



# **A Year in the Life of St Christopher's Church (2025)**

2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of  
St Christopher's Church, Allesley Park and Whoberley



# St Christopher's Church 2025: Highlights

## God's family; loving like Jesus.

### **A Season of New Leadership**

2025 has been a year of significant change and encouragement. Following the ordination of Ann McCabe in June, we were delighted to welcome **Mark Brown** as our full-time Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) Minister in September. This appointment marks a vital step in supporting the younger members of our church family. (See *Introduction*, page 5)

### **Our Community Life** (see pp.9-17, 19-23)

- **Gathering Together:** Our average weekly in-person attendance remained steady at **69** (including 17 children).
- **Vibrant Midweek Outreach:** Groups like Together at 2, Puzzling Times, Church Fellowship, and Christopher Robin reach out to and serve our wider community throughout the week.
- **A Multigenerational Blessing:** We are deeply encouraged that 1 in 4 of our Sunday worshippers is under the age of 16—a sign of a healthy, growing family.
- **New commitment:** 6 members of our church community were confirmed in September.
- **The Electoral Roll:** Our roll stands at **63 names**. While we welcomed 6 new members, we also remember with affection **Doreen Tew** and **Rosemary Lavens** for their faithful witness.
- **Christmas Joy:** We welcomed over **200 people** to our festive services, including **93** who joined us for Messy Christmas and **88** for Carols by Candlelight.

### **Financial Stewardship** (See *Financial Review*, page 30; *Building Update*, page 28)

- **General Income:** **£66,306** was received to support our daily ministry.
- **Building Renewal:** Our "65 at 65" campaign and legacy gifts have raised **£16,343** toward our foyer and welcome project.
- **Mission Support:** We are thankful for **£21,000** in grants that helped make our new full-time CYF role possible.
- **Reserves:** We ended the year with **£10,998**, maintaining a sustainable position for the year ahead.

### **Our 2026 CYF Vision: P.R.A.Y.** (See *CYF Report*, page 16)

To guide our work with children and families under Mark's new leadership, we are adopting the **P.R.A.Y.** framework:

- **P**rioritise families, **R**esource volunteers, **A**dapt our outreach to schools, and **Y**ou—the whole congregation playing a part in our welcome.

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# Introduction from our Vicar

Welcome to our “Annual Report”; a summary of the life of St Christopher’s Church, Allesley Park and Whoberley, where we celebrate the different activities that make up the life of our church community, although this report only scratches the surface; much of what makes us who we are occurs outside of any formal activities - conversations where we support and pray for each other, our private prayers and acts of kindness that only God knows about. I hope nevertheless that you will find it an encouraging, inspiring and potentially challenging read.

Please pray for the people and activities described, and as you do so, ask yourself, is there something God is calling you to support, join in with, or even begin – in our children’s, youth and families’ ministry, community ministry, intercessions, worship band, or PCC, for example? Is there a way God is calling you to help our church experience and share the love of Jesus with our community?

Over the past year we have experienced significant change, bidding farewell to our ordinand, Ann McCabe who began her ordained ministry, now serving as curate at All Saints, Allesley, and welcoming Mark Brown as our Children, Youth and Families’ Minister, along with Michelle, Marg and Abigail. It’s been wonderful to see the green shoots of new life springing up with Mark’s ministry and I’m excited to see how God will be leading us over the coming years.

Thank you to all of you who work so hard to make this church community so special – many are mentioned in this report; others, also, are unsung heroes. One of our unsung heroes was definitely Rosemary Lavens, who served the church faithfully in many different ways, including latterly as PCC Secretary and as one of the team leading prayers of intercession. Sadly, she lost her battle to cancer in May. We greatly miss her quiet wisdom.

As you read through the report, I hope you will be encouraged like me, as we see evidence of how the whole body of Christ (or at least our small part of it) is growing “to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:15-16). Whether you have been part of St Christopher’s for decades or are just beginning to explore what it means to belong, my hope is that these reports inspire you and that you may be inspired to play your part in the body.

Yours in Christ



Rev Andy March

Vicar of St Christopher’s Church, Allesley Park and Whoberley



# Aims and Purposes



St Christopher's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Andy March, promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building of St Christopher's, Allesley Park and Whoberley, with its integral church hall, kitchen, and meeting room complex.

## Objectives and Activities

St Christopher's Church is situated at the very heart of our community, in Allesley Park and Whoberley, next to a community school, opposite shops and businesses and we want this to be reflected in the way we are as a church; we aim to provide a warm welcome for everyone in our community, from the very oldest to the youngest, so that everyone may be able to become part of this church family.

The PCC maintains an overview of the worshipping life of our church. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and taking communion together.

In planning and reviewing our activities we are guided by our vision statement: **"God's family: loving like Jesus."**

We are called to be a growing family that seeks to build God's kingdom in Allesley Park and Whoberley by ...



## **Growing in God**

- **Walking** with God together - *We are people on a journey to be more like Jesus.*
- **Worshipping** with our whole lives - *Our worship enables us to meet with God and equips us to follow Jesus every day.*



## **Loving each other**

- **Welcoming, accepting** and **caring** for one another - *We are a loving and caring family where everyone can belong.*

## **Serving our community**

- **Working** with others to build God's kingdom - *We establish partnerships with others in the community to bring God's blessing.*

## **Sharing good news**

- **Witnessing** in word and action - *We reach out to our community with God's love and are confident to share our faith.*

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church building and grounds of St. Christopher's, for the sake of the church as well as the wider community, for which the building is an essential asset.

# Achievements and Performance

## Growing in God

- **Walking** with God together - *We are people on a journey to be more like Jesus.*
- **Worshipping** with our whole lives - *Our worship enables us to meet with God and equips us to follow Jesus every day.*

## Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Our main **Sunday morning 10am service** is informal in its style of worship, attracts a wide range of ages, with children and families being an integral part of our life together.

**All Age Worship** takes place on the first Sunday of the month; other Sundays are **Morning Celebration** (twice a month) and **Holy Communion** (once a month). We have a creche and children's groups for all services, apart from All Age Worship.

We have also enjoyed our occasional **Cafe Church** services for special occasions, such as Advent Sunday and Mothering Sunday, as well as **Messy Church** for Lent and Christmas as well as Good Friday.

Some of the highlights of our year –

### March

*Lent Messy Church*



*Wednesday morning congregation celebrates 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations for St Christopher's Church*



## Mother's Day Café Church



## April

### Holy Week Activities



## May

### Farewell to our ordinand, Ann McCabe



## June

### Celebrating Ann's ordination at Coventry Cathedral



## July

Café Church with guest speaker, Andy Kind



Summer Messy Church and picnic



## September

Confirmation Service, where we welcomed Sophie, new Bishop of Coventry. We were delighted to see Ali, Bethany, Christopher, Katie, Ky-Mani, Alicia and Isabelle affirm their faith.





## **November**

*Advent Christingle Café Church*

## **December**

*All Age Celebration for Christmas*



We're hugely blessed by a large number of people who help sustain our Sunday morning gatherings, through being part of the sung worship team; delivering Bible readings and prayers of intercession; supporting the livestream or overseeing the sound; offering prayer ministry; leading or helping our children's and youth ministry; serving refreshments after the service; organising rotas, and lots more!

If you would like to join any of these teams, then please let us know - it's so rewarding!

Thank you to ...

- *Warden/Set-up Team* - Tom Borrás, Martin Ellis and Stuart Hart.
- *Tom's team of helpers* – Ian, York, Jayne, George, Henry, Evelyn, Christopher and Emily
- *Sung Worship/Sound Team* - Emma Beasley, James Bowman-Powell, Susan Borrás, Kace Chiu, Cara Greenway, Stuart Hart, Christine Lo, Alicia March, Andy March, Isabelle March, Anthony Randall, David Summers, and Jacky Wong
- *Preaching/Service Leading and planning team* – Andy March, Nic Thorpe, Kace Chiu, Christine Lo
- *Readers* - Heather Beasley, Barbara Bell, Veera Bhadra, Lisa Borrás, Kace Chiu, Martin Ellis, Diane Harrisson, Ginny Heath, Louise Hicks, Andy Houston, Margaret Knipe, David Summers, Nic Thorpe
- *Intercessors* - Tom Borrás, Diane Harrisson, Louise Hicks, Andy Houston, Nic Thorpe
- *The Prayer Ministry team* – Sandra and Stan Aldridge, Barbara Bell, Tom Borrás, Marie Ellis, Andy Houston and Ginny Heath.
- *Coffee & Tea Team* - Tina Barnett, Heather Beasley, Susan Borrás, Katy Coupe, Dianne Harrison, Ginny Heath, Jenny Houston, Margaret Knipe, Emma Man, Alicia March, Isabelle March
- *Chalice* – Nic Thorpe, Stan Aldridge, Heather Beasley, Tom Borrás, Stuart Hart, Louise Hicks



One of the features of our church are the flower arrangements that make the church look so beautiful throughout the year and particularly at Christmas and Easter time. We'd like to thank our talented team, led by Sylvia Cliff: Diane Harrisson, and Kay Law. We would appreciate donations towards the cost of these arrangements.

Our weekly **Wednesday morning Holy Communion service** provides an important space for more traditional, reflective worship, with the formal liturgy and hymns being a vital part of this and meets the needs of the older members of our church community. We're very grateful to Tom Borrás who sets up for the services and David Summers who plays the piano or organ for our hymns. Our service always is followed by a time of coffee, cake and conversation, and it has been wonderful to spend this time together. All are welcome to join us for this precious time of worship and fellowship together.

## **Electoral Roll and Attendance**

All are welcome to attend our regular services, and it is a joy to see our community continue to grow. There are currently 63 names on the Church Electoral Roll (40 residing inside the parish and 23 outside). This is an increase from 59 in 2025, when the electoral roll was completely revised. During the year, we were pleased to add six new names, though we also saw the removal of two names following the deaths of Doreen Tew and Rosemary Lavens. We remain deeply grateful for their lives and their witness among us.

## **Attendance and Congregational Life**

Our average weekly in-person attendance (measured during the October count) was 61, comprising 42 adults and 19 children on Sundays, with 15 attendees at our Midweek Holy Communion. Additionally, an average of 11 people continue to join our worship online each week.

## **Stability and Resilience**

For the whole of 2025, our average weekly in-person attendance was 69 (52 adults and 17 children). This demonstrates remarkable consistency compared to our totals of 68 in both 2023 and 2024. While these figures suggest a steady "plateau," they actually reflect significant renewal; despite losing several long-standing members to bereavement or residential care, our adult numbers have remained nearly constant as we have welcomed new members into our church family.

## **A Growing Younger Generation**

Most notably, our church continues to trend younger. Our Sunday school and youth presence has grown steadily from 14 children in 2023 to 17 children in 2025. This puts St Christopher's firmly within the top 15% of all Church of England parishes for child attendance. Today, roughly one in four people in our Sunday congregation is under the age of 16—a hallmark of a healthy, multigenerational community.

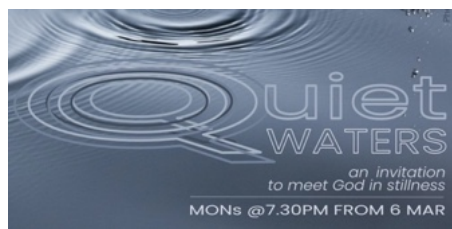
## **Festivals and Outreach**

Our Christmas services were a particular highlight, with over 200 people engaging with the church:

- **Messy Christmas:** Our new initiative was attended by 93 people (46 children and 47 adults), an increase of 10 from the previous year.
- **Carols by Candlelight:** Attendance grew to 88 (up from 74 in 2024 and 54 in 2023).
- **Christmas Eve All Age:** Remained our largest single gathering, with 120 people joining us to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## Quiet Waters: An Invitation to meet God in stillness

Is your peace often disturbed by busyness, stress, or anxiety? **Quiet Waters** offers a dedicated space to restore that peace and reconnect with God's presence through meditation, contemplation, and mindfulness.



We meet in the church at **7:30pm for one hour on the first and third Mondays of each month**. Throughout the past year, the group has been attended by an average of eight people each session. It remains a vital "still point" in our church's busy life, providing a much-needed opportunity to meet God in stillness and silence.

If you would like to explore these contemplative practices, please contact **Stan Aldridge** or **Andy Houston**. Everyone is welcome to join us in the quiet.

## Life Groups

At St Christopher's, we believe that following Jesus happens best in community. Life Groups are small gatherings that meet during the week to foster friendships, have fun, and grow in faith together. Built on the values of **welcome, nurture, and outreach**, we offer three distinct types of groups:

- **STUDY:** For those diving deeper into a specific course or the Bible.
- **ACTIVITY:** For those connecting through shared interests or hobbies.
- **COMMUNITY:** For those simply sharing life, fellowship, and prayer.

## 2025/26 Review

It is incredibly encouraging that our three active Life Groups now involve approximately **30 members** of our church family. Over the past year, these groups have beautifully embraced our three core themes:

- **Puzzling Times & Together at 2:** Both groups have flourished this year (detailed reports for these can be found elsewhere in this document).
- **Tuesday Evening Life Group:** This group has focused on fellowship, nurture, and prayer. We are deeply grateful to **Susan and Tom Borrás** and **Sandra and Stan Aldridge** for their faithful leadership and for hosting this vital space for spiritual growth.

## Looking Ahead

If you would like to join a Life Group—or if you have a vision for a new group you would like to launch—please speak with **Stan Aldridge** or **Andy March**. We would love to help you find your place in our small group community.

# Our work with Children, Youth and Families (CYF)

## Review and Transition

Our CYF work was overseen by ordinand Ann McCabe until her departure in May; we are deeply grateful for her leadership and the care she showed our young people. We have long enjoyed a strong history of ministry with children and families, driven primarily by the dedication of our wonderful team of volunteers. **As noted in our attendance figures, this strong foundation and our standing among the most active parishes for youth work in the Church of England is a hallmark of St Christopher's Church.**

## A Strategic Investment

Recognizing the importance of sustaining this level of ministry for the long term, the PCC identified the appointment of a dedicated CYF Minister as a key priority. This was made possible through a significant partnership of financial support. We are immensely grateful for the generous grants obtained from the **Benefact Trust** and the **Coventry Diocesan Mission Fund**, alongside the **Diocese of Coventry's** agreement to reduce our parish share to £30,000 per annum over three years. Combined with a further £10,000 per year invested from our own income, this enabled us to welcome **Mark Brown** into this full-time position in September.

## Vision for 2030:

### **The P.R.A.Y. Framework**

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the Church of England's national vision to double the number of children and young active disciples by 2030. To help us move toward this ambitious goal, we are using the **P.R.A.Y.** framework to guide our thinking and Mark's ministry:

- **P – Prioritise:** Ensuring that the spiritual lives of children and families remain a central consideration in our church's planning and community life.
- **R – Resource:** Using our new leadership and funding to provide better support, training, and resources for our existing volunteer teams, who are the backbone of our Sunday work.
- **A – Adapt:** Looking at how we can develop our long-standing relationship with **St John's Academy** and make the most of our proximity to **Allesley Hall Primary School** find new ways to connect with the families in our wider community.
- **Y – You:** Recognizing that the welcome and nurture of the next generation is a collective journey for the whole congregation, requiring the prayers and hospitality of us all.

With Mark now in post, we look forward to seeing how we can grow from our current strong foundation into an even more vibrant community for the next generation.

Here, Mark shares his first CYF report...

### **Children & Youth on Sundays**

It's great that our young people and children are part of the church family and that we provide a good programme of activities for Pathfinders, Explorers and Scramblers. I have enjoyed being part of the youth and children's team leading and supporting those involved in helping and leading at children's and youth groups. Thanks to the existing team of leaders and helpers – Marie, Katy, Louise, Caroline, Tina, Laura, Jo, Mary, Liz. New helpers for next term – Christine, Emma and Stuart are new volunteers who will be stepping up to support from after Easter.

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church has continued to be an effective outreach, attracting families from outside the church community and enabling people to have deeper connections with each other. In 2025, we held Messy Church events for Lent, Easter, Summer and Christmas. We're so grateful to all those who get involved by volunteering, with craft tables, refreshments or welcome.



# Loving each other

Welcoming, accepting and caring for one another - *We are a loving and caring family where everyone can belong.*

Our church family is a body made up of many parts. That's the way it's supposed to be. At St. Christopher's we are big fans of what Archbishop Rowan Williams has to say: that the church is God's pilot project for a new humanity. The way we come together, walk together, live together can show the world a redefined family, a new way of life. One part of that is that we look to welcome, accept and care for each other.

## Regular expressions of family

We know that there are people in our community who could become lonely and isolated. We want to have a constantly open invitation to them to be part of the sense of family there is at St. Christopher's; and we are delighted about the opportunity to do this through our regular groups: **Together at 2**, the **Puzzling Times** jigsaw puzzle group; and our **Church Fellowship**.

## Together at 2

Together at 2 meets fortnightly on a Thursday, mainly at 2pm, apart from the odd times when we change for a lunchtime get togethers! We hope to start our outings again as soon as the weather warms up.

The cost of each meeting is £2 pp which pays for the refreshments and the entertainment from outside of our group.

We have had a varied programme over the last 12 months. Several speakers - Martin Lee from CORD, Jenny Forman from the Salvation Army, Mark Brown came to talk about his work with the youth and as a family minister. Barbara Bell inspired us with her talk about stones from around the world. We went by mini-bus on a day trip to Evesham Country Park in



September. Bishop Sophie visited us shortly before Christmas to tell us about her work.- we then proceeded to make Christingles.



Margaret treated us to a 'tea party at the sea-side' in the Summer. Occasionally we go out for tea locally. Sometimes we play Bingo. When we arrive we are greeted with a hot drink and cake as well as good company. There are about 16 of us.

*Report by Ginny Heath*

## **Church Fellowship**

Another year has gone by!

Members of the Church Fellowship have enjoyed eleven sociable meetings between February and December, with up to twenty members and a number of visitors attending.

We were saddened to lose one of our long-standing members, Rosemary Lavens, but glad that Ian remains a member of the Fellowship. Also, Dorothy Lynes and Margaret Reading have gone into permanent residential care so our numbers have reduced.

We were able to share food, especially a very tasty meal cooked for us in March by Angela and Maxine, and have some friendly rivalry on quiz nights.

Easter and Christmas were opportunities for us to share in Holy Communion and Carols in church, followed of course by hot cross buns and mince pies respectively. It was lovely to have the company of those who usually attend the Wednesday morning service.

We had visits from five guest speakers.

- In May Barbara Bell was brave enough to talk to us about one of her hobbies – lace making. Having given us a short history of the craft, she showed us some of her own beautiful pieces of work that had taken many many hours to produce.
- In June, Karen Jones from the Resource Centre for the Blind in Earlsdon gave us an insight into the work of the Centre - now called Coventry Vision Hub which is more appropriate as they work with people who suffer from many different sight problems.

- August found us listening to Nick Cole from Coventry Search and Rescue. Most of us had no idea that we have the inland version of Mountain Rescue. Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, the service provides help to other emergency services when someone has gone missing. They have had many successes. A rewarding but also sometimes traumatic job.
- September was time for Gilly Mills to talk about Researching the Family Tree, something that several people have started, but which can be very time consuming.
- In November Liz March told us all about a charity that she now works for – Carriers of Hope. She brought to life the work that they do with refugees and the homeless.

As mentioned last year, it is becoming harder to find organisations who don't charge large amounts of money to supply a speaker, but we have a full diary for the coming year and I would encourage you to join us at any of our meetings.

The committee will endeavour to keep the Fellowship alive, and we thank everyone for their continued support

*Report by Kay Law*

## **Puzzling Times**

Up to ten people have enjoyed another year of friendship and 'brain-training' by completing many jigsaws of various subjects from 250 to 500 pieces.

We unfortunately lost one of our longtime members – Rosemary Lavens – who will be sadly missed for her friendship and support. Happily, Ian has stuck with us, so we have our very own washer-up!

We were also able to welcome Margaret Griffin to the group, helping her to enjoy the company and make friends, having moved to Coventry from Plymouth.

The group's library of about thirty large piece puzzles has been refreshed, with the Charity shops benefitting from our 'cast offs', giving others the opportunity to enjoy them.

Our 'swap shop' is still going, meaning that the puzzling carries on in several homes in between our meetings.

We have continued to donate a small amount of funds to help with heating and have moved into the meeting room to make space for the Hope Café.

Members of the group have been generous in providing treats, sometimes home made, to accompany our drinks.

If you want to become a dissectologist, do come and join us!

The time spent in other people's company has been particularly valued by those who live on their own and new friendships continue to grow.

We are looking forward to another year of Puzzling Times.

*Report by Kay Law*

We also know how isolating parenthood can be. We will say more about our **Christopher Robin** toddlers group in the next section.

## **Pastoral Care**

We aim to be a community that cares for one another. We want to be alongside one another in the tough stuff of life, because we believe our God does the same. We have various informal ways of sharing news of the concerns and needs of our little family and we look to respond as we can.

We believe in a God who is still active in the world and in our lives. And, so, one of our responses is to pray for each other. We have a **St. Christopher's Prayer Chain** group on Facebook as well as a more public prayer list.

We also offer prayer ministry for those seeking God's guidance, strengthening and healing. Our prayer ministry team is available to pray with people every Sunday. Praying together, people find comfort, strength, encouragement and hope in God's loving, healing presence.

We are aware that much of our pastoral care relies on informal relationships, rather than an organised structure. We would like to form a Pastoral Care team to respond to the needs of those within our church. If you would like to join this, then please speak to Andy.

# Serving our community

Working with others to build God's kingdom - *We establish partnerships with others in the community to bring God's blessing.*

## Christopher Robin Playgroup

It has been great being part of the Christopher Robin team with providing activities for babies/toddlers with play and tots church and support to parents at Tuesday toddlers group. With group attendance of 10 – 20 families every week. We also had a social meal at a local pub this year.

We have a great team of volunteers that help run activities – Liz, Caroline, Cara, Libbi, Diane, Tina and Andy. We could do with new volunteers to help with setting and packing down equipment or just be a friendly face to chat to families. We have invited families to join us at Messy Church, Family Disco and new Hope Café.

## Family Discos

We held another couple of Family Discos, welcoming lots of families from the community coming and having fun together as families with disco, games and tuckshop.

## Christmas Fair

At the end of November 2025, we held our Christmas Fair and were delighted to welcome hundreds of people from our community. Once again, it was a wonderful occasion. We raised over £1,800 of much needed funds for the mission and ministry of our church.



Thanks to the fantastic team who came together to make this happen. Particular thanks are due to Mat Hicks and Sam Greenway who worked tirelessly in the kitchen.

In addition, we held two very successful fundraising community events in October. Firstly, we held our first **Indoor Car Boot Sale and Café**, raising around £500 and then the **Autumn Music Extravaganza** – a concert of music from our homegrown talent, including our house band, and solo contributions from David Summers, Isabelle March and Andy March, and music from the Local Vocals community choir, which raised £1000.



# The wider community

## Schools

**St John's Church of England Academy** is our church school.

Headteacher, Mrs Laura Stevenson, writes,

*The links between St John's C of E Academy and St Christopher's Church continue to grow. Andy March offered significant support to our request to reintroduce a faith criteria into our Admissions Policy for September 2026, which was successful. He worked alongside me to verify the faith application forms and ensure that the new admissions policy was followed correctly. Andy offers support to me as headteacher and is very generous with his time to support us with collective worship and with planning lessons in RE. Mark Brown's appointment as Family and Children's worker has further added to our church links. Mark leads worship for us regularly and he and Andy lead our World Changers after school club together with Margaret. Mark also offers mentoring support to our upper key stage 2 children who would benefit from this additional guidance.*



As a school, we are preparing for our next SIAMS inspection and we have discussed how Andy will support us. We have planned a school visioning day in the Summer Term to inspire our whole school community to let their light shine, as our school vision shares.

We are proud of the additional opportunities we have at school for families to join in the prayer life at St John's, for example through our parent prayer group and our monthly family prayer times. Family prayer times are always liturgically

*themed and include a range of prayer, craft and reflective activities, suitable for all ages from pre-school to grandparents. We are developing our prayer spaces around the school for children to use during class times and also in times of personal need.*



Our school values of Drive, Character, Teamwork, Stewardship, Identity and Excellence teach children how to live out our school vision. The values are planned through our curriculum.

We continue to develop spirituality across the curriculum, using Liz Mills' 'Windows, Mirrors,

*Doors'* framework in collective worship, and using the 'Ows, Wows and Nows' framework at a child-level in all classrooms. This is echoed in the staffroom and samples of these are shared with families during celebration worship each Friday.

Andy and now Mark have built on the connection with **Allesley Hall Primary School**, coming in to lead regular assemblies and welcoming the school community to the church for Christmas and Easter.

We look forward to this relationship being strengthened over the coming years. One way that we are seeking to do this is the launch of Hope Café, a weekly after school drop in, beginning in January 2026. More on that next year!



## Supporting Good Causes

Another key way we serve our community is through financial giving, either through hosting fundraisers or giving money from the church. In 2025, we supported **Coventry City Mission** through their Giving Tree campaign, providing unwrapped new gifts for children; held a special offering for the **Syrian Orthodox Christian School** in Bethlehem.

# Sharing good news

Witnessing in word and action - *We reach out to our community with God's love and are confident to share our faith.*

## World Changers (at St John's School)

We have been running World Changers after school club on Wednesdays with average attendance of 20-25 children who attend. Featuring a mixture of worship, bible stories, craft activities and team games.

2025 was a season of transition for the club's leadership. Ann led the group until Easter, and Mark took up the mantle in September. We are particularly grateful to those who ensured the club's continuity during the summer term; **Andy** and **Margaret** have been constants throughout the entire year, providing the stability the children value so much. Their dedicated presence, alongside support from **Liz**, allowed the club to thrive during this bridge period.



## Detached Youth Work

Mark and Coventry Youth For Christ Youth Worker Joe Morris have been going out in community – engaging with young people from Allesley Park and Whoberley. Building bridges in community with local young people.

# Church Hall and Fabric

St Christopher's Church continues to be a vibrant community hub. In 2025, our hall was home to 10 regular groups, including **Zumba (Jo Davis and KB Zumba)**, **Jujitsu**, **Drama Tots**, **Tea Dance**, **Sheila Bates' Friendship Group**, and the **Coventry Social Circle**. We also hosted **Brownies** until November and provided a regular space for **Broadmead Court**. **Faith Church Ministries** continues to worship here every Sunday and one Saturday each month.

The hall remains a popular local venue, hosting **18 parties** throughout the year and a three-day professional training course. This high level of engagement resulted in record hall hire income of **£23,748**, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. To help us maximize this potential and keep the space attractive, we are looking to form a small development team; please speak to Andy if you are interested.

## **Maintenance and Stewardship**

Our 2025 Quinquennial Inspection confirmed the building is in **good structural health** with no major problems found. Key maintenance this year included:

- **Repairs:** Fixing the church flat roofs in July and replacing the disabled toilet flush unit in August.
- **Grounds:** Pruning trees in September for safety and to clear local streetlighting.
- **Volunteer Support:** We are deeply grateful to our caretakers, **Jo and Garry Cooke**, and many others who support the maintenance of our church hall, including Martin Ellis, Tom Borrás, and Stuart Hart.

For a full itemized list of repairs and the 2025 inspection summary, please see the **Fabric Report** in **Appendix Six**.

# **Building Project and Strategic Update**

## **From “65 at 65” to the “Church Renewal and Welcome Project”**

Last year, we launched our “65 at 65” campaign to mark St Christopher’s 65th anniversary. The goal was to begin the journey of **transforming our 1960s addition with the long-held dream of the addition of a 21st-century foyer and community space**. We are delighted to report on the incredible progress made since then.

## **A Foundation of Generosity**

We are profoundly grateful for the way the church family has stepped up. To date, we have raised a total of **£17,145**. This is a combination of:

- **£10,000** from a generous legacy gift.
- **£7,145** raised through active fundraising, including **£4,500** in "65 at 65" pledges, **£1,000** from our Autumn Concert, and **£1,200** from Andy’s sponsored walk.

## **Your Giving in Action**

It is important to note that this generosity has already borne fruit. These funds have allowed us to commission the **initial professional surveys and finalise the detailed designs** you see today. These essential technical steps simply could not have happened without your support; they have moved us from a vision to a professional project that is now ready to be presented to national grant-makers.

## **Broadening the Vision: The New Project Remit**

Following a strategic review, the PCC has agreed to expand the scope of this project. While the foyer remains the centerpiece, we recognize that we must steward the *whole* building for the next 65 years. We have therefore renamed the endeavour the **Church Renewal and Welcome Project**.



This expanded vision brings together four key long-term goals:

1. **Completing the Welcome:** Building the glazed foyer and "Community Living Room" to make our hospitality visible to Allesley Park.
2. **Renewing our Facilities:** carrying out essential works to our existing building so they are comfortable and accessible for everyone.
3. **Net Zero Adaptations:** Upgrading our heating and energy systems as we work toward a sustainable, environmentally responsible future.
4. **Internal Connection:** Delivering the "Internal Bypass" link so the Church, Hall, and Café can be used by different groups simultaneously.



## The Next Milestone: The Community Audit

To unlock the significant national grants required for a project of this scale, we must provide evidence of community need. Our focus for the coming months is the **Community Audit**. We are not asking for further financial pledges at this stage; instead, we are asking for your **voice**.

- **Visit the website:** See the finalized designs and presentation at [stchristopher.org.uk/building-project](http://stchristopher.org.uk/building-project)
- **Complete the Audit:** Please fill out a feedback card today or use the digital form on the website.



# Financial Review

**Note:** The figures in this summary and the full accounts in **Appendix Four** are currently in draft form, subject to final approval by the Independent Examiner.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £66,306 of which £35,005 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £3,023 was from Gift Aid. Income from fundraising events of £3,472 was also received, these included concerts, social occasions and the Christmas Fair.

The planned giving, through the Parish Giving Scheme and standing orders decreased by 8%.

Specific fundraising was achieved for the building project of £16,343 and grants of £21,000 were obtained towards the Children, Youth and Family Worker position.

With the additional grant income the total income rose year on year by £26,987.

£30,000 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. Christopher's Church, comprising our Parish Share contribution, this is a significant reduction on what we should be paying. This was agreed with the diocese while we also fund the Children, Youth and Family Worker position. £10,000 was moved for the year into a designated fund, towards the ongoing cost of this 3 year role.

The parish share largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The sum that the churches in the deanery have to find is shared between the churches and worked out annually by a deanery meeting of clergy and treasurers. It is expected that churches who have a full-time clergy would contribute the full cost of this.

During the year we maintained our reserves position within policy, the balances carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> December on unrestricted funds totalled £26,164 (general and designated funds).

## **Reserves Policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on general unrestricted funds equating to between 6 and 8 weeks of expense payments - equivalent to between £9,717 and £12,956 for 2025. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of £10,998 held in general unrestricted funds at the year-end falls within the range defined by our reserves policy.

*Jo Harris, Treasurer*

# Structure, Governance, Management & Team

## Administrative Information

St. Christopher's Church is situated in Allesley Park and Whoberley, Coventry. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 173 Winsford Avenue, Coventry CV5 9NJ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

## PCC Membership and Appointment

PCC members are appointed according to the Church Representation Rules, consisting of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, and members elected by those on the Electoral Roll. We encourage all congregants to join the Roll and consider standing for election to help oversee parish decisions and finances.

PCC members who served from 1st January 2025 until the date of this report:

- **Ex Officio members**  
The Reverend Andy March (Incumbent and Chairman); Mr Stuart Hart (Church Warden until July 2025); Mr Thomas Borrás (Church Warden from April 2025); Mr Martin Ellis (Church Warden from April 2025).
- **Deanery Synod Representatives**  
Mrs Heather Beasley (also Safeguarding Officer until April 2025); Mrs Louise Hicks (also Electoral Roll Officer); Mrs Margaret Knipe.
- **Elected members**  
Ms Mary Abamwa (from April 2025); Mr Stan Aldridge (Member of Finance Committee); Mrs Barbara Bell; Mrs Sylvia Cliff (from April 2025); Mrs Katy Coupe; Mrs Marie Ellis (Safeguarding Officer from April 2025); Ms Cara Greenway; Mrs Joanne Edwards (co-opted); Mx Amey Hanesworth (until April 2025); Mr Thomas Hanesworth (until April 2025); Mrs Johanna Harris (Treasurer); Mr Andrew Houston (PCC Secretary from April 2025); Mrs Rosemary Lavens (PCC Secretary until April 2025).
- Mrs Ann McCabe also attended PCC meetings in her capacity as our ordinand until April 2025.

## Deanery Synod

St Christopher's is part of the Coventry South deanery. Our three representatives provide a vital link to the wider church. Due to a change in Area Dean in 2025, only one meeting took place this year.

# **PCC Annual Report 2025**

The PCC met six times in 2025, alongside additional extraordinary and electronic meetings, to oversee the mission and management of St Christopher's. This has been a significant season for our church, marked by new leadership and clear steps forward in our mission and building goals. To make our time together as effective as possible, we focused our meetings alternately on Strategic Governance (finance and buildings) and Mission and Ministry (outreach and vision).

## **Key Achievements & Ministry**

- Youth & Families: We were delighted to appoint Mark Brown as our Minister for Children, Youth, and Families, supported by over £41,000 in grants.
- Outreach: Plans are underway for our "Coffee Machine Outreach" to local parents, supported by a Diocesan Mustard Seed grant.
- Building Project: The Café Building Project has progressed with a fundraising target of £250,000.

## **Leadership & Safeguarding**

We welcomed **Tom Borrás** and **Martin Ellis** as our new Churchwardens, following the long and dedicated service of Stuart Hart. We also welcomed Marie Ellis as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, who took over in this essential role from Heather Beasley who had served us in this capacity so diligently, helping us maintain a safe and caring environment for everyone.

# Our Shared Ministry

In Ephesians 2, St Paul writes:

*“You belong to God’s family. You are like a building that was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in that building... and in Christ you, too, are being built together... into a place where God lives through the Spirit.”* (vv.19-22)

This image is at the heart of our vision: **“God’s family; loving like Jesus.”** It reflects the reality that there are many different, equally essential parts that come together to make the whole. We simply couldn’t function without everyone playing their part, and we are richly blessed by the variety of gifts offered across our community.

We want to thank **everyone** for making our church family such a lively and vibrant community. If you would like to get more involved with any aspect of our ministry, or if you have ideas for how we can continue to grow, please do have a chat with **Andy, Mark** (CYF Minister), or **Martin** (Churchwarden).

While this report mentions many who have led and supported us, we wish to extend particular thanks to:

- **Our Churchwardens: Stuart Hart**, who stepped down in July, and **Tom Borrás** and **Martin Ellis**, who stepped into the role in April. All three have worked tirelessly on our behalf.
- **Jo Harris**: Who continues to use her gifts to help us understand the church’s accounts and finances.
- **Sue Williams**: Who has fulfilled her role as Church Administrator brilliantly.

And, of course, thank **you**. As the apostle Paul puts it so appropriately:

*“You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”* (1 Cor 12:27)

**Report approved by the PCC on 16th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy March', written in a cursive style.

**The Reverend Andy March** (PCC Chairman)

# Appendix One – Vicar’s Report

This is the fourteenth Vicar’s Report I have delivered here at St Christopher’s Church. In some ways, much has changed over this time; certainly, many of the faces who form the St Christopher’s Church family are not the same that they were back in September 2012. Yet, this body has the same beating heart that first drew me here; a genuine desire to be family, looking out for the needs of others, providing spiritual and practical support to those in need; an understated faith in God; a desire to welcome all without exception; a willingness to celebrate and prioritise the youngest among us while maintaining our almost unique characteristic of being a church community of all ages. Perhaps most encouraging of all is seeing a church where so many are active in ways both seen and unseen – the very lifeblood evidenced throughout the pages of the Annual Report.

In our Annual Report we have a whole host of activities described for old and young alike, and so much of it brings me joy – from seeing young children and older adults together on the same table working on a **Messy Church** craft; the companionship provided by the likes of our **Jigsaw Puzzle** and **Together at 2** groups; the way people are fed so well spiritually by our **Life Group**; the fact our **Sunday services** enable and empower old and young alike to serve God in various ways; the faithful prayer offered in person and from a distance; the array of gifts offered to God in music, creativity and hospitality. They are all signs of a church community that is vibrant and healthy and I am so grateful to God for his work among us.

In last year’s report, I shared my sense that we were entering a new chapter called “Dawn” – a season of renewal after the “storm” of recent years. It has been a joy to see how this reality is beginning to take shape – we have been able to appoint Mark Brown as our **Children, Youth and Families’ Minister**, which has enabled us to build on our existing work, strengthening our **Sunday groups** work and schools ministry and enabling us to begin new outreach, namely the **Hope Café** weekly after school drop in, which has connected us with some new families – and there is a feeling that this work is only just beginning.

This sense of 'Dawn' is also reflected in our **Church Renewal and Welcome**, which you can read about in more detail in our Annual Report. Last year, we set out a vision for our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it was moving to see how you have responded, by building on a generous legacy through your 65 at 65 pledges (totalling over £4,000), support of our **Autumn Concert**, and by your wonderful response to my own **sponsored walk** efforts. Knowing that you had supported me to the tune of over £1,000 helped me to keep going through every one of the 40 miles I walked on the Coventry Way on the hottest day of the year and made the blisters well worth it!

These contributions have enabled us to take tangible steps to seeing our vision for a renewed building become a reality, as we have been able to produce some exciting designs for a space that would be transformational for our building and community. As we work through the complexities of grants and faculty applications, I am reminded that this project is about more than just bricks and glass; it is about creating a 'front door' that reflects the radical welcome we aim to offer every person who walks onto our site. I am also reminded that our priority is not just to build for the future but to steward our building so that it serves us and the community in the present, which means doing all we can to carry out the essential repairs and renewal work – and this is something that we can all play some small part in.

Of course, it can be so easy to fall into the trap of thinking of the building as church when, of course, it is the people. You and I are the church – and the way in which our church best embodied the “Dawn” was the wonderful **confirmation service** we hosted in September with **Bishop Sophie**. I don't mind admitting that I had a lump in my throat as 6 of our young people made their public declarations of faith. On a personal note, that two of these were my own daughters made it even more special and I cannot express my gratitude for the environment that St Christopher's Church has provided for them to grow in their faith, where they have been taught in Sunday groups and been able to serve in the worship band and in other areas. This itself is a testimony to the work God has done among us.

As I look at the breadth of life contained in this report, I am reminded of St Paul's image of the **Body of Christ in I Corinthians 12**. He writes that '*the body is not made up of one part but of many*' and that '*God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*' Whether you are a 'hand' out in the community, a 'voice' in our worship, or a 'quiet heart' in prayer, you are indispensable to St Christopher's Church. My prayer for this coming year is that we continue to grow in our appreciation of one another's unique gifts and may we find that each of us is able to play our part to the glory of God. May we remain a body that is healthy, active, and united—a beating heart of hope that reflects the love of Christ to Allesley Park, Whoberley, and beyond.

With much love and every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'A' and 'y'.

Rev Andy March  
March 2026

# Appendix Two – PCC Report

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST CHRISTOPHER ALLESLEY PARK AND WHOBERLEY

### PCC REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 19th APRIL 2026

There were 6 Scheduled Meetings of the Parochial Church Council in 2025. In addition, there were 2 extraordinary meetings. Each of the meetings were well attended by members. All meetings started with a bible reading and prayer at 7.45pm.

From September 2023, the shape of PCC meetings was changed. Of the 6 meetings per year, 3 would be focused on Strategic Governance (covering finance, building maintenance, hall use, etc) and 3 would be focused on Mission and Ministry, freeing the PCC to discuss the life of the church in more depth.

#### **Wednesday 22nd January: Strategic Governance**

- **Vision:** Andy March shared the national Church of England vision to double the number of children and young people by 2030, setting a local parish goal to increase Sunday attendance from 15 to 30 children.
- **Finances:** The PCC met its 2024 reserves policy, largely due to an agreed reduction in parish share. £7.01k was moved to designated funds, and £3k was allocated to a maintenance fund for future roof and lighting work.
- **Staffing:** A plan was formed to use funds from the reduced parish share to hire a Family Worker by September 2025.
- **Church Health:** A "Growing a Healthy Church" review identified strengths in kindness and worship but highlighted the need for formal welcome and pastoral teams.

#### **Wednesday 19th March: Mission & Ministry**

- **Children & Families:** The PCC approved £100 for a recruitment advertisement on a Christian website and discussed a vision to sustain the role for five years.
- **Building Project:** A £10k legacy was pledged toward a projected £105k café building project. The PCC agreed to appoint an architect for initial plans and a quinquennial inspection.

- **Leadership:** Tom Borrás agreed to stand as Churchwarden for one year to mentor a successor. Marie Ellis was confirmed to move into the Safeguarding Officer role.
- **Safeguarding:** Approval was given for new volunteers and a new induction checklist for group leaders.

## Tuesday 20th May: Strategic Governance

- **Maintenance:** A quote of £2,925 + VAT for roof repairs was approved. Hawkes Edwards Architects were appointed for the Quinquennial Review (they later withdrew, as we had appointed a different architect for our Café Building Project - see below).
- **Café Project:** Fundraising reached over £13k; Robert Davies Architects were appointed as the project architects.
- **Staffing Success:** Andy announced that Mark Brown accepted the Children, Youth, and Families Minister role, supported by £41k in total grants.
- **Tributes:** The PCC expressed warm thanks to Stuart Hart for his many years of service as he stepped down as Churchwarden.

## Wednesday 16th July: Mission and Ministry & Social

- **Building Progress:** Roof repairs were completed. To support the Café Building Project, The PCC agreed to spend approximately £1,200 on professional building measurements and a bat survey.
- **Communication:** The purchase of two new notice boards for the hall and entrance was approved at a cost of £400.
- **Community:** A major "group clean up" was organized for the church ahead of a visit from the new Bishop.
- **Events:** Plans were finalized for an indoor car boot sale and a community choir concert in October.

## Wednesday 17th September: Strategic Governance

- **Building Project:** Discussions focused on digital building capture and the need to complete a bat survey before the end of September. The fundraising target was noted as approximately £250,000.
- **Cleaning:** The church deep clean was scheduled to conclude on September 23rd.
- **Safeguarding:** A data breach was reported, and the PCC confirmed all affected individuals had been notified.
- **Advent/Christmas:** Planning began for the Christmas Fair (Nov 22), Advent Café Church (Nov 30), and Messy Christmas (Dec 14).

## October 2025: Electronic & Extraordinary Decisions

- **Worship Technology (5th Oct):** The PCC formally approved mounting an additional television screen in the church to improve visibility for worship leaders facing away from existing screens.
- **Coffee Machine Outreach (Email/October):** Following an electronic consultation, the PCC approved the purchase of a £820 commercial "bean to cup" coffee machine.
  - **The Vision:** To launch a Monday afternoon outreach (3–4pm) targeting parents from Allesley Hall School, providing a "warm hub" space in the winter and a prominent profile in the summer.
  - **Funding:** The project was contingent on grant success. A **£500 Diocesan Mission Fund (Mustard Seed)** grant was successfully secured, reducing the church's outlay to £320.
  - **Outcome:** The machine was purchased in November, with the goal of being operational for the Christmas Fair to begin generating a profit for the Mission and Ministry Fund.

## Wednesday 19th November: Mission & Ministry

- **Professional Fundraising:** Anna Marie Keane introduced a proposal to serve as a professional fundraiser, aiming to net £50k in the first year for the café project.
- **Children & Youth:** Mark Brown presented a family plan focused on contact, connect, commitment, and growth.
- **Weekend Away:** Plans were discussed for a "Church Weekend at Home" in May 2026, including shared meals such as a fish and chip supper.

## Sunday 30th November: Extraordinary Meeting

- **Fundraising Decision:** Following the previous discussion, the PCC voted to employ Anna Marie Keane for one day a week at a cost of £650 per month to seek grants for the building project. The motion passed with one abstention.

PCC report written by Andy March. March 2025.

Thanks to Andy Houston, Stan Aldridge and Tom Borrás for writing PCC minutes.

Full minutes available on request.

# Appendix Three – Safeguarding Report

“The Church of England, which includes the Diocese of Coventry, is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community. We believe that making our churches safe for all is everyone’s responsibility.” (taken from Diocese of Coventry safeguarding website).

At St Christopher’s we continue to strive to create and maintain environments that are safer for all, that promote wellbeing, that prevent abuse, and that create nurturing, caring conditions for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

To help us with this we now have an online system, known as a ‘parish dashboard’, which generates a ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ action plan that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the safeguarding policy is being put into action and this is reviewed regularly.

At present we have 21 volunteers that work with children and young people. These volunteers were all recruited safely and subject to DBS checks and training. Mark Brown, our children and family worker, is now responsible for the induction, ongoing support and oversight of volunteers.

Going forward, we need to ensure that regular groups that hire the hall for children and young people’s activities have either their own safeguarding policy or adopt the church’s policy.

Following issues with data safety, the Diocese has moved to a new provider for DBS checks. This is called ‘thirtyone:eight’. At present we are experiencing some teething problems with the new system but hopefully these will be ironed out soon.

If anyone wants to find out more about safeguarding and the role of the church there is lots of information available on the Diocese website, and the training modules are open to all, not just those who volunteer. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

Please speak to the safeguarding officer or clergy if you have any concerns.

I would like to thank Heather for her continued support and advice over the past year.

Marie Ellis  
Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Christopher’s Church  
April 2026

# Appendix Four – Financial Accounts 2025

## Parochial Church Council of St Christopher Allesley Park and Whoberley Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible	-	-	-	-
Investment	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	26,436	22,559	48,995	28,897
<b>Total current assets</b>	26,436	22,559	48,995	28,897
<b>DEBTORS</b>				
Due within one year	480	2,255	2,735	1,158
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due within one year	(752)	(1,168)	(1,920)	(3,567)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	26,164	23,646	<b>49,810</b>	26,488
<b>CHURCH FUNDS</b>				
Reserves (General Fund)	10,998	-	10,998	9,537
Designated Funds		-		
- Building Development Fund	900	-	900	900
- Charitable Giving Fund		-	12,096	3,500
- Family Worker Fund	12,096	-	12,096	3,500
- Maintenance Fund	1,490	-	1,490	4,000
- Mission & Ministry Fund	680	-	680	1,000
- Parish Share (future years)	-	-	-	2,000
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>15,166</b>		<b>15,166</b>	11,400
Restricted Funds				
- Building Fund	-	6,476	6,476	140
- Christopher Robin Fund	-	-	-	134
- Church Weekend Fund	-	-	-	-
- Education Fund	-	3,165	3,165	2,187
- Special Projects Fund	-	361	361	356
- Welfare Fund	-	2,644	2,644	2,734
- Family Worker Fund	-	11,000	11,000	5,551
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	-	<b>23,646</b>	<b>23,646</b>	5,551
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	26,164	23,646	<b>49,810</b>	26,488

Two pages of Notes form part of these accounts.

**Parochial Church Council of St Christopher Allesley Park and Whoberley**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Voluntary income	38,029	42,418	<b>80,447</b>	56,760
Activities for generating funds	3,472	-	<b>3,472</b>	4,016
Income from investments	12	-	<b>12</b>	119
Income from church activities	24,793	-	<b>24,793</b>	20,842
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>66,306</b>	<b>42,418</b>	<b>108,724</b>	81,737
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	100	-	<b>100</b>	100
Fundraising costs	888	-	<b>888</b>	212
Church activities	59,891	24,323	<b>84,214</b>	67,268
Governance costs	200	-	<b>200</b>	200
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>61,079</b>	<b>24,323</b>	<b>85,402</b>	67,780
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>				
	<b>5,227</b>	<b>18,095</b>	<b>23,322</b>	<b>(4,163)</b>
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY 2025	20,937	5,551	<b>26,488</b>	
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER 2025	26,164	23,646	<b>49,810</b>	

Two pages of Notes form part of these accounts.

**Approval of Financial Statements**

The financial statements on pages 40 to 41 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on **16 April 2026** and signed on its behalf by:



**Rev'd A March PCC Chair**

**Note:** The accounts presented in this report are currently in draft form and are subject to final approval by the Independent Examiner.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2025

## INCOMING RESOURCES

	Fund	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary income</b>					
Church collections (open plate)	General	2,667	-	<b>2,667</b>	2,317
Donations for general use	General	1,004	-	<b>1,004</b>	2,177
Gift Aid	General	3,023	-	<b>3,023</b>	9,035
Planned Giving	General	31,335	-	<b>31,335</b>	34,146
Running costs (energy support)	General	-	-	-	-
<b>Income - Restricted Funds:</b>					
Building Fund	Restricted	-	16,343	<b>16,343</b>	-
Christopher Robin Fund	Restricted	-	-	-	-
Church Weekend Fund	Restricted	-	-	-	7,135
Education Fund	Restricted	-	-	-	-
Special Projects - Audio/Visual improvements	Restricted	-	-	-	-
Welfare Funds	Restricted	-	-	-	-
<b>Grants Restricted Funds:</b>					
Children, Youth & Families Worker	Restricted	-	21,000	<b>21,000</b>	-
Education Fund	Restricted	-	2,050	<b>2,050</b>	1,500
Building Maintenance	Restricted	-	1,755	<b>1,755</b>	-
Special Projects - Parent Drop In	Restricted	-	840	<b>840</b>	-
Welfare Funds	Restricted	-	430	<b>430</b>	450
		<b>38,029</b>	<b>42,418</b>	<b>80,447</b>	<b>56,760</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fundraising for general use	General	3,472	-	<b>3,472</b>	4,016
<b>Income from investments</b>					
Interest (Skipton Account)	General	12	-	<b>12</b>	119
<b>Income from church activities</b>					
Administration	General	-	-	-	-
Clergy expenses	General	-	-	-	-
Church Fees	General	385	-	<b>385</b>	440
Hall Rents	General	24,268	-	<b>24,268</b>	20,402
Wages (General)	General	-	-	-	-
Family Worker	Designated	-	-	-	-
Maintenance Fund	Designated	-	-	-	-
Mission & Ministry Fund	Designated	-	-	-	-
Collections for good causes	Designated	140	-	<b>140</b>	-
Diocese Energy Support	Restricted	-	-	-	-
Fees (In and Out)	Restricted	-	-	-	-
		<b>24,793</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,793</b>	<b>20,842</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>66,306</b>	<b>42,418</b>	<b>108,724</b>	<b>81,737</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2025

RESOURCES EXPENDED	Fund	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cost of generating voluntary income</b>					
Administration	General	50	-	<b>50</b>	50
Wages of administrator	General	50	-	<b>50</b>	50
		<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>100</b></u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Fund-raising costs</b>					
Fundraising for general use	General	888		<b>888</b>	212
		<u>888</u>		<u><b>888</b></u>	<u>212</u>
<b>Church activities</b>					
Administration	General	1,153	-	<b>1,153</b>	277
Clergy expenses	General	934	-	<b>934</b>	763
Fees (bank/card)	General	281	-	<b>281</b>	412
House Keeping	General	816	-	<b>816</b>	148
Items used in church services	General	1,180	-	<b>1,180</b>	719
Parish Share Cost of Minister	General	30,000	-	<b>30,000</b>	32,000
Running costs (utilities etc.)	General	7,221	-	<b>7,221</b>	8,097
Wages (staff)	General	13,932	10,000	<b>23,932</b>	14,283
<b>Expenditure from Designated Funds</b>					
Charitable Giving	Designated	-	-		100
Family Worker Fund	Designated	1,404	-	<b>1,404</b>	
Maintenance Fund	Designated	2,510	1,755	<b>4,265</b>	
Mission & Ministry Fund	Designated	320	-	<b>320</b>	1,111
<b>Expenditure from Restricted Funds</b>					
Building Fund	Restricted	-	10,007	<b>10,007</b>	
Christopher Robin Fund	Restricted	-	183	<b>183</b>	
Church Weekend	Restricted	-			7,199
Education Fund	Restricted	-	1,072	<b>1,072</b>	1,639
Welfare Fund	Restricted	-	520	<b>520</b>	520
Parent Drop In	Restricted	-	786	<b>786</b>	
Collections for good causes (In and Out)	Designated	140		<b>140</b>	
		<u>59,891</u>	<u>24,323</u>	<u><b>84,214</b></u>	<u>67,268</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>					
Administration for Meeting	General	100		<b>100</b>	100
Wages of administrator	General	100		<b>100</b>	100
		<u>200</u>		<u><b>200</b></u>	<u>200</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>61,079</u>	<u>24,323</u>	<u><b>85,402</b></u>	<u>67,780</u>
<b>Net Movement</b>		<u>5,227</u>	<u>18,095</u>	<u><b>23,322</b></u>	<u>13,957</u>

# Appendix Five – APCM Minutes 2025

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

### 1. Annual Meeting of Parishioners (11:00 Start)

- **Clerk:** Andrew Houston was approved as clerk.
- **Minutes:** The previous year's minutes were approved (Prop: Katie Coupe; Sec: Cara Greenway).
- **Election of Churchwardens:** Martin Ellis and Tom Borrás were elected (Prop: Jo Harris; Sec: Louise Hicks).
- **Assistant Wardens:** Jo Harris, Cara Greenway, Laura, and Stuart Hart.
- **Thanks:** Gratitude was expressed to Stuart Hart for his service.

### 2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (11:10 Start)

- **Apologies:** Kace Chiu, Sandra & Stan Aldridge, Emma Bowman-Powell, James, and Rosemary Lavens.
- **Minutes & Reports:** 2024 minutes and the Annual Report were approved.
- **Electoral Roll:** Reported at 59 names (40 inside parish, 19 outside).
- **Deanery Synod:** Louise Hicks reported on the "blessings and battles" of other churches.
- **Bethlehem School:** Barbara Bell reported that attendance has grown from 12 to 650 students.
- **Safeguarding:** Heather Beasley is stepping down; Marie Ellis is taking on the role. There are currently 21 volunteers.
- **Finance:** Jo Harris presented the accounts via PowerPoint. The accounts were approved, and an independent auditor was appointed (Prop: Louise Hicks; Sec: Cara Greenway).

### 3. Election of PCC Members

The following full list of PCC members was approved (Prop: Heather Beasley; Sec: Katy Coupe):

#### Ex-Officio and Officers:


- Vicar: Andy March
- Churchwardens: Tom Borrás and Martin Ellis
- PCC Secretary: Andy Houston
- Treasurer: Jo Harris
- Safeguarding Officer: Marie Ellis
- Electoral Roll Officer & Deanery Synod: Louise Hicks
- Deanery Synod: Heather Beasley and Margaret Knipe

**PCC Members:** Mary Abamwa , Stan Aldridge , Barbara Bell , Sylvia Cliff , Katy Coupe , Jo Edwards (Co-opted) , and Cara Greenway.

**Stepping Down:** Amey Hanesworth, Thomas Hanesworth, Stuart Hart, and Rosemary Lavens.

#### **4. Vicar's Report & Closing**

- **Vicar's Summary:** Andy March summarised his report at 11:34.
- **AOB:** Barbara Bell raised the possibility of solar panels for the building project to support the environment.
- **Close:** The meeting ended at 12:10 following prayers and a final blessing.

**Signed:**  \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. Andy March, Vicar)  
**Date:** 5 October 2025

#### **Appendix: "What does it mean to be Church?"**

*Key themes from the group discussion:*

- **Community:** A safe, welcoming space; a family of believers.
- **Action:** To encourage, learn from, forgive, and serve one another.
- **Identity:** Being the church both when "gathered" and "scattered" in daily life.
- **Purpose:** Worshipping together, reflecting on God's work, and growing in faith.

# **Appendix Six – Fabric Report 2025**

## **FABRIC REPORT 2025 FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026**

The church flat roofs were repaired in July but unfortunately leaks started to appear in December, hopefully this will be resolved in 2026.

In August we replaced the toilet flush unit in the disabled toilet.

We spent 2 mornings on a big clean in church in September, thanks for all those who helped.

Two trees were pruned in September for safety and to clear the streetlight outside the church hall.

A Quinquennial Inspection of the building was done in November with no major problems found.

The maintenance of church buildings and gardens has been supported through out the year by many people especially Martin Elis, Tom Borrás, Andy March, Stuart Hart, Jo & Garry Cooke.

*Report by Tom Borrás and Martin Ellis, Churchwardens*





*Celebrating the Confirmation of six of our church community in September with Sophie, Bishop of Coventry*



**St Christopher's Church**  
 Allesley Park and Whoberley  
*"God's family; loving like Jesus"*

**GROWING** in God | **LOVING** each other | **SERVING** our community | **SHARING** good news



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND