

CHURCH, SOUTHGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH
Year: April 2024 to May 2025

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of supporting the clergy in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre and Walker Halls, 6/7 The Green and 62 Oakfield Road.

The Parish population is circa 8,500.

REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL Electoral Roll Officer: Patricia Ashby

The Electoral Roll for Christ Church Southgate has been renewed this year, 2025. Renewal includes evidence of both losses and gains when compared to April 2024.

When the old Roll closed on the 6th of April 2025, a combination of deaths and notified departures for various other reasons had already lowered the total reported in 2024 from 232 to 225. However, there was also quite a large number of known departures where people had stopped (or seemed to have stopped) attending Christ Church but did not ask to be removed from the Electoral Roll; in such cases, their names remain on the roll until renewal and they inevitably inflate the total reported. (I should perhaps make it clear that my policy has always been to remove only those who request to be removed and those who die during any given roll period.) Had these others also been removed, the real total on 6th of April would have been closer to 200. However, although we now fall short of the 2024 closure total, after completion of the renewal process, there is nonetheless an encouraging picture.

During the renewal period, 47 new names have been added to the roll; the vast majority of these are people new to Christ Church during the past twelve months and we welcome them warmly. During the same period, 12 names were actually removed from the roll: 6 members died, and 6 more moved away from Christ Church and asked to be removed. However, as explained above, there were still a number of individuals on the roll who were no longer attending Christ Church.

During the renewal process, taking into account those who had actually been removed as well as those we know about who no longer attend Christ Church, it is possible to estimate that about 64 people have not renewed and cannot be accounted for; we expect a few of these may yet renew later in the year (too late, of course, for this report). But in spite of attempts to make contact, the others remain a mystery.

In conclusion, the overall total of individuals on the Electoral Roll for Christ Church Southgate, allowing for new additions, requested removals and those who have not renewed, has decreased by 45 from 232 in May 2024, to **187 in April 2025**. (This total is 32 less than the total of 219 at the date of the previous complete renewal in 2019.)

I would like to thank all those who have helped me during the renewal process, especially our clergy, readers, wardens and treasurer; their assistance has been invaluable.

VICAR'S REPORT: Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert

As incumbent of Christ Church, Southgate it falls to me to report that the life of the parish has been characterized in 2024 by a continued consolidation and gentle growth of attendances. I am delighted to report that the high level from 2023 of the number of school visits and the use of the building for music, art and heritage, to involve the wider community have continued. Attendances for Advent and Christmas 2024 have shown particular increases.

The year started after Christmas 2023 - which had shown a reliable attendance increase compared to 2022.

The lead up to Easter in Lent used a weekly Lent Course based on the film "The Way". This was well attended and enjoyed. Easter and Holy Week was fully celebrated with full and enthusiastic choir and singing. The total Easter attendance increased well compared to 2023, increasing from 307 to 361.

We were able to fully provide services for the community at pivotal times of their lives, so have performed 3 marriages, welcomed 15 people into the Christian Faith through baptism and conducted 10 funerals – in both church and crematorium. In November, on our patronal feast of Christ the King we welcomed the newly appointed Bishop Anderson of Edmonton who confirmed 15 candidates. The Junior Candidates group was a particular delight. We welcomed nine of them into the Vicarage for ten Friday evenings to read, discuss, pray and do a range of fun crafts. Many thanks to Freya Carroll, Sandra Anderson and Judith for their invaluable support.

Once again, I led the Remembrance Service in Broomfield Park and in church, with uniformed organisations in attendance.

In June our former ordinand Rev Claire Betts was ordained Priest at her curacy church St Stephens Bush Hill Park and continues to flourish. Our curate Fr Paul Ellerby completed his first year as a Priest. Our ordinand, Anna Hughes, marked the halfway point in her training by transferring to a different church with a different style and tradition as she continues her studies at St Augustine's College. Another member of the congregation, Simon Walkden, put himself forward for Lay Reader Ministry and was accepted and started training at St Edmunds.

Christmas at Christ Church was very joyful. The Advent numbers were particularly improved by more school visits and the return of "Carols on the Green" from before Covid. As a result our Advent figures for Congregation and Local Community events increased from 353 in 2023 to 677 in 2024 – this was greatly helped by an increase of 120 in the number for the Nine Lessons and Carols service. Similarly, the attendance for Civic and School services increased from 859 to 918. The overall attendance figure for Christmas Day fell slightly from 654 to 630, but within that figure the number of actual communicants increased by 30. All of those who came, both at Christmas and throughout the year, were made very welcome by our team led by Judith Lo – many thanks to them for being the interface with the community.

During Advent the knitted crib figures that make up the Travelling Crib went on their usual house-to-house journey around the parish. However, this was backed up with daily social media postings of Mary, Joseph and Donkey (as well as angels, shepherds, kings, camels and sheep) travelling around the London Underground to stations that told the nativity story, which Judith and I had far too much fun photographing. This was picked up by PA Media and the

story and images appeared in approximately 200 media outlets worldwide. In the UK, the story was in many local and national papers in web and printed editions – including the Daily Mail, Independent, I, Metro, Standard and BBC. As a result, the daily page impressions were counted in thousands for some days.

Our digital footprint continued to flourish this year. Our subscribers to X, Instagram and our weekly email have gently increased. The Spire Magazine has continued to grow in readership as a bi-monthly publication for subscribers and purchasers in church under the expert editorship of Imogen Cooper and Freya Carroll – many thanks to them for their particular tenacity at continuing to gain exclusive interviews!

We have continued to welcome the community into the church as much as possible. We have continued to host the local ABRSM music exams in the church on our grand piano. The acoustic in the church, as well as the instrument itself, was well received by candidates and examiners for the 14 days of exams. They are already booked throughout 2025.

We hosted the Enfield Deanery Synod for a session on angels with illustrations from our windows.

We hosted a number of church tours, particularly by taking part in London Open House Weekend in September as well as visits from the Palmers Green U3A. The church has remained open to visitors two days a week, while the Caroline administrator was in the office. Caroline has added impromptu tours to her impressive armoury of skills – many thanks to her. As a result of our work with schools with sessions on Christianity, art and local heritage we became an accredited RE Hub church to host educational visits.

We held gardening mornings in the church yard every 6 weeks, which attracted volunteers from the congregation and the wider community. The churchyard was left fallow during the summer and many species of wild-flowers returned. The range was particularly diverse as the land has never been cultivated – some were so unusual and rare that they defeated local experts. The bees produced a bumper crop of honey which was rapidly sold to maintain the bee keeping.

The annual Vicar's Harvest Quiz was a sell-out with a record number of church and community teams and raised well over £1000 for Bloodwise and the North London Hospice.

We led and hosted a Christmas Memorial service for a local chain of undertakers.

We acted as the Polling Station on two occasions for local Elections and the General Election.

The Christ Church Association (CCA) bar opened throughout the year and provided drinks in church on a number of special occasions.

The choir has been able to have a full programme of tours and visits during the year, including a tour to give concerts in Leipzig, Halle and Erfurt in Germany. There were also two weekends singing the services at Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. We said farewell to our Musical Director of over 10 years, Richard Brain, when he moved to a new school which includes a Sunday chapel choir. This also meant that we lost our organist Kate Macpherson, so I will formally record our thanks to them both for their dedication and talent which made an immeasurable contribution to the quality of our worship. However, after an extensive search and recruitment process, we were able to appoint the perfect replacement, William Waine, who has settled in very well indeed. We have also welcomed a very talented 15 yr old Organ Scholar.

The junior choir has been maintained, with over 14 regular members, and was a major contributor to worship, including services with the junior choir only. They were included in the UK cathedral trips and had unique and memorable experiences.

The provision in our Children's Corner, led by Judith, continued to expand, both in floor space, and books and equipment. It was in use by families every Sunday morning and also regularly used and appreciated by visitors during the week.

Our work with our five local non-faith Schools continued as we welcomed year groups for curriculum sessions as well as for Easter, End of Summer Term, Harvest and Christmas services. We also visited the Little Oaks playgroup in their premises with daffodils for Mother's Day for the first time. This has contributed to the fact that our "normal service" weekly attendance figure for children has increased from 15 in 2023 to 16 in 2024. This is reflected in the increased number of families with young children attending church at least once a month.

Our monthly services in our parish care homes continued throughout the year, ably led by Rev'd Hazel. The delivery of communion to the housebound was fully re-established by the clergy team. Many thanks to them for providing such a valued service and pastoral contact. The bi-weekly healing services also continued throughout the year.

Our weekly café on a Friday morning as part of the "Places of Welcome" scheme has continued all year and attracts a good group of "regulars" who have some fascinating conversations on a whole range of topics.

The bi-weekly Bible Study, led by LLM Jackie Anderson has continued strongly and is a very well-established part of our activities.

I continue to be the Creation Care lead for the Edmonton Diocese. I spoke at the Enfield Climate Action Forum at an evening faith session and preached on climate justice at a church in Hornsey. As a church we continue to work towards our Eco-church Gold award under the guidance of Sandra Anderson – with particular strides being made in the garden and church-yard by the large and willing band of volunteers. Particular thanks to the Harper family for the magnificent rockery next to the bee-hives.

Plans have moved on a little to offer, via a major building project, accessibility to toilet facilities, catering provision, as well as new pastoral and community spaces, but the economic uncertainty means that they are still on hold.

In 2024 the tiles of the Chancel Floor were replaced and stabilised as required and the choir stalls levelled up. The investigations have shown that it is unlikely that there will be further major movement in the future. The ceiling over the Chancel was overboarded between the rafters for insulation and to seal the original plaster.

The high level of uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme continued in 2024, ably administered by Mick Meur, and has increased due to the ongoing stewardship campaign. Many thanks must go to the committee of Kate Carroll, Graham Cook, Mick Meur, Freya Carroll and Fr Paul Ellerby.

I must record my personal thanks to the dream team of Wardens that supported me with great enthusiasm throughout the year - Kate Carroll and Graham Cook. Their hard work has benefited all of us in so many ways. I am also greatly indebted to Clare Boulton as treasurer, who cheerfully accepts the bundle of post I give her every week that has been delivered to the Vicarage.

All that we did in 2024 would also not have been possible without the clergy team of Rev Hazel Miall, Fr Paul Ellerby, Cathy Dallman, Jackie Anderson, Sandra Anderson and Amy Li (who left the Church of England over the summer). Our clergy team is a blessing to us all.

In 2025, I will be reaching the Church of England retirement age of 68, so this will be my last Vicar's report to the APCM. Judith and I have thoroughly enjoyed our 10 years here among you, and if you all continue to support my successor and their family with even a fraction of the love and support you have given us both, being your Vicar will continue to be the perfect job in ministry. To all of you many, many thanks.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (P.C.C.)

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	The Revd Dr Chrichton Limbert (Chair)
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Hazel Miall
Curate:	Fr Paul Ellerby
Churchwardens:	Kate Carroll (Vice-Chair) Graham Cook
Lay Readers:	Jackie Anderson Sandra Anderson Amy Li until July 2024
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Ronald Lo Sandra Anderson from May 2024
Treasurer:	Clare Boulton
Electoral Roll Officer:	Patricia Ashby
Elected Members:	Pat Hawkins Freya Carroll Hilary Meur Angela Parker Imogen Cooper Christopher Chessum elected May 2024 Sophie Cook elected May 2024 Youla Hadjidaniel elected May 2024 Stephen Mason elected May 2024 Angela Parker re-elected May 2024

FUNCTION AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES OF THE PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates through a number of committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC, and report to it. The Vicar and Churchwardens are ex officio members of all committees. The current membership of all committees is given below.

Finance & Standing: *Chair:* Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert

As the only committee required by law, the Finance and Standing Committee has oversight of the financial health of Christ Church by monitoring income and expenditure, and budgeting. It has the power to continue the business of the PCC between meetings if a mandate is in place.

Members: Kate Carroll (Warden), Graham Cook (Warden), Clare Boulton (Treasurer), Hilary Meur (elected PCC Member), Imogen Cooper (elected PCC Member).

Outreach: *Chair:* Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert

Members: No formal membership

Plant and Fabric: *Chair:* Kate Carroll

The Committee supports the PCC in delivering the premises and fabric related targets set out in the Mission Action Plan.

Members: Fr Chrichton Limbert, Briony Hadjidaniel, John Marriott, Mick Meur, Phillip Miall and Ronald Lo.

Social Responsibility (SRC) *Chair:* Vacancy

The Social Responsibilities Committee oversees the support of the Christ Church Southgate parish to charitable organizations with aims and missions commensurate with the mission of the Anglican Church (worthwhile organizations). It looks after regular and special activities in the parish to support such worthwhile organizations.

Members: Hilary Meur (Secretary), Clare Boulton (Treasurer), Patricia Hawkins, Barbara Clarke-Love, Ronald Lo and Angela Parker.

Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC) *Chair:* Philip Miall

The PCMC manages the Parish Centre (Church House and the Walker Hall) including any annexes and estates thereof and is responsible for lettings therein.

Members: Clare Boulton (Secretary), Mick Meur (Treasurer), Bob Hagon-Torkington (Lettings Secretary), Graham Cook, John Macrory.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES: PERSONNEL

Sidesmen: *Head Sidesman:* Judith Lo

Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, Christopher Chessum, Mary Coutts, John Currens, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Ana Luque Guerrero, Youla Hadjidaniel, Patricia Hawkins, Adrian Hill, Judith Limbert, Judith Lo, Ronald Lo, Caroline Robertson, and Yvonne Woodthorpe.

Choir: *Director of Music:* William Waine

Mathew Warbis (Organist and Assistant Director of Music), Ian Winton (Treasurer)

Christ Church Association *Chair:* Steve Smith

Steve Smith (Chairman), Angela Smith (Secretary), Pat Collins (Treasurer), Phillip Miall, Martin Greenaway, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, Mick Greenaway (Membership Secretary) and Sherri Greenaway.

Safeguarding Officer: Jackie Anderson

Health & Safety Officer: Ronald Lo; First Aid Officer: Angela Parker

Deanery Synod Representatives: Ronald Lo, Sandra Anderson.

Youth: Judith Limbert

Children's Champion: Joanne Leach

Stewardship Recorder: Mick Meur

ANNUAL REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT: Clare Boulton

Treasury Team (Clare Boulton, Mick Meur, John Macrory)

The consolidated accounts (which include the Parochial, Parish Centre, *Spire* Magazine, and Social Responsibility Funds) record a total income across all funds of £290,093 (2023: £286,643). Total expenditure across all four funds was £380,460 (2023: £270,528) therefore the total operating loss was £90,367 (2023: operating gain of 16,115). After taking into account the net investment gains the total funds balance is £4,113,734 (2023: £4,192,633) of which £261,752 (2023: £333,904) is for restricted purposes

Parochial (Church) Fund)

Looking at the Parochial (Church) Fund the total **unrestricted** income in 2024 was £221,661 (2023: £223,924) which can be broken down as follows:

	2024	2023	% change 2024/2023
Legacies	£20,000	£25,000	-20%
Donations	£7,718	£10,096	-24%
Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders)	£74,118	£77,883	-5%
Collections	£2,640	£1,658	59%
Income Tax Recovered	£20,232	£21,627	-6%
Other income (incl. Occasional Offices, Listed Place of Worship Grants Scheme, Merchandise, hire of the Church)	£18,185	£13,283	37%
Investment income and bank interest	£23,543	£20,302	16%
Rental income	£55,225	£54,075	2%
Total	£221,661	£223,924	-1%

The total **unrestricted** expenditure in 2024 was £223,761 (2023: £177,906) which can be broken down as follows:

	2024	2023	% change 2024/2023
Premises (heat, light, insurance, water, churchyard upkeep, church & organ maintenance <i>but not major items</i>)	£29,665	£30,823	-4%
Mission costs (services costs, music costs, youth, outreach)	£8,640	£9,246	-7%
Common Fund	£91,300	£87,775	4%
Supports costs (administration, salaries, payroll costs, property management costs and accountant's fees)	£47,573	£46,013	3%
Properties – maintenance and other costs	£44,743	£2,445	1730%
Other expenditure	£1,841	£1,604	15%
Total	£223,761	177,906	26%

The large increase in expenditure on the properties is due to the replacement of the windows at Oakfield Road which cost c£40,000 on and the redecoration of Flat 7 The Green following water ingress at the end of 2023. Other expenditure was subject to inflationary increases. The net result on the unrestricted Parochial Fund in 2024 was a deficit of £2,100.

The **restricted** income funds (that is income received by the Church for a specific purpose) received a total of £29,810 (2023: £14,212). There was expenditure of £102,260 (2023: £40,799) from these funds, the majority of which was spent on maintenance of the fabric including £43,000 on under boarding the chancel ceiling, £15,000 on repairs to the lady chapel roof, £10,000 remedial work to the chancel floor including levelling the choir stalls, and £6,500 on electrical upgrade work. Thus, the net result on the restricted funds was a deficit of £72,450.

Stewardship campaign

In October 2024 we launched a stewardship campaign and began to share information on the areas in which the church spends its money. The intention was to raise awareness and to share some of the financial pressures on Christ Church; in addition to the demands of maintaining the fabric of our Grade II* listed building, we need to spend £4,000 per week on the day-to-day running of the church.

In March 2025 we then wrote to everyone on the electoral roll and to those who attend regularly asking them to reflect prayerfully on whether they can contribute something financially to the life of our church either by starting to give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme or if already giving by increasing the amount given by a small amount.

The Stewardship Recorder will provide an update on response to the Campaign in the coming months.

Future plans

In addition to looking to increase regular giving we will seek to increase income in other ways and take any possible steps to reduce our day-to-day expenditure. We will also carefully manage any one-off expenditure, whether on the building or other items, prioritising items in line with our Mission Action Plan priorities.

When planning for future expenditure we will also need to be mindful that whilst the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme, by which we can reclaim VAT on expenditure on the fabric of the church, has been extended for a further year it appears likely that the Department of Culture Media and Sport will not continue to fund the scheme beyond March 2026 which will add an additional 20% to fabric costs.

Thanks

Thanks are due to the many volunteers, throughout the Church, its committees, and associated organisations who contribute to the successful stewardship of our financial resources.

PLANT & FABRIC COMMITTEE (STATUTORY REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF CHRIST CHURCH):

Kate Carroll, Churchwarden, Chair

Statutory report on the fabric of Christ Church

Chancel Floor

Clivedon Conservation have filled and repointed the cracks in the floor and replaced the missing tiles.

Chancel ceiling

Fullers completed the over-boarding of the Chancel ceiling to match that of the nave. This secures the ceiling ensuring no further fall of plaster.

Lady Chapel roof

Everest Roofing completed the work to the right-hand abutment of the Lady Chapel, which includes repairing and replacing the flashing and slates.

A faculty has been granted to repair the coping stone above the Lady Chapel roof damaged in a storm. Fullers have undertaken a holding repair by and applying a lime shelter coat.

Electrical work and lighting

All electrical work highlighted by the five-year check has now been completed by DAP Electrical Services, which includes replacing the main distribution board. Bulbs have been replaced and some rewiring undertaken by so that all lights in church are now working.

Additional smoke alarms

Four manually operated smoke alarms have been installed by each of the main doors by E-Bound.

Fire extinguishers

We've moved the contract from Chubb to T J Fire, a family-run firm based in Welwyn Garden City, who work with other local churches. Their model involves us purchasing our own extinguishers and then having an annual service contract. Although the initial outlay is greater, the finances of this new model have a clear advantage and will save the church a considerable sum.

Energy audit report

Following an energy audit report by Dr Paul Hamley arranged through the Diocese, we are undertaking some additional work, which includes lagging pipes and insulating doors. At the time of writing, we are in the process of applying for a grant to cover the cost of this work.

Maintenance checks

Routine servicing and maintenance have been carried out on the alarm system, the organ blower and humidifier, the boiler and lightning conductor. Ian Howe of IPH has completed the annual check of the gutters, which is contracted for through the Diocese.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev'd Dr Fr Chrichton Limbert, Chair & Vicar

This committee has an overarching brief and is made up of a flexible group that are called into action as communications are needed for continuing weekly business and special projects and events.

2024 has been another good year of gentle congregation growth. The Friday email continued every week to a growing subscriber base with a Vicar's Letter and expanded versions of the pew sheet notices. The Spire magazine continued under the editorial team of Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper, as a bi-monthly publication throughout the year and to date.

Our extensive website and social media presence has also continued – many of our messages were picked up and re-tweeted by the C of E and the Bishops of Edmonton and London leading to page impressions in the thousands across X, Facebook and Instagram. Instagram is now our main platform to post information, photographs and messages (which automatically posts on Facebook).

During the year we hosted visits, talks and workshops – for many societies, schools and the general public to exploit and spread the word on our heritage and art works – still enjoying the benefits of the new guidebook to the windows created in 2022.

Enormous thanks are due to all those who have kept our church communications up to date and current. Thanks must go to Imogen Cooper, Freya Carroll, Clare Boulton, Hilary Meur, Caroline Robertson, Graham Cook, Richard Brain, Will Waine, Judith Limbert and Fr Chrichton.

SIDESMAN'S REPORT: Judith Lo, Head Sidesman

As at 31st March 2025, we are a team of 16 on regular duties. They are (in alphabetical order): Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, Christopher Chessum, Mary Coutts, John Currens, Rosemary Gomersal, Margaret Gourd, Ana Luque Guerrero, Youla Hadjidaniel, Patricia Hawkins, Adrian Hill, Judith Limbert, Judith Lo, Ronald Lo, Caroline Robertson, and Yvonne Woodthorpe. Adrian Hill was welcomed to the team after approval by the Parochial Church Council at their November meeting.

During the year, the team covered all Sunday services, special services at Easter and Christmas as well as some other services such as funerals & weddings as required. We never stop looking for new blood to join the team.

We held our annual meeting in October 2024. During the meeting, Ronald Lo, our Health & Safety Officer, presented the revised Emergency Evacuation Plan. The PowerPoint presentation file was shared with all sidesmen and PCC members. Thanks to Judith (Mrs. Vicarage) and Fr. Chrichton for hosting our annual lunch at the Vicarage. It was a treat!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the team. They make sure services run smoothly and all friends and strangers are welcomed. Their tireless and reliable service in this meaningful role is very much appreciated.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH REPORT: Judith Limbert

It is good to be able to report that 2024 into 2025 has seen continued growth and positivity for our work with children, young people and families. We are now seeing our regular Children's Corner families at least once a month and the number who attend is into double figures. Alongside that the number of choristers and their families continues to thrive and we have other teenage attendees too. This means that we are well over the target set by the diocese for the percentage of attendees being under 16 or under 25.

I have continued to develop Children's Corner with displays to match the liturgical year and our commitment to being an Eco Church. The selection of wooden toys and books also support both these things, along with being inclusive and welcoming to all. It is in use every Sunday with young children and their parents and carers. The adults can still engage with the service, while the children are absorbing the atmosphere, sights and sounds of being in church whilst playing or crafting. It is valued by all the parents as a safe space to come to church with small children. A quote from a parent, 'My child loves coming to church and I always feel so welcome.'

Our choristers and choral scholars have continued to thrive under our new DoM Will Waine. They were all sad to bid farewell to Richard Brain and Kate McPherson but they produced and directed their own surprise concert as a thank you. It showcased the depth of musical talent and the teamwork they have as a group. For once Richard was speechless! They were part of the audition process for our new DoM and their feedback was included so that when Will started, they already knew he was 'their' choice. They had a Christmas party with parents too which was a great social occasion. The choristers are all drawn from a wide circle of local schools and backgrounds. The power of making music together cannot be underestimated and how much they enjoy being treated as young music professionals. They also enjoy contributing to our family friendly Eucharists, the Pop-Up Nativity play and other special occasion services. My thanks to Joanne Leach who acts as chaperone and all the other parents who also support.

Our knitted Holy family travelling crib was again hosted by different families every night of Advent which is a lovely way for families of all ages to connect with the journey Mary and Joseph travelled before reaching Bethlehem. Our digital Advent calendar featuring all our knitted nativity characters on the TfL network proved to be incredibly popular with all ages across many countries but I do know that it was shared with many of our children who each day wanted to know which station they were at.

This year our Pop-Up Nativity was the same wonderfully unrehearsed performance. Thank you to Kate Carroll for making a fabulous tableau out of the chaos!

Christingle continues to prove popular with local families and it was a joy to have so many at the Crib service on Christmas Eve too. It was noticeable that we had families attending whose children go to the schools that we have continued work and have engagement with.

We continue to welcome Walker School, pupils, staff and parents 4 times a year for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and their end of year Leaver's service. Little Oaks Montessori Nursery visit for stories and songs themed to Harvest, Christmas and Mother's Day/Easter. Pop Up Nativity plays were performed by whole year groups, 30 at a time by Ashmole and Monkfrith Primary year groups. We have had curriculum-based visits for KS2 year groups from Ashmole Primary School, Walker School and West Grove Primary School. They have explored 'Christian values', 'Christian symbols', 'Sacred Spaces', 'Christian Festivals' and local history. Monkfrith Primary also visited to explore William Morris through our stained-glass windows.

These sessions are an opportunity for the children to take what they have been learning in school and put it into context. The format normally involves Q and A sessions and exploring the building with sketch and notebooks. This is important work as all the schools are multi faith community schools and it is an opportunity for the pupils to learn about the similarities of values and texts across faiths.

As a result of our schools' work Fr Chrichton and I attended a zoom training and discussion panel which resulted in our church becoming an accredited RE Hub. This is a nationwide hub of information for teachers who are looking to take their children on a visit to a place of worship or to find faith leaders for them to have Q&A sessions with. The emphasis is on promoting world views and enabling young people to understand shared values within different faiths.

Fr Chrichton also continues to lead the annual Armistice Day service in Broomfield Park which includes contributions from Hazel Wood Primary School, Walker School and Laurel Park (formerly Broomfield) Secondary School.

A highlight of this last year has been the young people's confirmation classes which ran every Friday evening at the Vicarage from September until their confirmation by Bishop Anderson on Christ the King in November. 9 candidates threw themselves into it every Friday with great enthusiasm led by Fr Chrichton, Freya Carroll, Sandra Anderson and I. We all learnt a lot! We caught up with them all again just before Lent and they want to continue to meet occasionally to share their faith experiences and to socialise.

In addition, we were delighted to support Erin Toal who was confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral on Holy Saturday 2025.

Everyone involved in working with children and young people here at Christ Church are DBS checked.

Joanne Leach is our named Children's Champion and thanks go to her for taking on that role. My thanks also to all who came and helped in any way this year with supporting our children's work...it is often a lot of costumes, props, craft and noise...but it is always joyful.

Looking forward I hope our children, young people and the grown-ups who come with them will continue to find everyone here at Christ Church welcoming, inclusive and friendly as we grow in faith together.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT: William Waine

I was delighted to be appointed Director of Music at Christ Church for September 2024, and it has been a pleasure and great privilege to get to know the choir and congregation over the last 2 terms.

The choir is in excellent shape, and I am reaping the rewards of Richard and Kate's hard work over the previous 11 years. Our 13 choristers are making really good progress, culminating in all of them singing with the choir at Winchester Cathedral. The adult choir make an incredible contribution to our worship each week, and to what has been an extraordinary range of special services including Advent Carols, the Duruflé Requiem at All Souls, and our Haydn/Purcell concert in November with Liz Partridge and professional orchestra. I am grateful for their commitment, talent, and hard work. There has been a gentle trickle of adults and children wishing to join the choir, and increasing this will be a priority in the coming terms.

Matthew Warbis has been appointed as Organist and Assistant Director of Music. We have all enjoyed and been impressed by Matthew's wonderful playing over the past few terms, and personally I am delighted that he has agreed to play such a big part in the life of the choir in the coming years. We continue to enjoy the work of our choral scholars, and a first organ scholar, and thanks to the generous support of the Lotus Charitable Foundation look forward to continuing to do so.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Hilary Meur, Committee Secretary

We have given just over £9,000 in money terms this year. We also continue to give in many other ways. Easter Eggs to St. John's; Christmas shoebox gifts to Operation Christmas Child; Presents to Southgate Homebound; 150 Christmas tree presents. We support the Food Bank, The Ark and Homeless Action in Barnet with non-perishable goods and toiletries throughout the year.

We started by sending £100 to the DEC Ukraine appeal.

Our Christian Aid appeal raised £560 including Gift Aid.

Christ Church gave a lectern hanging to St. John's following the fire at their church. We made up the short fall for this embroidery.

The Harvest Quiz raised £1,500 and we sent this with a further £300, given by Christ Church Association, to North London Hospice and Blood Cancer UK.

For Harvest we asked for items for Showerbox. This charity offers showers on Saturday mornings to those in need at St. Giles in the Fields. We delivered a taxi full of toiletries, toothpaste & brushes, shampoo, shower gel, soap, towels and new underwear. The more usual Harvest gifts of store cupboard goods, tins, packets and bottles etc. went to Homeless Action in Barnet and The Ark at St. John's.

A wonderful concert in church in November raised £260 for The Royal British Legion.

We chose Homestart as our main Christmas charity. They give a helping hand to families in need of a little extra help. Our local branch is in Barnet. We held the usual raffle and Christmas stalls.

We had an eco-Christmas card, which many of us signed and raised some additional funds for World Vision.

As usual we gave the collections from the Christingle and Crib services to The Children's Society. Our weekly income is from stall sales & donations for teas and coffees. We are grateful to everyone who contributes by serving drinks, making cakes and biscuits; to Mrs. Vicarage for making beautiful cards; to those who contribute jewellery, marmalade and other saleable goods and everyone who supports our efforts to enable us to continue to give so generously to our chosen charities.

ECO CHURCH REPORT: Sandra Anderson

During last year we revisited the ARocha eco church questionnaire to take stock of what we have achieved, and what we felt it was still possible to do. This spurred us on to do a number of things including:

- Praying weekly for sustainability projects around the world in our intercessions.
- Adding a lifestyle tip (provided by our congregation) to our weekly newsletter.
- Advertising ENCAF (Enfield Climate Action Forum) meetings in our weekly newsletter.
- Keeping our Spire readers updated with international eco days.

We have formed a gardening steering group to repeat this process for the church garden, that is to take stock and then form our short and long term achievable garden plan.

I thank Reverend Hazel for her beautiful pots outside the main door and to all of the gardeners who give their time to look after what God has given us.

Thank you to Graham who has liaised with the experts from the 'Friends of Broomfield Park'. They have advised us on our wildlife, wildflowers and our mowing regime which we feel was hugely successful last year as we left large areas of the church yard 'wild' for a few months until it was scythed (a new skill for Graham). This benefitted the insects and wildflowers and also looked amazing...

We now have some substantial logs in the garden (from a felled tree) which we are going to use for seats in an area yet to be decided, and we have begun to make space for a sensory garden.

We were most fortunate to have had the help of the Hatter scouts during our March gardening session. They did a huge amount of undergrowth clearing. This was possible after trees were cut back in the autumn opening up the space available to us.

Thank you to Nick and Patricia for their time and dedication in completing the rockery in the back garden. This is a very attractive feature just next to the beehives.

A new gate to the back garden has been approved by the PCC. This is being overseen by the plant and fabric committee. Access to the back garden remains on the agenda as desirable but hugely costly.

We installed new bees last year and sold all the honey that they produced in the early autumn. We have two beehives but sadly the colony of bees swarmed over the winter and as such are lost to us now. The plan would be to replace them in April 2026. I thank Nick, Youla and their helpers for their time, dedication and expert care.

We recently revisited the ARocha eco church questionnaire again only to find that it had changed.

We are still a silver status church and we remain positive doing all that we can under the umbrella of creation care, but within our budget limitations as a listed building.

There have been many more contributions; the material and toys in the children's corner, the communal Christmas card, the reused fig branches at Christmas, the windowsill decor from our garden, the encouragement and reminders to all to keep the eco effort going, amongst others.

There is always more to do than we have time, energy and manpower for, but having said that we can all be proud that Creation Care at Christ Church is very high on our agenda and it certainly has become part of the way that we function. We intend to keep it that way doing all that we possibly can in an effort to look after our God given world.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT: Jackie Anderson, Safeguarding Officer

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC works to ensure that all parish activities provide a safe place for all, but particularly for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Activities this year in support of this include:

An ongoing strong focus on ensuring the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard (as recommended by the Diocese) is kept up to date to accurately reflect our status across all safeguarding activities and requirements (this has elicited positive feedback across the Area for our level of completeness). Currently at 99% completeness for mandatory requirements (March 2025) despite there being a considerable increase in obligations

- People have completed 21 pieces of separate safeguarding training across a range of courses
- 10 DBS checks (new and renewals) have been completed
- Two new fully updated risk assessments have been drafted and approved by the PCC covering additional Church activities
- Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting and updates on activity presented every time the PCC meets
- The new safeguarding standards were presented by the PSO and discussed at the PCC meeting held in January 2025 in line with national Church standards
- As a result of this PCC meeting an article outlining all parish activity around safeguarding has been drafted to be published in the April/May Spire magazine
- Additionally, a review of safeguarding training and awareness was undertaken of the Sidesmen team and Basic Awareness and Foundation training will be offered to those who have not completed, in line with church best practice
- Our new Director of Music and Organist have both been safely onboarded and completed all their required DBS and safeguarding training obligations
- There has been one minor safeguarding matter which has been addressed appropriately via external agencies

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT: Ronald Lo, Health and Safety Officer

Fire Risk Management

A presentation on our latest Emergency Evacuation Plan was made by Ronald Lo on 13 October 2024 at the Annual Meeting of Sidesmen. Locations of fire-fighting equipment were indicated. The working of emergency torches was demonstrated. The presentation PowerPoint file was circulated to all PCC members and the Director of Music.

Health & Safety

Since the last annual report, only one incident has been recorded in our Incident Record Book relating to a parishioner fainting in church during a Sunday service, and possibly suffered a knock to the head. Emergency Service was contacted but the parishioner recovered. No other reports of incidents have been received.

The First Aid Box at the back of church was maintained by Dr. Angela Parker as First Aid Officer. The installation of a hand rail for the back door steps has been taken on board by the Fabric Committee.

THE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT: Ronald Lo, Deanery Synod Lay Representative

The elected parish lay representatives for the session 2023-2026 are Ronald Lo and John Macrory with Sandra Anderson as LLM member. Additionally, Graham Cook is an ex-officio member as a Lay Representative on the Diocesan Synod. The Deanery Synod met three times during the period under review: on 28 June, 28 November 2024 and 20 March 2025.

Regular items included Deanery Notices and noting vacancies and appointments of School Governors. There is a constant need for new School Governors to fill vacancies. The following were also noted:

- a Deanery Quiet Day is planned for 2025.
- Community projects run by parishes.
- Facebook and Instagram pages for the Deanery have been created for use by parishes.
- Training day for young servers to be arranged in 2025.
- Deanery accounts and outstanding Deanery subscriptions.
- All were reminded of the availability of a Book Grant for ordinands from Deanery funds.
- Mothers' Union activities/events, and the availability of a newly established studio for creating online mission contents that can be used by parishes.
- Our *Area Dean*, Fr Stephen Gallagher, will be stepping down at Easter 2025. His successor will be announced in due course. The Deanery programme committee will suspend planning for future activities until reviewed with the new Area Dean.
- The appointment and induction of Revds. Angus Beattie, Poppy Hughes, and Chris Bolster to St. Alphege Edmonton, St. Peter Grange Park, and Jesus Church Forty Hall respectively were made during the second half of 2024.

The Deanery Quiet Day that was held on 28 September 2024 at St. Luke's Clay Hill led by the Bishop of Fulham was a success despite fewer than expected numbers. Suggestions for other Deanery activities/events are to be directed to Rev T. Kelsey of St. Stephen Bush Hill Park.

At the November meeting, Levi Phillips (Creative Lead at Diocese of London - Growing Younger initiative) gave a presentation on "*Approach to Youth – Growing Younger*". Further information may be found at <https://www.london.anglican.org/church-and-parish-support/children-and-youth-ministry/> or by emailing cypf@london.anglican.org

Bishop Anderson addressed the meeting on 20 March 2025, his first appearance at our Deanery meetings. He spoke about Jesus and temptation, and our identity in a chaotic world of death and sin with mindless killings. He suggested we ask 'who am I – what makes me a Christian?' We should enter the desert of temptation and reflect on the consequences of our choices – a self-reflective journey to the cross and incarnation. We must draw near to God and trust God enough to surrender ourselves. This is the path to God.

Deanery Synod will reconvene in July 2025.

PARISH CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PCMC) REPORT: Philip Miall, Chair

Parish Centre Activities and lettings

The Walker Hall remains mainly unoccupied during the daytime following the closure of the Walker After School Club. Slimming World has returned to the Walker Hall on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. We are actively seeking a suitable daytime letting for this hall. We hope that, starting after Easter, we will have a children's and babies music club for one morning per week. Church House is virtually fully booked on weekdays, both daytime and evenings.

Our policy of 'No children's or family parties' (apart from special events for known members of the church congregation) remains in place. However, we are happy to provide one-off lets for local organisations and to provide facilities for the Southgate Scouts Hatters Explorer Unit fundraising events.

Buildings and grounds

The Management Committee (PCMC) is dedicated to ensuring that the Parish Centre buildings and the surrounding grounds remain in good structural condition and are well maintained. Our new contractor, Laurie Cawley, has done an excellent job with minor works in the Parish Centre. Including the flat roofs and the numerous drains. Our long-term gardener, Colin Courtney, has had to retire after maintaining the grounds for many years. We hope that Laurie Cawley will take over the work.

We continually liaise with our cleaning contractors, E J Cleaning, to ensure that the complex is kept clean and that household maintenance is of a good standard.

During a tree survey, two large mature trees, an oak and a sycamore, were found to be dead and unsafe. After liaising with the Enfield Tree Officer, these have been removed.

In common with other properties on The Green, including Walker School, we have had a rat infestation. A pest control company has installed traps and we continue to liaise with the school site manager.

Management Committee

Our Parish Centre booking secretary, Bob Hagon-Torkington, continues to work incredibly hard in his role of organizing the letting and bookings.

Mick Meur, our treasurer, ensures that our finances remain good and also has organized and coordinated all our builders and contractors, a time-consuming task.

I wish to thank Graham Cook for a lot of hard work that he has put into helping maintain the Parish Centre site and also to the other members of the PCMC, Clare Boulton, our secretary and John Macrory, who can always provide his legal advice. A big thank you to all members of the committee for the time that they devote to keep the Parish Centre functioning and an asset to Christ Church.

PROPERTIES REPORT: Clare Boulton, Treasurer

The church has three properties which are let out to tenants: flats 6 and 7 The Green (on the Parish Centre site) and 62 Oakfield Road (a large Edwardian terrace house).

All properties are managed by The Accommodating Company.

62 Oakfield Road – The current tenants are now in their third year. The wooden windows and back door were replaced in April 2024 with uPVC equivalents, the work was within the £40,000 budget approved by the PCC.

6 The Green – No major remedial works have been required. The tenants gave notice in April and will vacate the property in mid-May. The management company have been asked to find new tenants once some minor remedial work and redecoration has been completed.

7 The Green - The current tenants are in their eighth year. No major remedial works have been required. The flat was redecorated at the start of the year following water ingress at the end of 2023.

CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION (CCA) REPORT: Steve Smith Chair

The Committee and all the CCA members were shocked and saddened by the untimely death of our much loved and admired Chair. Clive died at the end of March 2024 and left a massive hole in the CCA. He was heavily involved in the ongoing running of the CCA, carrying out a large amount of the tasks that are required to run our Association – he is sadly missed and we, particularly the Committee, are still coming to terms with his sudden death.

The CCA continues to provide social facilities for the parish, with the level of activity in 2024 being similar to that in 2023. The Committee is still concerned that the CCA will eventually cease to be viable due to low numbers, although recently our numbers have increased slightly.

We organise a regular pattern of social events, with a particular focus on Fridays. We continue our practice of opening early on the 1st Friday of the month, and offering complimentary cheese and snacks throughout the evening. We have also continued with our Foodie nights, every 3rd Friday of the month. On Foodie nights our members are offered a variety of snacks, rotating with Indian, Chinese, and Pizza plus regular fish and chip evenings. Our wine tastings have been discontinued following Clive's passing although we plan to run a small memorial event at the end of March (which hasn't happened yet at the time of writing). We also ran our annual celebration of Burns' Night which brought a particularly good attendance in January. Members of the Hatters Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) visited in April 2024 to give us their account of their trip to Northern India.

We have updated our environment to keep it well maintained and welcoming, replacing the floor behind the Bar and the club chairs in the reception room over the last year.

We have also been able to make some donations to various charitable causes including:

- Charities supported by the Vicars Quiz
- Two small charities supported by Clive

Charitable donations totalled £600 during the calendar year. In addition, at the beginning of 2024, we increased our quarterly payment for the use of the reception room to £300.

The Annual General Meeting in November 2024 was quorate. We expressed our gratitude to a retiring committee member, Chris Binns who has moved out of the area. His service and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated and he will be missed. A motion was passed to reduce the minimum number of members required to serve on the committee from 10 to 8, and the following were elected to serve on the General Committee: Steve Smith (Chairman), Angela Smith (Secretary), Pat Collins (Treasurer), Phillip Miall, Martin Greenaway, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, Mick Greenaway (Membership Secretary) and Sherri Greenaway.