

# PCC Report 2025



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## **REPORT FROM THE VICAR OF THE BENEFICE AS REGARDS SERVICES AND LITURGY**

We started 2025, having celebrated the Advent and Christmas Seasons with the finest offerings of liturgy and music, which was all uniquely Anglican. It was a fine overture for what turned out to be a very busy liturgical and choral year, not only for our usual weekly services and the special Feast Days, but also in terms of Funerals and Baptisms. There were far fewer weddings this past year, however, the bookings for 2026 look promising.

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The Common Worship booklets which we have had in circulation since the beginning of November 2022, and completed in 2023, were used through the course of 2025, to which some new ones were added. The following titles make up the completed collection, namely:

### **THE LITURGICAL YEAR**

- *Eucharists for Epiphany to Candlemas.*
- *Eucharists for Ash Wednesday and Lent.*
- *Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.*
- *Easter Sunday and the Sundays of Easter.*
- *Eucharists for Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi.*
- *Battle of Britain Sunday.*
- *Eucharists for All Saints and All Souls.*
- *Remembrance Sunday Eucharist and the Village Remembrance Service.*
- *Remembering with Love.*
- *Eucharists for the Four Sundays in Advent. (Including a Family Eucharist for Gaudete Sunday with Christingle).*
- *Christmas Midnight Service and Christmas Day Family Service*

### **ADDITIONAL LITURGIES**

- *Blessing of the Animals (Commemorating St Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals).*
- *Family Service with Baptism.*
- *The Office of Choral Evensong.*
- *The Patronal Festival of the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden.*
- *Holy Cross Sunday Family Eucharist.*

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These books have proved to be very useful and helpful in our worship both Sunday by Sunday and at the great Festivals of the Church. We continue to receive very positive feedback from both long-standing and new members of the congregation, and those who join us online. Having specific books for ever changing liturgy though the course of the Liturgical Year, has helped both visitors and new parishioners feel comfortable and able to participate in our worship, in that all the words and directions are easy to read and follow, thus ensuring inclusivity and a warm welcome.

The relatively new professionally printed *Ordinary Time* booklet, entitled – *THE HOLY EUCHARIST – As celebrated in Ordinary Time, including the Festivals and Saints’ Days of the Church which fall within this season of the Liturgical Calendar* was released in the latter part of the Summer in 2024. This publication allows for additional Eucharistic Prayers to be able to have more variety as well as catering for a children’s Eucharist.

We had exceptional attendances at our Remembrance Day services at both St Peter and St Paul and at Little Hampden on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. In fact, the Churchyard at Little Hampden was filled to capacity. These were followed once again, by the very moving annual service of *Remembering with Love*, for which we once again thank Tricia and her team.

The volunteers working with our young parishioners, Philippa, Paula, Chloe and I, have continued with the planning for the ongoing growth of our youth work in the parish. We are continuing to work in conjunction with the Diocese in terms of our appointing a Youth Worker. Whereas our efforts in 2023 were not successful for various reasons, we feel that we are now moving in the right direction, and through the course of 2025, with Mike O’F having joined our Team, we are somewhat closer to achieving our aim, whereby in partnership with the Diocese, we are in a better position to discern what would work best for our parish as regards this project, and the financing thereof. 2026 will undoubtedly see more progress in this regard.

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Our young people from year 7 to year 9 were the founder members of our new Youth Group, which they have chosen to call the LIGHT Youth Group. A big thank you to Katie for all the hard work she has put into getting the group established and for being so willing to run the group until our Youth Worker is able to take over. However, as Katie and her husband are expecting their second child in the early months of 2026, we have plans in place to keep our Youth Group active until a permanent appointment is made. The younger children (the MAP group) are still meeting on Two Sundays of each month, and for that we are also deeply indebted to Philippa, Paula and Chloe.

With our young people in mind, it is thrilling to announce that the number of candidates for Holy Communion at Corpus Christi 2026 promises to be very good, as well as those being prepared for Baptism and Confirmation in June 2026, which will include some adult candidates as well.

The 10am service on the third Sunday of each month has become a regular date for our all-age worship, which focuses on the children leading the intercessions, reading the readings of the day and assisting with the music, the collection, welcoming and serving. Students from our local Church of England School are also now regularly involved in these services, which has resulted in a certain amount of interest from families who have come to worship more regularly.

The establishment of the Marimba Band in the middle of 2023 attracted a regular team of players who have become our foundation group. They now perform regularly at the all-age worship services. In addition to this, a number of our children now also play voluntaries on the organ and, in some cases, accompany the singing on the organ or the Marimbas. In addition to these, we have also added trumpet and bass guitar. We hope that more children will join the band and instrumental group in the new school year. Thanks again to Janet for her hard work in teaching the children and to the parents for their wonderful support.

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## PCC Report

The parish is made up of the churches of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden, St Mary's Ballinger, and the Church at Little Hampden. The Vicarage is at 2 Walnut Close, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 9AL. The Church telephone number is 01494 862352. The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a registered charity (1129874), registered with the Charity Commission. At the APCM, Elisabeth H was co-opted for a year, as were Maggi C and Anne E. As there were no accurate records, lots were drawn to see which members should stand down on a 3 yearly cycle.

The members of the PCC who served from 1 January 2025 until 31<sup>st</sup> December are :

Chairman: Reverend Malcolm Chalmers, Vicar

Ex officio: Tricia Neale, Licensed Lay Minister

Co-opted: Margaret Cameron, Anne Ellis, Elisabeth Hubach

Elected: Christopher Figg, Jamie Gairdner, Wendy Harris, Thaïs Hobbs, Philippa Howells, Rosemary Ladd, Graeme Petrie-Brown, Ross Pusey, Stephen Tanno, Val Withams

Churchwardens: Val Withams and Ross Pusey.

The Standing Committee is made up of the Vicar, 2 wardens, Wendy Harris and Graeme Petrie-Brown.

The representatives on the Deanery Synod are: Malcolm Chalmers – Ex Officio, Rosemary Ladd and 1 lay member vacancy.

The PCC members are elected in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. They are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

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PCC members have, and accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of their PCC, ensuring that it is solvent and well-run, and delivering its charitable outcomes. They also manage the Oldham Hall Charity as Trustees. After a delayed APCM in June 2025, the PCC met regularly during 2025 and complied with its obligations. We want to acknowledge the devoted service to the PCC and parish of Chris Nickless who died last year.

Joint PCC secretaries: Aileen Fenn/Liza Wormell - agreed by the PCC on 10th March 2026.

## **Financial Review**

The annual accounts form part of the annual report, but are available separately. They have been independently audited and agreed by the PCC at the meeting on 10th March 2026.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to 6 months expenditure to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. However, it has not been possible to adhere to this policy every year because of the pressures on income and expenditure, especially the Parish Share. Six months expenditure is approximately £65,000/£70,000. Overall liquid funds of the Parish at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 amounted to £211,338. [2024 £209,967].

*See Notes 10 & 16 to the Accounts, Note 16 advising the year end value of the Charifund and Charity Multi Asset Fund.*

However, £140,779 [2024 - £156,296] funds are restricted. We are advised that Diocesan policy is 3 months expenditure as policy.

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## **Serious Incidents**

There were no serious incidents in the period under review.

## **Oldham Hall 2025**

The Oldham Hall continues to host a range of activities including yoga, the art class, the Great Missenden Choral Society and the Great Missenden Orchestra. The hall is managed brilliantly by Ali, who uses the online booking system which displays on the Church website. Whilst Pete cleans and caretakes the hall, Ali has a team of contacts for the larger maintenance jobs. Over the course of the year, the water heater has been replaced, the heating engineer has been called out, and the dimmers on the main lights have failed. As we enter 2026, there is a plan in place for the replacement of the main lights and to replace the fire door at the back of the hall with one which can be accessed from outside.

The hall is still holding its own financially, but the prices are being left as we enter 2026 to ensure that we are competitive with other halls in the area. Huge thanks to Ali and Pete and to their teams for the work that goes into maintaining the hall in the community.

## **Outreach Report**

We started the year with our second Snowdrop Festival together with Overstroud Cottage including our Church cream tea. A very successful event drawing different people to the Church from the local community and further afield.

In July, we were joined by Jonathan Lee, Organist of Christ's Hospital in West Sussex, playing a wonderful programme and our guests receiving wine and canapés in the interval provided by Jill B.

In September, we repeated our Jazz evening with the local jazz group with everyone able to enjoy a chilli with their glass of wine in the interval.

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Our main outreach event throughout the summer is the Cream Teas that run from Easter through to the end of September together with music most weeks. This is a very successful event for our community and raises much needed funds for the church. We decided after this year, this event needed to be run separately from the Outreach Team.

Last year, our annual Christmas Tree event was run mainly by two people, not part of our congregation. This year, Chloe and Paula took over responsibility for the event and provided us with a brilliant two days complete with a Father Christmas grotto and raising nearly £5,000; the proceeds split between the Church and Wycombe Women's Aid.

We are still supporting The Old Tea Warehouse monthly with food and necessities they may need, together with Christmas presents and Easter eggs.

We have a food chest in the porch at the North Door, and some donations are left for people to help themselves when they are in need and the rest is collected and passed on to the Chesham Foodbank.

After a short break, the Oldham Hall Friday coffee morning is continuing, with help from some parent volunteers.

A big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who help throughout the year with all the different activities and we would love to hear from anyone else who might be able to spare a minute or an hour to help - please be in touch.

Sue O'F

## **Church Office 2025**

The Church Office was moved in 2024 from upstairs in the Baptist Church building to the Bromley Room, and up until June, Elisabeth ran the office tasks very ably

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from the new office. After handing in her notice, she stepped down, helpfully offering us extra time as we searched for a new administrator.

The administration role was advertised and we received a good number of applications which were reduced to a shortlist, and interviews took place in May, undertaken by Ali, Malcolm, and Val. Alex was appointed and took up the role in June.

Having been challenged by the finance team to tighten up on expenditure, Alex was offered a contract for ten hours work a week. It's proved difficult to spend all of these hours in the office, and Alex splits her time working in situ and remotely. She's able to access phone messages, emails, and the social media and website from home, so this benefits the parish as she disperses her hours across the week. The key requirement going into 2026 is to ensure that there is access to the office both for Alex to work and for visitors – thank you to Sally who has arranged for a carpenter to replace the old fire door and replace it with a new fire door which can be accessed from outside. Unfortunately we don't feel able to extend an open invitation for visitors, but the new door will allow those who have made a prior appointment to meet with Alex when she's in the office.

Inevitably, with the change in administrator, the tasks have changed. There is more focus on the website, social media platforms, and on the weekly communications via Mailchimp and the news-sheet. She's also managing the online booking process for those looking to hire the Church for concerts and events, and for the local schools. Alex also manages the emails and phone calls, and responds accordingly, or forwards. Together with Katie's support, she's also changed the email server over, a long overdue task, and has encouraged the regular use of distinct Church email addresses, therefore taking sensitive information away from some personal email addresses. Once the now tired printer is replaced (on a more cost-effective contract) she'll be able to make balanced decisions about the printing

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requirements, some of which will be printed in-house and at other times being outsourced.

I'd like to thank both Elisabeth and Alex for their hard work in the office this year. They've both been extremely generous with their time and skills, which is very much appreciated.

## **Children and Families**

Our parish is blessed with a small but active group of children, young people, and families who share in Sunday worship and related activities. Around fifteen children aged six to fourteen, from eight families, attend the church groups, 'MAP' and 'Light' approximately twice a month and at special services, with five to ten present on an average Sunday. A further six attend occasionally. The young people contribute to parish life, assisting at Cream Teas, the Christmas Tree Festival and other community events. Socials include outings such as bowling and summer picnics, where they have helped plant and tend the children's church garden.

We also seek to engage pupils from local schools beyond the groups MAP and Light, encouraging volunteering through Duke of Edinburgh with activities including technical assistance with services, and involvement in the Eco group and seasonal events. Children are also invited to join the Marimba Band. They practise on Monday afternoons during term time and play at the 10am Family Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month during term time. Paula K and Jill B have restarted the coffee mornings at Oldham Hall for parents/carers with younger children, after school drop-off on Fridays which are proving very popular and new volunteers within the parent group are signing up to help on the recently created WhatsApp group.

This ministry currently depends on a small and ageing volunteer base, and as we end 2025 the imminent stepping down of our youth group leader makes the need

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for dedicated leadership urgent. We deeply appreciate all Katie has done in starting up and running 'Light' and we are committed to ensuring it continues. Existing volunteers have committed to running a handful of sessions in the summer term of 2026, and it is also hoped that the Vicar can lead a couple of sessions in order to prepare the young people for First Communion in June 2026.

Following prayerful consultation with the Diocesan Discipleship Enabler and neighbouring churches, we believe we are called to appoint a full-time Children, Youth and Families Minister. In recent months, a small group led by Philippa has been working on an application to the Oxford Diocese Development Fund and will be looking at additional fundraising streams and support. We trust this step will strengthen not only our children and families but the life of the whole church and wider community.

Chloe, Paula & Philippa

## **2025 Safeguarding Report**

### **Introduction**

Safeguarding aims to ensure that the Church is a safe place for everyone; it is a standing agenda item on the PCC. There have been other meetings with respect to particular events or groups of people, working in line with the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC has worked to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 with a duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### **Safeguarding Roles**

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is Alan Mustoe who is also the Recruiter and Verifier. There are no additional safeguarding roles in this parish.

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## **Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information**

Our Policy; the Church of England's Code of Safer Working Practice; and Policies concerning Privacy, Safer Recruitment, Recruitment of ex-Offenders and Whistleblowing can be found on this parish's website.

## **Safeguarding Learning and Development**

28 people completed the Basic Course in the year; 4 completed the Foundation Course; 3 new DBSs obtained and 4 DBSs renewed. The Vicar and PSO have also completed the courses required of their office. All those who require a DBS disclosure are up to date with one due to begin the application.

## **Safer Recruitment and People Management**

The Vicar and PSO have done the requisite course to safely recruit those working with children and vulnerable adults.

## **Concerns Raised**

In the last calendar year there were a number of conversations and meetings with respect to safeguarding issues. Four of these required advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

## **Additional Information**

In late August, the Diocese learnt that the APCS, the firm they had been using for DBSs, had suffered a data breach. The data did not contain any financial information but could have involved identity theft. Consequently three of our church members were given advice and we have heard of no further issues arising from the breach. The Diocese engaged another firm (ThirtyOne Eight) to process DBSs temporarily while they were considered more widely. They have since

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engaged a firm called VERIFILE. The PCC have accepted the Diocese's recommendation that we should also engage VERIFILE, the Diocese being responsible for the underlying costs, the PCC paying administration fees for each application.

## **Next Steps**

In 2026, a number of people will have to renew their DBSs and/or refresh some of the courses they have taken and / or complete courses required by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team. We also aim to produce some information for everyone in the church who has a role, position, office or job so that we may all be more aware of the safeguarding issues and what to do if we are concerned.

Alan Mustoe (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

## **Fabric Forward**

At the end of 2025, the Fabric Forward team concluded the Concept Design stage report. The report included an energy appraisal for the future of the church and the proposed extension element. The key updates are:

- An extension plan was created that was broadly consulted on and agreed. This could be phased into two stages if necessary. The Concept Design report is available to anybody wishing to familiarise themselves with the proposals.
- Some minor alterations to the existing church also form part of the plan going forward when the extension is built.
- The energy audit concluded that the way the current heating of the church is running with a steady indoor temperature all year round is optimal for energy conservation as well as for the historic fabric of the church. This is likely to remain in place for the mid-term (5+ years) albeit with some servicing & maintenance to the boiler and may be the pipework & radiators, plus some essential safety improvements to the plantroom.

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- The new extension however can be planned and built to 100% net zero using renewable energy sources with under-floor heating. It is likely that the church building itself could eventually (in 5-10 years) be switched to partial renewable energy sources for the bulk of the year, with only some top-up heating from an oil-fired boiler at certain times of the year.
  - The focus of the project now moves to seek in-principle DAC and Deanery approvals as well as other stakeholders such as Historic England, etc. This process is already underway and is likely to take the bulk of 2026.
  - If the consultations are positive and supportive of the plans, then 2027 could see us push forward with detailed designs and drawings in parallel with fund raising.
  - It is unlikely that any work will commence on site before 2028 at earliest subject to satisfactory fund raising.

Stephen T

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## St. Mary's Report 2025

We've enjoyed a very busy and happy year at St Mary's, due in no small measure to the help and support of the local community. The Lee Newsletter (published monthly) has kindly promoted our various activities to its readership, supplementing our own St. Mary's one whose circulation continues to increase. Neighbours and friends in Ballinger have generously given of their time, in addition to the band of helpers who come from further afield, allowing Maggi and me time to pursue larger projects and fund-raising ventures.

Fundraising efforts kicked off with a Flower Festival in May, which was enthusiastically supported from far and wide, visitors even coming from abroad. The weather for once was sublime and we were entertained by the Wick Trimmers and Nelson Bazzard. The flower displays of course were immaculate, and a ready supply of tea, coffee and homemade cakes added to the experience. We raised over £1200 in just two days, a wonderful vindication of everyone's hard work.

This was followed up by The Lee Flower Show in July at which our St Mary's stall raised over £100. Our annual Harvest Supper again proved hugely popular and added £500 to our funds.

Lastly, St Mary's took a table at Ballinger's Christmas Fair and made just over £100.

All this was then used to finance our main two projects for the year; the restoration of the Upcott noticeboard and the investigation into the damp on the south wall. Manor Signs sorted out the former and Jon Suttle, the latter. We were also fortunate to be given donations for the noticeboard from the Upcott family and one from Sweet Charity towards the wall repairs. Our next project is re-staining the outside of the vestry once the weather is warmer.

Church services are well attended and new faces appear regularly. Throughout the year St Mary's played host to Village Friends for several of their autumn and winter

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talks and to Tangent for one of their monthly get togethers. The PCC now hold some of their meetings at St M whilst Friday coffee mornings continue periodically throughout the year. Ride and Stride is supported in September and DofE walkers and returning locals often have a look around. All in all, St Mary's is thriving.

However, none of this would be possible without the love, care and enthusiastic support which Maggi and I receive in abundance, making us feel truly uplifted and inspired. It has been humbling to realise just how much the community from far and wide treasure and value St. Mary's. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those who give so freely of their time; to the clergy, the lay team, our friends at St Peter & St Paul, to our musicians, Bernice, Gerard, Ken and Wendy, to Harriet and Martyn who handle our finances, and to all those who roll up their sleeves to pitch tents, move pews, bake cakes, provide flowers and generally help with the countless tasks behind the scenes.

**Anne E & Maggi C**

## **Pastoral visits - Prayer chain - Healing team 2025**

Our Parish Report includes a vital part of pastoral care that is carried out throughout our communities in our area. We have a team of 11 people who became points of immediate contact when needed or may value to offer friendship. Likewise, if a person or family may request prayer for a particular reason our contact is Slava who sends the request around the prayer chain with permission. This has become an important part of our ministry in this Parish. As part of our Sunday Worship, there is a small team of people who, in turn, offer private prayer in the Lady Chapel when requested. This group meets together once a month for prayer as a listening group when asked to hold relations, friends and difficult situations for prayer. They became a valuable team and are available at any time on the phone or to meet face to face. Please contact Patricia or Slava.

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## Electoral Roll

A new Electoral Roll was compiled for the APCM in 2025, and we are now in year 1 of the 6 year cycle. There are 121 names on the Roll, and it is kept up to date by the Electoral Roll Officer.

Mike O'F

## Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church

The "Friends" had another full and successful fundraising year and made repair and restoration grants of £3,219 to the PCC. Our three Talk & Tea events were well attended and raised £3,285:

- "War Graves, Local & Worldwide" by Chris Leach & Jill Pateman, in March.
- "Seriously Seeking Sybil, Dame Sybil Penne, the Ghost at Hampton Court Palace" by Sam Hearn in June.
- "Planning a Royal Tour" by Squadron Leader Graham Laurie MVO, RAF (Retd), Captain on the Queens Flight, in October.

The "Friends" Christmas Tree Festival stand in the Lady Chapel was very well attended. The theme of our tree was Bells. Over £1,400 was raised from sales of preserves and a few gifts at the church and the Library tabletop sales on both days.

Preserves raised £8,869 and were sold at Sunday Cream Teas, at the Church School's term-time Farmers' Markets, Holy Trinity Church's Autumn Charities Fair, St. Mary's Church Christmas Fair and at several Tabletop sales by the Library.

The Committee was delighted to welcome Emma I as a trustee in September. We also welcomed 26 new members in 2025 and our membership is healthy at 149. We are sorry to have lost several founding and earlier members and we are most grateful for their support over the years.

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Warmest thanks to everyone who helps our fundraising for our historic Parish Church, such a vital community building. Grants of over £195,000 have been made to the PCC since 2000.

Our charity remit is to ensure that our much-loved, sacred and historic Parish Church continues to be a vital centre for Christian worship and many community activities.

Registered Charity No: 1067435  
[https://missendenchurch.org.uk/Groups/289937/Friends\\_of\\_Great.aspx](https://missendenchurch.org.uk/Groups/289937/Friends_of_Great.aspx)

## **Vine and Branch**

The Vine and Branch group was set up in the Autumn of 2025 in memory of Chris Nickless who was passionate about the environment and who had encouraged the church to work for a Silver A Rocha Eco award.

Keeping on top of the churchyard and surrounding area around the church is a huge task: not least taking brambles back, mowing and raking the grass and meadow areas, cutting hedges and maintaining the Quiet Garden, filling enormous rabbit holes leading up to the War Graves and removing fallen trees. There is always something to do!

We are most fortunate to have some specialist help amongst our keen team of volunteers: Ross has sorted a new roof for the old brick shed in the wood and removed debris and rusty scaffold poles from the south side of the church. Duncan and volunteers from Road Farm Countryways have made an excellent dead hedge using natural stakes and binders at the west end of the church, so we now have an area where we can store branch cuttings, leaves and brash. As an added 'extra', they have also made a hedgehog box which is tucked in snugly for any guests!

Wendy H