

CHURCH, SOUTHGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH
Year: April 2025 to May 2026

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

As required, the Electoral Roll for Christ Church Southgate has been revised this year, 2026, one year after its latest renewal. Numbers show that there has been very little movement over the past 12 months.

In April 2025, the renewed Electoral Roll totalled 187 names. During the past year, three losses have been recorded following the deaths of three parishioners and three people have left the parish and confirmed that they wish to be removed from the Electoral Roll. Sixteen names have been added. The total membership has therefore risen to **197 in May 2026**.

It is worth noting that this is still rather less than the total of 232 in May 2024 when our previous roll closed. My impression is that there may still be individuals who attend Christ Church regularly but who have not asked to add their name to the electoral roll. In spite of previous explanations, this may still be because people are afraid of being tied in some way that they had not anticipated or that they think it doesn't matter. In fact, it does matter. Membership does not tie the individual in any way at all; it is definitely not a financial commitment (which is what I think many people are afraid of). The real benefit is to our church itself; helping to ensure that we continue to exist and function.

The revised roll, however, may still be slightly inflated, containing the names of one or two individuals who have left the area. Some of these are individuals who may still attend from time to time, however, and who completed a form in 2025 when the roll was renewed. There is no real justification for removing them at this point without their requesting to be removed.

CLERGY REPORT: Rev'd Paul Ellerby

As we are in Interregnum it falls to me as Curate of Christ Church, Southgate to report on the life of the parish.

2025 was indeed a year of considerable change as, following 10 years of excellent service to the parish, our Vicar Fr Chrichton Limbert retired in September. He communicated his intent early, enabling us to prepare for his departure and therefore be in a strong position to continue the many activities he and his wife Judith undertook. We have put on record our huge gratitude for all that Fr Chrichton and Judith did for the parish. They left with our love and best wishes, showered with gifts. Fr Chrichton gifted us a lovely Interregnum Prayer which we have used in the Intercessions.

Notwithstanding the above, the year has been characterised by the maintenance of all parish activities including services, school visits, and the use of the building for music, art and heritage for the wider community.

For 2025 attendance has been maintained although we reported a tiny decline in weekly attendance for our Statistics for Mission return - adult numbers fell from 121 to 118 and children from 16 to 15.

During Lent, we followed the Diocesan Lent Course 'Climate Justice and Discipleship' which was delivered online and attended in the church by a small number of people. Mothering Sunday was warm and wonderfully chaotic and we had a very moving and well-attended Holy Week. Our Easter attendance grew by 13% from 361 in 2024 to 407 although the number of communicants fell slightly by 2%.

We continue to provide services for the community at pivotal times of their lives, and have performed one marriage, welcomed four people into the Christian Faith through baptism, I led two people through confirmation and we conducted 21 funerals and interments both in church and at the local crematorium.

Following Fr Chrichton's retirement, services have been led by me, Assistant Priest, Rev'd Hazel Miall, Licensed Lay Ministers Sandra Anderson and Jackie Anderson. We have also been fortunate to have received additional support from: Rev'd Jan Lowe; the CEO of the Church Urban Fund The Most Rev'd Rob Wickham; the Archdeacon of Hampstead The Venerable John Hawkins; the Area Dean of Enfield Rev'd Daniel Sandham; Rev'd Stephen Taylor; Rev'd Phillip Dawson; Dean of Westminster Abbey The Very Rev'd David Hoyle. We wish to record our thanks to them all. We have managed to maintain our patterns of worship.

The Rev'd Hazel Miall led the civic Remembrance Service in Broomfield Park, and uniformed organisations were welcomed to the Remembrance Service in Church led by me.

During Advent the knitted crib figures that make up the Travelling Crib went on their usual house-to-house journey around the parish. This was accompanied by daily social media postings of Mary, Joseph and Donkey travelling through the countryside and coast of Southwest England. We added more of the Nativity story to these postings which were well received. Engagement on social media tracked comfortably in line with previous years. Our thanks to Micaela Cook for taking this on.

At our wide range of Advent services attendance grew by 5% to 711 in 2025 from 677. Our attendance at Christmas grew by 2% from 630 to 645 in 2025 although communicants fell.

All of those who came, throughout the year, were made very welcome by our sides people team led by Judith – many thanks to all on the team for being the first to greet everyone as they enter Christ Church.

As curate I completed my third year as a Priest and because of uncompleted training due to my work commitments I was required to extend my curacy by a year – I agreed to stay on at Christ Church. Simon Walkden embarked on his training at St Edmunds to become a Licensed Lay Minister and has been preaching and praying in church as part of this process.

Our digital footprint continued to flourish this year. Subscribers to Instagram and our weekly email have gently increased.

The Spire Magazine has continued to grow in readership as a bi-monthly print publication for subscribers and purchasers in church. It is also available via the website and a link in the weekly email. Many thanks to Imogen Cooper and Freya Carroll for all their work on the magazine.

We have continued to welcome the community into the church as much as possible.

Once again, we hosted 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. They are already booked into 2026.

We hosted a meeting and service for the Area's Licensed Lay Ministers attended by the Bishop of Edmonton and Archdeacon of Hampstead. We gave several church tours and took part in London Open House Weekend in September as well as receiving visits from the Palmers Green U3A. The church remained open to visitors two days a week, while the administrator was in the office – thank you to Caroline for being willing to offer this welcome.

As an accredited RE Hub we continued to host educational visits for local schools with sessions on Christianity, art and local heritage. The special services we held for schools during Advent saw an increase in attendance from 918 to 924 in 2025. Thank you to the wardens and sides people for enabling this to continue.

We continued to hold regular gardening mornings in the church attracting volunteers from the congregation and the wider community. The churchyard was left fallow during the summer and many species of wildflowers returned. Unfortunately, the bees swarmed during the year and we are committed to a new hive. 2025 was a year of cleaning and organising of equipment making use of the shed made available in the South Garden for the team of apiarists. Thank you to all those involved.

The annual Vicar's Harvest Quiz was hi-jacked by me, yet still a sell-out with many church and community teams raising well over £1000 split between the local Hatters Explorer Scout Unit and One to One Enfield.

Additional activities included hosting a visit by the local MP Bambos Charalambous, and several organised parish walks for which our thanks go to Ronald Lo and Jackie Anderson. We have established a good relationship with our police Community Safer Neighbourhood Team who often attend our 10am service.

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

The Choir has continued its regular programme of high-quality liturgical singing, proudly maintaining its status as one of the few churches in North London to sing regular Choral Evensong. Our thanks to Will Waine and everyone involved with music.

The choir was very well-received when singing for weekend services at Winchester and Wells Cathedrals. Our Patronal Festival Concert was a performance of J.S. Bach's monumental St John Passion, which was attended by a record audience and achieved a financial surplus. The Music Department began a series of Sunday afternoon recitals, Southgate Sessions, which have provided performance opportunities for our own musicians, brought in musicians and audiences from outside the congregation, attracted good numbers in the audience, and raised money to support the music provision at the church.

The junior choir has 16 regular members, and was a major contributor to worship, including services sung entirely by them. They were included in the UK cathedral trips and had unique and memorable experiences.

Our Children's Corner was used by families every Sunday morning as well as being appreciated by visitors during the week. We have expanded its range of books and equipment. Our thanks to everyone who keeps this going.

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. The Little Oaks playgroup have also continued to visit at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Our monthly services in our parish care homes were held throughout the year as well as delivery of communion to the housebound. Many thanks to the Rev'd Hazel, Sandra, Jackie and Simon for providing such a valued service and pastoral contact.

The bi-weekly healing services also continued throughout the year thanks to the Rev'd Hazel.

Our weekly café on a Friday morning as part of the "Places of Welcome" scheme has been held throughout the year and greatly valued as a source of support and companionship by those who attend. Our thanks to everyone who makes this happen.

The bi-weekly Bible Study, led by LLM Jackie Anderson and supported by LLM in training Simon Walkden, has continued to grow. A new Pastoral Care Group has been created to give support to any members of the parish who need a little extra support and assistance outside the normal worship activities. Again our thanks to all those who support these activities.

Fr Chrichton was the Creation Care lead for the Edmonton Diocese, and we have continued to drive our eco-agenda through weekly prayers, an active garden group and talks. We are signed up to Caring for God's Acre, and our churchyard is now a listed eco-friendly site on their website. Recent initiatives have included planting a wildflower meadow, scything rather than mowing and using an infrared camera to record the wildlife currently visiting our churchyard. As a church we continue to work towards our Eco-church Gold award.

We took part in the Churches Count on Nature which resulted in our churchyard being entered onto the Churches Count on Nature map so that people might discover the churchyard and visit.

We considered and updated our Access checklist created by the London Diocese and are committed to undertaking a Disability Audit when our new Incumbent is in place.

The high level of uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme continued in 2025, benefiting from the on-going Stewardship Campaign started in 2024. Whilst we lost a number of generous donors we were able to mitigate much of this loss through the proactive campaign. Thank you to everyone who gives in any way for your generosity and to those who manage our finances.

In October we had our Archdeacon's Visitation, which is held every three years. This is held to ensure the parish is being properly and safely run, caring for the physical assets, meeting all legal and financial obligations and protecting the flock. It involved much work including document reviews, meetings with Churchwardens, clergy team and others and a full meeting with the PCC. We are pleased to report that Christ Church Southgate got a very positive report and one which will be appreciated by our next Vicar so thank you to everyone involved.

I must record my special personal thanks to our Wardens, Kate Carroll and Graham Cook who supported the clergy team throughout the year. Their hard work has benefited all of us especially during the interregnum – we cannot underestimate how much extra work they have taken on. I also want to thank Caroline Robertson and Clare Boulton who have also gone the extra mile during this season to keep everything on track.

I may not have mentioned you personally but I am truly thankful for everyone in our church community who served in any way in 2025. You are a generous and joyful people and we bless one another in more ways than we know.

Thank you.

Fr Paul

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:	Rev'd Fr Chrichton Limbert till Sept 25/ Vacancy
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Hazel Miall
Curate:	Fr Paul Ellerby
Churchwardens:	Kate Carroll (Vice-Chair) Graham Cook
Lay Readers:	Jackie Anderson Sandra Anderson
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Ronald Lo Sandra Anderson
Treasurer:	Clare Boulton
Electoral Roll Officer:	Patricia Ashby
Elected Members:	Pat Hawkins Freya Carroll Hilary Meur Imogen Cooper Christopher Chessum Sophie Cook Youla Hadjidaniel Stephen Mason Angela Parker Adrian Hill elected May 2025 Simon Walkden elected May 2025

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:* Kate Carroll

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:* Kate Carroll and Graham Cook

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 (till Sept 25), Clare Boulton, Briony Hadjidaniel, John Marriott, Mick Meur, Philip 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 Lo, Ronald Lo, Caroline Robertson, Yvonne Woodthorpe and Judith Limbert (until Sept 25).

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 until September 2025 / Vacancy

Children's Champion: Joanne Leach

Stewardship Recorder: Mick Meur

Bell Tower Captain: Martin Sutcliffe

ANNUAL REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT: *Treasurer: Clare Boulton*

The consolidated accounts (which include the Parochial, Parish Centre, *Spire* Magazine, and Social Responsibility Funds) record a total income of £294,157 (2024: £290,093) and total expenditure of £326,738 (2024: £380,460) giving total operating losses, including gains and losses, of £53,072 (2024: loss of 78,899). At the 2025 year end the total funds balance was £4,060,662 (2024: £4,113,734) of which £271,653 (2024: £261,752) was for restricted purposes.

Parochial (Church) Fund

Looking at the Parochial (Church) Fund the total **unrestricted** income in 2025 was £200,814 (2024: £221,661). See below for a breakdown of income by category.

	2025	2024	% change 2025/2024
Legacies	-	£20,000	-100%
Donations	£10,730	£7,718	39%
Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders)	£80,940	£74,118	9%
Collections	£2,960	£2,640	12%
Income Tax Recovered	£23,083	£20,232	14%
Other income (incl. Occasional Offices, Listed Place of Worship Grants Scheme, Merchandise, hire of the Church)	£7,712	£18,185	-58%
Investment income and bank interest	£20,488	£23,543	-13%
Rental income	£54,900	£55,225	-1%
Total	200,814	£221,661	-9%

The total **unrestricted** expenditure in 2025 was £194,830 (2024: £223,761) which can be broken down as follows:

	2025	2024	% change 2025/2024
Premises (heat, light, insurance, water, churchyard upkeep, church & organ maintenance <i>but not major items</i>)	£26,251	£29,665	-12%
Mission costs (services costs, music costs, youth, outreach)	£8,064	£8,640	-7%
Common Fund	£102,000	£91,300	12%
Supports costs (administration, salaries, payroll costs, property management costs and accountant's fees)	£46,097	£47,573	-3%
Properties – maintenance and other costs	£11,386	£44,743	-75%
Other expenditure	£582	£1,840	-68%
Total	£194,380	£223,761	-13%

The net result on the unrestricted Parochial Fund in 2025 was a gain of £6,434.

The **restricted** income funds (that is income received by the Church for a specific purpose) received a total of £44,496 (2024: £29,810) including legacies totalling £20,000. There was expenditure of £34,063 (2024: £102,260) from these funds, the majority of which was spent on maintenance of the fabric and in support of music at Christ Church including our choral scholars. After taking into account net investment losses of £532 the total restricted funds balance showed a gain of £9,901.

Stewardship

The stewardship campaign culminated in March 2025 with letters to parishioners; this was met with a good response. The result was an increase in donations by those already in stewardship, and a number of new donors. We thank those who responded positively.

Regular giving is vital to our work as it allows us to forecast income, prepare budgets and plan future activities. However, every year we see the loss of a number of donors for a variety of reasons. It is therefore essential that the Stewardship Recorder continually monitors the position of our regular income from stewardship and communicates this to the Finance & Standing Committee and more widely in articles in *The Spire* magazine.

Future plans

We will continue to look to increase regular giving through stewardship, and to increase income in other ways whilst taking 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.

When planning work on the fabric of the church we will need to be mindful that the closure of the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme, by which we were able to reclaim VAT on expenditure on the church building, means that all such work will cost an additional 20%.

Though challenging, with careful stewardship, we should be able to continue to meet our existing commitments e.g. to the Diocesan Common Fund, to maintaining our musical excellence, caring for our building and undertaking new developments in support of our mission.

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

Front gate

The gate opposite the church's North door has been removed and stored in basement at Church House.

Garden gate

A new oak gate was made and installed by B&A Woodworking.

Tiles by vestry door

Clivedon Conservation undertook the repair and replacement of the tiles by the vestry door and the metal mat frame.

Repair to Lady Chapel Roof

Fullers have replaced the broken coping stone above the Lady Chapel.

Decarbonisation Grant work

We received a grant, which was used for the following:

- insulating windows in the office and choir vestry
- placing heat reflectors behind radiators to make them more effective
- lagging in the crypt around the boiler pipes
- repairing damaged sponges and brushes under some of the external doors.

Alarm

A new alarm keypad is to be installed at the North door to allow those locking up at night a safer and more visible route out of the church.

General maintenance

Routine servicing and maintenance have been carried out on the alarm system, the organ blower and humidifier, the fire extinguishers, the clock, the boiler and lightning conductor. A broken radiator in the choir vestry has been replaced. Imperial Plumbing have installed a new ball valve in the toilet cistern and a pair of new internal ¼ turn tap bodies in the kitchen taps. Ian Howe of IPH has completed the annual check of the gutters, which is contracted for through the Diocese. At the time of writing, he will be replacing broken roof slates and a 3" rain water pipe.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Kate Carroll, Graham Cook and Clare Boulton

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.

2025 has been another good year of maintaining all our communication activities. 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 Imogen Cooper and Freya Carroll, 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 Instagram and Facebook. Instagram is now our main platform to post information, photographs and messages (which automatically posts on Facebook) with our presence diminished on X.

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 during this period including those who have taken over either additional or new duties as we have entered into our Interregnum. Thanks must go to Imogen Cooper, Freya Carroll, Clare Boulton, Caroline Robertson, William Waine, Micaela Cook, Graham Cook, Fr Paul, Rev Hazel, Judith Limbert and Fr Chrichton.

SIDESMAN'S REPORT: Judith Lo, Head Sidesman

As at 31st March 2026, we are a team of 15 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 Lo, Ronald Lo, Caroline Robertson, and Yvonne Woodthorpe. Judith Limbert left the team as Fr. Chrichton retired and moved out of the parish.

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

We had our annual meeting on 12th October 2025. During the meeting, Ronald Lo, our Health & Safety Officer, presented the Emergency Evacuation Plan and Jackie Anderson, our Safeguarding Officer, gave a talk about Safeguarding in church. All sidesmen are encouraged to undertake the diocesan online Safeguarding training.

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

CHILDRENS & YOUTH REPORT: Kate Carroll & Graham Cook

2025 has been a positive year for our work with children, young people and families. Our Children's Corner is used both by families on a Sunday and as well as being enjoyed by other children when the church is open during the week. We continue to be well over the target set by the diocese for the percentage of attendees being under 16 or under 25. We see this as an area for future growth, which we have highlighted in our Parish Profile.

The range of toys and books in Children's Corner is often remarked upon. We take this opportunity to record our thanks to Judith Limbert for her fantastic work in curating these and creating wonderful displays. We are indebted to her for leaving us with resources to continue to change the display board to reflect both the liturgical year and our commitment to being an

Eco Church. All our families, children and young people appreciated and benefitted from Judith's kindness and welcome.

Our choristers and choral scholars have continued to thrive under our Director of Music Will Waine. 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. Our thanks to Joanne Leach who coordinates the chorister chaperones and to all those who are part of the team of chaperones.

Our knitted Holy family travelling crib was again hosted by different families during Advent. Our knitted nativity characters travelled to West Somerset for our digital Advent calendar. Thanks to both Charles Carroll and Micaela Cook for providing the photos and accompanying words. This year our Pop-Up Nativity was the same wonderfully unrehearsed performance.

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 to 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 continue to be an accredited RE Hub and have had curriculum-based visits for KS2 year groups from Ashmole Primary School, Walker School and West Grove. These relationships with the different schools have brought great benefits raising attendance and the profile of the church.

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.

Rev Hazel led the annual Armistice Day service in Broomfield Park which includes contributions from Hazelwood Primary School, Walker School and Laurel Park (formerly Broomfield) Secondary School.

Everyone involved in working with children and young people at Christ Church are DBS checked. Joanne Leach is our named Children's Champion and thanks go to her for taking on that role. Our 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 we 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

There has been much to celebrate in the choir and music this year. We are fortunate to have some particularly excellent senior choristers in the Junior Choir, and to have welcomed 5 new probationers. Their singing is outstanding, and the chorister-only items and services in the run up to Christmas were particularly special. Their commitment and dedication to Christ Church is inspiring.

The Adult Choir has made consistently excellent contributions to the worship at Christ Church each week, particularly in the last two terms. To perform Bach's St John Passion to such a high standard in November, with Liz Partridge and the Bach Sinfonia and arias sung by members of the choir, was an incredible achievement for a voluntary liturgical choir like ours, and is something that shouldn't be taken for granted. It sold more tickets than any previous Patronal Festival Concert and, thanks to some incredibly generous sponsorship made a significant profit, despite being expensive to stage.

The inaugural year of the Southgate Sessions recital series has been very successful, bringing in audiences of between 40 and 100 people each month, and receiving generous donations which are offsetting some of the costs of the upcoming tour to Rome. The music has been wonderfully varied and audience feedback has been positive.

I am endlessly grateful to Matthew Warbis for his excellent playing and his support as Organist and Assistant Director of Music. We are very lucky to have him. We continue to enjoy the work of our choral scholars, and a former chorister as 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 had another good year and donated about £6,500 in cash terms. We also gave 90 Gift Tree presents to Enfield Young Carers; 25 presents to Southgate Homebound; toiletries, towels, new underwear etc. plus £650 to Showerbox; Easter Eggs to St. John's Palmers Green: 46 Shoe Boxes and their postage to Operation Christmas Child & gave regularly to the Food Bank, to Homeless Action Barnet and The Ark at St. John's Palmers Green.

We were sorry when The Ark ceased to function in the summer. As a church we gave them much support - willing and able volunteers, non-perishable food items, toiletries, clothing, beds, bedding and other items when requested. We trust the people they supported have found another source of refuge.

Through the year we have donated to The Red Cross Hurricane Appeal (Melissa), World Vision, Noah's Ark and Christian Aid. We held a raffle as Fr. Chrichton and Judith were leaving and raised £300 which they asked to go to RNLI St. David's where their son is a member of the crew.

We sent £900 to Magic Breakfast who deliver free breakfasts for children in the UK who would otherwise start the day hungry. We gave the local Explorer Scouts, "The Hatters" £750 towards their planned trip to Kenya, helping with "Masai Conservation Kenya 26"; £550 was donated to One-to-One Enfield who help people with learning difficulties lead lives on an equal footing to others.

Our main Christmas charity was Dementia Care UK. DCUK, £1,100. As usual we also gave to The Children's Society, £700.

We are grateful to everyone who contributes in any way to make these charitable donations from Christ Church possible.

ECO CHURCH REPORT: Sandra Anderson

There has been much activity this year.

The Friends of the Christ Church Garden gardening group have remained dedicated to caring for the churchyard, the front and back gardens. The churchyard has been further cleared, exposing more grave stones and letting in more light. We have decided to leave the grass to grow again until scything in the autumn. We will again mow paths and leave a semicircle for the choir to assemble during interments. This is to support wild flower growth and all wild life. We will again attempt a sensory garden in this area. Thank you to Ronald for keeping the bird feeder filled and to Marjory Piper for donating the two bird baths in memory of her sisters Nancye and Mary.

After submitting the information that we collected about our wildflowers and wildlife during 'Love your Burial Ground's week, 'Churches Count on Nature', Christ Church is now included in the 'Caring for God's Acre' Ground map database for the first time.

The front garden has been kept tidy and has been a joy throughout the year. Again, thank you to Hazel for her wonderful pots. We have planted a new crab apple tree kindly donated to us by Linda Fullick, in memory of her late husband Garry. We thank her for that. However, we ask that we be consulted about all future plant/tree donations before they are purchased, in order that we can assess the practicality and ongoing care requirements.

We have a wonderful new gate leading into the back garden. This is the first step to addressing the access issues due to the existing steep incline at the entrance. The trees have been cut back exposing an area at the edge of the lawn which has been sown with wild flower seeds. We hope that this gives us a lovely border. We also have a small area marked out on the lawn and we are keenly watching to see if wild flowers that may have been dormant for a while now reappear.

Thank you to Patricia and Nick Harper for their hard work in creating a beautiful rockery and also thank you to Patricia for organising the plant sale last summer. Hopefully it can be repeated.

Also thank you to Nick and Youla for their dedication to the bees. We sadly lost them last year but we are imminently awaiting our new ones.

We thank Charles Carroll for his wonderful talk on hedgehogs although sadly, we don't think there is any current activity.

Also thank you to Graham for arranging the recent talk on swifts and for overseeing the fundraising for swift boxes to be attached to Church House. This has been hugely popular and successful and there are now enough funds to initiate the project.

We continue to be mindful of all aspects of eco church at all times. Thank you to Briony for producing a beautiful large Christmas card, available for all to sign. She will do the same for Easter. We can send each other greetings keeping the cardboard usage to a minimum. We pray for God's creation and the environment, and those who care for it on a weekly basis. Our energy usage is monitored and adjusted as necessary. We include domestic eco tips in our weekly newsletter and inform all of special world wildlife and environmental days in The Spire magazine. We continue to recycle and remain as plastic free as possible. We use eco cleaning products and where we can recycled paper. New ideas from the congregation are welcome at all times.

A huge thank you to all those who get involved in whatever capacity. Anyone is welcome to join in our efforts.

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 from the Archdeacon during our Visitation for our level of completeness). At time of APCM we are at 96% completeness for mandatory requirements and have been at 100% during much of the year.
- People have completed 24 pieces of separate safeguarding training across a range of courses.
- 9 DBS checks (new and renewals) have been completed
- One new fully updated risk assessment has 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.
- An article outlining all parish activity around safeguarding was published in the April/May 2025 Spire magazine.
- Safeguarding training was undertaken by the PSO for all Sidesmen as we expanded their awareness, roles and training to consider safeguarding.
- As a result of the training a new sentence was added to our Sunday pew sheets to communicate clearly our safeguarding intentions to the congregation - *At Christ Church we take your well being seriously and we want you to feel welcome, included and safe. If you have any concerns whilst you are in church, please speak to a member of the clergy team, ask to speak to a Churchwarden or speak to someone on duty at the back of the church.*
- Additionally, a review of safeguarding training and awareness was undertaken of the new Pastoral Care Group and appropriate training undertaken by those who had not completed the requisite training, in line with church best practice.

- An historical safeguarding incident brought to our attention was supported by our previous Incumbent, our PSO and a Churchwarden under clear direction from our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

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 12 October 2025 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.

BELL RINGING REPORT: Martin Sutcliffe, Tower Captain & Chris Chessum

Christ Church is fortunate to have a ring of ten bells, with practice nights held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. At present, the band consists of two ringers: Martin Sutcliffe (Tower Captain) and Chris Chessum. Despite our small numbers, we were delighted to be able to ring for the Easter service on Sunday 20 April 2025 and again for the Christmas morning service later in the year, with the generous support of ringers from other towers. We are especially grateful to the band at St John the Baptist, Barnet, whose kindness and willingness to help have made a real difference to us.

In 2025 we were pleased to provide ringing for a wedding at Christ Church helping to mark this important occasion for the couple. We are happy to provide a bell ringing service for weddings and funerals when requested to do so by the families concerned.

The Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers occasionally make use of our tower for Wednesday evening practices. These visits are always most welcome and provide a valuable opportunity for ringers to develop their skills, enjoy one another's company, and experience ringing in different towers.

We continue to look for new recruits who might like to learn bell ringing and help us rebuild a full and thriving band at Christ Church. Bell ringing is a rewarding and sociable activity, and we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who is interested.

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

The elected parish lay representatives were Ronald Lo and Sandra Anderson. The Synod met thrice since our last APCM: on 1 July, 11 November 2025 and 23 February 2026.

The Rev. Stephen Gallagher stepped down as Area Dean after Easter 2025 and the Revd. Daniel Sandham, vicar of St. Paul's Winchmore Hill, chaired the first Deanery Synod on 1 July 2025 as the new Area Dean.

Regular items included Deanery Notices and noting vacancies & election/appointments of School Governors. There is a constant need for new School Governors to fill vacancies. The following clergy matters were announced:

- Rev. S. Miller had been inducted to the parish of Ss Peter and Paul, Enfield
- Rev. C. Limbert (Christ Church Southgate) was to retire at the beginning of September 2025, appointment of new vicar process in progress.
- Rev. J. Colman (St. John Palmers Green) had resigned and would leave in August 2025
- Welcomed Rev Staffan Dawkins to the Deanery
- The passing of Thomas Gwyn Clement (priest, former Area Dean) and Roger Graham Dean (former lay chairman)
- Rev. Kathryn Twining appointed to St. John's Palmers Green from 5 March 2026.

The following were also noted:

- online survey on consultation for the new Bishop of London (closed on 12 November 2025)
- Community projects run by parishes.
- Mothers' Union activities/events.

Addresses were given at the meetings:

At the July 2025 meeting, M. Ngoy-Verhage spoke to the meeting about her role as discipleship enabler. Her talk gave many examples about living together in the faith. Beginning with the theme of confident discipleship, she said it was not always easy helping others to deepen their faith. She invited the meeting to share ways of staying with God, sharing the journey and serving the world. She led the meeting in the examen practice, asking us to reflect on: Where we see glimpses of glory; What is making us fearful; and What are our hopes and dreams. Further information is available at www.wayoflife.london

Bishop Anderson addressed the meeting on 11 November 2025 on the topic of Racial Justice. He noted that the 2030 vision has reached its mid-point in 2025 and was enthusiastic about the church's mission for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Jesus Christ. The concept of racial justice extends to all minorities. There are some areas where we fall short e.g. there are no incumbents of colour in the area of Two Cities. Persons of colour represent just over fifty percent of the worshipping community in London and we should endeavour to make the PCCs, Synods and Area Councils reflect this. Racial tension can often end up being a safeguarding issue where we should ensure that our churches are a safe space for everyone. Across the 18 boroughs of the London Diocese there are 250 languages spoken – each representing a different culture. The issue is how we make our churches accessible to all.

The Bishop spoke about the Racial Justice Steering Group and mentioned that some funding was available to Deaneries and Parishes. A question was raised about how poverty and social class affect access to vocations. The possibility of a census across the diocese to gauge the needs in specific areas was discussed. The Bishop concluded by reminding the meeting that when one body hurts, then it affects the whole body of Christ.

Evi Gosden spoke on social action in Compassionate Communities at the meeting on 23 February 2026. Evi is the Social Action Lead in the Diocese. The ambition of Compassionate Communities project aims at the journey to Eco Church Award and at least one compassion ministry project in every church. Compassion Ministry projects may include outreach/projects in areas such as in food security, mental health/dementia/suicide, social isolation & social prescribing, homelessness support, money insecurity, debt reduction, real living wages, modern slavery, housing justice, young people issues, etc. Evi conducted a breakout group discussion on the needs, existing projects and future possibilities in our parishes regarding social action in Compassionate Communities. Further information on Compassionate Communities can be found at <https://www.london.anglican.org/church-and-parish-support/compassionate-communities/>

It is noted that existing Deanery Synod members will retire at the 2026 APCM and new members are to be elected then. Parishioners are encouraged to stand for election to the Deanery Synod.

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 fourth year. No major remedial works have been required.

6 The Green – There was a change of tenants in April when the existing tenants moved out of the area. As part of the change of tenancy the flat was redecorated and some minor repairs carried out. New tenants moved in during July, as part of the change in tenancy the rent was increased so that it was in line with the current market rate.

7 The Green - The current tenants are in their ninth year. No major remedial works have been required.

CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION (CCA) REPORT: Steve Smith Chair

As you all know - I hope - the bar is open most weeks on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, except for closures over Christmas and August, and thanks to our committee the bar has opened on all of the sessions that it should have been. Financially, we have remained stable and viable, and we've been able to donate to two causes that were dear to our late Chair, as well as supporting the Vicar's Quiz and maintaining a reasonable operating balance. On the membership numbers front it is good to report that we are increasing our membership.

Review of the CCA's activities during the year

- Wine tasting
- Fish and Chip Supper
- Burns' night
- Sports TV screening
- OktoberFest Evening

- Top Step Talks
- Pizza evenings
- Summer BBQ and Pimms evening
- Foodie Nights each third Friday of the month
- Provision of a bar to support the Parish Autumn Quiz Night
- Provision of a bar to support the Annual Church Concert – St John’s Passion

So a good year generally for the bar – but what of the future? It would be good to see attendance increasing to match the increased membership – especially on the Wednesday and Sunday sessions. We tried a couple of new events last year, such as the Oktober fest, and we would like to hear of any ideas that you, our community would like us to try, especially if you’d be willing to add your input to the planning and delivery of that specific idea.

As with any voluntary organisation, we are totally dependent on our membership so thanks to all of you for your support on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays - obviously we couldn’t continue without you. Thank you all.

As you all know, we operate via a small committee, so thank you:

- Phil Miall
- John Macrory
- Ronald Lo
- Sherri Greenaway
- Martin Greenaway
- Michael Greenaway – Membership Secretary
- Angie Smith - Committee Secretary
- Pat Collins - Committee Treasurer

My sincere thanks to all committee members and officers of the committee as without them we simply couldn’t function.

A final thank-you to the PCC and the Parish Centre Management Committee for their support given to us throughout the year. We need to work closely with the Church and look forward to more events with Church related organisations in the future.

So, in Summary, we’ve had quite a good year, increased our numbers, remained financially stable and been able to make some donations to various charities. Let’s hope next year is even better. If any of you good folk out there fancy giving us a hand, we have spaces on the committee – why not give it a go? Come and talk to me or any of the committee – we don’t bite – much. We can always use more help and new ideas so why don’t you give it a try – even if it’s just for one event. Advert over!