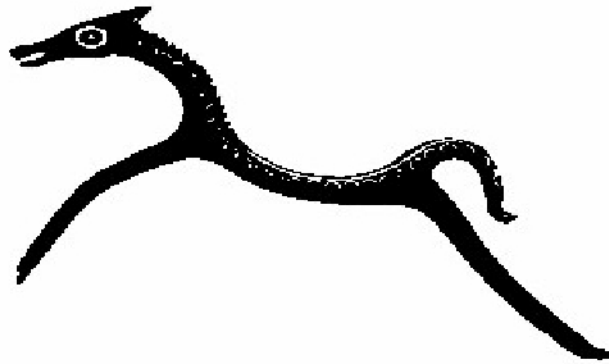


# The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Silchester

(Part of the United Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and  
Silchester, in the Diocese of Winchester)

## ANNUAL REPORT for 2025



Develop in Faith  
Serve with Love

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## **Objectives and activities**

Silchester PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector and Resident Priest in the promotion within the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St. Mary the Virgin Church and the Parish Rooms.

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## Secretary's Report for 2025

**Electoral Roll:** The Roll for 2025 contained 61 names, 33 of these being for people residing within the Silchester Parish.

### **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council:**

There were 5 full meetings of the PCC during 2025. There were also 4 meetings of the Standing Committee. The Finance and Stewardship Committee remained in abeyance, with matters of finance being dealt with by the Standing Committee.

The Missions & Charities Group did not meet in 2025, although events were still held which resulted in charitable donations being made (see financial report for further information).

In approximately chronological order, the main topics considered by the PCC were:

- 1. Safeguarding:** This was reported on as an agenda item during every meeting of the PCC and the Standing Committee, and a report for the Annual Parochial Council Meeting features as a stand-alone section later in this Annual Report. Happily, there were no issues of concern raised or reported during the year. DBS validity and safeguarding training status were monitored throughout the year, with PCC members and others being asked to renew checks and/or training as appropriate. Documents were introduced, reviewed, updated, approved, etc, as indicated by diocesan requirements. The overall status of the parish's safeguarding provisions was monitored with the assistance of the "Parish Safeguarding Dashboard", a tool recommended by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to enable themselves and the parish to monitor safeguarding status.
- 2. The Worship Group:** This Group consists of clergy, lay ministers and the Churchwarden. It reports back to the PCC. It meets periodically to consider worship-related topics and to plan services for the coming quarter. The following topics features during 2025:
  - The formation of one or more Home Groups within our parish.
  - The creation and management of a questionnaire aimed at gathering facts and opinions both from Village residents and from those who attend St Mary the Virgin regularly but who live outside the Village. Answers were analysed carefully, with the results being reported both to the PCC and to the Village at large via the magazine. Recommendations were made to the PCC for changes in the parish's monthly worship pattern. These changes were subsequently implemented. The changes include a shift toward an increased number of services each year to held in central Silchester.
- 3. A return to the use of the Common Cup for Communion Services:** Brought about by Covid, St Mary the Virgin had, for several years, delivered communion "in two kinds" by the practice of intinction of wafers in the communion wine. For over a year, advice from Winchester had been that there should be a return to the use of the common cup. Caution prompted by further outbreaks of Covid had delayed the reversion of practice at St Mary the Virgin, but this eventually happened in 2025 after careful briefings beforehand.
- 4. The Inclusive Church Network:** The PCC debated whether to link the parish to this Network but decided to wait and see whether the responses to the Worship Group's questionnaire (see above) gave any indication in favour.

5. **Finance:** This subject is covered in detail later in this report. However, interim reports from the Treasurer to the PCC kept members informed of highlights as the year progressed. Key points included:
- The annual Fayre (previously termed the Fête) was very successful.
  - In the light of a report from the Diocesan Finance Board the PCC reviewed the purpose and size of the parish contribution to the Common Mission Fund and confirmed its commitment to paying in full the figure requested. The parish was able to pay in full its 2025 share of the Common Mission Fund.
  - Prompted by the Treasurer, the PCC reviewed and revised the supplementary fees it charges for services linked to e.g. weddings and funerals.
6. **Fabric (including Parish Rooms):** Efforts to identify a contractor able and willing to effect repairs to the south vestry door continued throughout the year, but the PCC has yet to let a contract for completion of the work.
7. **Graveyard:** The PCC was pleased to commend the high standard to which the graveyard is maintained by Mr Willmott. However, it was also noted that some graves were decorated in a way which does not comply with Church of England rules. The PCC supported Revd West in the actions she took to bring the graveyard back to compliance.
8. **Magazine:** Mrs Speight reported successful printing, collation and distribution of the magazine for each month.
9. **The Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM):** Members of the PCC spent time, as usual, on assembling the Annual Report for the previous year (2024), and completing other preparations in time for the APCM to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.
- The APCM, as every year, saw the election and re-election of a churchwarden and PCC members.
- Mrs Hughes was re-elected as Churchwarden, but sadly there was no second candidate. Therefore the parish was served by only a single churchwarden.
- At the PCC meeting following the APCM, members elected officers from amongst their number, including: Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Treasurer; Secretary; members of the Standing Committee; Parish Safeguarding Officer; Electoral Roll Officer; Data Protection Officer – all to serve until the following APCM.
10. **Car Parking:** During the year Hampshire County Council first consulted on and then introduced a charge for parking in the Wall Car Park. The PCC opposed the introduction of a charge on the grounds of knock-on effects for the Lane itself and for the church car park. Nevertheless the charge was introduced and, in spite of a new notice stating the availability of the church car park for church users only, the adverse effects predicted by the PCC quickly became apparent.
11. **Creation Care:** Having achieved an A Rocha Eco-Church bronze award in 2024, the PCC supported a proposal to move toward gaining the silver award.
12. **The Village Fayre (formerly called the Fête):** PCC members were involved in preparations for this event and in the conduct of the event itself. The weather was far better than it had been in 2024 and a healthy surplus was achieved.
13. **Foundation Governors for Silchester C of E Primary School:** Two serving Governors reached the ends of their terms of office during the year and were replaced. Sadly, two

further Foundation Governors will leave during 2026, so efforts must be made to identify and recruit additional replacements.

- 14. Parish Rooms:** External maintenance is needed: an application for grant aid is being prepared.
- 15. Handbells:** The church owns a set of handbells, out of use for some time because of their poor state. With encouragement from the PCC, the bell ringers established the cost of refurbishment, raised the funds required, and the handbells are now once again available for active use.
- 16. Magazine:** Mrs Speight gave regular reports regarding the team managing the production and distribution of the Parish Magazine. Monthly production is in the region of 500 copies, reaching most homes in Silchester.

Colin Hunt  
(Honorary Secretary)

## Report from the Resident Priest

### Worship and Prayer:

The year began with our survey of the church family and wider community that, amongst other areas, sought a range of views about the pattern and style of our worship services. The PCC was really pleased with both the number and quality of the almost 100 responses which allowed us to make informed decisions about what should remain the same and where any changes might be made. Broadly we have continued our long-standing pattern of services which, we trust, offers a variety of ways to worship together. The First Sunday 08.00 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion continues to attract good numbers, although this impacts the number coming to the 10.00 service which traditionally is less formal in nature. As we come to the APCM we are in the middle of a six-month trial of an intergenerational Holy Communion for All Ages service in this 'slot' which in time, we hope, will attract new worshippers. The survey results certainly confirmed the importance to so many of opportunities to receive Communion.

Similar to what was reported last year, the church family has not, alas, grown in number during 2025. We are required to make an annual statistical return to the Diocese. When this was completed, the system flagged a noticeable decline in numbers attending regular worship services which is, of course, disappointing. Typically we are 28 -35 worshippers at a service, although in the week ending on Christmas Day, we were pleased to welcome a total of nearly 400 worshippers (up even on last year) – the single largest service being the Crib Service on Christmas Eve with 140 squeezed into our pews! 'Special' services at Christmas and at other festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christingle remain more popular, especially when worship is located in the village which we will continue to plan regularly through the coming year. Along with our friends at the village Methodist Church, we were especially delighted to co-host the New Beginnings service in September to mark the start of the new school year. In 2025 we were privileged to be asked to lead the village service for 80 years since VE Day, as well as the usual service of remembrance on Armistice Day.



It is important to the PCC and wider church family that we support Benefice services on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month. Continuing a long-held tradition we hosted the Benefice on Palm Sunday and held once again a Maundy Thursday shared supper and service of Holy Communion.

It continues to be a gift to our community that our church remains open every day for private prayer which is so appreciated by those who visit us and by the PCC who depend on the rota of volunteers, some of whom are not church family members, who unlock and lock the church daily.

I am personally very grateful to members of the Worship Group and Benefice Ministry Team for their support to plan and lead our services and to all who support worship in other ways – bellringers, organists, vergers, readers, welcomers, intercessors and those who keep us well-fed and watered after services.

### **Life Events:**

During 2025 our church continued to host life events – baptisms, weddings and funerals. We welcome everyone who attends these services back to our church, but it remains disappointing that few accept this invitation.

Unlike our sister churches in Tadley who seem to be hosting baptism services most weeks of the year, we held just two services in 2025, although the first of these on January 5<sup>th</sup> saw both parents and their baby christened.



However, it was joyous to welcome no less than seven couples who chose to be married in our ancient and beautiful church during the year. In 2025 we hosted our first Wedding Sunday, inviting these couples and those for 2026 to join us for worship so we could pray for them, before having the opportunity to meet all those with a part to play on their wedding day and sharing lunch together. This event was really well received and so we plan to make this an annual event. We have four weddings and a commitment service in the diary for 2026, three for 2027 and even one for August 2028!

Once again in 2025 we said our farewells to some hugely significant members of our local community – Marsden Jones and Duncan Hodge to name but two, but to hold their funerals in our

church was special indeed – a local resident described Marsden’s funeral as “*the closest that Silchester gets to a state funeral*”.

### **Pastoral Care:**

Early in 2025 a group from Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT), including three members of our own church family, completed their training as Anna Chaplains and Friends. Anna Chaplaincy focuses on offering spiritual care to those in later life. A joyous Commissioning Service was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, with licences and certificates presented by Debbie Thrower, the founder of Anna Chaplaincy and former BBC ‘Songs of Praise’ presenter. This group now meets regularly in support of each other and to share their experience of the different ways in which they are using their training, liaising where appropriate with local Social Prescribers and other support networks.

The Pastoral Care Group was re-formed in late 2025. Our remit to coordinate help in a variety of forms for those in our church family and wider community who need some kind of care (e.g. home Communion, hospital care and bereavement support) was recently approved by the PCC. Through its membership the group has a natural link to the Anna Chaplaincy team and to the Richard Hyde Charity. We welcome any members of the church family who would like to share in this ministry, since Group members have been assured that it’s not their job to ‘do’ all the caring – but more to ensure that it happens when and where needed.

I remain very appreciative of all that many in our church family do to support those who are ill, bereaved or in any other kind of need. In the re-formation of the Pastoral Care Group and the commissioning of our Anna Chaplaincy team, at last it feels as if we are becoming ‘joined-up’ about our response to those who need support.

### **Eco Church:**

I reported last year on our success in achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze award and expressed the hope that we would make time to work for the Silver award in 2025. Alas, this has not been the case – church life makes many demands on us all! – so that must remain an ambition for 2026. However, once again in 2025 we were pleased to welcome the members of Silchester School’s Eco Council to our churchyard for the annual nature count. They also planted flowers to attract butterflies and bees and were especially excited to locate a hedgehog house and small pond. We are grateful to the late Doreen Atton for her bequest that allowed us to purchase the materials for this work. As this report goes to print, we are completing an Eco Carbon Fast for Lent which should also help us on our journey to Silver.



## Support to Silchester School:

Given that we have no children/families in regular attendance at our weekly services, I am especially grateful for the PCC's support to be seen regularly in school. I continue to serve as a Governor and would like to thank those who have been and remain as Foundation Governors, ensuring that the strong Christian ethos of our church school is maintained. In 2025 Cynthia Howells and Mary Viney stood down from their Foundation Governor roles after many years of service. Whilst we have recruited two new Foundation Governors, including one from our own church family, there will be another vacancy at the end of the 2025-2026 school year which we need to fill. This is a demanding, but really valuable role, and I remain very happy to anyone who might feel called to join us.



I am in school each week in term time- either leading Collective Worship (what we used to call Assembly) or joining with the Open the Book (OtB) team to bring a Bible story to life for the children. We couldn't bring OtB into school every other week without the fantastic support of our friends at the local Methodist Church and the Tadley OtB team.

In May 2025 we worked with Sam Dunn, the CTAT Youth and Children's Pastor, to host the first ever Prayer Week at school. Each class enjoyed two visits to a classroom transformed for the week into a series of prayer spaces enabling the children to experience different ways to say 'thank you', 'sorry', 'please' and to make their own prayers.

My work in school represents a significant 'chunk' of my hours each week and therefore it remains important to have sought the PCC's agreement to me doing this. I am hugely grateful for the support offered to my work in school from Sam Dunn,, as well as from Head of R.E, Mrs Sam Rolph and most especially to Head Teacher, Mrs Rachel Moir who is always welcoming to myself and to St Mary-the-Virgin Church. In February 2025 the school was inspected by OFSTED and we were thrilled to see the due reward for work of Rachel and her staff in their strong 'Good' rating across the board.

As in probably all schools, budgets are extremely tight and so Silchester School is very thankful for the money that the PCC approved to be donated to help fund the purchase of a pot of Play-Doh for each pupil to aid exploration of their personal spirituality and, most recently, towards the cost of a new outdoor teaching area which has already helped to increase numbers of pupils who will join the school in September 2026.

### **Community Life:**

Our Worship Survey underlined the importance of the place of St Mary-the-Virgin to the people of Silchester and to our wider communities. During 2025 we welcomed hundreds of individuals and groups of pilgrims walking the English Camino route, as well as so many others who just 'call-in', often as they walk around the Roman walls. In addition we have hosted visits from local packs/colonies of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We were also pleased to welcome back the Community Choir who chose us as the venue for their 2025 Summer Concert.



The Chair of the Silchester Parish Council continues to convene a Community Group, made up of representatives from local village organisations, including our church. We meet c. every 2 months and exchange information about who is planning what. As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to be a part of plans to mark the centenary of the Village Hall.

Our amazing village and church magazine continues to be an effective way to communicate to the wider community what we are doing, and we remain hugely grateful to John and Claire Richardson (especially as they continue to mourn the death of Marsden and Nancy who for so many years were at the very heart of the magazine and wider village life), as well as to Sandra Speight and other helpers, for their hard work to produce and distribute this widely each month.

### **Ecumenism:**

As I noted last year, one of the many reasons I love this community and our Benefice so much is the opportunity to collaborate and witness to our faith through CTAT. In 2025 we continued to make a good contribution to CTAT's work, attending meetings and sharing the leading, participating and hosting of events such as the Holiday Club and donating Christmas gifts from our Christingle service for the Salvation Army collection. A local off shoot of CTAT, the Silchester Ecumenical Group, continues to meet c. every 2 months at St Mary's House.

### **Final thoughts and looking ahead:**

It's been another very busy year and if it's possible 2026 seems to have stepped up the pace. It still feels as if there's still much I/we want to do. I commented last year that It's hard to believe that it will soon be two years since my licensing and as I write this it's even harder to think that this will soon be three years, although in other ways it feels as if I have been here forever! Genuinely I continue to thank God daily for leading me to Silchester.

There are always difficult choices to be made each week about where to focus my hours and energies and I'm conscious that I don't always get that right. It is a real privilege to serve and for Mum and I to live here. For sure I know that I couldn't do what I am able to do without the support of so many people both in our church and community, but also in the wider Benefice.

I've named a few people earlier in this report and it's always dangerous to do so for fear of missing out someone important. Hopefully though you know who you are, but as a church family we are blessed with a committed PCC, a really hard-working churchwarden in Jan Hughes - yet another year in which Jan has operated in this role solo, although ably assisted by Sandra Speight and Veronica Picton and treasurer, Richard Eldridge.

Thank you as well to our Rector, Revd Steve McKay, to Revd Rob Young, Rev Cathy Pynn, Colin Hunt and Eve Baker who all regularly lead worship in our beautiful church and, as noted above, to **all** who play any part in enabling and supporting our worship, who look after our building and churchyard so, so much more. I/we really can't succeed without you.

**Revd Karen West**

**Resident Priest and Associate Minister**

**Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester**

## Rector's Benefice report to the APCM

This report covers the period from January 2025 to December 2025.



I would like to formally record my thanks to our wonderful Church Wardens - Jean Kyle, Deanne Wagstaff, Jan Hughes, Peter Wood, and Chris Gillings who along with our clergy team and PCC members have ensured everything continues to run smoothly (and legally) in our parishes.

I am also grateful to my clergy, BCM, BPP, and LLM colleagues and all those who appear on rotas to ensure all our services happen. I give thanks for our musicians and worship leaders, and our teams such as Messy Church, RISE, Oaks and Acorns, Worship, finance, fabric and pastoral. Thank you to all those who care for our buildings such as our cleaners, security teams and flower arrangers.

It takes many people to make a parish work and we have some of the best. I am so grateful to God for each of you.

I must also mention our Benefice Administrator, Virge Routledge. I know Virge probably works far more hours than she is paid for. Her love for you and our churches is beautiful. I see just how much goes on in the background to ensure things run smoothly. How we ever survived without an Administrator, I do not know!

Without all of these people, much of what we did in 2025 would not have been possible. It has been a joy a to be fully staffed across the benefice with a team who can work so closely together. It is wonderful to see our parishes continue to grow and flourish.

I am sure I have missed so many people off this list, but to everyone who contributes to the life our church family, I am so very grateful for the way you sacrifice so much to serve. God bless you!

In this report I will highlight some of the amazing things our parishes have been involved in during 2025 as loved God and one another. So, let us start from the beginning of the year: I hope that by the end of this report you will agree a lot has happened in 2025!

### January

As we began January, we blessed each of our churches with the traditional **Epiphany blessing** – it must have worked because they have been filled with so much joy and love

In January, we also held our annual **CTAT Unity Service** at St Paul's. This was very well attended with people from across Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester. The CTAT AGM was also held at the end of January. I am grateful to all our the CTAT representatives from our churches who ensure that we work well alongside our brothers and sisters in other church denominations.



The **Silchester Ecumenical group** also continued to meet to plan worship and events throughout the year.

## February



In February St. Mary's held a **Valentine's party** with local band Carbon Copy. The gig was a great missional opportunity as many ages were represented that we tend to see less of in church. Many have returned to St. Mary's since and feel a sense of belonging. We held the **RAFA service** at Tadley North to lay up their standard and commission a new standard. It is wonderful that RAFA see St. Mary's as their 'home church.'

In February we also prayed for our schools as part of the **Churches Together around Tadley (CTAT) 'Love our schools' week**. We are blessed with a fantastic primary and secondary schools on our benefice and particularly Silchester

School which is a Church of England school, so we have a special responsibility for its wellbeing.

During February Silchester carried out a **worship survey** and had a great response to its survey on services, locations and much more. I am grateful to Karen and the Silchester Worship Group for implementing this and for all our parish worship groups who ensure we are both consistent and creative in our worship.



## March

Throughout **Lent** as well as our popular home groups and social groups several benefice Lent events were held.

We also held a **Wedding Fair** at St. Mary the Virgin, Silchester for all those couples getting married in 2025, 2026 and 2027. This was led by the clergy team and involved our bell ringers, organists and flower arrangers. It was followed by a delicious lunch. Thank you Karen and the Silchester team for organising and hosting this.

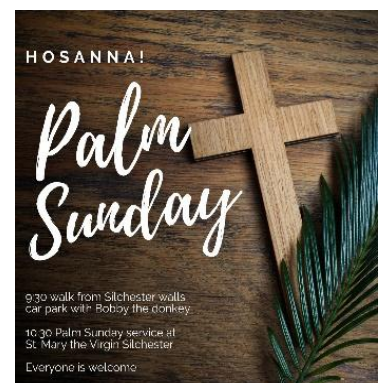
## April

In April the annual **Palm Sunday walk** departed from the Silchester Walls Car Park due to flooding on the normal route. It was fantastic to take part in this as a benefice. A Church service was held at with coffee and hot cross buns served before the service. Both the walk and service were well attended. We look forward to this in 2026 with animals and the Bishop of Winchester!



Meanwhile at St. Paul's **Messy Church** took place on Palm Sunday with the annual Easter hunt. We took the decision not to move Messy Church, no matter what day it falls on.

This says to our families that they are an important part of our church family and we celebrate them. In 2024 this was Easter Day itself, next year in 2026 it will be the week after Easter. We ate breakfast made crafts and even had a baptism!



It was fantastic to celebrate 60 years of marriage this month at [St Paul's Church, Tadley](#) with Sandy and Pete

**The World Day of Prayer** ensured our prayer life reflects the needs of the wider world and this year our service this year focussed on the Cook Islands who celebrate 200 years of Christianity in the group of 15 islands which is spread over nearly 800,000 square miles in the Pacific Ocean.

Our service was based on the words of Psalm 139 and woven with in the stories of three Cook Island Christian women.

Many came dressed up to fit in with the theme and everyone enjoyed both the service and the refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

The service invited us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We are unique and special and should cherish all aspects of who we are and of those around us. God created us. God knows us. God is with us.

At the end of March (Sunday 30th March) at St. Paul's, we are joined by the Bishop of Winchester, his wife Ruth and Noggin the dog! We enjoyed breakfast from 9:30 in the hall. Then Bishop Philip led our Mothering Sunday service from 10:15am. What a morning we had! The church was full with nearly 150 people. We celebrated as Amy and Darcy were confirmed, we gave thanks for mothers and we ate breakfast and lots of cake together! What a fantastic church family we have!



## Easter events

**The Maudy Thursday meal** in Silchester Village Hall was a success – This is still something of a landmark as the hall constitution previously prevented it's use for religious services. We were able to eat and pray together and share in a simple service of communion. I am so grateful to the Silchester team who hosted this for the benefice.

On **Good Friday** St. Mary's hosted the annual **CTAT Good Friday service** outside the church with music by Tadley Concert Brass. This is always well attended and over 160 people joined in. Three hours around the cross was also held at both Tadley in Silchester.

**Holy Saturday** at St. Mary's in the afternoon we hosted a **RISE Easter egg hunt** for families and around 150 people attended. This is another event that is growing year on year.

We also hosted a **benefice Easter Vigil** at St. Paul's. It gave us chance to pause and reflect as a church family on Jesus' sacrifice. The evening started with a fire in the church garden, we then brought the light of Christ into the church as we held vigil. Our Easter Day services were all well-attended. Our traditional

parish Easter Day communion services at St. Mary's, Tadley and St. Mary the Virgin Silchester, St. Paul's and St. Luke's were well attended, and all churches were full of light and flowers.



In the evening of Easter Day we were able to hold a service at St. Peter's which was able to be opened now that the work on the roof and east wall had been completed. This led to evening services throughout the summer months at St. Peter's led by clergy and lay members of team offering a range of services from Taizé to communion or compline.



Silchester also used a **Lenten Tree** to celebrate Easter in the centre of the village. During the festival of Christmas, it was our Christmas tree - a symbol of joy, as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. On Ash Wednesday, we brought the tree back into church, dead, stripped of decoration. Each Sunday during Lent, we have added a symbol to the tree to recall the parts of the Easter story. The tree was placed outside the Village Hall. We welcomed everyone to enable it to spring to life once again by decorating it with colourful flowers to witness to our community that Jesus is Risen, alive and walking with us.

## May



At **St. Mary's, Tadley** the annual **plant sale** was held outside the church raising a huge amount in two hours!

This is now an annual event and looked forward to by the community. I am grateful to Keith Gillings and the team at St. Mary's who help to run this. It is also pleasing to see that throughout the year (in all weathers) the **Wednesday Weeders** have continued meeting at St. Mary's to tend the grounds and for coffee and chats

Meanwhile at St. Paul's a **new gardening group** started on a Tuesday have kept the church grounds looking fabulous (including removing some very stubborn overgrown bushes!) At St. Luke's after a wildlife survey, work is being carried out on making wildlife areas, such a small pond.

In May **Messy Church** also celebrated **10 Years** at [St Paul's Church, Tadley](#)! (I know...we can't believe it either!) It's been a fun journey and now attracts over 150 people every month...which is why we need a bigger church! May was also the month we celebrated **80 years since VE**



**Day.** Did you see the amazing window displays at St. Paul's and the display inside the church at St. Mary's created by our friends at the U3A Craft Group. On 8th May we held a special act of remembrance at the War Memorial outside St. Paul's, by the War Memorial as well as commemoration services in the other churches.

Here are some of the other VE Day 80 events we got involved with that week weekend in May, in conjunction with our churches and the Royal British

Legion.

VE Day was commemorated outside the Basingstoke Town Council Offices.

VE Day commemoration at Heath End War Memorial with the Royal British Legion.

VE Day commemoration, at the Tadley War Memorial, outside St Paul's on the Green, with the Royal British Legion.

VE Remembrance Service at Silchester Village War Memorial.

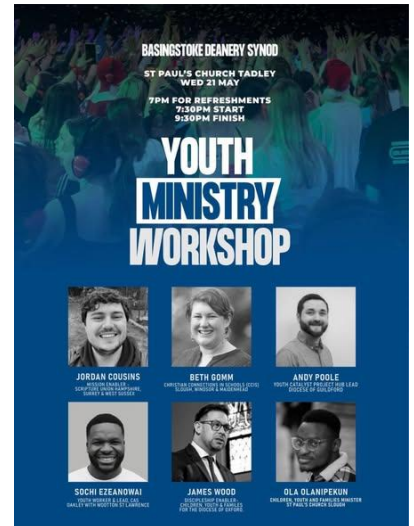
Lighting of the beacon 'the lamplight of peace' at Pamber Heath Beacon with Tadley Concert Brass.

On the Sunday of that weekend VE Day was commemorated in Tadley with a special service at St Mary's followed by 11:45am – 'bring your own' picnic/street party hosted by St Mary's and the Royal British Legion.



**St. Luke's Open Day** supported St Michaels Hospice and St Luke's roof repairs which have now been completed. St. Luke's has had well over £50,000 spent on maintaining and repairing the building over past year. I am so grateful for the Mission Group at Pamber Heath who have organised services and events and put St. Luke's very much on the village map and to those who attend the parish meetings and Cathy who writes regularly in the parish newsletter. Wednesday services, Coffee Morning and Oaks and Acorns are all thriving.

We had a fantastic evening hosting the **Youth Ministry Workshop** at St. Paul's. Thanks to everyone that came and team St. Paul's for providing amazing hospitality to our friends from across Basingstoke and beyond. **Feast of the Ascension** was celebrated at a benefice evening service in St. Luke's. The day Jesus tells us to wait and pray. The day we discover that every goodbye becomes a greater hello. The day the resurrected Jesus (who was once somewhere, sometime for some) became everywhere for everyone forever. Christ's Ascension means that he's here and now for you, with you, hearing your prayers. You and I can walk and talk with him through today, every step of the way, come what may.



## June



June 8th–14th was **Caring for God's Acre week**, when churches across the country are encouraged to celebrate the variety of natural species to be found in our churchyards and focus on our responsibilities to care for the beautiful world that God made. As in 2024, St Mary-the-Virgin turned to the Eco Council of Silchester School for their help to complete a nature count and to take some positive action to protect and grow the diversity of what lives in the churchyard, since, as Eco Council told Revd Karen "without wildlife, our world can't survive".

Our churches were represented at the **Tadley Treacle Fair**. Our stand is now one of the biggest at the Treacle Fair with 6 pitches along with The Men's Shed and Green Heath Tadley. We were able to use this event not only to advertise our services, but also Fête on The Green which took place the following week. It also offered a time to chat and pray with the local community.

**Fête on The Green** – Grew again to be the biggest event yet, with over 3000 people attending. This is a free event which everyone can enjoy. This year it was run very much as a community event which local businesses and stallholders sharing The Green with our church stalls. Music was provided by our church band and local band Carbon Copy. We were able to stage a fantastic Community event that attracted well over 1000 people. I am so grateful for the way in which the town council and local charities and residents have stepped up to allow us to provide lots of entertainment. I love the way our community has come together, and it is a real joy for me to witness how well local churches



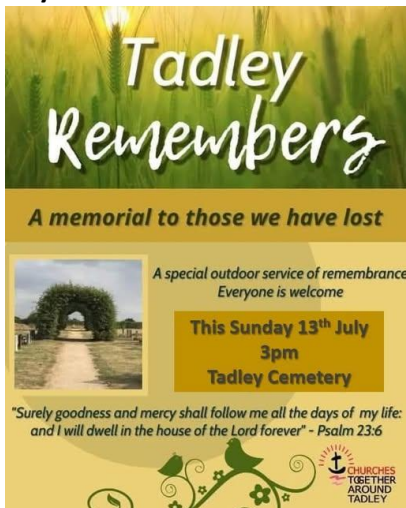
work together with the Tadley community as we celebrate this event. What a fantastic day we had at the biggest [Tadley Fete on The Green](#) yet!

For **St. Peter and St. Paul's Day** the Parish of Tadley went on a pilgrimage with a service at St. Peter's, Tadley old Church. We set off from St. Paul's on a pilgrimage walk to St. Peter's for our service and then enjoyed a picnic together afterwards.

May also saw a **grant for St. Luke's**. I want to express our thanks to [The National Lottery Community Fund](#) and our local community for supporting [St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath](#). The church and community space is almost 150 years old and during the last inspection it was revealed some serious work needed doing to the roof to ensure the building could be used for the next 150 years. Thankfully the National Lottery Community Fund came to the rescue, along with some hard work and generous fundraising by the Pamber Heath community. The scaffolding you now see is the result of the work being completed. If you have not been in St. Luke's pop along and have a look. The building is open every day



**July**



In July, the CTAT ministers led the annual 'Tadley Remembers' service - a memorial service where we remembered those we had lost. We invited families from all three of our parishes for whom we had conducted funerals. This event allowed us to reconnect with families more deeply, and the events seemed to be valued by all who attended. Tadley Concert Brass led our music, and the event was opened by the Leader of Tadley Town Council.

I am grateful to Tadley Town Council for letting use the cemetery each year for this event – it is a moving and poignant place for so many. It is also a great time to spend some time in St. Peter's after the service.

Congratulations to our 14 **Anna Chaplains** and 4 Anna Friends were commissioned at a special ecumenical service held at [St Paul's Church, Tadley](#). I am grateful for their gifts and service to older people in our community.



## August

It was a pleasure to marry so many couples in our churches throughout the summer, particularly at St. Mary the Virgin Silchester which remains a popular choice for couples both locally and from further afield. We look forward to the weddings which will take place summer 2026 (and the weddings already booked for 2027 and 2028!)

Also, in August **afternoon teas** were held at St. Mary the Virgin every Saturday and Sunday in August at the [Silchester Church - St Mary the Virgin](#). This was a great way to engage those passing.

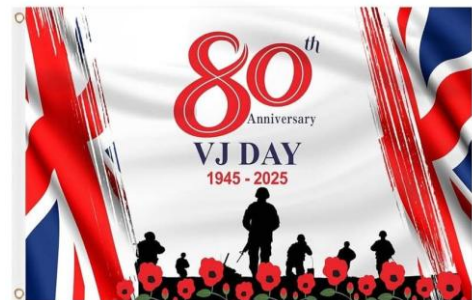


Thanks to everyone who came along to the garden tidy at [St Paul's Church, Tadley](#) in August for special **summer clean and gardening day**. We

drank coffee, ate cake, chatted and tackled some huge bushes that had started growing into the hall. The garden looks amazing now.

Thank you for your help.

In August we marked **VJ Day**. This day marked the end of World War 2. There were a number of special events taking place to mark this important anniversary such as: Remembrance around the war memorial at Baughurst/Heath End. Remembrance around the Tadley war memorial at St Paul's Tadley and a special VJ Day Remembrance Service at St Mary's Tadley, including a sunset flag lowering. When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today.



At the halfway point through the school holidays we prayed for the future of those (former) Year 6 pupils who have left Silchester School to move on to their secondary schools. Thanks to the generosity of those who support the church and those who attend events hosted by The [Silchester Association](#), we were (jointly) able

to support the trip to Winchester Cathedral for a leavers' service for all Y6 students in the Winchester Diocese, and ensure that they all had a memento of their time at the school with these stylish Leavers' hoodies!



## September

September began with the annual **Silchester Country Fayre and Dog Show**. This year the weather played ball and the new renamed 'Fayre' was bigger than ever! Thank you to all who helped,



supported and attended the and to [Silchester Village Market](#). It's great to get so many people (and their dogs) together to show what Silchester, the surrounding area, and the church has to offer. I am pleased that the church has been able to give a substantial sum from the profits made to support Silchester Church of England School. The following day we used the marquees to hold a New Beginnings ' service on the village

playing field. It was packed with songs, talks and reflections, not to mention a dramatized bible passage and a discussion with Dave (the rowing Dad). Rev Karen was joined by Mrs Moir and Mrs Rolph from [Silchester C of E Primary School](#) who spoke about the excitement of the new term. The collection went towards providing every student with a tub of Play Doh to assist with their tactile learning.



September also saw our annual **Battle of Britain Memorial** service led by Charles Lewis, which was attended by the Air Training Corps and several local and national dignitaries. I am so grateful to Charles for his organisation and passion for this service.



**Harvest** was celebrated in our churches with lots of donations to the local Food Bank and some of the wonderful decorations gifted to us to decorate the churches.

At Silchester a special Harvest service and Harvest Lunch was held in the Village Hall. A very well attended service with wonderful accompaniment from Tadley Concert Brass, followed by a fantastic lunch. Thanks too to Peter and Lindsay Allison for the superb food. Our churches continued our collection for the Basingstoke Food Bank throughout the month.



A very **special service on The Green** as we commemorated the end of WWII.

I got to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to commemorate **80 years since the atomic bombings** on 6th and 9th of August 1945, which killed over 200,000 people and injured many more. On 2nd September 1945, the peace treaty was signed, bringing an end to WWII. Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester has a proud tradition of remembering. I am grateful for our strong links the Royal British Legion.



### October

In October we held a **car wash** - What a wonderful way for everyone to support Uganda so brilliantly. The total raised was well over £1500. Well done Christine and Bryan and all the helpers.



The following week at [St Mary's Tadley](#) a cooked breakfast was enjoyed to add more to the fundraising pot. Every penny went directly to support the children and teachers at The Adonai School and Children's Home, Namugongo and New Horizon School, Gayaza.

We Celebrated St. Luke's Day in October with Patronal Sunday service as one church family at [St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath](#).

St. Paul's was the venue for



**Tadley Concert Brass** who support so many of our services and events, Together we raised in excess of £1000.00 in aid of [Macmillan](#) which was amazing.

Towards the end of the month, as an alternative to Halloween the Labyrinth at St. Mary's was a trail of light and outside **St. Mary's free hot chocolate** were given out to warm everyone up! Events like this show that St. Mary's is very much as it was designed to be – at the heart of it's community.

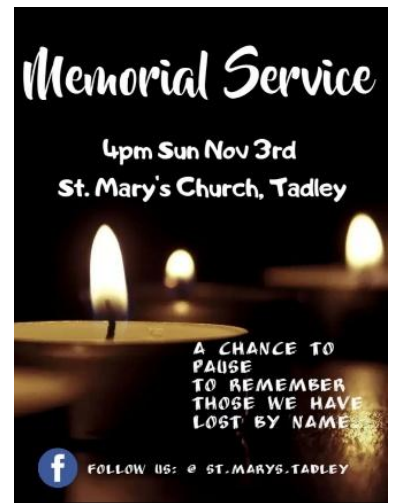


Thank you to all who helped in October with the **clear up of the churchyard** hedges at Silchester. Many hands really did really make light work. Special thanks to Geoff who manages the churchyard throughout the year.



**November**

At the end start of November, our **benefice All-Soul's service** was well attended. Nearly all families for whom we have taken a recent funeral attended having received personal invitations. We have received some wonderful feedback about how touched the families were to be included and how the event has helped the grieving process. Across the year, funerals seem to come in fits and starts and no longer seem to regularly spaced out as in the past. It is thought (across the Deanery) that the rise in low cost non attended direct cremations has had an impact on this occasional office.



Also in November **Bishop Kelly** was licenced, making a new era in the life our diocese Bryan, Christine, Janet and Paul also arrived in Uganda. We continue to pray for their work and the Adonai Centre. We give thanks to God for them, and all the work that has taken place over the years in Uganda.



November is season of Remembrance – Record numbers at our Remembrance services,

As well as St. Mary's **Remembrance service**, Rev Chris Knight led the act of remembrance at the Baughurst War Memorial which attracted over many 100s of people. An Act of Remembrance also took place at Silchester War Memorial led by Rev Karen and at St. Luke's Pamber Heath led by Rev Cathy. There were also record numbers at the Tadley Remembrance Day Service, whilst Charles Lewis led the service of remembrance in Basingstoke attended by 1000s.





This year has seen a marked increase in numbers for public events and perhaps a turning point since pandemic. You will read later that numbers were also very high this year at our Christmas events...maybe even a record for the diocese! Our **Messy Church Remembrance** featured in the Diocese Newsletter. Messy Remembrance, provided an opportunity for all ages to mark Remembrance in a family-friendly way. Messy Church takes place at St Paul's on the second Sunday of each month, attracting up to 200 people. We joined together to think about those who fought for our freedom with a story, crafts, and some fantastic food. We

had a time of silence at 11 am and thought about the men on the War Memorial outside the church. It was wonderful to do this with 150 people ranging from 1 month old to 90 years old, particularly as most returned in the afternoon for our main Tadley service of remembrance. It was a busy day at St. Paul's, but one where, as a community, young and old, we declared that 'We will remember them'".



November also saw our first **Lego Church**. The idea of Lego Church is for those unfamiliar with church to experience the shape of a church service, with liturgy reflective of what we do week in, week out, whilst being challenge Lego builds! This has been really well received and numbers continue to grow.

During the month, Chris, Karen and I carried out some **training for pastoral visits** and home communion with a large team from across our benefice. We look forward to a bigger team, strengthening our pastoral presence and the ability to visit more people in their homes next year. I intend to repeat this training for those that missed it.

I was very grateful to several of our parishes who celebrated mine and Cathy's 'Big 0' birthdays at the end of November.



## December

The benefice saw a **big rise in numbers attending Christmas services** this year with well over 1500 of the community attending services in the two weeks leading up to Christmas.



December kicked off with a presence at the **Tadley Town Christmas Lights switch on**. This event gave the opportunity to let the community know what was happening across our Churches at Christmas. Our stall remained very popular and we were able to successfully publicise our Christmas events. A record number of Christmas leaflets were given out this year. Over 500 in total - Double that of last year.

A week later was our **Christmas Fayre and Craft Market**, held in St. Paul's church and hall at St. Paul's. While the church focused on food and refreshments, we were able to invite 25 local traders to set up shop. It was also wonderful to see organisations such as The Men's Shed and CTAT represented with stalls. There was a wonderful Christmas atmosphere. Many of the stall holders have already asked about Fete on the Green in the summer of 2025.

I am grateful for Jean Kyle, Deanne Wagstaff and Virge Routledge's help and leadership of this event



We had also been knitting stars throughout the year and one

early morning these took flight across Tadley as we distributed around 5000 stars with a link to our services.

The first Christmas service was **Messy Christmas** at St. Paul's, Tadley where families were invited to come along dressed as a character from the nativity and join in with the story. Around 150 came dressed up, took part in crafts, ate breakfast together and took a part in the Christmas story. This was an increase of 50 on the year before. This was followed a week later by RISE - another intergenerational breakfast service at St. Mary's, Tadley where we built Christingles.

That afternoon we held **Carol services** at St. Mary the Virgin, Silchester and St. Peter's, Tadley. The services were so popular that in order to get everyone one in the ancient 12<sup>th</sup>

century church of St. Peter's we had to hold two carol services back-to-back! St. Peter's is a very special place to the people of Tadley and to be able to hold a carol service for nearly 200 people in a place where people have celebrated Christmas for almost 1000 years makes it even more so.



The next day a **Tadley Live Nativity trail** was hosted between the churches which attracted around 500 people. Actors from the churches acted out a scenes from the Christmas story at each church. Culminating at St. Mary's, Tadley where the stable scene took place with live animals, followed by music, mulled wine and mince pies. We could never have imagined in our wildest dreams how popular this event would be. Numbers tripled on the year before! The event was due to start at 4pm and my heart sank at 3.55pm when there were just 5 families outside the first church, but suddenly people started streaming into the car park from all across Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester and we lost count at around 450!



**Christmas Eve Crib** services are a tradition across the parishes of Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester and 4 services were held across the benefice. Many dressed-up to be part of the story at St. Luke's, Pamber Heath. Over 100 taking part at St. Mary the Virgin, Silchester. Around 400 turned up the service at St. Paul's, Tadley and were treated to 'The Chocolate Nativity.' How many ways can you tell the Christmas story? Well, after much deliberation, I decided to dress up as the owner of a chocolate factory (joined by Simon Day as a talking chocolate bar!) We told the whole story only using chocolate...yes it can be done! There were plenty of 'Dad jokes,' some fantastic carols courtesy of Tadley Concert brass and of course the good news of God with us as we told the Christmas story.



Four **midnight services** were held and were all packed even at that time of night. On Christmas Day there was a service in each of the three parishes including the annual Christmas Day quiz at St. Paul's.

I am particularly pleased by how we engaged our **schools over Christmas**. Tadley School chose to hold three Christmas services in St. Paul's and it is wonderful to see the link between St. Mary the Virgin and Silchester School continue to flourish. I am grateful to Rev Karen who serves on the governing body.

Our **Christmas Toy appeal** collections made sure that families across the area received joy at Christmas. A fantastic toy service was held in Silchester at the school, A rough count revealed that we'd even more toys than last year, a truly remarkable result for a small(ish), but very generous village and church community.



We have been so blessed by our church teams and the people of Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester. It's amazing to think that well over 1500 people have heard the message of the light and love of Christ at Christmas across our benefice. We've seen more people wanting to engage with faith and explore what it means to be part of our church community. One of the things I love about Christmas is that it is a story for us; each and every one of us. People told me that's why they turned up to sing carols, why they want to hear the readings, it's not just to hear the story again; the story is for us. God with us and we're intimately involved.

**As we move forward in 2026 we have a lot to celebrate already!**

- St. Paul's Get-Togethers continue and are growing each month. They have increased from 1 to 2 a month.
- St. Luke's Coffee Mornings continue and attract a great number as do the monthly Pub Lunches at the Pelican
- St. Mary's Breakfasts are fantastic and have been raising over £500 some months for a different charity each month.
- Our home groups continue to provide support and discipleship across the benefice with the potential of a new group in Silchester.

- This year already we have hosted 200 people at the [Tadley Churches Together - CTAT](#) Unity Service yesterday. We are so grateful for the unity between our churches here in Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester. Church is better when we do it together! If you are thinking about exploring life or faith this year, do get in contact with any of our churches. It was amazing to host over 200 people at the [Tadley Churches Together - CTAT](#) Unity Service yesterday. We are so grateful for the unity between our churches here in Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester. Church is better when we do it together! If you are thinking about exploring life or faith this year, do get in contact with any of our churches.



- We have had a fantastic benefice services and the Bishop's Visit on Palm Sunday.
- Our benefice Youth Group continues each month.
- Our fresh expressions continue to thrive. Numbers at Messy Church last year were regularly around 100. This is now around 150 every month! So successful is Messy Church that we need a bigger church!
- Lego Church Started in September and has grown each month to between 40 - 50 people each month.
- Number RISE have declined this year, but are starting to see an increase again.
- All three parishes have 'first Sunday services' allowing us to stretch and grow us as disciples.



- **St. Mary's Breakfasts** - Following the completion of the building project, breakfast began in earnest in 2024 averaging around £250 a month, in 2025 this doubled to over £500 a month. The first breakfast of 2026 raised over £700. It shows that this project has been a real lever for mission. I am so proud of the team at St. Mary's. It would have been so easy to see this a way to boost church funds, but they just want to serve and to give. They love our community and are passionate about feeding them both spiritually and physically! The breakfasts have ensured that whether you are on your way to school or work, or simply want somewhere warm and welcoming, St. Mary's is open and at the heart of its community. It is church as it should be: welcoming, warm, honest, inclusive, and generous.



- We have several events already planned for the remainder of the year such as 'Fete on The Green' and the ever-popular Silchester Country Fayre.

- Pub lunches have continued at the Pelican as well as a successful Coffee morning at St. Luke's
- Our Alpha course attracted a large number of participants.
- We continue to develop our relationships with Men's Shed at St. Mary's.
- We are be working with Tadley Under 5's Pre-School as part of their Forrest Schools Curriculum.
- Our social media reach is huge, with all 3 parishes growing their social media reach. St. Paul's now has nearly 1200 followers,

# Alpha Course



**Wednesdays in St Paul's Church, Tadley**

11<sup>th</sup> February | 25<sup>th</sup> February | 4<sup>th</sup> March

11<sup>th</sup> March | 18<sup>th</sup> March | 25<sup>th</sup> March | 1<sup>st</sup> April

*With an introductory session on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

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- **Midweek services** – We continue to have two of the largest midweek services in the diocese. Considering the services are both Holy Communion and both at the same time, between them they attract up to 60 people. Many are not our usual Sunday congregation members. I am grateful in particular to Cathy, Linda, Charles, Chris, Paddy and many others who put so much of themselves into these services.
- New services - St. Luke's continue their 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday services and shortly evening services at St. Peter's will resume. St Mary the Virgin, Silchester have a new 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday intergenerational service, complimenting Messy Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun) RISE (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun) and Lego Church (4<sup>th</sup> Sun)
- As I write we are looking forward to our Easter activities and our visit from Bishop Philip.

Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester

Join us for  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**FOR ALL**

*An intergenerational service for everyone*

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH	10 AM
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St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester

Church Lane, Silchester, RG7 2HH  
www.silchesterchurch.co.uk

**A vision for 2026**

How do we move forwards in love and faith from here. I'd like us to build on what we have achieved in 2025, particularly in regards to our **CULTURE**.



Last year I invited us to focus on 3 areas: **Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship.** I'd also like us to add becoming more: **Intergenerational and inclusive.** This is how I see the mission of the benefice as it seeks to demonstrate the love of God in our communities.

**We aim to be:**

- **Welcoming** - We want to welcome you to our family we would love you to join us as often as possible.
- **Generous** - We believe God holds nothing back and neither should we.
- **Loving** - We know that God loves us far more than we can know. Jesus tells us to love one another as he has loved us. That is what we try to do.
- **Intergenerational** - We think everyone can take part in our worship, young and old and everyone in-between! We're in it together for life!
- **Inclusive** - We want to welcome everyone. There's a safe place for you in this church.

**THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU**

**Let's recap why this is important to us:** Research from successful churches shows that these three elements are the key ingredients for growth and discipleship. They reflect how Jesus lived. When we engage in radical generosity, authentic

hospitality and grow friendships rather than just friendliness we create missional opportunities living the love of God in all we do.

This year I want us to continue be radical with our welcome. It might mean on occasions letting someone else take over on the door so you can take that new person to a seat, chat to them and get to know them. It could be introducing them to others, so come coffee time it's not quite so weird. It may mean praying for them and visiting them later that week.

It may mean looking seriously at how we do church. You wouldn't let someone wait over an hour in your own house for a coffee why do we do that in church?

Those who have challenged me on this, will know how passionate I am about it. It's the one thing I will not budge on! It's what makes me see red when we neglect it!

**Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship** is how Jesus lived. It is something we can all do easily, but it's also the first thing we let go when we let our preferred traditions take precedence over following Jesus' instructions to love one another...and especially the stranger.

**Let's consider working on the next two priorities - Becoming fully intergenerational and Inclusive**

We've had a go at this, we won't get it right first time or all the time, but the important thing is we are trying and we are being intentional about it.

We have explored joining the Inclusive Church Network at all 3 parish PCCs, and have not yet taken that step – that doesn't mean that we aren't ready to be inclusive or that we can't be inclusive! It simply means that we make sure our services feed everyone, the newcomer, the older person, the child, the parent who is only there for their child and of course the rest of us who have hung around church for ages!

It means we must pray - this has both spiritual and physical implications.

**P – Prioritise** – We must budget for this work first before anything else.

**R – Resource** – We have to be willing to resource it with time, people, and money.

**A – Adapt** – We have to change what we do in services and how we operate.

**Y – You** – Every member of our church family must be involved in this.

The aim is not to neglect our older members or focus so much on children that the rest of us feel bereft, but to involve **everyone** in our services. We need a careful focus on discipleship to ensure each of us is on the path to growth.

We have made great inroads and whilst this is very much a beneficent wide vision I also have some challenges for each parish:

**Tadley** – How might we develop our vision to extend the church building and grow the church to be a lever for our mission. How can we lean into Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship, Intergenerational work and inclusivity as we seek to fundraise to make this happen. There is an important mission here to involve all of our community in what we are doing.

**Tadley North** – How will we continue to develop our church (and especially our intergenerational work) in a way in which all feel welcome with the resources we have. We should continue to visit other contexts and discover further ways to demonstrate Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship, Intergenerational and inclusivity.

**Silchester** – Our location is both a massive benefit and drawback. How might we lean into Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship, Intergenerational work and inclusivity as we cater for all those who visit while walking around the walls. How might we continue to develop our new 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday service so they are appealing to families, knowing that our geographical location is far from the centre of village life.

Finally, as we continue to look forward, I recently attended a Bishop's Study Day which focused on 'Leading Your Church into Growth' (or LyCiG as it is better known by). The day reminded us of some simple steps we could take now which evidence has shown lead to growth...for example an obvious but often forgotten step...praying for it!

I would like us to consider church growth as part of our ongoing 2026 strategy. Not just a growth in numbers but a growth in our faith and our mission....

**A growth in our Generosity. A growth in our Hospitality. A growth in our Friendship. A growth in our Intergenerational work. A growth in our Inclusivity**

Last year our PCCs began praying the prayer below. You might like to join us in praying it:

God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions, And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

For now, I want to thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to lead this benefice and I want to thank every one of you for the care and love you show each other and our churches. I feel proud of what we have achieved and excited by what God has in store for us this year.  
***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*** - Jeremiah 29:11

With love in Christ

Reverend Steve McKay

Rector of the United Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester.

## **Churchwarden's Report for 2025**

We are very fortunate to have Rev Karen West and Rev Cathy Pynn taking our services on a regular basis. We are also lucky to have Eve Baker and Colin Hunt to lead our 'non communion' services. Less frequently we also welcome Rev Steve McKay and Rev Chris Knight from Tadley. All very different but all work hard to give us thought-provoking services which we appreciate. We are also fortunate to have Henry Peat and John Pynn as regular organists as well as others to ask if or when the need arises. Most churches are not so lucky.

The PCC, the Standing Committee and the Worship Group all continue to meet regularly, as does the Silchester Ecumenical Group. The Silchester magazine is compiled, printed, collated and distributed monthly and we are grateful to all the volunteers who are involved. The magazine is definitely an essential for village life and we are grateful that Claire & John Richardson are able to continue in their role as editors.

In February the choir was asked to go to the Marnel Care Home in Chineham to celebrate Ralph Atton's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have since been invited back a few times with Karen leading short services appropriate to the season. Many of the residents enjoy joining in with the hymns.

Our first 'Wedding Event' was held in March. This was a great success and will be repeated. The event enabled our wedding couples to meet us, to meet each other and to consider the legalities and logistics of having their wedding in our church. We had seven weddings in 2025 between June and November with the number of guests ranging from 20 to about 140.

In 2024 we said that as the current village is located some distance from our church we would try having some services in the centre of the village. In May 2025 VE day was recognised with a Songs of Praise service, on the Sunday, in a marquee and with a short service at the War memorial on VE day itself. Both were held in conjunction with other village groups. Other services included Songs of Praise the day after the Country Fayre, a Harvest Festival celebration and a Christingle/Toy Service in the school. All these services were well attended and well received. Toys were taken to the Tadley Salvation Army for distribution and it is worth noting that the amount of toys was, once again, significantly increased by having a box on the bar in the Calleva Pub. Christmas services in the church were also well attended.

The church continues to welcome many visitors, some of whom are attracted by the historic building, others who are walking the St James' Way, and some searching for peace. All this is only possible due to the people on our security rota. In May we welcomed the Camino Pilgrimage group as part of the Reading Walks festival. In June the Silchester Phoenix Club enjoyed a history talk from Mike Cole. Also in June was a concert by the Silchester Community Choir who like the acoustics. The Bellringers hosted a handbell workshop in

April and the Basingstoke Ringers Guild in December. We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic group who ring for us on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

We continue to have good links, and joint ventures, with the Silchester Methodists, with other churches in the Tadley Benefice and with CTAT (Churches Together Around Tadley). We maintain strong links with Silchester Primary School. The Country Fayre in early September is organised by a committee of villagers, churchgoers, and market representatives.

The fabric of the church remains in good order helped by another 'Big Church Clean' in November and by individuals dealing with small problems as they arise. The graveyard is looking very good thanks to regular work by Geoff Willmott and a working group of churchgoers and villagers one Saturday in the autumn.

The Parish Rooms have undergone significant improvement during the year, many thanks to all who were involved in this, and are regularly used by the local art group and by the magazine team for printing and collating every month.

I am very grateful to Hannah Evans and Colin Hunt for continuing in their roles as safeguarding officer and administrator. Both are essential roles for our duty of care to our church community and visitors.

Also my thanks to all those who contribute to the smooth running of both our services and the building. Those on the rotas for security, reading, sidesmen, flowers, cleaning, prayers, refreshments and those who compile the rotas. Thanks also to the bellringers, the choir and organists, to the magazine team and all those who do things 'behind the scenes'.

Finally, I could not have managed without considerable help from Richard, Sandra and Veronica who have all recently been churchwardens and who have kept me on track throughout the year. Thank you all.

Jan Hughes

Churchwarden

## **Deanery Synod Report for 2025**

There were two full meetings held in 2025.

The first was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February at Christ Church, Chineham, and was attended by Mr Hunt. The meeting heard from the Archdeacon, the Ven. Richard Brand, concerning his thoughts on the subject of Transition & Change, in which he reviewed changes made over the last 5 years, some of which have been painful. 22 Clergy posts have been lost, together with reductions to diocesan central and support staff. He thanked parishes for their contributions to the Common Mission Fund, but warned that we must avoid allowing the state of the finances to dictate our responses to our mission as Christians.

There then followed a presentation from a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee which went into detail about the Common Mission Fund and the financial challenges faced by Winchester Diocese. An annual deficit of at least £1,000,000 is predicted by 2030 if CMF parochial contributions do not pick up from their present level. (Note that the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Silchester, did in fact contribute above its assessed “share” for 2024.)

The second meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October at St Mary’s, Eastrop, attended by Mr Hunt. The theme of the meeting was “Cultivating Deeper Faith”. Following an introduction by the Area Dean, those present were divided into small groups comprising representatives from different parishes, with each group asked to consider the following:

### **Theology | Starting with Why: Returning to Our First Love**

- The great commandment in four dimensions [heart + soul + mind + strength]
- What does it mean to love God with all your mind?
- What does it look like to create a culture of spiritual growth, intellectual curiosity & Christian maturity in our churches?

### **Spirituality | Reclaiming Holy Ground**

- How might the study of Scripture, the practice of theology, or the wrestling over the big questions of life and faith be reclaimed as a spiritual discipline, an act of prayer, an offering of worship?
- What does it look like to create intentional, specific spaces in our parishes for going deeper in prayer, in worship, in holy conversations, in study?

### **Mission | Planting Roots: From Encounter to Greater Depth**

- What are we noticing about those who are approaching our churches with spiritual longing and deep questions? How can we be equipped to respond well to the spiritual hunger of those we are welcoming into our churches?
- What does it look like in your context to encourage seekers who are just beginning a journey into faith?
- For those who offer courses like Alpha, Christianity Explored or Pilgrim, what comes next? What has helped others move from an initial encounter with faith into a journey of belonging and Christian discipleship?

### **Discipleship | Cultivating Diverse Ecosystems of Growing Faith**

- There are many ways the parishes of our deanery are actively encouraging new depth of discipleship in our churches.

- Select one or two of the following themes to discuss together as a group, sharing examples from your context and exploring creative new ideas:
  - o Cultivating deeper faith amongst children & young people
  - o Cultivating deeper faith in schools
  - o Cultivating deeper faith in surprising places (park, pub, prison, hospice, toddler group, school gate, coffee shop, workplace)
  - o Cultivating deeper faith in small groups
  - o Cultivating deeper faith through teaching & preaching
  - o Cultivating deeper faith through worship & prayer
  - o Cultivating deeper faith through baptism & confirmation
  - o Cultivating deeper faith through mentorship
  - o Cultivating deeper faith through the training & equipping of the saints

Colin Hunt and Sandra Speight

Deanery Synod Representatives for St Mary the Virgin, Silchester.

## **Safeguarding Report**

No report of concern about safeguarding was raised during 2025.

Miss Hannah Evans continues to hold the position of Parish Safeguarding Officer. Mr Colin Hunt remains as DBS and Safeguarding Administrator.

Despite the (very welcome) lack of concerns, there was nevertheless the usual administrative activity during the year. DBS clearances and safeguarding training were kept under review and renewed or initiated when necessary. Oral reports on Safeguarding matters were made in every PCC meeting, supplemented by written reports in March and July. Policies and procedures were reviewed, with additions where indicated.

For a second time, a principal Sunday service in September was planned with a safeguarding theme.

Winchester Diocese supports the use of a “parish safeguarding dashboard” through its website, and this prompts any necessary safeguarding-related actions which are then recorded. The tool acts as both a guide and an audit tool, so that both the parish and diocesan staff are appraised of the status of each parish’s safeguarding arrangements. An Action Plan is generated, copied to, and then approved by the PCC, which sets out those actions needed to achieve full compliance with all requirements. There are currently no outstanding actions.

Safeguarding as a topic appears on the agenda for all PCC and Standing Committee meetings. In addition, specific written reports were submitted to PCC members for their March and July meetings.

Colin Hunt and Hannah Evans

## **Treasurer's Report for the Year ending December 2025**

I begin by expressing my gratitude to Sheila and Richard Fletcher and Heidi Williams for looking after the administration of the Gift Aid claims and the stewardship of the Parish Giving Scheme and for the diligent recording of cash receipts to help us maintain accurate records of the PCC's income and expenditure results which also aids forward planning.

The accounts for 2025 again show a healthy position where the church is not reliant on fundraising activities to cover its obligations to the Winchester Diocese.

In terms of significant expenditure, 2025 again saw funds being invested in the church buildings with most of the non-regular expenditure being spent on dealing with some overdue maintenance of the churchyard by external contractors (assisted by volunteers). The Magazine continues to retain a loyal band of advertisers and readers, and in a stark departure from the near washout of the 2024 fête, the 2025 event fell into a dry weather gap between 2 periods of unsettled weather and yielded a positive result.

The United Benefice of Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester continued its commitment to retain the services of a Benefice Administrator. This role has proved invaluable in supporting the clergy and churchwardens with the benefits of reallocating administration tasks far outweighing the relatively modest cost.

As mentioned above, one of the most positive factors in the accounts is that the level of giving through collections and donations is at a level which covers Silchester's obligation to the Common Mission Fund (previously the Parish Share). This fund, for which Silchester was requested in 2025 to contribute more than £34,000 is not only to cover the cost of clergy but more importantly to ensure that the community is supported by the outreach of the church through initiatives that are vital for many parishioners. In early 2025, the PCC agreed to support the Winchester Diocese by making an additional payment to the Common Mission Fund to support the difficult position that the Diocese found itself in financially. In early 2026, the PCC has elected to support a cause closer to home, bridging a funding gap at the church-aided Silchester Church of England Primary School through its commitment to improving the Early Years play area. The overall cost of circa £100,000 had largely been met by the Winchester Diocese and an anonymous donor, the remaining £5,000 had been funded from an already overstretched school budget. The church hopes that by making up this shortfall, that it might allow the school to focus more on the positive impact of this EY provision.

The PCC remains eternally grateful to those who have responded to events by maintaining or increasing their levels of regular giving and also to those who have chosen to join the Parish Giving Scheme\*.

Overall, Silchester PCC remains once again in a fortunate position. We have a regular service schedule led by clergy and lay worship leaders (most operating on a voluntary basis) and it has cash reserves to support the church fabric and ministry and, more importantly, has a depth of resources to draw upon in our church family. 2026 will once again continue to pose a challenge to all household incomes and the corresponding level of generosity through giving that they can afford.

Richard Eldridge

Treasurer

April 2026

\* The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) can be subscribed to by calling 0333 002 1271 (membership number 416004221) or visiting <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/silchester-reading/> All donations and associated Gift Aid claims accrue directly to the church.

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER</b>						
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>						
<b>For the year ended 31 December 2025</b>						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>						
Incoming resources from donors	39,145	-	39,145	37,035	-	37,035
Other voluntary incoming resources	20,442	3,300	23,742	22,288	-	22,288
Income from charitable and operating activities	15,406	-	15,406	10,011	-	10,011
Income from investments	-	-	-	307	-	307
Other ordinary incoming resources	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>74,993</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>78,293</b>	<b>69,640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,640</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>						
Missionary and charitable giving:	2,250	-	2,250	3,664	-	3,664
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	63,278	2,900	66,178	60,063	-	60,063
Church Management and administration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising and Publicity	8,514	-	8,514	10,191	-	10,191
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>74,042</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>76,942</b>	<b>73,918</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,918</b>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	951	400	1,351	(4,277)	0	(4,277)
<b>Gross Transfers</b>	181	(181)	0	0		0
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	1,132	219	1,351	(4,277)	0	(4,277)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY	20,546	42,908	63,454	24,823	42,908	67,731
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>21,678</b>	<b>43,127</b>	<b>64,805</b>	<b>20,546</b>	<b>42,908</b>	<b>63,454</b>
	(0)	(0)	(0)		(0)	(0)

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER</b>						
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025</b>						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible fixed assets			-			-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors	-		-	2,050		<b>2,050</b>
Stocks	-		-	-		-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	21,678	43,127	<b>64,805</b>	20,546	42,908	<b>63,454</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Amounts falling within one year		0	<b>0</b>		0	<b>0</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>21,678</b>	<b>43,127</b>	<b>64,805</b>	<b>22,596</b>	<b>42,908</b>	<b>65,504</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,678</b>	<b>43,127</b>	<b>64,805</b>	<b>22,596</b>	<b>42,908</b>	<b>65,504</b>
<b>Representing:-</b>						
<b>FUNDS</b>						
Unrestricted	21,678	-	<b>21,678</b>	22,596	-	<b>22,596</b>
Designated & Restricted	-	43,127	<b>43,127</b>	-	42,908	<b>42,908</b>
	<b>21,678</b>	<b>43,127</b>	<b>64,805</b>	<b>22,596</b>	<b>42,908</b>	<b>65,504</b>
	- 0	-	- 0	0	-	0
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on:						
		Rev S McKay (PCC Chairman)				
		R Eldridge (Treasurer)				
The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts.						

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER</b>						
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>						
<b>For the year ended 31 December 2025</b>						
<b>1</b>	<b>ACCOUNTING POLICIES</b>					
In so far as it is appropriate for the needs of the PCC, these accounts have been prepared on the accruals accounting basis, using the regulations set out in Chapter 8 of the "Guidance on Accounts, reports and scrutiny", including the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 prescribed by the Business Committee of the General Synod. Since the gross income in 2025 falls below £500,000 these financial statements do not require the scrutiny of a Registered Auditor and are therefore subject to review by the Independent Examiner.						
<b>2</b>	<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
			<b>2025</b>			<b>2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2(a)</b>	<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>					
	Planned Giving:					
	- Gift Aided donations	28,527	28,527	27,871		27,871
	- Tax Recoverable	7,396	7,396	6,440		6,440
	- Other ordinary incoming resources		-	863		863
	Collections at all services		-			-
	Sundry donations	3,222	3,222	1,861		1,861
		39,145	39,145	37,035	-	37,035
<b>2(b)</b>	<b>Other voluntary incoming resources</b>					
	Grants	1,450	1,450			-
	Donations, Appeals etc.		3,300	2,300		2,300
	Fetes and other fund-raising events (inc B Ball)	18,992	18,992	19,988		19,988
	Legacies		-			-
		20,442	23,742	22,288	-	22,288
<b>2(c)</b>	<b>Incoming from charitable and operating activities</b>					
	Magazine Advertisements	4,496	4,496	4,501		4,501
	Magazine subscriptions	2,381	2,381	2,344		2,344
	Printing		-			-
	Sale of publications		-			-
	Fees	8,529	8,529	3,166		3,166
		15,406	15,406	10,011	-	10,011
<b>2(d)</b>	<b>Income from investments</b>					
	Bank Cash Management Interest		-	307		307
		-	-	307	-	307
<b>2(e)</b>	<b>Other ordinary incoming resources</b>					
	Petty Cash		-			-
	Church fees		-			-
	Asset surplus		-			-
		-	-	-	-	-
	<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>74,993</b>	<b>78,293</b>	<b>69,640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,640</b>

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER</b>						
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>						
<b>For the year ended 31 December 2025</b>						
<b>3</b>	<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
			<b>2025</b>			<b>2024</b>
3(a)	<b>Grants</b>					
3(a)	<b>Missionary and charitable giving</b>					
	<b>Church Overseas:</b>					
	External Charities	2,250	2,250	3,664		3,664
		2,250	2,250	3,664	-	3,664
3(b)	<b>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</b>					
	Ministry: Parish Share	35,325	35,325	34,052		34,052
	Expenses of office	4,518	4,518	3,385		3,385
	Upkeep of Services	3,178	3,178	495		495
	Sub & Membership	195	195	249		249
	General Expenses		-			-
	Heat, Light & Water	4,368	4,368	4,239		4,239
	Insurance	2,944	2,944	2,889		2,889
	WDBF -Diocesan Fees (Weddings & funerals)		-			-
	Depreciation		-			-
	Wedding/Funeral Fees Paid	1,944	1,944	243		243
	Ref Books & Literature	157	157			-
	Church Maintenance	1,069	3,969	2,329		2,329
	Expenditure on Magazine	1,211	1,211	2,352		2,352
	Upkeep of Churchyard	4,160	4,160	6,500		6,500
	Mission Church Running Costs	500	500	500		500
	Organists' Honorarium & other music costs	383	383	144		144
	Organ/Piano Tuning/Repairs		-			-
	Staff costs	3,325	3,325	2,686		2,686
	Flower Expenses		-			-
		63,278	66,178	60,063	-	60,063
3(c)	<b>Church Management and administration</b>					
	Post, Telephone & Stationery, Miscellaneous		-		-	-
			-			-
3(d)	<b>Fund Raising and Publicity</b>					
	Cost of fetes, fundraising etc	8,514	8,514	10,191		10,191
			-			-
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>74,042</b>	<b>76,942</b>	<b>73,918</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,918</b>

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER</b>						
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>						
<b>For the year ended 31 December 2025</b>						
<b>4 STAFF COSTS</b>						
The PCC does not have any salaried employees. A member of staff is shared across the Benefice, they are employed by St Mary's, Tadley (North) PCC.						
Volunteers undertake the cleaning and security of the church.						
<b>5 FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Neither the Parish Church nor the Mission Church, both buildings being licensed for public worship, are required to be valued for purposes of these accounts. Both are fully insured for re-instatement costs in the event of fire or other major disaster, but not against terrorist attack.						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
			<b>2025</b>			<b>2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>						
Opening Balance	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>						
Opening Balance	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>	4,284	-	<b>4,284</b>
Closing Net Book Value	-	-	-	0	-	<b>0</b>
Opening Net Book Value	-	-	-	0	-	<b>0</b>
<b>6 CASH AT BANK</b>						
The PCC holds no stocks or shares.						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
<b>7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS</b>			<b>2025</b>			<b>2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	21,678	43,127	<b>64,805</b>	20,546	42,908	<b>63,454</b>
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current Liabilities	2,500	0	<b>2,500</b>	(6,000)	0	<b>(6,000)</b>
	24,178	43,127	<b>67,305</b>	14,546	42,908	<b>57,454</b>

<b>DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS</b>	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable		-	-	2,050	-	<b>2,050</b>
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Debtors						
	-	-	-	2,050	-	<b>2,050</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>						
Accruals	(3,000)	0	<b>(3,000)</b>	(6,000)	0	<b>(6,000)</b>
Other creditors	-		<b>0</b>	-		<b>0</b>
	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>
<b>FUND DETAILS</b>						
The designated and restricted funds comprise:						
Fabric fund		20,242			25,277	
Mission church fund		5,000			5,000	
Churchyard fund		4,149			4,149	
Goddard memorial fund		4,259			4,259	
Ministry Team fund		1,750			1,750	
Music Fund		1,500			1,500	
Missions and charities fund		2,800			250	
Bell Fund		3,427			723	
General fund (unrestricted)	21,678			22,596		
<b>5</b>						

**Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Silchester**  
**Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on the accompanying pages.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

**It is my responsibility to:**

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

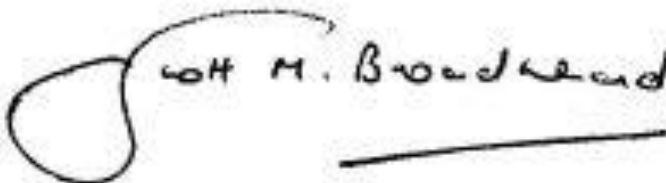
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott M. Broadhead". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Scott Broadhead (FCCA)  
Maids Moreton  
Buckingham

25 March 2026

THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING &**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON

SUNDAY April 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2026/2027

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Welcome – The Rector
2. Presentation of the Church Electoral Roll
3. Approval of minutes from last APCM of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025
4. Presentation of Annual Report containing:
  - Secretary's Report of proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally
  - Rector's and Resident Vicar's Reports
  - Churchwardens' Report (including Fabric, Goods and Ornaments)
  - Deanery Synod Report
  - Report on Safeguarding
  - Treasurer's Report and presentation of 2025 accounts
  - Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts
5. Election of Officers
  - Deanery Synod Representatives - 2 Representatives required
  - Members of the PCC for 2026/2027 (up to 5 to be (re-)elected, each for a term of 3 years)
  - Sidesmen and Sideswomen for 2026/2027
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Closing Prayers