



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

Parish Bulletin and Annual Report 2025



**ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
MAIDENHEAD**

Annual Meeting of Parishioners
For the
Election of Churchwardens followed
by the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 12st April 2026
at 11.15am, in the Church, following the 10.00am service of Parish Communion

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ST LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD AT 11.30 AM ON

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025

The Reverend Sally Lynch was in the chair and welcomed the 39 people present. No one joined on Zoom. She opened the meeting with a prayer.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price had been proposed and seconded for the post of churchwarden and were duly re-elected.

Revd. Sally thanked them for the work they had done over the previous 12 months and commended them for the next 12.

This meeting was then closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD HELD
IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025

Apologies for Absence

Shula Tajima, Rhidian Jones, Nicola Buckland, Ruth Humphreys, James Ellins, Sam Fiordelisi, Josie Kershaw, Michael Masango Murwisi

Minutes of meeting held on 21st April 2024 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2024 APCM had been circulated in the Annual Bulletin and these were signed as a true record with no matters arising.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The PCC Secretary read out the Electoral Roll Officer's Report which had been compiled by the current Electoral Roll Officer, Ruth Humphreys.

All Anglican churches are required to completely revise their Electoral Roll every six years and 2025 is one of those years. Members had completed and returned fresh application forms. The new Electoral Roll had 87 members compared to 124 names at last year's 2024 APCM.

Revd. Sally thanked Ruth for the work she had done on the Electoral Roll.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report had been published in the Annual Bulletin by the outgoing PCC Secretary, Jeanette Lock. There was nothing to add to this report and there were no questions regarding it.

Revd. Sally thanked Jeanette for her work towards this report and her work as PCC Secretary over the years. Revd. Sally presented her with a gift.

Revd. Sally thanked Smita Bora who had taken on the role of PCC Secretary in the meantime. Formal officer appointments would be made at the next PCC meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The PCC treasurer, Bev Botting, summarised her report that had been published in the Annual Bulletin.

Bev thanked Kim and Ben who had offered invaluable, behind-the-scenes support throughout the year.

No changes had been made to the summary figures in the Annual Bulletin by the Independent Examiner.

Bev highlighted that expenditure had been greater than income and urged the new PCC to prioritise income generation. Bev explained that we would need to keep some reserves from legacies. For example, the interest from Johanna's legacy had sustained Sam's role with Children and Families. Bev had predicted that, as a result of reduced numbers on the Electoral Roll (through people passing away or moving away), income would decrease by approximately £1,000 per month.

There were no questions regarding the accounts.

Revd. Sally thanked Bev for her work over the last 12 months. She also thanked Dave Sopp, Kim and Ben for their support to Bev.

Revd. Sally thanked everybody for all the money and time that had been given over the last year. She encouraged all to continue giving and also encouraged the congregation to consider capacity for fundraising activities in terms of cost, energy and time. Expenditure had already been cut back considerably. The PCC had added Finance to the Mission Action Plan.

Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Ralph Hinchliffe had agreed to remain as Assistant Churchwarden for a further 12-month term.

Rachel Beaumont would be stepping down as Assistant Churchwarden and Michael Masango Murwisi had agreed to return to the role.

Revd. Sally thanked Ralph and Rachel, and presented a gift to Rachel.

Election of PCC Members

Simon Bader, Rachel Beaumont, Barbara Essam and Anne Child had come to the end of their terms of office.

Revd. Sally thanked them for their contribution to the PCC during their terms of office.

The reduced numbers on the Electoral Roll had led to a reduction in elected Lay member entitlement from 12 elected Lay members to 9 elected Lay members.

Instead of four people to serve for three years, we would now be entitled to three people to serve for three years.

However, there had also been vacancies for both one-year and two-year terms of office for a number of different reasons. Sara Leader (Registry Clerk) had confirmed that the Church Representation Rules had been unable to advise on replacing these vacancies, so a Bishop's Determination had been sought from Bishop Steven.

Two options had been offered. The option that offered the most stability had been chosen; three places for three years and two places for two years. This had generated five vacancies.

Revd. Sally proposed that five members would be elected but terms of office confirmed at the first PCC meeting or before.

Five nominations had been received prior to the meeting and there were no additional nominations received.

Emma Cameron, Fiona Leonard, Kim Rumble, Dee Lanyon and James Ellins were duly elected.

Jeanette Lock had resigned as Deanery Synod representative with 1 year of her term remaining. No nominations had been received prior to the meeting and there were no nominations received at the meeting. The churchwardens had offered to attend and represent the laity at Deanery Synod meetings for this year. The next round of Deanery Synod representative elections would take place in 2026.

Report on Welcomers

Jacqueline Lewis gave a report on Welcomers. We currently have 12 Welcomers. She thanked them all for their dedication and reliability during the year.

Lisa Sharp, Anne Child, Jeanette Lock, John Salter and Rita Salter would be stepping down as Welcomers and were thanked for their service over the years.

Fiona Leonard and Emma Cameron had agreed to join the team and were welcomed by Jacqueline.

Revd. Sally also thanked the Welcomers for all they had done during the year. More welcomers were encouraged to join the team.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Our current independent examiner, Antonio Shiafkou, had indicated that he would be willing to continue in the role. Revd. Sally suggested that he be re-appointed for next year. This was proposed by Bev Botting, seconded by Simon Bader and carried unanimously.

The Chair offered her thanks to Antonio for his swift return of the inspected reports and his service over recent years.

Fabric Report

The Fabric report had been published in the Parish Bulletin.

Clare highlighted that the main expenditure had been on the roof with some work still outstanding. The Net Zero Carbon sub-committee had been asked to look at heating and

lighting, following the Church of England's 2030 Net Zero target. A report on air-source heat pumps had been obtained but resourcing this had been tight. Although the Listed Places of Worship Grant (LPWG) had been continued for one more year, a cap had been placed on reclaiming 20% VAT and the scheme might not continue into the future. This would affect large-scale projects such as heating and lighting works. All major work had been put on hold. The boiler had continued to function under a new contractor. Lighting would be changed to lower-maintenance LEDs and quotes would be obtained from contractors to change light fittings to enable this.

Mary Pennington asked for temporary lighting for the choir, especially during Evensong. Revd. Sally explained that individual lights for the choir and guiding lights on the floor had already been provided. Mary reported that these had not been satisfactory. Revd. Sally explained that any temporary solution would involve paying for scaffolding in the chancel. Clare would speak to contractors about combining these requested works with the replacement of fittings for LED lighting.

Revd. Sally thanked both churchwardens, Ralph Hinchliffe (Chair of Fabric Committee) and Simon Bader together with all those who had served on the Fabric Committee, as they cared for the fabric of the church building.

She also thanked all those who clean the church including Sally Somerville and Gill Boaks. Collette and Howard Baxter had been stalwarts but have had to give up cleaning of the church. Angela Jeffreys had agreed to volunteer to clean the church on a regular basis. More volunteers were encouraged to join the team and the congregation was also encouraged to keep a general eye on the cleanliness of the church.

Safeguarding Officer's Report

Barbara Essam, Parish Safeguarding Officer, had published her report in the Parish Bulletin.

Revd. Sally highlighted the national situation and that the Safeguarding Hub had continued to be invaluable for keeping records of training and role descriptions.

Basic training would take place on Sunday 16 March after the service for volunteers but this would be open to and useful for everyone. Slides had been provided by Church House and the training would be certificated.

Revd. Sally thanked Barbara for her work as Safeguarding Officer and also thanked Dorothy Strack-Hankey for her administrative support.

Parish Life Reports

These were all published in the Annual Bulletin.

Revd. Sally highlighted the key points of the Mission Action Plan (MAP):

- **Nurturing Disciples** – to continue to be an inclusive, welcoming church, encouraging people to grow in faith.
- **Worship for All** – to continue to offer a variety of styles of worship, for example, Choral Evensong, All-Age Service, Taize Service and Pram Service. Revd. Sally thanked Isobel, Jacqueline, Ruth and Sam for their support with the Pram Service.
- **Environment and Justice** – a dynamic leader would be needed to take on leadership of the Eco Group to encourage people to take realistic actions. Revd. Sally thanked Revd.

Phyl who had led the achievement of the Silver Eco Award and Don for looking after the recycling of batteries and pill packets.

- **Buildings, Grounds and Finance** – to continue the expensive business of maintaining our beautiful building, including the creation of a new path and eco areas in the churchyard.
- **Fellowship, Outreach and Wider Community** – to continue to serve the whole parish, not just the congregation.

Revd. Sally paid tribute to the choir, particularly in the absence of a Director of Music, and also locum organists and musicians George Baldwin currently on a year's placement at Guildford Cathedral, Richard Harker, David Pether, Simon Dinsdale and Adam Went.

Revd. Sally thanked Sam Fiordelisi for all her work with Children and Families this year. She had got to know our families and had involved them in many activities and events. Messy Church and Baby and Toddler Group had flourished. More volunteers were encouraged to join the team.

Incumbent's Report

The Incumbent's report had been published in the Annual Bulletin and Revd. Sally highlighted the following points:

- 2024 had been a quiet year. New members of the congregation had been gained. There had been some significant deaths, notably, Julienne Grobler, Phyllis Sigsworth and Ann Hockham.
- A variety of worship had been maintained despite the pandemic, catering for both ends of the age spectrum, for example Thursday Teas, Keeping Company, monthly Communion at Swift House as well as catering for children and young families.
- The Summer All Age Arts Project had been a successful way to bring everybody together.
- The Alpha Course had been attended by a dozen people and this would be built on differently this year.
- The Christmas Tree Festival had been one of the best held and all who had helped were thanked.
- Shared ministry had continued with Joan and Jeremy at the Good Shepherd in Cox Green and at All Saints Boyne Hill; this had enabled clergy to support each other and to work, worship and learn together.
- Links with St Luke's School had been strengthened in partnership with Sam Stevenson, headteacher. The Nativity play had taken place in church this year with high parental engagement. Sam had been a speaker at a breakfast event in church. Theology Week had been a success. Sally Somerville, Sam and Ruth were thanked for being part of the Open The Book team and Jacqueline would be joining the team this year.
- Links with St Piran's had also been successful and Jamie Harle was welcomed to the ministry team. The strong links of support both ways would be continued.
- Interfaith links had continued to be strong. Revd. Sally pointed out the women's wall hanging which had been shown to Bishop Mary. Further links could be made this year because Lent would fall at the at the same time as Ramadan.
- The Diocese had continued to focus on Children and Young People and a new area bishop had been appointed.
- Additional thanks had been expressed in the bulletin and gratitude expressed to everybody who had ministered in whatever capacity at St Luke's. All were encouraged to

speak up if they felt called or drawn to any type of church ministry, such flowers or welcoming, so more people would be involved in a variety of ways.

Revd. Sally thanked the following publicly:

- The PCC and Standing Committee for their hard work over the year.
- The churchwardens, Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price, for their support and for being spiritual and practical sounding boards.
- The Parish Administrators Ruth Humphreys (and Catherine from last year) for their hard work and grace in our fast-moving office.
- Sam Fiordelisi for getting to know all our families and for highlighting our children's ministry.
- Jamie Harle for joining the ministry team and for bringing fresh gifts and skills, including things from the army.
- Revd. Terrie for her time, faith, inspiring sermons and Gaynor's Gifts.
- Revd. Phyl for her ministry.

Revd. Sally welcomed the appointment of the new area bishop, Bishop Mary Gregory.

Revd. Sally announced that she would be retiring from full-time stipendiary ministry this Summer. Revd. Sally had prayed and reflected, and was sure that now would be the right time to move on to enable somebody else to continue the amazing work being done by the people of St Luke's in God's name. Revd. Sally's last service would be at the end of July to allow a smooth transition to vacancy.

Jeremiah 29.11 was quoted:

'for surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you future, with hope'.

Revd. Sally thanked everybody for their support and love.

Ann Darracott asked about the future of the Christmas Tree Festival. Revd. Sally explained that some briefing had taken place already, and planning would continue to take place for this and other activities.

Vote of Thanks

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price gave a vote of thanks to Revd. Sally for all her wonderful work during the last year, especially in the knowledge that she would be retiring. She had been a tremendous support through all sorts of ups and downs, and a fantastic leader. She had been making many provisions to ensure continuity and to support ministry. As well as supporting with big issues and events such as the Christmas Tree Festival, Revd. Sally had continued to carry out the little, practical things which nobody knows are happening. Revd. Sally had been careful to ensure succession planning had been put in place and there would be many wonderful ideas for the future.

Revd. Sally was thanked for her ministry, practicality, careful planning and support. A small presentation was made to her. An email announcing Revd. Sally's retirement would be sent from the office after the meeting.

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 12.25pm.

Date of Next APCM – 12th April 2026 (to be confirmed)

Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead Annual Report for 2025

Aims and Purposes

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Sally Lynch and the Churchwardens during interregnum, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of all the church buildings, these all being situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is also responsible for safeguarding in all aspects of the church's life.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St. Luke's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Worship and other activities put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC tries to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship, prayer and nurturing faith; learning about the Gospel; and developing their faith and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care and the occasional offices for people living in the parish and beyond.
- Missionary and outreach work and care for the created world. To facilitate this work, and as part of our stewardship, it is important that the PCC maintains the fabric of the church buildings.

Safeguarding continues to be a major consideration for the PCC, with regular reviews taking place during the year. The PCC has also reviewed the church's Safeguarding Policy, and has complied with its duty to have due regard with the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2021 the Diocese of Oxford launched the Safeguarding Dashboard for each parish. This parish has complied fully with it and is currently at level 3 of 3. The PCC ensures all those required to do so undertake the relevant nationally provided safeguarding training,

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Our main service continued to be a Parish Communion service at 10.00am on Sunday, also offered on Zoom. A quieter and more contemplative Service of Holy Communion at 8.00am also took place once a month, alongside a weekly service at 10.00am on Wednesdays. In partnership with All Saints, Boyne Hill and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, we offered a variety of evening services through the Sundays at Six programme. We continued to have an All-Age Communion service on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms took place at midday on Sundays (mainly) and also within the 10am Sunday Communion service. A Christian Enquirers course ran on Wednesday evenings during February and March to explore the basics of Christian belief over coffee and biscuits.

We continued to offer zoomed Morning Prayer from Tuesday to Saturday (Tuesday to Friday during interregnum), and Evening Prayer on Friday until interregnum.

St Luke's had joined with other churches in the town on the World Day of Prayer on 7th March, and some members took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

We held our APCM on 2nd March at which Revd. Sally announced her retirement.

A 'Taking it Further...' day was held on 8th March for those who attended the Alpha course last year or those interested in exploring more about Christianity and living as a disciple of Jesus.

Our Lent course used the 'Come and See' videos and Diocese of Oxford resources by Bishop Stephen after the Wednesday and Sunday 10am services.

In May, we enjoyed a quiet day at St Michael's Convent, Gerrards Cross.

A Baptism Anniversary service and party took place on 11th May,

A Bible Study Course, exploring the book of Genesis, took place in May.

Our Advent and Christmas services were well attended. Our Carol service was held in-person and also on Zoom. On Christmas Eve, we held a well-attended Crib service. A variety of School Carol services were held during December.

Samantha Fiordelisi continued in her post as Children and Family Leader. Her role continued to include involvement with the Baby and Toddler group and Messy Church, as well as the development of strategies to enable and support the growth of children and families during Sunday worship. Pram Services were held at the start of the year, before Revd. Sally retired.

A permanent Director of Music continued to be sought so our music remained a combination of visiting organists/pianists and recorded music. Adam Went, our former Director of Music/Organist, returned to St. Luke's part way through the year and, at the end of the year, we were delighted to hear that he would be appointed as Director of Music again.

Diocesan/Deanery Synod

Three lay members of the PCC sit on Deanery Synod, alongside the clergy. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

Church Buildings

The Fabric Committee, led by Ralph Hinchliffe, continued to ensure the church building remains in a good condition prioritising and addressing any general church maintenance which is needed, namely church lighting, the church roof, the boiler and the churchyard.

Along with a team of volunteers, it held several church working parties to undertake any general church maintenance needed, both inside and outside the church building. Major issues included an aging boiler alongside roof leaks, a broken Zip tap and the need to renew the lighting system with a better quality and more eco-friendly system.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care continued to be vitally important throughout the year. The Pastoral Team continued to support those on the pastoral roll who are housebound or frail. The PCC is extremely grateful for the time and effort it has put in. The 'contactors' list has been maintained.

The vicar and Associate Minister had been able to offer Home Communion and pastoral visits, and conducted a number of funerals. During the interregnum, Jeanette Lock and Revd. Terrie continued to administer Home Communion.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Each year, we pledge to give 5% of our giving to our nominated charities. This year, our Outward Charitable Giving was £3,180 which was distributed to our three nominated faith-based charities: Baby Bank, Christians Against Poverty and Embrace the Middle East. Each charity received £795. The fourth quarter of our Charitable Giving (the final £795) was split between New Brainstorm School in Uganda, Inclusive Church and Toilet Twinning through Kori.

The combined collections totalling £350 from the Crib and Christingle services were donated to The Children's Society.

The Christmas Tree Festival raised £5,623 for the chosen charity, Alzheimers Dementia Support.

We encouraged our members to donate to Foodshare via local supermarkets and in church.

We produced a weekly news sheet which was circulated via email, with hard copies available for those church members with no IT provision.

Ruth Humphreys continued in her role as Parish Office Administrator, increasing her hours during interregnum.

We continued to offer alternative fresh expressions of church, including monthly Messy Church.

We continued to offer our in-person fellowship and outreach activities, such as the monthly Thursday Teas, monthly Keeping Company bereavement group and weekly Baby and Toddler group, which met in church and continued to be very popular.

We continued the Gaynor's Gift group, a Prayer Shawl ministry to knit, crochet or sew shawls or blankets which, once blessed, were distributed to those in any kind of pastoral need. This was held monthly..

Activities through the year

In January, St Luke's achieved the Silver Eco Church award.

Church Breakfasts were held throughout the year. On 15th February Mrs Sam Stevenson spoke and answered questions about St Luke's School. On 10th May, Revd. Sally Lynch talked about her life and faith. On 20th September, we listened to Pari Saimi. Founder of Curious Minds in partnership with Usborne books.

Lent Lunches were held on 9th March, 23rd March and 6th April.

An Easter Egg Hunt, with Tea and Prayer, was held on 19th April.

A useful PCC Away Morning was held on Saturday 27th April to update the St. Luke's Church Mission Action Plan 2024-2027 and discuss the vacancy.

A 'Not the Summer Fair' collection took place on 11th May raising £1,000.

A Garden Party was held on Saturday 28th June.

Revd. Sally's Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 20th July followed by afternoon tea, with special guests from the wider community, to recognise the links Revd. Sally had developed in her time.

Revd. Sally's final Eucharist was on 27th July, followed by a bring-and-share picnic at the vicarage.

We achieved The Wildlife Garden Silver Award in September.

Our Harvest Festival took place on Sunday 5th October.

Our Christmas Tree Festival took place in December with beautifully decorated Christmas trees in church, sponsored by a variety of people and organisations. We welcomed several hundred people into church each day. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the whole event which raised over £5,623 for Alzheimers Dementia Support as well as £5,490 for church.

Ecumenical Relationships

We are a member of Churches Together in Maidenhead and, as a Presence and Engagement parish, church members also participate in the activities of Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum and Women's Interfaith Group. We continue to share the concerns of our Jewish and Muslim neighbours for the conflict in the Holy Land.

Volunteers and Others

The PCC would like to express its thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to the running of St. Luke's Church. Many of these people work quietly in the background, doing all the little and not so little jobs that go into the smooth running and upkeep of the church. We are greatly indebted to Simon Bader and Raja Mani for their technical work and the team of helpers who have welcomed people into the church.

Revd. Phyl (Associate Minister) and Dave Sopp (Treasurer) moved to a new parish in February. A parish lunch, with a formal two course meal, was held on 16th February to share memories and to give thanks for their exceptional service to St Luke's.

The Reverend Sally Lynch continued to work conscientiously and passionately not only to keep the church running efficiently and safely before her retirement in August but also to ensure a smooth transition into interregnum, including the organisation of cover for all services until the end of 2025. She managed to do this as well as carrying out her function as Associate Area Dean. We miss her boundless energy, her involvement with so many different aspects of our community, her pastoral care, her services, her nurture provision, and her professionalism, experience and knowledge.

The interregnum period has been an especially challenging time for all of us. The PCC would particularly like to thank the Churchwardens Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price for keeping us

going during our vacancy, the Vacancy Steering Group for their work on the Parish Profile and all those who have stepped up to take on additional roles and responsibilities well above the call of duty during this time. Reverend Canon Terrie Robinson has provided us with a tremendous amount of support and continuity and we are grateful to all other clergy who covered our services.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Luke's, the current membership of the PCC consists of the two Churchwardens, two Deanery Synod members and nine members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of mission and of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are spent and safeguarding.

The PCC met on six occasions during the year.

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law and has limited powers to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It seeks to promote the effective working of the PCC and coordinate the activities of the various planning groups. Its membership consists of the Incumbent, two Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC secretary and two lay members of the PCC, elected annually. It also acts as the Finance Committee overseeing the financial situation and planning the stewardship renewal. The Standing Committee has met on four occasions during the year.

Fabric Committee:

This committee is responsible to the PCC for all matters in relation to the fabric of the building and churchyard. The Net Zero Carbon Project is an official sub-committee of the PCC.

Administrative Information

St. Luke's Church is situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford (and Archdeaconry of Berkshire) within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Luke's Church Office, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7AX. Registered charity number 1129951.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 are:

Ex Officio Members

Incumbent	The Reverend Sally Lynch (Chair) - retired August 2025
Associate Minister	The Reverend Phyllis Sopp - moved parish February 2025
Churchwardens	Jacqueline Lewis (Vice Chair until APCM) Clare Price (Vice Chair after APCM)
Deanery Synod	Ruth Sheppard (until APCM 26) Marc Caporiccio (until APCM 26)

Jeanette Lock (until APCM 26) - resigned APCM 25

Elected Members

Simon Bader (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Anne Child (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Barbara Essam (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Rachel Beaumont (2 year-term until APCM 2025)
Isobelle Davies (3 year-term until APCM 2026) -retired January 2024

Katty King-Coulling (3 year-term until APCM 2026)
Ralph Hinchliffe (3 year-term until APCM 2026)
Pam Bader (3 year-term until APCM 2026) - resigned January 2025
Bev Botting (3 year-term until APCM 2027)
Margaret Gibbon (3 year-term until APCM 2027)
Dee Lanyon (2-year term until APCM 2027)
Kim Rumble (3 year term until APCM 2028)
James Ellins (3-year term until APCM 2028)
Fiona Leonard (3-year term until APCM 2028)

Smita Bora PCC Secretary

Fabric Report 2025

The fabric of the church is in good condition generally. Although this report is for 2025, this had been confirmed in February 2026 during our Quinquennial Inspection. We had a couple of roof leaks and work done on the south aisle roof; this seems to have resolved all but one intermittent leak by the tower arch. The chancel leak was repaired and is drying out before the plaster can be replaced. Some wonderful Church Care days were held and Clare thanked all who helped out. Three Fabric Committee meetings were held and Clare thanked those on the committee, especially Ralph Hinchliffe. Some money had been spent on the boiler a couple of times; we are fortunate to have a capable engineer who is both able and responsive. Both heating and lighting projects will need to be looked at in future years. The lighting had failed badly last year and re-lamping had been carried out this year. The chapel carpet has been replaced to make the area both safer and more attractive.

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price

Financial Review 2025

The key message from our finances in 2025 is that our expenditure was £47,900 more than we received in income. In addition there was a fall in the value of our investments of £15,000 plus depreciation in our assets of £8,200, giving a total loss over 2025 of £71,100.

During 2025 the PCC reviewed its finance policy and introduced a policy to use the PCC debit card. The church accounts are held on an online platform provided by Xero, and the various documents we use are held on Microsoft Teams. This enables multiple people, including the treasurer and two assistant treasurers, to have access to the accounts with varying levels of authority/access.

This year's biggest expenditure after our share payment to the diocese, were the costs of heating and lighting, and the repairs to the church roof. We have started our journey to Net Zero carbon by commissioning work to replace our ageing gas boiler with air source heat pumps, and to replace our lighting with low energy alternative system. The PCC has worked with urgency to find a cost-effective heating solution, but we narrowly missed being nominated by the diocese as a national demonstrator church. The PCC has therefore agreed to postpone a decision while new technologies are developed and installed elsewhere so we will be in a better position to review the right solution for our church.

In addition, our organ is a superb three manual organ, described as "a fine and beautiful instrument". However, 125 years on, the organ is feeling her age and is in need of some major works, estimated to cost about £300,000. We have recently launched a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary monies.

Therefore, in order to keep our building and church in good repair and welcoming to all, we need substantial resources to cover these costs. Fundraising and grant applications will be needed to help us cover these costs, and this is an area where we will need support. The Benefactors fund benefited in 2022 by an extremely generous legacy from the late Johanna Raffan MBE. Revd. Sally and the PCC agreed that given Johanna's lifelong commitment to children's education, a major spend from this legacy would be a part-time 'Children and Families Leader' for a fixed term of 3 years (approx. cost of £45,000). Samantha Fiordelisi has been with us since September 2023 and her salary and training has been funded from this legacy. We also plan to use some of this legacy to improve the lighting in the church.

These are exciting opportunities to grow our church and further develop our outreach in Maidenhead and beyond. However, a serious concern is our levels of giving. Several members of our congregation who were generous givers, have died during 2025, and others have moved away from the area. This means our giving levels have fallen and not been met by new givers. Increasing levels of giving must be a priority for the incoming PCC and our new incumbent.

Balance Sheet

Our income in 2025 was £116,585 (a fall of 8% compared with 2024), and our expenditure was £170,495.84 £164,459 (a fall of 3.5% compared with 2024) giving a net spend over income before investment income of £47,874. In addition there was a fall in the value of our investments of £15,000 plus depreciation in our assets of £8,200, giving a total loss over 2025 of £71,100.

Reserves Policy

The PCC's current policy on holding reserves are as follows: -

Restricted Funds

The PCC is advised on an annual basis of significant unspent balances in these funds where it is apparent that plans are not in hand to spend the money within a reasonable time.

Unrestricted & Designated Funds

Benefactors' Fund: (i.e., accumulated legacies for the general purposes of the PCC). Our policy is that the money should normally only be spent on the capital cost of items, or on repairs/restoration work that would not normally be required more than once every ten years. Alternatively, it can be used to fund support for church personnel development. Hence the reserve level will vary and there is no target level. In 2010 the PCC decided that the dividend

income from the part of this fund held as CBF Investment Fund shares should be treated as General Fund income.

Johanna's legacy is reported on separately within the benefactors fund was spent on the children and families leader.

Fabric Reserve Fund: The policy is to hold reserves of between £210,000 and £300,000, so that:

- The income from the investment is sufficient to cover the cost of day-to-day maintenance of the building's fabric (dividend income from the Fabric Reserve CBF shares account will continue to be paid into the Fabric Fund) and
- To allow us, if necessary, to fund major building repair projects without needing to immediately raise funds to do so.

The remaining reserves (i.e., all excluding the Benefactors' and Fabric Reserve funds) should be sufficient to fund three months of ordinary expenditure.

Bev Botting, Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead

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**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2025**

	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds General £	Designated Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Endowm ent Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	63,498	8,920	3,833	0	76,251	86,942
Other trading activities	2(b)	0	15,070	0	0	15,070	11,844
Investments	2(c)	1,386	14,944	1,902	182	18,415	27,259
Church activities	2(d)	3,326	1,628	1,614	0	6,568	9,273
Other activities	2(e)	281	0	0	0	281	0
Total Income and Endowments		68,491	40,562	7,350	182	116,585	135,317
Expenditure on:							
Church activities	3(a)	129,339	27,486	4,300	0	161,125	162,950
Raising funds	3(b)	233	3,011	0	0	3,245	4,500
Other activities	3(c)	0	0	89	0	89	875
Total Expenditure		129,572	30,497	4,389	0	164,459	168,325
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(61,081)	10,064	2,960	182	(47,874)	(33,008)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-		(13,527)	(1,232)	(263)	(15,022)	8,408
Depreciation on assets			(8,170)			(8,170)	(8,170)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(61,081)	(11,633)	1,728	(80)	(71,065)	(32,771)

Transfers between funds	4						
Events Committee to General Fund		6,435	(6,435)	0	0	0	0
General Fund to Catering		0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefactors' Fund Dividends and capital to General Fund		26,000	(26,000)	0	0	0	0
Baby and toddler to General		1,000		(1,000)	0	0	0
Fabric Reserve to Fabric Fund			0	0	0	0	0
Fabric Reserve to General Fund		26,000	(26,000)	0	0	0	0
Hick Flower Fund to General Fund			75	0	(75)	0	0
General Fund to Flower Fund		(125)	125	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		(1,771)	(69,868)	728	(155)	(71,065)	(32,771)
Total funds brought forward at 1st January 2025		(652)	584,678	72,209	6,879	663,115	695,886
Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2025		(2,423)	514,811	72,937	6,725	592,050	663,115

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets			
Screen, projector and camera	7a)	8,170	16,340
			0
Investments			
Parochial Church Council Property	7b)	359,302	374,264
Trust funds administered by the PCC	7c)	1,421	1,480
		368,893	392,085
Current Assets			
	Stock	0	0
	Investments	0	0
	Debtors	0	0
CBF Deposit Accounts - held by the PCC			
	CBF No. 1 (General)	6,757	5,401
	CBF No. 2 (Fabric)	6,044	23,160
	CBF No. 3 (Trusts)	13,535	12,924
	CBF No. 5 (Development)	5	4
	CBF No. 6 (Organ)	10,443	9,271
	CBF No. 7 (Benefactors')	171,219	191,158
	CBF No. 9 (School)	9,470	9,168
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account (Development Fund)	2,259	4,144
	Lloyds Bank Current Account	3,707	11,627
	RBS Current Account	10,193	12,078
		233,632	278,936
Liabilities: Amounts falling			
due within one year			
	Creditors for goods and services	9,755	7,185
	Cheques written off as not presented in more than one year	720	720
	Advanced payments received	0	0
	Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	223,157	271,030
	Total Net Assets	592,050	663,115
represented by:-			
	Parish Funds	8	
	Unrestricted	8a)	512,388
	Restricted	8b)	72,937
	Endowment	8c)	6,725
	Total	592,050	663,115

Our Agreed Vision and Mission statements, and Values (MAP)

Our Vision:

Our vision is to be an inclusive church which enables all people to live life to the full, bringing Jesus' healing and wholeness to people around us. With the whole Diocese of Oxford, we seek to become more Christ-like as we live out his teaching and example.

Our Mission:

At St Luke's we aim to grow in faith and encourage each other along the way. As Christian people, strengthened and enthused by our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are committed to spreading the light of the Gospel into our community, our nation and our world. We are responding to the vision of the Diocese of Oxford to live out the Beatitudes (Matthew 5. 1-10) by trying to be more compassionate, contemplative and courageous disciples of Jesus, becoming more Christ-like for the sake of God's world.

Our Values:

Inclusivity:

to be a church that welcomes all people and cares for the good of all.

Creativity:

to use our God given gifts in creating stimulating and varied worship and learning activities and to celebrate creativity in all its forms.

Generosity:

to use our building, time, talents and money for the growth of God's Kingdom and the benefit of other people, and to care for creation.

Wholeness:

to seek to deepen our own faith and spirituality through worship, study, prayer and silence; and to encourage others to explore faith in God, and to promote wellbeing for all.

Hospitality:

to share fellowship and food as widely as we can, and enable others to meet with God.

Our plans for development 2024 - 27

Nurturing disciples

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Growth in faith and love for God
- Bringing new disciples (of all ages) to faith

How might we do this?

- Establish a more effective welcome ministry (tea, visit, pack)
- Be more intentional in the discipleship of all ages.
- Offer a second Alpha course.
- Offer a wide variety of nurture activities at different times.
- Have Bibles available to give people enquiring.

Worship for all

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Improved worship experience and accessibility for newcomers
- Enabling people to meet with God
- Offering something for different preferred styles.

How might we do this?

- Continue to explore a broader pattern of offered worship and service structure, e.g., develop a 'Pram service' mid-week, or Sunday afternoon family service.

Environment and justice

What are we aiming to achieve:

- A more environmentally aware and friendly community
- An ability to live out the Beatitudes

How might we do this?

- Attain the Silver Eco Church award

Buildings and Grounds

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- A peaceful and beautiful space for reflection, to meet with God
- A well-used building, which is financially secure
- Financial security for all aspects of mission

How might we do this?

- Intensive work on the churchyard to create a sustainable open reflective space
- Create an external path around the church
- Renew our lighting
- Replace our aging boiler with a heat source one
- Develop our Generous Giving and fundraising activities

Fellowship, Outreach and Wider Community

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- More participation in wider activities
- The church community as a place of healing and wholeness
- A community where new people feel they belong

How might we do this?

- Re-examine our Street Prayer letters and other materials
- Promote good mental health and well being
- Run an all age Arts Project in the school summer holidays.
- Take part fully in Heritage weekend (September)

These developments build on our existing ministry and seek to further what we already offer - with a re-focus on 'being' good news and growing faith, going back to the basics of prayer and Bible reading.

Revised February 2025 by Revd. Sally Lynch

Reports on church life 2025

Churchwardens' Report

We welcomed new worshipers to the congregation and lost some through dying or moving away.

Some of the highlights are:

- Weekday ministry with children has continued under the guidance of our Children Family leader, Sam; we have seen an increase in the number of children attending with their families on Sundays,
- Ministry with our older members has continued, supporting Thursday Teas fellowship and Keeping Company sessions, and the monthly communion service at Swift House.
- The Christmas tree festival, as popular as ever.
- Maintaining streamed services through Zoom has been invaluable. We have been able to support the housebound and when folk are sick they have still been able to worship. Most of all, the almost daily sharing of Morning Prayer by Zoom offers the perfect start to each day.
- Our shared ministry with the churches of All Saint Boyne Hill and the Good Shepherd, Cox Green. Visiting clergy during the interregnum have been gratefully welcomed, particularly Rev Andy, who has covered 3 out of 4 Wednesday service every week as well as some Sundays.
- Adam Went was welcomed back as Director of Music, a huge bonus for the choir but also a valuable member of the Ministry Team. Richard Harker and David Pether continue to visit as Guest organists.

As in past years, many people continue to make up our church community and have helped us to maintain regular worship during the interregnum. Thanks go to :

- Rev Canon Terrie
- The Choir
- Nicola Buckland, for her work as a crucifer, with back up from Ben when she is not available.
- All who read the lessons and lead intercessions.
- The welcoming team
- Simon for maintaining our Zoom coverage on Sundays
- Sally and the catering and cleaning teams.
- Sue H and those who care for and launder our church linen.
- Fiona and the whole team of flower arrangers.
- The Thursday tea (Fran and Sue T) and lunch arrangers (Jean TD).
- The Messy Church team.
- All who set up for Baby and Toddler group, serve coffee and help clear away
- Our children who share their learnings at the end of a Sunday service and are starting to do intercessions at All Age service.
- Don, Ruth and the team who prepare for Wednesday services.
- All who care for the church gardens, especially Sue and Neil.
- Everyone who looks after our buildings, and Ralph as Chair of Fabric.
- Sue, Ralph and John who serve as wedding and funeral vergers.

- The Christmas Tree Festival team.
- Sam, Sally, Jacqueline and Taejia, the school assembly Team.
- Rhidian, our Chair of Governors.
- Sam and Chayleen and all the staff of our school.
- Bev, Ben, Kim in the finance team.
- Jacqueline and Clare, our churchwardens, ably assisted by Ralph and Kim.
- The team of committed pastoral contactors.
- The PCC, especially our Deanery Synod reps, Ralph and Katty who reach the end of their term of office this year.
- Smita, our PCC Secretary.

Safeguarding remains a crucial aspect of church life, Thanks to everyone who has taken time to undertake safeguarding training and especially to Barbara Essam, our Parish Safeguarding Officer who is deeply committed to ensure we do this well. Thanks too to Dorothy for her admin support.

As a whole church we have continued to work together to further the ministry and work of God in this place where He has set us.

Thank you, every one of you, for all that you do to grow God's kingdom in this place, to help each other and those around us to live life to the full - as Jesus offered. May we continue to minister together, in His name and for His sake.

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price, Churchwardens

Safeguarding Report 2025

I would like to begin my report by thanking all the volunteers at St Luke's who have responded to requests to fulfil Safeguarding training and DBS requirements. All volunteers are expected now to complete at least Basic Safeguarding Awareness, and we held a group training session in March 2025, which was well attended. Most volunteers are required to complete Foundation training and Domestic Abuse Awareness training, both of which are available online. Safeguarding training is renewed every three years, as is DBS if required. Following our attendance at DBS eligibility workshops in the summer, it was decided that fewer of our volunteers require DBS certificates, but this means Safeguarding training must be completed, and Safer Recruitment procedures will be followed.

During 2025 the diocese reported a data breach within the APCS DBS service, which affected some of our volunteers. As a result, temporary arrangements were made with Thirtyone:eight and following a rigorous selection process, the Oxford Diocese has recommended we use Verifile as our DBS provider. Training will be provided and then applications will be resumed.

The Safeguarding team in the Oxford Diocese continue to very supportive of all PSOs, and our Deanery PSOs had a very fruitful meeting with Bishop Mary during her Deanery visit. The Oxford Diocese Parish Safeguarding Dashboard has made our record keeping much more efficient. At the time of writing, we remain over 90% compliant with policies, procedures and training. We continue to fulfil compliance with GDPR, thanks to Ralph Hinchcliffe.

I would like to thank Dorothy Strack-Hankey for all her hard work in ensuring DBS requirements are kept up to date, particularly during the changes of DBS providers. Also, my thanks to

Jacqueline for her very helpful input and support during the vacancy. She has completed Leadership and Safer Recruitment training, and attended workshops offered by the diocese.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with me, with Jacqueline, our Church Warden, or with Dorothy, our Safeguarding Administrator.

Barbara Essam, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Musical Life 2025

2025 was our third year without a Director of Music in situ but we were delighted that part way through the year Adam Went, our former Director of Music/Organist, returned to St. Luke's as one of the regular visiting organists. Our thanks to him and to David Pether and Richard Harker who, between them, saved the choir and congregation from having to sing along to recorded music at too many Sunday morning services. We were pleased that David was available to play for all our Holy Week and Easter services and that Adam was able to play for our Choral Evensong in November as part of Sundays at Six.

The choir enjoyed a social evening in the Vicarage garden shortly before Revd. Sally moved away and, once again, sang at Culham Chapel's Christmas Carol Service, by kind invitation.

Adam put together the music for our Carol Service and was able to conduct the choir whilst Richard played the organ/piano. It was also good to have Emma Cameron playing her cello at that service.

The good news to end the year was that the Director of Music vacancy would be filled from January 2026 when Adam would be resuming this role.

Sue Maclean, Choir Member

Report on Ministry with children and young people 2025

On Sundays our Children and Family leader provides an activity for the children and together they learn about the bible story/lesson that's relevant to the activity. We also have our all-age services on the first Sunday of every month, where the children are able to get involved in the service itself. We normally have anywhere between 3-7 children each Sunday. We encourage more families to join us at services and family events by being active on social media, and of course praying for more families.

Our most popular activity is our baby and toddler group, which takes place every Thursday, during term time, between 9:30-11am. We are often told that we run the most popular local playgroup and it's loved by many and always growing. We usually have roughly 20-30 parents/grandparents/carers join us that bring roughly 25-30 children along with them. During our playgroup we offer a wide range of toys to play with, a different craft each week, healthy snacks, tea/coffee for the adults, and end with lots of fun songs/some Christian songs and a story. We've been able to keep this at only £2.50 per family, making it affordable for everyone in the community. We also have a fantastic team of very hard-working volunteers who help us set up and take down the toys each week – if it wasn't for them this wouldn't be possible!

Another popular activity we offer is Messy Church, which takes place on the first Friday of every month from 4-5:30-pm. This is aimed for older children (age 4+), but we do often have younger siblings who come along as well – who either also get involved, or are happy to play in the baby

toy area. There is a theme each year for Messy Church, the latest theme has been about "Miracles". Every month the children learn about somebody different and based upon that person/story, We start by telling them the story, then present a slideshow with some videos for them to watch. They also sing and dance to some songs together, then a variety of relevant crafts are offered for them to get involved in (always involving some fun messy crafts), we then gather back together for our worship and then end with a 2-course meal sitting and chatting together. It's always a great way to teach the children about the bible and to bring the community together! We've also been able to keep this very affordable at only £2 per child. Again, we have a wonderful team of volunteers who work very hard in helping to setup and tidy up afterwards, help with the crafts, serve food and keep everybody happy and engaged!

Lastly, St Luke's has close ties with St. Luke's Primary School (and other local schools in our area) – we have a great team of volunteers who attend St. Luke's school every Wednesday morning from 8:45-9:30am and bring props/dress up and tell/act out a different bible story each week for the school at their Wednesday assembly. It's a great way for the church to be involved in teaching the children and getting to know them. We also often have the local schools come to the church and hold assemblies for their end of term, carol services, etc.

We are always looking to grow our number of families and children, and know by having close ties with the community we will get there. Thank you again to all our fantastic volunteers who help make any of this possible – you are greatly appreciated!

Sam Fiordelisi, Children and Family Leader

Eco Church Report 2025

We have an active Eco group and we continued to take our custodianship of God's creation seriously in 2025. We are proud to have achieved the Silver A Rocha Eco Award and work continued towards our Gold award. Our summer project involved community members of all ages adding eco-friendly habitats to the church yard. This contributed 7 bird boxes, 1 hanging bug box and the two bug & beastie hotels in the garden, along with the provision of water. We won Eco Silver award from RBWM as a result of this project. We have recycling stations in our fellowship area and our eco volunteers have continued to maintain these this year. We continue to minimize the use of paper and plastics in line with our PCC policy to support this. We have started our journey to Net Zero carbon by commissioning exploratory reports on replacing our ageing gas boiler with air source heat pumps, and our lighting with a low energy alternative system. We narrowly missed being nominated by the diocese as a national demonstrator church. This initiative is on pause at the moment as we need fundraising and grant applications for future progress and this is an area where we will need support from our next vicar.

Clare Price

Pastoral team 2025

Pastoral care is a very important part of life at St Luke's. Each person on the electoral roll is offered a contactor. All contactors have passed "Enhanced DBS" screening and attend regular meetings to ensure they are kept up to date with any new safeguarding information and that the lists of contactees are up to date. Contactors must

The Contactors are part of the Pastoral Care Team. We each have a list of members of the congregation who we contact frequently and offer support where we can. This could be just a chat on the phone or an occasional meet up for coffee or indeed an email. Occasionally practical help might be needed. Of

course there are some people who we see most weeks in Church enabling a chat and catch up after the service. This service is particularly important with new members of the congregation, to make sure they feel welcome and part of our community.

Monthly meetings are held in a variety of ways as part of pastoral care. One is called "Keeping Company" this is open to anyone who has been bereaved either recently or some time in the past have the opportunity to meet over tea and home made cake for a social afternoon. Another is known as "Thursday Teas", a social afternoon meeting held in the hall opposite the church. There is also a knitting group called "Gaynors gift" this is a prayer shawl ministry, where the group knit shawls together, the shawls are then blessed during a service and delivered to anyone who may be in need of comfort.

Jacqueline Lewis

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) 2025

WAMCF is the interfaith group in this borough. WAMCF comprises nine faiths and beliefs – Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Brahma Kumaris and Humanism. Over the last four decades it has consistently organised a stream of activities including sporting events, conferences, workshops, youth concerts, faith walks, diversity dinners and interfaith dialogues. It participates in the annual UK Interfaith Week and has a strong Women's Group.

The Ladies Group continues to meet in a variety of venues. Each meeting has enjoyed the company of between 15 and 30 ladies from across faiths and traditions (and refreshments!). We certainly represent a breadth of beliefs in our area. Its What's App group has been invaluable; it enables participants to stay in touch with each other and share spiritual, and other, encouragement (and remind each other about meetings!). Meetings continue to be open to ladies of all faiths and none.

Activities in 2025 included:

- Speaker T/Superintendent Louise Warbeck Tuesday 28th January at St Luke's
- Speaker Catherine Williams from Healthwatch on Tuesday 6th May
- Dialogue Meeting Thames Hospice Thursday 15th May
- Speaker Bishop Mary Gregory,. Grenfell Lodge (synagogue) Monday 30th June
- Speaker Terrie Hall from Alzheimers Dementia Support Wednesday 9th July at the Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha (The Sikh Gurdwara).
- Interfaith Cricket Tournament 24th August Boyne Hill Cricket Club
- Dialogue Meeting Grenfell Lodge (synagogue) Thursday 4th September
- Women's Meeting Thames Hospice Wednesday 17th September
- Interfaith Gathering Saturday 18th October All Saints Church Boyne Hill - Week of Prayer for World Peace.

Smita Bora

Our Outward Giving 2025 ...

... **for 2025** amounted to £3180.

Our three main chosen charities to be supported for two years are:

- International: Embrace the Middle East £795
- Local: Baby Bank £795

- National: Christians Against Poverty £795

We also split the final £795 between:

- New Brainstorm School in Uganda (for a second year)
- Toilet twinning through the Kori Development Fund, in Sierra Leone (for a second year)
- Inclusive Church (for a second year)

In addition, special collections also gave:

- £5,623 to Alzheimers Dementia Support (Christmas Tree Festival)
- £350 To the Children's Society (Crib services and Christingle)

St Luke's School 2025

We continue to enjoy close links with our church Primary School: St. Luke's Primary School, a Voluntary Controlled Academy in ODST (the Oxford Schools Diocesan Trust).

Over the year the small team of dedicated volunteers continued to lead 'Open the Book' style assemblies in school every Wednesday and were involved in Theology Week, including the usual interfaith panel, with Rev Canon Terrie answering deep questions from Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Pupils came to church for services, at Christmas and for the Year 6 Leavers. The school also came to church for Harvest and Patronal services, with a good number of parents present too. Three productions of the Early Years Nativity were held in church, which enhanced the experience for everyone.

Governors, led by Rhidian Jones, continue to play a major role in the school, visiting, undertaking learning walks and meeting with staff as well as termly formal business meetings.

We are all encouraged to pray regularly for our school and its staff and families.

Jacqueline Lewis

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual report for 2025

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium runs from 2023 to 2026. At the end of 2024 the Synod had 69 members. Attendance varied from 27 to 45 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2025:

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at The Soltau Centre, Stubbings:

- A new Deanery Secretary (Tom Etherton) was elected to replace Thomas Walton who has moved away from the area.
- The Synod heard from Rev Ainsley Swift about a successful community project he was involved with in Merseyside and shaped his understanding of where we find God.

- The Synod also heard from Rev Richard Terrado-Reardon about the Alma Beacon and the Windsor Homeless Project, working with the Windsor Christian Fellowship
- Windsor Team Ministry was replaced on the 1st January with the Parish of Central Windsor

Thursday 22nd May 2025 at St Luke’s Church, Maidenhead:

- The Synod heard from Bishop Mary, the Bishop of Reading about her ministry before being a Bishop but also her experience so far in the Diocese.
- The Synod heard about Bishop Mary’s desire to focus on confidence in the gospel, the wellbeing of all people and the ministry of reconciliation.
- General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a report on the February 2025 General Synod sessions.
- Rev Ainsley Swift marked the retirement of Rev Sally Lynch from St. Luke’s, as well as her role as Assistant Area Dean. The Synod thanked her for her ministry in the Deanery.
- Rev Ainsley Swift also announced his appointment as Commissary to the Archdeacon and Rev Sally Lodge took on the role of interim Area Dean.

Thursday 2nd October 2025 at All Saints, Dedworth:

- The Synod heard from Charlotte Wilmshurst about Domestic Abuse training within the Church of England and how we can all work together to keep people safe.
- The Synod discussed, at some length, the current allocation of Parish Share and a proposal was made by Waltham St. Lawrence and Shottesbrooke to revise the current system to enable those parishes who have historically been paying more than what their allocation should have been to reduce slightly more quickly.
- The Synod had received a written report from Gracy Crane about General Synod ahead of the meeting and discussed this at the meeting.
- The Synod welcomed Rev Sophie Troczynska as Assistant Priest in the Cookhams.

Thanks to parishes’ hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £961,210 of parish share in 2025, against an allocation of £1,073,166, which was 89.6% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 93.1%. This was a reduction from the £925,871 paid in 2024.

In May 2025, Rev Ainsley Swift moved to a new role within the Diocese as Commissary to the Archdeacon and therefore left his role as Area Dean. Rev Sally Lodge has been appointed as Interim Area Dean until mid-2026 when a new Area Dean will be elected.

Thomas Walton, Deanery Secretary

Thank you to all who have both contributed reports to this Annual Bulletin, and also participated in, helped with or led the various services and activities.

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