

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

APCM 2025

Reports for 2025/2026

Prepared for the Annual
Parochial Church Meeting
of **St Peter's Church 2026**

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

Your Church
Always Welcome

*Helping people experience
the joy of knowing Jesus*

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Total | <u>-15</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>5</u> |
| Net Change Under 18 ³ +18 | -11 | <u>+10</u> | <u>+16</u> | <u>-8</u> | +18 | +4 | -8 | -12 | -1 | -3 | |

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|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Electoral Roll | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| | 219 | 234 | 236 | 236 | 231 | 231 | 232 | 238 | 233 | 232 | 230 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Av Attendance Oct | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| <i>(up to 2022 including Fresh Expressions Messy Church and Breakfast @ 9)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |

Sunday

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sunday Adults 16+ | 117 | 113 | 128 | 114 | 119 | 62 | 142 | 134 | 131 | 127 | 133 |
| Sunday Children and YP | | <u>13</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>12</u> |
| Av Sunday Attendance | | <u>130</u> | <u>133</u> | <u>139</u> | <u>121</u> | 130 | <u>65</u> | <u>155</u> | <u>146</u> | <u>143</u> | <u>139</u> |

145

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

Weekday

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Weekday Adults 16+* | | 12 | 17 | 29 | 29 | 14 | 18 | 29 | 24 | 18 | 17 |
| Weekday CYP | <u>0</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Av Weekday Attend | <u>12</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>16</u> |
| Av Weekly Attendance | | 142 | <u>150</u> | <u>168</u> | <u>150</u> | <u>144</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>187</u> | <u>174</u> | <u>161</u> | <u>156</u> |

161

*includes midweek communions, home communions, nursing home communions, letters, zoom, you tube

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Easter/Christmas</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| C Eve/Day (Attend) | 311 | 255 | 285 | 227 | 161 | 127 | 273 | 326 | 331 ⁴ | 744 | 601 |
| C Eve/Day (Comm) | 235 | 221 | 226 | 172 | 133 | 53 | 195 | 236 | 225 | 215 | 173 |
| A (Congregation) | 353 | 487 | 532 | 330 | 250 | na | 740 | 682 | 693 | 574 | 518 |
| A (Community) | | 615 | 842 | 619 | 680 | na | na | 721 | 670 | 721 | 471 |
| 687 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E Day (Congregation) | 201 | 152 | 167 | 147 | 108 | na | 261 | 232 | 234 | 197 | 246 |
| E Day (Communion) | 173 | 139 | 147 | 117 | 65 | na | 193 | 185 | 185 | 161 | 217 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Occasional Offices</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| Baptisms | 11 | | 7 | 10 | 19 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 16 | 15 | 18 |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thanksgivings | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Weddings | 5 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 4 | | 7 | 17 | 14 | 6 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wedding Blessings | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Funerals Church | 21 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 10 | 16 | 18 | 27 | 24 | 22 | 30 |
| Funerals Crematorium | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burial Only (Ashes/Body) | 2 | | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | - | - | - |
| - | | | | | | | | | | | |

Family, Children and Youth

Children

Teeny Tinies

Garden Gang

Sunday Club

Sunday Funday

Butterflies (BM)

Table Talk

Youth

GWNN

Youth Choir/Band (start 2026)

Men and Women

Women

Ladies Group

Mothers Union

W@SPS (re-start 2026)

Knit and Natter

Flower Arrangers

Flower Arrangers (BM)

Men

G@SPS

Men's Breakfast

Music

Choir

Extended Choir

Band

Bells

Hand Bells

Choir (BM)

Extended Choir (BM)

Band (BM)

Bells (BM)

Social Active

MVFB

MVBB

Parish News

Connect Groups (Home Groups)

Connect Groups x13

Prayer

Morning Prayer-Mon

Morning Prayer-Tue

Morning Prayer-Wed

Morning Prayer-Thu

Morning Prayer-Fri

Prayer for RRR

Christian Basics

Parenting

Alpha (Evening/Day)

Christianity Exp

Church

PCC SP

PCC BM

Leadership Team/SC

CONGREGATIONS/SERVICES/WORSHIP

8AM SERVICE

The 8am Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion is very much appreciated by the congregation.. The promised copies of the new prayer book will be welcome

The size of the congregation varies but we have a core of regular worshippers.

We do not have time for fellowship at the conclusion of our service due to the arrival of the Choir to prepare for the 9am service, and that congregation.

With the long rainy Winter we've experienced, it has been good to greet worshippers into a warm church to a friendly chat and warm welcome

Rosemary Easton

9.00 SERVICE

Overall, we have had encouraging year of regular normal worship providing a good 'classical' service led by our wonderful choir with Communion on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays and Morning Worship on the 4th Sunday.

Within our worship, we focus on encouraging every person to be fully part of our worship in their personal presence and participation. The core elements of our worship include: a warm welcome on the door, as we

sit together and afterwards; fellowship and conversation over coffee (with the 10:30am congregation in the 'Crossover Coffee' time); sung worship with a variety of hymns and songs; prayers and intercessions; bible centred sermons with application to everyday life; and the sharing of communion. Over the year it has been lovely to have new people join both the congregation and choir.

We also very much appreciate our Bell ringing team who ring and call people to worship every Sunday and with an extended time after Morning Worship on the 4th Sunday. And we are especially grateful to our choir led by our Music Director Michael Coker, supported by Emma Dean week by week.

Finally, we are very grateful for all who do so much to enable our services to happen week by week: those who lead and preach; those who read; those who lead our prayers; those who serve; and those who welcome and make refreshments. As we look forwards, we have a few things in mind: to keep doing what we do well; to introduce a new communion musical setting and music/hymns; to ensure that the service is usually about 70 minutes; and to re-arrange our fellowship area in addition to the back of church; and finally, we want to start a Junior Choir which will meet on a Friday evening before the adult choir practice and then take part regularly within our Sunday services.

Revd James

10.30AM 'SUNDAY CENTRAL'

Over the past year we have been continuing to build up our 'modern/contemporary' service. We continue to work on our plan to develop the service and leadership team. We have also been working hard on a more 'joined up style' and 'flow' to the service through the coffee time welcome, sung worship, bible reading, talk, response and prayer. It has been great to see a lot more people attending including families and children. It is really helpful that we can now offer a new and older children's groups which helps attract families.

With regard to our sung worship we have been very pleased to welcome Joel Phelps to help lead and develop our modern/contemporary worship which is going well and has been well received by the congregation. We are also very grateful for all hard work of Nick Watkins and Simon Harrison to enable and support our band. Finally, we are extremely grateful for the amazing work that Michael and all band members have done too bring our band to this point of its development and growth.

As we look forwards we want to continue developing the above areas and focus on some other improvements: our coffee/fellowship area at the back of church; more personally led sung worship; blending the bible reading, talk and prayer together. We also hope to re-work our leadership team, service leadership and linking all this more with families and young people.

Finally, we are grateful for all who do so much to enable our services to happen week by week: those who lead and preach; those who read; those who lead our prayers; those who serve; and those who welcome and make refreshments.

Revd James

THURSDAY 10AM SERVICE

The Thursday 10am Mid Week Service is from the Book of Common Prayer.
The service with communion will be on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, weeks of the month.

We have a service of reflection on the 3rd week in the month with coffee and cake

and more recently the 5th Thursday in a month with coffee and cake. All our services are friendly and loving and anyone who comes will be given a warm and loving welcome. It doesn't matter if you come once or often or whenever you can, late or early all are welcome.

I would like to thank Rosemary, James, Keith, Di, Wendy, Frances, Edna and Matt for all they do to help the Thursday 10am service when they can.

We do hope to see you with love and God bless.

Celia Morant

ST PETER'S CHURCH CHOIR

St Peter's Church Choir leads weekly Congregational sung worship through music. In 2025, the Choir comprised 20+ faithful worshipping Christian singers and calls upon many singing 'reinforcements' to support incidental services and special occasions. The Choir sings weekly at the 9.00am Parish Communion & Morning Worship Services. Additionally, the Choir sing at 'Special' Services including 4th Sunday Choral Evensong and other Church Festivals; Advent & Christmas Carol Services. A Taizé Reflective Service has been re-introduced with Services scheduled for February & July 2026. The Choir participated in the St Peters 'Marriage Preparation Day' (7 February 2026) and have been invited to sing at a number of 2026 Weddings. During the last 12 months the Choir sung at several Funerals, as requested. During 2025, the Choir contributed to several Bishops Waltham Community events including the September Country Fayre.

The Choir are a resourceful and adaptable group of singers, providing a very wide- ranging repertoire from traditional Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (SATB 4 Part Harmony) to 21st Century songs and many Anthems. The Leaders are Michael Coker (Music Director/ Organist) and Emma Dean (Choir Leader). Assistant Organists are Jackie Tyldesley and Rosemary Bickle.

The Choir create a warm, friendly, worshipful, welcoming team environment – one of our singers hosted a Choir Christmas Party in December 2025. We always welcome new singers of all ages and abilities! Our close musical links with local Churches continued in 2025, particularly enjoying working with our Choir colleagues at Blessed Mary, Upham. In December 2025 we had Carol Services at both Churches with good numbers of singers supporting both Services. Many Choir Members sung in the Blessed Mary Upham Summer Concert. We also participated in several wider Events in 2025 including hosting the Deanery Ascension Service at St Peters.

The Junior Choir at Bishops Waltham Infants School (launched in September 2023), led jointly by Michael Coker with a School teacher, grew significantly in 2025 with 50-60 Year 1&2 children attending weekly lunchtime practices. 40 Junior Choir children sung beautifully in the Mothering Sunday Service (30 March 2025), including a joint song with the St Peters Choir. Due to the School teacher taking Adoption Leave, the Choir is not taking place in the 2025-26 Academic Year, however we are currently developing plans to launch a new Junior Choir in Summer 2026 for children aged 7-16.

We are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The RSCM celebrate its Centenary in 2027 and are introducing new initiatives including the 'Choir Project' (support to new Junior Choirs), which we are aligning with. There are also calls for Choral Evensong to be given 'Heritage' status!

Michael Coker

WORSHIP BAND

In 2025, the St Peter's Worship Band comprised 12 Singers and Instrumentalists. The Band played twice monthly leading sung Worship at the 10.30am Sunday Central Contemporary Worship Services (average 8 Band Members per Service). Additionally, the Band supported Family Advent Carols, Crib Services & Christmas Day. During 2025, Michael Coker, Music Director led the Band, working with the various Service Leaders. The Band had 6 singers, 3 guitarists (including a Bass), 1 flute, 1 violin, and a keyboard player, sometimes with a drummer. The Worship Band worked with the A/V team to balance sound output and to assist Service Leaders to enable Congregational worship. Increasingly we included a 'child friendly' opening song for the growing numbers of children attending Sunday Church activities.

As the Sunday Central Service continued to flourish and grow in 2025, we successfully covered 2nd and 4th Sunday Services with an additional Worship Music Leader (Nigel Hyde & team). This has enabled us to have sung Worship at all Sunday Central Services (replacing the recorded music previously used).

The Band formed a warm, sociable, worshipful team, interacting closely and deeply with Service Leaders and the congregation, regularly welcoming new singers and instrumentalists. The Band have an extended and varied repertoire of 150+ songs - mainly Top 100 Worship Songs (as classified by CCLI – Christian Copyright Licensing International). We play an active role in the Hampshire 631 Worship Network & Training Group for Worship Leaders and Teams.

From February 2026, Joel Phelps has joined the Sunday Central team as Sung Worship Leader leading music from keyboard on 3 Sundays each month. New singers & instrumentalists are being integrated in the team with a Music Workshop on 29 March 2026. A new drum kit has been purchased and considerable new investment to the A/V equipment to enable high quality sound output. The Band have moved to a new central location on the dais. 2026 will be an important year for the evolution and development of the Worship Band serving the St Peters congregation, as we aim to create a consistent, contemporary worship style across Sunday Central Services with an average of 4 Band members weekly.

Michael Coker

FLOWER ARRANGING TEAM

The Flower Team of about sixteen people is led by Kate Rickwood who is supported by Hazel Roddis as Treasurer. Thanks go to all the arrangers, many of whom have been in the team for a long time, for their invaluable contribution and continuing support throughout the year. They are all greatly appreciated. One of our very talented arrangers, Jenny Richards, moved away from the area during the year but we were delighted when Jo Toms offered to help and is now a very valued member. Every week during the past year there have been fresh flowers at the High Altar and in the porch except during Lent and Advent.

The Easter Garden was built as usual and much admired by those who come to Church and visit during the holiday period. Special thanks go to those who help, those who decorate and donate flowers and foliage and to Charles Crossley who helps with the work before and then after the Garden needs to be removed.

During 2025 there were also special occasions when the Team was asked to decorate, the D Day celebrations, the Country Fayre and Harvest Festival to name a few. It was a very difficult Summer for growers with the ground so dry and special thanks go to John Price and Linda Smith for their outstanding Autumnal Display which was seen by many visiting the Country Fayre, and then Harvest Festival. Betty Thompson and Hazel arranged the poppies for Remembrance Sunday and soon after that the Christmas trees were brought into Church; thanks to Rod Passingham and his helpers who put all the lights on them before the Flower team could decorate with the baubles. Christmas decorations were then arranged and many people said how wonderful the Church looked with the lights sparkling on the trees and holly and ivy on the pillars!

A very successful Christmas wreath-making event was held in the Church Hall; Hazel led the course providing expert and friendly advice which was very much enjoyed by the participants. Following this a generous donation was made to the finances of the Flower Team which was so very welcome! Edna Dear has been a stalwart for many years, being in charge of the Wedding floral arrangements when requested and also, with Betty and Hazel, makes sure the flowers are kept watered during the hot Summer months. If you are reading this and would like to become involved with the Flower Team, or can offer greenery etc. from your garden, do please speak to Kate, her contact number is in Parish News.

Susan Tatton-Brown

DISCIPLESHIP INCLUDING 'CONNECT GROUPS'

Our Connect Groups (Home/House Groups) help us to connect with God, with others and with ourselves. I am very grateful to all our leaders for the care they have given to members of our Church and to each other. We have a good number and range of groups, some which have been around for a long time and some being newer. Some groups are traditional in what they do e.g., friendship/fellowship, bible study and prayer, and some are more 'organic' doing the similar things but in different ways and looking to see how they can serve outwardly. Our current groups are below:

Sheila McNerney 'Northbrook' - Monday 2:30pm Fortnightly

Jenny Searle - Monday 7:30pm 1st and 3rd Mon

David and Beryl Williamson 'The Chosen' Tuesday 7:45pm 1st and 3rd

Pat Gover 'New Seekers' - Tuesday 7:45pm 1st and 3rd Tue

John Tooze 'Dolphins' Tuesday 8:00pm 2nd and 4th Tue

David Proud and Annie Thomas 'RAGtime' - Tuesday Evenings Monthly (usually over a meal)

Judy Benham – Wednesday 10am Weekly

Moray Thomas - Wednesdays 2pm Weekly

Sue Palmer 'Pilgrims' - Wednesday 10:30am Fortnightly

Ray Syrett 'Frogmore' - Wednesday 7:30pm 1st and 3rd Wed

Celia Morant – Thursday 10am Weekly

James Hunt - Thursdays 10:45-12:15am

Nigel and Susan Hyde – Thursdays 6:30pm Weekly

Cathie and Mike Salter – Thursday 7:30pm Fortnightly

As we look ahead, we hope to start a new group in Upham and a 2 to 3 new groups following our very encouraging Alpha course. We also hope to appoint a leader to help support our groups and leaders. We also hope to put together a 'Discipleship Pathway' framework and to include a range of 'courses' and 'practical' areas to do which will help build up learning to be active Disciples/Apprentices of Jesus.

As we look to the future we hope that small groups and activities will need to play a greater and more central role in the life of our church to reach new people and to help us grow in our discipleship/apprenticeship to Jesus.

Revd James

PRAYER

Over the year it has been really encouraging to be part of a growing prayer life at St Peter's and Blessed Mary with daily prayer of various kinds and more people joining in. At meetings we endeavour to start and close in prayer and be prayerful throughout, and we of course pray in our services. An overall theme of prayer is to listen better and be more reflective than just 'talk at God with our lists of things'. Our daily prayer groups are as follows:

Monday – 8:30am Zoom Common Worship Prayer

Tuesday – 8am Zoom Reflective and Open Prayer (especially for the life of our churches)

Wednesday – 8:45am St Peter's Celtic Prayer

Thursday – 8am Zoom Celtic Prayer

Friday – 8:45am St Peter's Celtic Prayer

Finally, we want too hold more 'one off' prayer times to 'pray into' specific needs and areas of church life. We would also like to appoint a prayer champion/s to encourage us in prayer to and to keep and hold prayer central in our lives.

As we look forward, we want to start a prayer for 'reform, renewal and revival' in us and in our community!

Revd James

PASTORAL

PASTORAL REPORT

General: There are many kind people in our congregations who give support and tlc without any fuss, to those who struggle with health or other situations in their lives, whether short or long term Most people don't like to ask for help so we are grateful to all of you who notice and support where you can, whether with a cuppa and chat, and offer of transport, a welcome in church, a prepared meal, serving coffee at 10.15am, an invitation to a new person to join you at a church event or our Wednesday Café, or other gathering held in our village that you attend. Thank you all whatever you do

Pastoral care covers a range of ministries. The song Brother Sister let me Serve you, Let me be of Christ to you (Richard Gillard) sums up part of the important ministry of Pastoral Care.

Welcome - We welcomed many new people to our church in 2025, and we are delighted that our extra space enables us to circulate freely and get to know them at coffee time.

We hosted a Welcome Tea in June for those who had joined St Peter's in the preceding year. Refreshments on two Thursdays each month are enjoyed by the 10.00am congregation and James aims to visit new people who come along to church and would like to know more. The weekly update is delivered to those without email to ensure they can keep in touch

Social Visiting and Home Communion Some members of our congregation visit any person of any age occasionally or regularly, who wants some company, for a chat over a 'cuppa'.

Some of our congregation members who are no longer able to come to church or who reside in Care Homes receive Communion monthly. We are registered with Faith in Later Life see Looking forward

Bereavement support - Members of our congregation who are bereaved are offered comfort and support as much as possible, so if you would like someone to talk to or listen, Clergy or Lay please contact Wendy Cooper or the Parish Office. We arrange two Time to Remember services each year. Many find this time of quiet reflection and the lighting of candles in memory of their loved one, helpful and comforting.

Practical. Some people are grateful to be enabled to come to church because others offer transport.

We know that some of you take soup or other meals when somebody is temporarily in need of support

Families: Gentle support and care is given to families who are struggling – see Children and Families

Baptism: see Children and Families

Pastoral Care is the responsibility of us all whichever Service we attend

Looking forward and Needs!!

- If you drive to church (Increasingly some find St. Peter's Street a bit steep) or church event, you might feel able to give a lift to somebody.
- Now we can circulate it is easier to reach somebody standing alone – could you introduce yourself and perhaps introduce them to others.
- A welcome tea has been arranged in May enabling newer people to find out a bit more about St. Peter's – you might like to help?
- If somebody who normally sits near you or you know is missing from church for two or three weeks, please either give them a call yourself or tell Di or a Churchwarden as they could be unwell.
- If you see somebody new or who you don't know sitting or standing near you, please introduce yourself, offer to fetch coffee and if they are new introduce them to one or two others – perhaps of similar age
- Faith in later Life are offering Webinars concerning ministry for older folk which Rosie will 'attend' some which could be helpful to us.

All Visitors have undertaken our Safeguarding requirements. Confidentiality is respected. Initial enquiries about any of the above can be made via the Parish Office or by contacting Di Hunt dianahunt6@gmail.com who will be in touch.

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Group:

The members have met regularly to pray for people who are sick or bereaved or in any kind of trouble and have asked for prayer. They are also included in the daily prayers of the members.

If you would like the group to pray for you or there is someone you would like prayed for or there is a specific situation troubling you, please contact Frances Cole 892533. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

RESOURCES

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT-2025 (*-please see note below)

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to keep our estate (Church, Churchyard, Hall & Stables) in such good order and to those who have given financial support through Planned Giving, donations and collections

Overall management of the Church estate has continued to be exercised by myself in conjunction with Mandy Cawood, Churchwarden responsible for Buildings, Finances & Resources, supported by many other people. A big thank you to those who help with the maintenance and repair of the buildings (including the clock and bells), the care of the Churchyard (especially the Churchyard Restoration Team and Churchyard working parties) and to other helpers from the wider community. We were also very pleased to welcome the Community Payback Team who spent many Fridays helping to tidy up the Churchyard, and we continue to be grateful for the financial support of the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the Churchyard

The Parochial Church Council has received updates on fabric related matters and on Health and Safety issues at each PCC meeting. A defibrillator is now available in the Clergy Vestry when the Vestry is open and consideration is being given to installing another defibrillator on the external wall of the Stables

The Church continues to be maintained to a good standard overall. The first part of the “re-imagining process” is all but complete with only the slabs to be laid at the back of the North Nave where two pews were taken out, this should happen early in 2026. Redecoration under the gallery has taken place and lead flashing repaired on the Clergy Vestry extension. The Royal British Legion Men’s Standard has been affixed to the wall near the other Standards in the Admiral’s Corner. The problem of cracking in the turret identified by the Church Architect in 2015 continues to be monitored by using “tell tales”, encouragingly no further movement had taken place at the last inspection in September 2024. There have been occasional problems with the clock and chiming mechanism, but these have been resolved for the time being and an inspection regime has been established. A direct telephone link has been established which has improved Wi-Fi connectivity significantly. An Energy Audit has been undertaken, and the recommendations are being taken forward as appropriate

Looking forward, the Quinquennial is due in early 2026 which will identify any additional fabric related issues which may need attention

The Churchyard has been well maintained again this year and has looked the best it has been for a long time, with many favourable comments. The wall near the Maypole Green entrance has been damaged by tree roots and following the felling of the tree, a Schedule of Works has been prepared and it is hoped that the work will be completed early next year, having due regard for the sensitivity of working in close proximity to cremated remains. The “wild area” has been totally cleared and is now under control and compost bags help to manage the cuttings etc which arise on a regular basis. A good number of graves have been restored, including a private War Grave, and path edges have been tidied up. Paving stones have been laid in front of benches to prevent the areas becoming muddy. The “Tommy” figure was installed once again near the War Memorial on a temporary basis in memory of the fallen

Looking forward, consideration is being given to repairing two table top tombs

(*Please note: Details of work undertaken in the Church and Churchyard and of the “fabric, goods and ornaments” of the Church can be found in the Church Log Book and Church Property Register which are available for inspection in the Stables Parish Office)

The Church Hall remains in good condition for its age, and no major structural work has been necessary, just the inevitable on-going maintenance and minor repairs etc. Thanks are due to all those people who have contributed of their time to help keep the building in good order and the Hall continues to be an attractive and well used Church and community resource. The A/V facilities have been upgraded to make them more user-friendly and moss has been cleared from the roof which looks significantly better

Looking forward, consideration is being given to either repairing or replacing the windows in the kitchen and back room as the frames are rotted but replacement would potentially require Planning Permission as the Hall is in the Bishop’s Waltham Conservation Area. General redecoration is planned to freshen up the interior

The Stables Parish Centre remains in good condition generally and thanks are due to all those who have contributed of their time to help keep the building in good order and ensures that the facilities continue to be well used by both the Church and the community. The glass windows in the main office were replaced as the existing glass had blown. The hedge in the car park has been lowered at the request of the owners of Church House and, looking forward, consideration is being given as to whether additional storage facilities can be accommodated in the area adjacent to the Stables garage

Paul Emmerson-December 2025
(CWP-Annual Fabric Report 2025)

FAMILIES CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Baptisms- In 2025 there were 12 Baptisms (including x1 adult) at St Peter’s.

Baptism preparation continues online as this enables parents and Godparents to join in without the stress of finding babysitters etc and although no substitute for face-to-face chats it does work for those who are joining. It is also so valuable when there are folk joining from abroad as well.

The initial visits are completed face to face (video calls if they live a distance away) so, coupled with the preparation, the parents and Godparents have hopefully been helped to understand the process and the

promises they were making. Although families are encouraged to have the ceremony within a church service the majority prefer a separate time; it is wonderful to think what seeds are being sown when welcoming and encouraging families many of whom do not come to church on a regular basis. Your prayers are welcomed that this outreach continues and that God will be present in their lives..

Family support – This work continues- visiting or meeting for coffee; spending time within services/groups with parents & signposting to further support as well as supporting Kate with family pastoral work. The families do look out for each other as well so support available as needed & I try to keep in touch with as many as I can!

Work with the Meon Valley Foodbank and the Meon Valley Baby Bank continues as well. MVBB is now thriving both in numbers of families who attend since opening now on the 3rd Sat morning of each month & the amount of clothing that is donated as well as generous financial donations from other organisations/churches. A donation of £195 was given by the Methodist Church following their 'Faith Al Fresco event' in May & we had a small presence there too. The Baby Bank remains part of the Greening initiative within Bishop's Waltham & we try to attend events if possible. My thanks go to the fabulous team of helpers (church & non church members together.) Thanks to Hannah Horner for looking after the finances, and our social media support/secretary who takes enquiries and messages etc.

Groups. Please see Kate's reports about Teeny Tinies & Garden Gang & Vitalize

All families are invited to church events at every opportunity so please do continue to pray for all the contacts and opportunities made that they will be fruitful. Please see Kate's separate reports.

The family area in church remains a popular space not only on a Sunday but during the week with families and young people coming in. It can be used for other groups and certainly is used well.

My thanks go to Kate and her teams of helpers for all they do and to you all as ever for your love, prayers, kindness and support.

Liz Webb

FAMILY, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Garden Gang Baby and Toddlers

Wednesdays 1—11.30am

3rd year running and thanks to Yulila Moria and Moray who help make it happen.

We run this group Spring and Summer in Rectory Garden and Autumn and Winter in St Peters church.

Numbers picking up again after we lost a few children for Nursery and school.

Good conversations with parents and carers. A few grandparents come along also.

Traditional play with a Christian focus around snack time which includes a Bible story or practical demonstration to show how we can Explore the Bible with 2- and 3-year-olds. We sing Christian songs and pray.

We often invite families to Sunday Funday church service in Upham and Vitalize at St Peters. We have had some takers, and I am aware one lady is currently on Alpha course, and a family sign up and attend our half term sports camp.

Are plans are to run a Easter Party with Christian message and had a chap from the church volunteer to dress up as an Easer Bunny! The children will all be presented with a Christian Easter story Book and chocolate!

We also plan to have a summer treat of which needs to be organised.

Half Term Sport Camp

Feb half term

Yulila Rev James Moria Chilton Graham Parrett and I ran our first sports camp which we ran in the Stables room St Peters and Rectory Garden.

20 children attended over the 2 days.

Plenty of sports and challenges with a Christian talk on Keeping your eyes on Jesus plus a tour around the church to discuss and see what church really is about using a booklet from the Rural Missions charity.

Children appeared to have fun and parents pleased when they were collected to go home.

We played Football Badminton Relay races and indoor and outdoor challenges. Tug of war and walk around the graveyard.

3 lads from GWNN Youth club came and helped and had the title of sports supervisors. It was great having them and the children benefited from their help.

We may have another one in June and October half term.

I have looked at taking yr 2 to yr 6 on an organised 3-day Holiday camp in June but little feedback from parents. Maybe something to work towards for another year?

GWNN-

Sundays 5.15pm 6.15pm

This junior youth club has ceased as we had very poor regular attendance even though we had 10 young people.

Many appeared to have other events on that took priority over GWNN. It also lost its momentum as some weeks we only had 3 youngsters and the mass crowd that brings a group had declined. Which then loses its spark for newcomers to join.

I understand St Peters are looking to recruit a youth worker to re-vamp youth in this area.

Junior Choir Club-

I understand this group has ceased in the infant school, but progress is being made to set up a junior choir in St Peters.

Teeny Tinies-

Tuesdays 9.30am-11ish

Liz and team appear to have a steady group of regulars and attract babies and younger tots.

This group has a soft approach with a huge listening ear to show God's love.

Liz in particular meets up with many families behind the scenes to support.

Vitalize Sunday Club

Sunday 10.15am-12

This group has both an infant and junior group which meet in The Stables.

We have many that attend but not many very regular week in week out.

We work through Energise Bible notes which are extremely helpful in preparing the lesson.

Lots of interactive fast elements to help all children engage and retain the Bible and practical ways to keep close to Jesus.

We still tend to see more Infants than Juniors even though we have lessons ready for both age groups.

It's nice to stay in the Families area for the 1st part of the service.

We hope to arrange a couple of Families lunches or social event before the end of the year.

Training and other things

I led an adult gathering for a **mini retreat** in Lyme Regis in November. 10 joined us.

We walked talked and ate out. We made many Christmas crafts and had an art session from an artist. We had 2 Christian thoughts for the day for folk to think more deeply about Christianity.

I went on an annual youth and children's conference near Birmingham for 2 days where I felt a lot of encouragement from like-minded people and was inspired by new ideas.

I am currently on a Discovering Chaplaincy course.

I am hopefully going to sign up to join a team that can advise and help me set up new worshipping communities within the framework of the church. It's called Myriad.

I am also going to Uganda for 3 weeks in July with a small team and hoping you may support me in any jobs I can do to help you raise my funds! (dog walking cleaning babysitting etc) or join me for a quiz and 10 mile walk! I am going back to the place I went with Watson water, and my plans are to work along side the Church of Uganda in children's youth and community projects.

I will be working hard out there but I also have my spiritual batteries charged ready for mission in UK which is in many ways harder.

Please do talk with me or email me if you have any questions or would like to sponsor me.

I am in my 5th year working alongside you at St Peters and very happy even though I have had more huge challenges to face personally. God is worth my all.

God Bless You and thanks for investing in me! I hope we see mature spiritual fruit flourish.

Kate Smyth

MISSION/OUTREACH/ EVANGELISM

MISSION TEAM REPORT

As a church we support particular mission partners and people as follows:

- A. Mission partners: these are Christians that we partner directly with in proclaiming the Gospel in both work and deed, e.g., to encourage a young person choosing a gap year or early retired person to become directly involve with mission as an individual trip with an organisation or project either at home or abroad.
- B. Mission support: these are Christian organisations we support who are proclaiming the Gospel in both work and deed, e.g., Persecuted Church, poverty, health and medical.
- C. Ministry support: who are Christian organisations we support in general Christian ministry and discipleship, e.g., Christian Aid, Operation Christmas Child
- D. Community support: who are community organisations we support in a variety of Social Action e.g., local charities and support groups.

There are two extra forms of giving we have as a church:

- The Breadbasket, which is used for any disaster appeal, usually channelled through established organisations in the field e.g., Tear Fund, Red Cross; DEF
- The Blessings Box, which is used to collect donations when a mission speaker visits to talk about a specific project at a service.

Over the year the PCC give the Mission Team £6000 to allocate which we have as follows:

Category A

Christian Concern - £500
Christian Youth Enterprise - £500
Home Leone - £500
OMF (Chris and Kesia Pain in Japan) - £500
Southampton Street Pastors - £100
Portsmouth Street Pastors - £50
The Hazel Project - £500
WATSAN - £500

Category B

Bible Society - £100
Open Doors - £100
Prison Fellowship - £250
St Simon's Suppers Southsea - £100

Category C

A Rocha (Christian organisation working towards a greener environment) - £250
Inter Diocese West Africa Link - £200
St George's Foundation - £100

Category D

Meon Valley Baby Bank - £250
Meon Valley Food Bank - £250

Revd James

ST PETER'S LADIES GROUP

Vanessa Emmerson chaired the well attended AGM on Monday 13th January and this was followed by a very interesting talk by Janice Romer on the moving of the city of Kirina. In February Samuel and Lydia Hunt shared their experiences of their trip to Uganda during August 2024 with the Charity Watsan.

In March PCSO Lottie Flatman came and spoke about the topical subject of Dealing with possible scams and left important leaflets with our members.

An excellent talk by Godfrey Hebdon about the British Empire Exhibition of 1924/25 with special reference to women was given in April.

A tour of Northbrook Springs Vinyard on a lovely sunny evening in May was hosted by Amelia and James Tuttiett and was very interesting followed by samples of their wines produced there.

In June Rod Passingham gave a wonderful account with beautiful photos of Cycling the Hebridean Way with Cathy on their electric bikes.

In July on a lovely sunny evening we held our annual Barbecue in the Passingham's Garden when husbands, partners and friends were invited to come along.

We do not meet in August but in September Julia Tomasyan's talk about her life and career in food was fascinating.

The usual Skittles with a Fish and Chip Supper in October was very enjoyable and Rev. Rosie Greenlees talk about her path to being ordained was extremely interesting in November.

The Christmas meal at the Corhampton Golf Club was a great success in December.

The committee are:- Linda Houlton, Janice Romer, Brenda Robinson, Vanessa Emmerson, Gill Cooper and Edna Dear. Our aim as always for the group is to have fun and fellowship.

Vanessa Emmerson

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We started the year meeting at the Barleycorn pub, but the demand on numbers was to be too much for a small venue, and we had now exhausted all the likely Hostelrys in Bishop's Waltham, as a venue for our seventy strong members requiring Breakfast, we had to look further afield, and the Brickmakers Pub in Swanmore came up trumps, as our current venue, with a wonderful welcome and outstanding food!

With Nigal Hyde taking on as the Speaker Organiser in the new year, we had a perfect combination, which continued to draw in even more new members and swelling our numbers.

So, following breakfast, it is our tradition to have a speaker share some insight. This has been sourced from among the participants and from a range of interesting people outside the community.

In 2025, we started with travel from Rod Passingham and Tim Wills, to be followed later in the year by Peter Weir sharing his insights on PSA testing from Prostate cancer. Bishop Jonathan of Portsmouth and our local MP Danny Willetts were perhaps some of the more high-profile speakers.

Hampshire Fostering helped us see opportunities to support young people in care, whilst Trevor Rutter provided a light hearted approach to Billy the Kid and US Crime. Ian Benstead's explanation of the charity Watsan was inspiring. Hampshire Victoria Cross winners and Improvements in speed between the war years also provided such different perspectives from Colin Carter and Godfrey Hebdon respectively.

Two of perhaps the most profound meetings were perhaps when a speaker dropped out at the last minute and 5 members stepped up to share some personal insights. Similarly at Christmas a number, including James our Rector, shared personal perspectives on Christmas.

Thanks to our magnificent Seven Ringers, who contact the seventy strong members, each month who are attending on the second Saturday morning each month, we received plenty of tea and coffee combined with hot toast, before starting the full English Breakfast.

We don't have to advertise the monthly event, as the wonderful Hosts at the Brickmakers, draw in the crowds, but if any gentlemen, who would like to enjoy the company of like-minded men, wish to join us, then please contact David Williamson, on 077301 48920 or 01489 893524,

We look forward to another amazing Gathering of the Men's Breakfast at the Brickmakers!

David Williamson

G@SPs

G@SPs is an informal social gathering that is open to everyone, both in and outside of the church. Our focus is on going for a curry or going to the pub for a drink and a chat. Over the year the leadership of this has been taken on by Graham Perrott and Keith Bouys. We currently have a lot of men on our contact list and a good number coming to each event organised!

In the coming year we hope to do a bit more and invite new people along and broaden what we might offer into this group e.g., walking events, men's weekend.

Revd James

MEON VALLEY FOODBANK

You will not be surprised to hear that we continue to live amongst individuals and families in our locality who are in food poverty, though much of it is hidden. The Meon Valley Food Bank was set up in 2015 to meet the growing need for help and eleven years on, that need is still with us and has grown hugely since our early days. We are supported generously by both food and financial donations which enable us to provide food and basic essentials. Clients come in off the street or referred to us by agencies such as Social services, Citizen's Advice, Housing Associations and local churches. Numbers vary but can range from 30 to 70+ referrals and 50 to 170+ food donations a month

These are just some of the situations we meet in our clients. With our links with local schools, we were able to provide food for 145 children at Christmas and at this Easter, 80 children who are entitled to free school meals but receive no assistance during the holidays.

Our clients have included: - (In all these cases it can be a single person, couple or a family)

- Rough sleepers in tents, caravans and cars
- People recovering from addiction
- People waiting for universal credit to arrive
- People/families where the main earner cannot work due to injury, illness, and disability
- People on zero hours contracts
- People who have lost their job
- people escaping domestic violence and in temporary accommodation
- People where universal credit does not cover all the bills
- Pensioners on pension credit
- people suffering from mental illness

Thank you for the support you already give as a church and welcome any who would like to support us going forward.

Rev David Proud, Chair of Trustees

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers Union Report

The three core pillars of the Mothers' Union are Stopping Violence (promoting peace and safety), Stopping Injustice (advancing gender justice), and Stopping Hunger (fostering self-reliance) all underpinned by prayer and with the aim of supporting families and children. In some way linked to these, our Branch has supported the St. George Foundation (care for street children in Sierra Leone), heard more about the work of MU in Uganda, researched the difficulties in our Link dioceses throughout the world through the Wave of prayer, participated in the Action and Outreach projects in our diocese through the Rise Up campaign and watched a film showing how love and encouragement can enrich the life of a disabled child. The proceeds from our fundraising activities – the Spring Fayre which raised £1600 and a Bring and Share Supper that raised over £300 – supported the local Women's Refuges (including towards the provision of a day out for families - AFIA Holidays), Home Start and the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth – including the provision of Christmas presents and food voucher for a struggling family. Literacy and Financial Education projects mainly in Africa, also receive donations through the Big Give. Support towards the cost of wool for knitted items for local needs was given and we considered the inspiration of Women in the Bible.

As well as our regular monthly worship we have enjoyed relaxed spiritual activities such as a prayer walk around the town, a visit with a service to East Meon Church, a visit to Old Alresford church for Mary Sumner Day, a quiz at Swanmore church and a lovely Deanery Advent Service at Wickham Church. At a meeting three members spoke about their faith journey and experiences as newly appointed Lay Worship leaders.

We provided posies for the Mums at Baptism services and for Mothering Sunday and as a very special privilege, under Mary's guidance, we arranged the project with year 6 children at the Junior School, telling the story and events of Holy Week.

We also enjoyed sociable events – a soup and crumble lunch, sharing our favourite poem, painting or music, lunch at the Bayside café in Gosport and a Garden Tea with guests from Old Alresford Branch all of which encourage friendship and support for each other.

Thank you all who have helped in any way

Looking forward

150 years of Mothers' Union will be celebrated this year and we plan to highlight this in June Our branch is a small part of an amazing organisation trying to follow the aims of the founder Mary Sumner the Vicar's wife from Alresford who realised the importance of family and encouraged (and educated) the local Mothers . There are now over 4,000,000 members worldwide Membership is open to all (including men).

You are welcome to come along to a few meetings to find out for yourself. Join us and join in!!!

Di Hunt

BISHOP'S WALTHAM AND UPHAM PARISH NEWS

We try to ensure a Christian ethos is reflected in the magazine so articles or testimonies from church members supporting this are welcome. We also include items of topical or local interest and details of these from readers and local organisations are also encouraged. All contributions should be sent to bwuparishnews@gmail.com.

Looking back on 2025:

We have had another successful year with 10 magazines produced and distributed. The accounts (see main church accounts) show we made a small Trading Loss of £85 in 2025. In view of this we were regrettably unable (for the first time in many years) to make a Grant to the PCC towards Communications Expenses. In view of future financial challenges this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future, which has implications for overall Church finances (see later).

Collection of subscriptions continues to be a major source of income and due to the efforts of our distributors, £12,392 was collected throughout the year (included in the £14,594 figure). This is very similar to last year and distributors remain alert to pursue new subscribers when there is a change of occupancy of a property within their delivery area. They are to be congratulated on their efforts and the Parish News Committee extends their particular thanks to these dedicated individuals – we would be lost without you. Shop sales have provided a further £2,202 of income, and thanks are due to our outlets – Spar (on Winchester Road), The Post Office and the Coop.

Justine (our magazine compiler) took over in 2024 as our Advertising Manager through her website and publications design business 'Greenfield Sites' (<https://www.greenfieldsites.co.uk/>) on a commercial basis. 2025 is the first full year we have to absorb her (very reasonable) costs and these together with additional printing costs have been the main reasons for the modest Trading Profit mentioned earlier. Other members of the team have continued in their various roles. In 2026 I am pleased to say we will be joined by Rosemary Bickle who will particularly represent the interests of Upham. Welcome Rosemary!

Looking forward to 2026:

We are delighted that we are able to continue to work with our current printer (The Print Room, Chandlers Ford - DEK). There was no increase in their charges/copy for last year, but the extra printing costs followed from a generally larger magazine in 2025. DEK produce a magazine which continues to engender very positive feedback as to the quality of production and content. Due to a gradual reduction in subscribers we will need to reduce the print run in 2026 from 1000 to 980, but DEK have confirmed this will not affect the 'unit cost' of production will remain as 2025.

Towards the end of 2025 we received advertising revenue commitments for 2026 totalling £5,683. A further £5,255 has been received in January, with more to come. As explained last year, with the change to an all colour magazine there is no difference in the production cost of either mono or colour adverts. This being the case we were starting to work towards a common price for adverts. This 'charge equalisation' policy would mean we would be gradually decreasing our colour rates but increasing those for a mono advert. We are keeping the situation under review, but it seems we might have to reconsider this policy, as a further reduction of 'colour rates' may have a too detrimental effect on our total advertising revenue. We thank local businesses for their continued support in difficult financial circumstances for them.

We feel there are some financial challenges ahead, and whilst there is no current threat to the magazine, we need to be aware of the financial constraints on both subscribers and advertisers and hence the income from these sources. There is also the ever-present concern over the potential rise of various production costs. As a way of mitigating the pressure on profitability we have, for the first time, asked regular contributors (e.g. Parish Councils and various Clubs and Societies) to make a voluntary donation. The reasoning behind this is that as they have the benefit of 'free' advertising of their organisation by way of the articles they produce, it is reasonable to ask them to make a donation. There have been some positive responses and the idea will be pursued.

We look forward to a further year of producing a very worthwhile magazine which serves the church and local community and provides an opportunity to publicise the active life of St. Peter's. We also look forward to the continued essential support of our distributors (including the shops), advertisers and our contributors. We thank them all wholeheartedly for their commitment to the magazine in their various ways.

Godfrey Hebdon

LEADERSHIP AND VISION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The role of the PCC is to promote in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical through helping people experience the joy of knowing Jesus.

The PCC met six times during the year with continuing support by both the Leadership Team and the Standing Committee who also met regularly during the year.

The PCC continues to review the church's values and vision, highlighting what is going well and what still needs to be worked upon. There were regular reports about the work of the children and families' groups which continue to grow in number; these are Garden Gang and Tiny Tinies. Group With No Name (GWNN) was discontinued in the Autumn of 2025 and discussions are taking place as to what might be the best way forward to meet the needs of the older age group. Please see separate reports

There were regular reports from the Churchwardens, Liz Webb and Mandy Cawood, who share between them responsibility and oversight of Worship, Ministry, Mission, Property, Communication, Finance, Resources, Children and Families support and Pastoral care. Our thanks go to all those who have worked so hard in these areas. Please see separate reports

We would also like to extend our personal thanks to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes and whose work and commitment often goes unnoticed including our fellow duty wardens, welcome team, refreshment team, flower arrangers, general & specific maintenance, churchyard volunteers, bell-ringers, communion assistants, choir, magazine distributors, cleaner, gardening team and all those who take out the bins! Apologies if we have missed anyone out. Specific thanks to Paul Emmerson & team for all the input and advice regarding the re ordering that has happened. You will have noticed how well maintained the churchyard has been looking so apart from the team of volunteers, a lot of work was carried out by the Community Payback team & our thanks are extended to them as well. Please see separate reports.

In May we celebrated Ascension Day and Rev James was commissioned as Area Dean. We hosted the service, welcomed the Archdeacon and as usual put on a wonderful spread including a celebration fruit cake. Thanks to all those who contributed.

There was a wonderful community response to all our Christmas services in 2025. Unfortunately, the Infant school Christmas Carol service was cancelled, due to inclement weather; however the Junior School Carol concert went ahead with over 300 in the congregation.

There was also a very good community response to the September Country Fayre and the Remembrance Day service. Our thanks go to the organizers and participants. We are in the process of recruiting a new coordinator for the 2026 Country Fayre.

“Welcome bags” continue to be prepared and distributed as required to new residents in the town as part of our continuing outreach to the local community. Our thanks to Rev. Rosie for organizing this.

Home/Connect Groups have continued to grow in number of attendees to allow us to share our faith and fellowship midweek and not only on Sundays. As part of the organisational review, we are looking for someone to take on an ‘oversight role’ in this area of our church family life so please do speak with James or the wardens if you feel this is something you feel you could help with..

One event that resulted in answers to prayer and wonderful feedback was the Warden led prayer vigil in September. We prayed for revival and renewal and that we would be ready to greet new people coming to our church and to faith. Thanks to all those who supported both in person and remotely. There are plans to repeat this in 2026.

A very enjoyable and thought-provoking 3 week Advent course was facilitated by the Rev Dr Peter Walker.

An Alpha course will be taking place in early 2026. Thanks to Rev. James for opening the Rectory and to all those on the team (leaders & helpers behind the scenes) who will be helping it work well to welcome all who will be attending.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults continues to be very important and remains a standing item at all meetings to ensure that the PCC complies with Diocesan/Church of England policies in this area, including the Church of England Code of Safe Working Practices. Training for PCC members & other volunteers continues in this area, both on-line and face to face, ensures that we comply with expected processes and guidelines. Our thanks go to Luke Hawkins, our safeguarding officer, for all his work in increasing our compliance and for reviewing policies and the required statement. Please see his report.

Streaming of the Services continues to be available and has become very popular and appreciated. Many thanks to the AV team for enabling this to happen. Thanks also to Simon Harrison, Nick Watkins and helpers for their continuing work in updating the system and the many hours put in to ensure a high quality provision of sound and vision. Welcome to Claire, the latest member of the AV team.

There were regular reports on all financial matters including the agreement of the annual Budget, monitoring this by way of monthly Management Accounts and Cash Flow and on various property-related issues. All internal financial controls were reviewed by the PCC to ensure that they complied with current Charity Commission guidelines. The Gift Week in September resulted in very generous donations.. Thanks go to Les Craddock, Paul Emmerson, Nigel Barnfield, and teams for all their hard work on these matters. Please see separate finances report.

Health & Safety continued to be a standing item at all PCC meetings with action taken as appropriate.

Modern stepladders have been purchased to replace the old wooden stepladders. Special thanks to Charles Crossley and Rod Passingham for their behind the scenes repairs and modifications.

Over the last year restructuring has happened within the Bishop's Waltham Deanery. The Deanery plan remains under review by the Deanery Synod and the Deanery Mission and Pastoral committee with input from all PCCs.

To end, we extend sincere thanks to Sam in the office who, as the Parish Administrator, keeps us all in order and organizes the bookings, publicity (posters and website) as well as co-ordinating weddings and funerals and dealing with all sorts of calls and enquiries!

Copies of the Minutes of the PCC meetings which provide much more information regarding the above are available on the church website.

Liz Webb and Mandy Cawood, St Peter's Church Wardens.

PREACHING AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

Over the past year it has been wonderful to see our services build up in depth and numbers. This past year had been about 'consolidation and consistency' is all that we do as well as developing some key areas. I am very grateful to the whole team for giving and serving in their leading and preaching across our wide number and variety of services. I am also very grateful also for the wider ways in which each member of the P and L Team contribute and support with baptisms, weddings and funerals; pastoral care; in prayer and in many other ways. Over the year we have done a number of sermon series including the following:

Summer 2025 – Giving in Grace; James 'Faith and Works'; Mission: Witness and Public Engagement

Autumn 2026 – Matthew 'Evidence for Jesus'

Spring 2026 – Getting in good SHAPE as a Christian!

Finally, I am very grateful to the wider lay team who help with our family, all age and more informal worship. In the coming year we hope to see more join this team. Please do continue to hold our much loved and valued P and L team in your prayers as they prepare week by week to lead us.

Revd James

LEADERSHIP TEAM/STANDING COMMITTEE

Over the last year we have had regular meetings in between our PCC meetings. Our 'Leadership Team/Standing Committee' includes our Standing Committee (Rector, Wardens and PCC Reps) and the leaders of key paid/lay areas in our church life: pastoral care, prayer, Family/Children/Youth, fabric and finance. This past year has again very much been about 'consolidation and consistency'.

As we look forwards we have continued to focus on a number of aspects: how to respond to major changes going on in the C of E around marriage; growing all that we do with those who are more senior (Anna Chaplaincy/Faith in Later Life) growing our Family/Children and Youth Work; reflective prayer; personal discipleship and witness (walk, talk and eat like Jesus!); and working on some key projects e.g., re-imagining and re-ordering St Peter's with carpeted areas and new chairs. Looking forwards we hope to finalise

administration with the new 'Hubb Church' system. Finally, we want to work on our church 'leadership structure' with key leaders overseeing key areas of church life.....more of a 'Greek Temple' v 'Pyramid' model up to the Rector/few leaders.

I am very grateful to all who have served over the past year.

Revd James

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Over 2025/26 we have met twice to review how things are going. Most of our services are working well, but with the need for some incremental changes. The main area to work on continues to be to 'attract and engage' more families around the St Peter's Sunday Central at 10:30am. At 9am we want to look at a new musical setting and the Junior Choir idea. We also want to focus on building up 'Sunday Funday' at Blessed Mary to engage with more families. Within all our services we want to encourage more 'response, reflection and prayer'. At St Peter's we want to work on the timing of our services so that we are not rushed in between 8am and 9am, 9am and 10:30, and 10:30 and baptisms that sometimes follow.

Revd James

CHURCH OFFICE

The Update (currently sent out by Mailchimp) continues to keep our congregation updated with all the news of services and events taking place linked to St Peter's, and I continue to send out paper updates to those without internet, thanks to our volunteers.

The new website is now up and running, and in future the Update will be sent out via this Hubb rather than via Mailchimp, although we are happy to continue with Mailchimp for the foreseeable future as most of the congregation are used to the format.

I keep the Church database up to date with all our new members, but there is still some work to do to encourage members to update and confirm their details. It's an ongoing process.

Events and services are regularly added to the website and I have been updating the headline pictures and information to cover special services and Christian festivals. This website "Banner" also links into the screens in Church, so visitors can see what's coming up. A Church Near You is a valuable resource for people searching for a church to join, so I make sure that all services and updates are added weekly.

So far this year we have 5 weddings so far confirmed (for 2026, including a certain Rector's son!), and the Marriage Preparation Day was a huge success.

The bookings for the Church Hall and Stables plus looking after the finances keep me continually busy and there may also be some extra time given over to assisting James with his Deanery responsibilities.

It has been a difficult year for me personally with the loss of my dear Mum and a knee operation.

However, things are rapidly getting back to normal and I hope the Church office continues to be its own hub of a sort, a friendly space for enquiries, chats and comfort.

Samantha Sessions

SAFEGUARDING

Reporting period: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Safeguarding remains a central part of the life and ministry of St Peter's Church. We are committed to promoting a safer church for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and to ensuring that safeguarding is taken seriously across all aspects of parish life.

During the year, the Parish has continued to maintain and strengthen its safeguarding arrangements. Safeguarding has remained under active review, with appropriate oversight through the Parish Safeguarding Officer, clergy, churchwardens and PCC. The PCC has continued to receive safeguarding updates and to recognise safeguarding as an essential part of good governance and pastoral responsibility. Over the course of the year, attention has been given not only to routine safeguarding administration, such as training and safer recruitment, but also to strengthening local safeguarding practice. This has included clearer local protocols and better-defined boundaries in response to some of the practical safeguarding challenges faced in parish life. In particular, work has been undertaken to improve the Church's response in situations involving vulnerability, pastoral complexity, and the need for appropriate risk management. The Parish has also had to manage safeguarding matters requiring careful handling and appropriate liaison. These have been addressed with due regard to confidentiality, safeguarding guidance, and the need to balance welcome, pastoral care and the safety of the wider church community. It would not be appropriate to report case details publicly, but the APCM may be assured that safeguarding concerns arising during the year have been taken seriously and managed appropriately.

Safeguarding training continues to be an important priority. Those in relevant roles are expected to complete the training required for their ministry or office, and work has continued during the year to maintain compliance and ensure that safeguarding awareness remains current. Safer recruitment and DBS processes have also continued to be applied where required.

The Parish has made progress in embedding a stronger safeguarding culture, where concerns can be raised appropriately, safeguarding responsibilities are better understood, and the importance of professional boundaries is recognised. This remains an ongoing task, but there has been positive movement during the year.

Priorities for the coming year will include:

- continuing to maintain safeguarding training compliance;
- ensuring safer recruitment and DBS arrangements remain up to date;
- keeping local safeguarding procedures under review;
- maintaining appropriate PCC oversight of safeguarding matters; and
- continuing to foster a church culture in which safeguarding is understood as a shared responsibility.

I would like to record thanks to all those who have supported safeguarding within the life of the Parish during the year, and especially those who have undertaken training, complied with safer recruitment requirements, and helped ensure that St Peter's remains a safe and welcoming church community.

Luke Hawkins

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

A report on the proceedings of Bishop's Waltham Deanery Synod 2025

The full Deanery Synod met three times

James was appointed Area Dean following the retirement of Rev Canon David Isaac The Vision of the Deanery is to be a rejuvenated community of Jesus-centred Kingdom-seeking disciples

Transforming the Deanery-Mission:

The three elements to deliver this vision are to **revive** the wellbeing and spiritual leadership of our diocese, to **revitalise** our churches to connect all with the Christian message and to **renew** the Church in areas where it is not represented. To support this rejuvenate strategy, the national Church is investing £1m per annum for the next 5 years from 2024 in to the Diocese's targeted strategic plans via a bidding process

In Bishop's Waltham Deanery, the bid for infrastructure support for the Meon Valley Group of Parishes has been agreed but has yet to be implemented due to the early retirement of Rev Andy Davis on health grounds. A full time Priest in Charge and three Associate Priests have been appointed so the Vision for this Group can now be developed and implemented. Further bids are being prepared for a Pioneer Minister for Boorley Green and a Family, Children and Youth Worker supporting the Deanery as a whole.

A Deanery morning was held in September led by Lead Academy which focussed on how to grow Churches individually and grow the Deanery as a whole, this was well attended and proved very worthwhile. The Deanery Development and Implementation Plan was presented to the Bishop's Staff Team and was well received. It sets out a timetable for implementation based around a combination of organic internal plans which are possible within existing structures, finances and leadership, and strategic external plans which will need external support for revised structures, finances and leadership. Within the Plan are the Deanery's aspirations and goals for the next 5 years to help the Deanery measure delivery of its Vision over the medium term

Updates were given on the Living in Love and Faith process and on Lay Worship Leadership training, the latter being very encouraging

Reports were received on meetings of the Diocesan and General Synods

Resourcing the Deanery:

A financial report on the Deanery's own finances was given at each meeting, and the Deanery is well resourced following a grant of £5,000 from the Diocese towards Deanery running costs

Despite on-going financial pressures, all Parishes in the Deanery excluding one paid their Parish Share in full in 2025, a very commendable achievement. However, a number of Parishes had deficits of income against expenditure and had to call on previously accumulated funds to meet the payment, a situation which cannot continue indefinitely. The new methodology for calculating the Parish Share was introduced in this year and was generally well received, although some Parishes were able to negotiate reduced figures as the calculated figures were unaffordable

The Diocesan Budget was reviewed and unless income increases quite considerably, 2026 will be another financially challenging year for the Diocese, with a significant projected deficit. This reflects in part the fact that the Diocese have filled the vacancies carried forward from previous years with a full complement now

of 139 clergy. There is a limit to how long the Diocese can continue to fund such deficits, and the situation was not helped by the triannual settlement by the Church Commissioners being less favourable than was hoped

Prepared by Paul Emmerson-January 2026

(CWP-Deanery Synod Annual Report 2025)