christmas Market we decided for the first time to open the Church and coffee shop rather than run a stall from a gazebo on the High Street. In previous years we provided free refreshments on the High Street and we continued that tradition of giving away hot chocolate, coffee, tea and Christmas biscuits and cakes, but this time serving it from the coffee shop.

Martin Barnes played Carols on the church organ for most of the evening and Claire Parker organised a number of Christmas themed crafts for children at the back of the church which was all very well received.



Angie enjoyed spending the evening hand-painting jam jars while chatting to children and teenagers. There was a lovely family atmosphere. Basing the event in the church and church centre seemed to give us more time to engage with people than on the busy High Street.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to these events.

Trudy Rankin

## Creation Care

Care for Creation is demonstrated through our work towards the Eco Church Gold Award. Despite achieving Bronze in 2017 and Silver in 2019 the expectations across the five areas have been revised, upgraded and made more rigorous in response to the Climate and Nature crisis and the latest climate science. Currently we have a long way to go before we gain the Gold Award which requires an additional portfolio of evidence demonstrating how stewardship and care for God's creation is celebrated and threaded throughout all we do at St John's Hartley Wintney.

A brief update on the five survey areas, teams involved and annual progress follows:

### **Worship and Teaching**

St John's Staff team: A key focus has been increasing opportunities for all age worship outdoors, celebrating and enjoying God's creation. Worship and Teaching during Creationtide, focused on care for creation and lamenting our part in its destruction with the sermons from this season now on the St John's website.

### **Buildings and Energy**

Buildings Development and Management Team: Work continues checking our current policies and plans for environmental stewardship, along with writing a new Environment Policy and Net Zero Action plan for approval by the PCC. We now have a trained Carbon Literacy Champion who will provide training and give advice. Future planned heating upgrades to the church are in line with eco principles and we seek grant funding.

### **Land and Nature**

St John's Garden Gang: The church family took part in citizen science timed pollinator, butterfly, bat and bird counts over the year to find out what inhabits the church site currently. We launched our Outdoor Area and Garden Consultation in January and the 35 survey responses will inform our Land Management Plan as we work to increase biodiversity and habitat loss while developing the area. See the Garden page on the church website for [consultation results](#), progress and for dates of regular working parties.

### **Community and Global Engagement**

Creation Care team: Members of St John's joined 5000 others in Westminster in July to lobby our MP to 'Act Now, Change Forever' for climate and nature. As a result of lobbying through our local climate and nature coalitions network, our local MP, Alex Brewer, signed the #StopRosebank Pledge and a press release sent out afterwards was picked up by the Basingstoke Gazette. The group now plans to show the National Emergency Briefing film to engage the community and provide a mandate to the government to act.

## Lifestyle

Creation Care with Eco Living team: With 73 responses, our 2025 Creationtide Lifestyle Survey demonstrates a real heart for creation care with 83.6% considering an ethical lifestyle to be part of living out our Christian faith, and 86.3% limiting waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. Areas for development include completing personal carbon footprint audits - with an initiative here led by the PCC over New Year, and increasing ethical banking, saving and investing - a current focus. There are now Eco updates, hints and tips in every e-news. See the 2025 Lifestyle Survey results on the Creation Care page of the website.

If you are interested in joining any of the teams working through the survey areas we would love to welcome you! Please email [creationcare@stjohnshw.org.uk](mailto:creationcare@stjohnshw.org.uk)

Alison Tebbs, St John's Creation Care Group:

## Coffee Shop

This has been an excellent year for St Johns Church Coffee Shop! Our regular customers keep coming, some every day, and we continue to welcome our groups of walkers, runners, cyclists, dancers and Pilates enthusiasts. Our outreach to our community stays centre front of our operation. Customers know they will always get a warm welcome, often be greeted by name and of course receive a good cup of coffee and excellent cakes. Only last week we received some very cheering feedback from one customer who said that coming to St Johns Coffee Shop had made a massive difference to their challenge of settling in as newcomers to the village.

It is a very big operation now. We have 8 teams of volunteers covering a normal week (including our wonderful bacon bashers). A very key part of our operation is the support and friendship that we have for each other within our teams as we go through life's ups and downs together. We run Weekday, Saturday and Sunday rotas and cannot manage with less than 4 people on duty each day to satisfy our volume of customers. Fridays and Saturdays this number increases to 6 people on duty. It is so encouraging to see so many of our volunteers stepping in to fill gaps sometimes at the last moment and being so giving of their time and effort. Trudy has calculated that 102 labour hours goes into staffing the coffee shop each week.

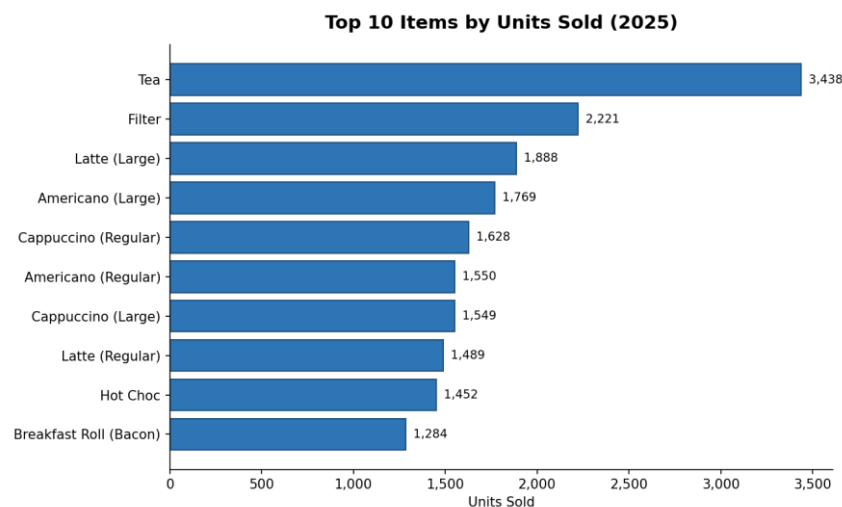
Whilst our customers are loyal, we know we need to continue to provide an excellent standard of coffee to keep them happy. To this end, with the help of Beccy Cole (a trained Barista) we ran several training evenings for our Baristas. Producing a lovely hot cup of coffee, either latte, cappuccino or americano is not a matter of luck. Beccy has enabled us to up our game and we work hard at producing excellent drinks to an even higher standard.

This report would not be complete without mentioning those wonderful home-made cakes and Saturday mornings fantastic bacon rolls. All our cakes are made by volunteers, week in and week out they are delivered to the coffee shop. Even multiple batches to cover holiday periods and Carolyn Hazell and team leaders are in daily communication to ensure adequate supply and stock rotation.

With the benefit of our point-of-sale system introduced last year we have item level sales for the period 1 Jan 2025 – 31 Dec 2025. Next year we will be able to analyse year on year sales.

Net sales after discounts were £71k, with over 20,000 hot drinks, 6000 cakes and 2500 breakfast rolls served. This is before cost of sales. The overall contribution of the coffee shop to the cost of running the church centre after cost of sales and directly allocated costs such as the cost of equipment was £53k. This does not equate to net profit for a stand-alone business of course as it does not take into account any allocation of cost of rent of the space, kitchen equipment, utilities, or accounting costs. However, it indicates what a fabulous contribution the coffee shop team make.

This year we have be pleased to be able to continue our ‘£1 offering’. Filter coffee, tea and a slice of flapjack are all sold for £1 to make them accessible for all. Below you can see that our £1 tea is the most popular drink sold by a significant amount.



Finally, a massive thanks goes to June Shorey, who, after an incredible 12 years on the Coffee Shop Management Committee, has chosen to take a well-deserved step back. June’s vision and drive were instrumental in making our coffee shop what it is today—without her, we would be making coffee in a **much** reduced facility. Thankfully, June isn’t hanging up her apron just yet. She’s still a regular fixture as a team leader, cake baker extraordinaire, and Saturday stalwart. We’re so grateful for everything she’s done and continues to do—she’s very much the heart and soul of our team.

Helen Timpany

## Kitchen Report

In January, February and March we ran Come and Cook sessions with approx.10 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.

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. 80 children and the 25 helpers per day.

Catering has continued with lots of Events including some of the following;- Kintsugi Hope reunion lunch, PCC Christmas Curry supper, the APCM sandwich lunch, Over 55 Forum lunch, Lunch for the Bishop of Mayamar. The Forget Me Not Christmas Meal was cooked by the kitchen team making money for St Johns - rather than outside Caterers.

In June we had a student doing work experience in the kitchen and helping serving at the Community Lunch as well as the Coffee Shop.

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's been a good mix of ages, gender and abilities, this group has become a really good team. We have made the course much more interactive, with knife skills being an area to concentrate on.

Later in the year I stepped down as Kitchen Manager, some of the responsibilities now being covered by the Operations Manager role.

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

2025 was a disappointing year for foodbank donations, both from the church family and from the wider community. The total weight of items donated in Hartley Wintney fell for the third year in a row, from a peak of 6¼ tonnes in 2022 to just over 3¾ tonnes in 2025.

YEAR	TOTAL WEIGHT (tonnes)
2021	5.00
2022	6.26
2023	5.91
2024	4.07
2025	3.79

There was a brief uplift after the Foodbank Sunday in June, when Mark Mabin, Chair of Trustees of Hart Foodbank, spoke at both services. It was a surprise for many to hear about the breadth of services that the foodbank provides for its clients – much more than just food parcels! A few church members make regular monetary donations which are not reflected in the above figures but are greatly appreciated by Hart Foodbank.

It's evident that donations to the foodbank rely on a diminishing number of generous donors. This may be an indication that more people are struggling with food price inflation, but that inevitably increases the numbers needing support from the foodbank. A weekly shortages notice is posted on the front window by the entrance to the Church Centre. It would really help if you could add some of these items to your supermarket shopping list. Thank you.

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 if you know anyone who would like this support.

In September 2024 the PCC agreed to create a 'St John's Community Fund' and although it was hopeful to come into operation in 2025, this has not been possible yet.

Angie Smith

## Contact Magazine

The Contact annual meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. This report gives a view of Contact for the 12 months prior to that. It doesn't make for easy reading.

Our Income and Expenditure account shows a deficit of £544.61 as against a loss of £40.48 for the previous year. Our only source of income is from the advertising revenue which, although it has come back from the effect of Covid has not reached its pre-Covid level. We have not increased the charges since 2015 but are reluctant to do so. It is always a close judgement setting increased charges against loss of advertisers, but this might have to be reviewed. The capital available at the year-end was £7404.82 and therefore the magazine remains viable at least for the short term.

Our other problem is that we have an ageing committee and some of our volunteers are stepping down citing age as the reason. We are always trying to tap into the younger members of the church and community to join the Contact team with adverts in the magazine but so far, they are not forthcoming. By younger, I mean newly retired or with time on their hands for whatever reason. One of our editors wishes to step down and the Chairman will step down at the end of the term of office next year. Our distribution Manager who has done a great job for many years also would like to hand over the reins in the near future.

So, we have major problems to face in the next few years. I hope that next year my report will be more upbeat but for the moment we carry on.

Diana Harvey, Chairman

## **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 2026

### 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 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

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                      Anthony Dewes

Signed on behalf of PCC: ..... (Incumbent) Date .....

## Appendix D – Statistics for Mission Return 2025