

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
OWLSMOOR
SANDHURST
BERKSHIRE
GU47 OSS**



ANNUAL MEETINGS

2026

ANNUAL MEETINGS 2026

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**PLEASE READ THESE DOCUMENTS
AND BRING THEM WITH YOU TO THE MEETING**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS**

SUNDAY, 26th April 2026

A G E N D A

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the meeting on 27th April 2025
3. Election of Churchwardens

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS**

Held at 11.40 am on Sunday, 27th April 2025

1. Opening

The meeting was chaired by Brenda, who opened by reading the Prayer of St George.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 21st April 2024

The minutes, as printed on page 4 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2025, were proposed for acceptance by Gill Faulkner, seconded by Pat Rae, approved by all present, and signed as a true record of that meeting.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Nominations received for Churchwarden were Margaret Walker and Brenda Davies. Margaret and Brenda both agreed to stand as churchwardens for a further year. Both were proposed by Judith Dodds, seconded by Chris Jones, and approved by all present at the meeting.

The meeting thanked Margaret and Brenda for all the work they do as churchwardens

In the absence of any other business, Brenda closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

.....Chair

.....2026

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)
SUNDAY, 26th April 2026

A G E N D A

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5. Appointment of an Independent examiner to the PCC	
6. Vote on destination of mission giving	
7. Presentation of updated Data Privacy Notice	
8. To consider any questions about parochial church matters or to discuss any matter of parochial or general church interest raised by anyone attending the meeting either:	
(a) by moving a general resolution or	
(b) by moving to make a particular recommendation to the PCC in relation to its duties	
Questions should be submitted in writing please to the Secretary prior to the meeting	
9. Closing prayers	

**Minutes of the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday, 27th April 2025, at 11:45am**

Present: 24 parishioners signed the Annual Register as follows:

23 on the electoral roll: Bridget Crossley, Brenda Davies, Graham Davies, Judith Dodds, Sandy Dunn, Gill Faulkner, Val Ferguson, Angela Jobbins, Paddy Johnson, Christine Jones, Matt King, Sue King, Gail Mason, Roy Mason, Ursula March, Chris Newman, Janet Oldfield, Olivia Pike, Jenny Pimm, Emma Seymour, Lydia Stonestreet, Ann Summers, Margaret Walker

1 not on the electoral roll: Adrian Cox

The meeting was chaired by Brenda Davies

Apologies for absence were received from Penny Crane, Linda and David Hewlett, Susan and Michael Gale, Colette Watt, Maureen and Graham Chamberlain, and Faith Kenyon

*THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL, BUT ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES
APPEAR ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL CAN VOTE*

1. Minutes of the APCM held on 21st April 2024

The minutes as printed on pages 6-8 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, were proposed for acceptance by Bridget Crossley, seconded by Gill Faulkner. There was one minor correction to the spelling of Ursula's Siedau/March's surname, and the minutes were then approved by all those present as being a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

2.1 Receive the Church Electoral Roll 2024

Margaret provided an update on the Electoral Roll in David Hewlett's absence. Margaret said she was disappointed, so few had re-signed, and that this doesn't give a good impression to the Diocese. 48 have reapplied, and there are currently 53 on the Roll.

2.2 Receive the Annual Report of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2024

The Annual Report for the Church was approved by the PCC in March. In addition, Brenda shared an interesting and uplifting slide presentation of events and activities that had taken place connected with St George's in the last year. The last year had been challenging, with Catherine's sabbatical followed by her departure and St George's now in vacancy, but the work of the church is continuing and numbers at services are holding or increasing.

2.3 Receive the Annual Accounts of the Council for the year ending 31st December 2024

The Accounts had been examined by Roy Mason, and had been signed accordingly. There was again a shortfall in the payment of the Parish Share for the year.

Judith Dodds was thanked for maintaining the church accounts, and Gail Mason was thanked for supporting Judith in this task. There were no questions about the accounts, and the finance report was unanimously approved. Judith gave notice that she would resign as Treasurer at the end of the year. Brenda advised that it would be possible for someone outside the church to help, if the right person could be found.

2.4 Receive a Report from the Churchwardens concerning the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The report was included in the pack prepared for the APCM, and Brenda gave a precis of the items it covered. She advised that the Terrier book was up to date.

The final component of the Windows Project was the addition of the blue tint to the windows. Two major projects had been undertaken: firstly, roof repairs had been carried out, and secondly, the main worship area was repainted by the people who had decorated the vicarage. Some electrical jobs had been completed e.g. PAC testing. The bell is not working properly on manual setting, and the entrance hall ceiling was still being held up by a clip (thanks to Matt for the temporary fix). A letter box had been installed, and the church now has a postcode. There had been issues with the software (Pro-Presenter) that deploys the visuals on the screen. This meant that slides had to be manually changed; and Brenda had worked with Graham over many hours amending 100's of slides. Brenda thanked Graham for his efforts.

A vote of thanks was given to David for his work in keeping the gardens looking good. Kieran has offered to do the hedge trimming.

Brenda added that Catherine's departure had obviously had a significant impact; Brenda and Margaret had spent a 'crazy day' emptying stuff out of the vicarage, including several cabinets of material, but the vicarage was let out last week.

Brenda concluded by thanking all who had contributed to the upkeep of the church fabric.

2.5 **Receive a Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

This was included in the Annual Report 2024, and no questions or comments were raised.

3. **Election of one representative of the laity to the Deanery Synod**

Margaret advised that Penny was already there as representative, but that we could have another. If anyone would like to volunteer please speak to one of the wardens.

4. **Election of four representatives of the laity to the PCC**

There were 4 vacancies (1 current vacancy to replace Brian and 3 for those who have served their 3 years and are stepping down this year). 3 proposals had been received:

- Judith, proposed by Margaret, seconded by Brenda
- Olivia, proposed by Brenda, seconded by Matt
- Ann, proposed by Brenda, seconded by Margaret

There were no objections, and the vote was unanimously in their favour.

5. **Appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts**

Our annual accounts need to be checked and approved on an annual basis; Roy Mason has been doing this each year for some time, and is happy to continue to do so. Roy's continuing appointment was proposed by Chris Newman, seconded by Judith, and approved unanimously at the meeting.

6. **Vote on the destination of Mission Giving**

Three charities had been proposed by the PCC:

- Thames Valley Hospice
- Foodbank
- New minibus for Sandhurst Day Centre.

Voting:

Thames Valley Hospice - 3

Foodbank - 0

New minibus - 19

Accordingly, the charitable donation of Mission Giving will be made to Sandhurst Day Centre, to go towards the purchase of a new minibus.

7. **Consider Any Other Matters of Parochial or General Church Interest**

Two items were raised by Brenda for the APCM consideration:

- a. The Building Committee had agreed a Health & Safety audit process, but this needed to go before the APCM for approval. The APCM unanimously approved the process.
- b. A recent problem had arisen at Tuesday services in that there was a need for more chalice assistants. The list of chalice assistants has to be approved by the Bishop. Brenda advised that three people had agreed to be added to the list: Michael Gale, Adrian Cox, and Janet Oldfield. Brenda asked the APCM to agree to these names being added to the list for submission to the Bishop, and this was unanimously approved.

Brenda then provided an update on progress with the Parish Profile and what a House for Duty appointment might be expected to do with their time. She invited people to consider what we would want from a vicar and to come forward with any comments. Margaret highlighted that the person appointed should focus on mission rather than on administration.

Brenda then ran a PowerPoint presentation capturing photos of the life of St George's over the last year, and this was well received. She asked that, over the course of the coming year, people could take photos and videos of events, which could then be included in next year's presentation.

8. **The meeting closed** with prayer at 12.25pm.

.....**Chair**

.....**2026**

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH OWLSMOOR
ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT
APRIL 2026

There was a total of 53 on the electoral roll in April 2025. Subsequent to this 1 person has moved away, 1 deceased, and 4 added. 11 of those on the Electoral Roll are 'Non-Resident' (living outside the Parish).

There will be a total of 55 on the Electoral Roll from April 26th 2026.

Please note that the information supplied on the Electoral Roll Application forms is stored on a computer. This is covered by the PCC's Data Privacy Notice dated 9 July 2018 a copy of which is available on the St George's website www.stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk and is also displayed on the noticeboard in the church.

*It is the responsibility of members to advise the **Electoral Roll Officer** of any changes to their postal address.*

It is helpful to the PCC to be able to contact those on the Electoral Roll by email. This is no longer legally possible unless specific consent has been given. Many members have already completed a Data Consent form agreeing to contact by email. Anyone who has not already done so is invited to fill in a form, available in church or by email request to secretary@stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk.

David Hewlett
Electoral Roll Officer
12th April 2026

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH OWLSMOOR

PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

Background

St George's Church believes in sharing the good news of Christ by sharing God's love in the local community, and in the wider world, through worship, prayer, teaching, and nurture.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020, or co-opted by the PCC under Rule 14 (1)(h).

During the year the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent:	Vacancy	
Churchwardens:	Brenda Davies	Chair
	Margaret Walker	
Deanery Synod:	Penny Crane	Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)
Elected Members:	David Hewlett	(Term ends 2026)
	Linda Hewlett	(Term ends 2026)
	Chris Newman	(Term ends 2026)
	Matt King	(Term ends 2027)
	Emma Seymour	(Term ends 2027)
	Judith Dodds	(Term ends 2028) Treasurer
	Olivia Pike	(Term ends 2028)
	Ann Summers	(Term ends 2028)

Committees and Groups

The PCC usually operates with numerous committees and groups of which the Vicar is an ex officio member. During the year the committees and groups were as follows:

Ministry Team

During 2025, the Ministry Team included Penny Crane (LLM), Brenda Davies (Churchwarden), and Margaret Walker (Churchwarden), with support and advice given by Revd Jane Kraft and Revd Roy Burgess. In early October 2025 Penny Crane moved away, and Brenda Davies and Margaret Walker continued covering services until the appointment of the new vicar in early December 2025. Ministry and Standing Committee Meetings were combined to cover both ministry and other church planning matters.

2025 proved a challenging year for St. George's but we were well served and supported by visiting ministers, particularly Revd Jane Kraft, Revd Roy Burgess and Revd Marina Brain. Revd John Castle also helped with some of our multigenerational Lighthouse services on the first Sunday of each month at 4pm. We have been most fortunate with support from all covering ministers, and enjoyed their preaching and celebration at our services.

The introduction of Worship and the Word without Communion on the first Sunday of each month proved successful, with no decrease in congregation and a more relaxed service, and saw the introduction of some worship songs and differing approaches to the sermon. After Penny Crane left, Brenda Davies took on the role of leading the worship and also the preparation and delivery of some of the Lighthouse services very successfully, and we are most grateful to her for doing this.

The congregation of our Tuesday 9.30am Communion continued to increase throughout the year. Sunday morning service numbers remained constant. During this year, however, we have been delighted to welcome some new families into St. George's, which have included four or five children who now regularly attend Godly Play. We thank the Godly Play staff who have persevered over so many years and now have regular attenders once more. The Lighthouse Service on the first Sunday of each month in the afternoon has continued, with one family of three generations being regular attenders. It would be good to welcome more families to this service.

Acorn Prayers has continued on Saturday mornings, and with a boost in numbers in the Autumn after some publicity in church. Similarly, in the Autumn, our regular mid-week Bible Study Group changed its time to Friday afternoon sessions from Wednesday evening and renamed itself Lifebuilder Group. This new time and slightly new approach has certainly rejuvenated the group, bringing in a number of new members.

Revd Jane Kraft held Lenten Discussion after the Tuesday morning services throughout Lent. We observed Holy Week with something each day, which included an Agape meal on Maundy Thursday before moving to the front of the church to observe the passion and vigil and stripping the church. Our Good Friday Workshop was well-attended, followed by an afternoon service of Veneration of the Cross and an evening Tenebrae. College Town School came to learn about Easter and we ran a workshop for them using our Good Friday Workshop materials.

We held a Songs of Praise at St. George's with Lee Dewsnap on the organ, as our contribution to the services for Sandhurst Churches Together in July. College Town School also visited us later in the year for curriculum coverage of worship in the Church of England. We ran another workshop to cover this for them. Some year groups from Owlsmoor School visited us during the Autumn for their Harvest Assemblies, and we welcomed the nursery at Christmas for their Nativity Assembly.

In December we were able to welcome our new vicar, Revd Peter Hyson, in time for our Community Carol Service and our Christmas Eve Nativity and Christmas Day Services. This was such a good time for Revd Peter to join us and meet the many people of Owlsmoor and College Town who visit us to worship at this time of year.

There have been sad times too, particularly the death of Pat Rae who had been here at St. George's for many years as a much loved and valued member of the congregation as well as a lay preacher, a churchwarden, member of the PCC and our representative for Sandhurst Churches Together. Revd Roy Burgess, who had been a close friend, came and took her funeral service.

We have maintained our mission giving with our chosen charity this year being to donate towards the new minibus for Sandhurst Day Centre. Other collections have gone to Bracknell Foodbank, Crisis, and Church of England Children's Society.

We have much to be thankful for, with some increase in congregation and new young people in church. We have also been able to increase help with chalice assistants, new vergers and servers and volunteers to prepare the intercessions. We are most grateful to all who help in any way to maintain worship and enable ministry to continue at St. George's throughout the year of Vacancy.

Children and Youth Ministry

We teach the young children about the Kingdom of God in Godly Play on Sunday Mornings. There have recently been three new families with children who now attend Godly play. A special thank you to Janet and Gail as leaders, and to our helpers, Chris and Jenny.

The Good Friday Workshop as usual was well attended. Thank you to all who helped and organised the workshops. The story of Easter was presented to lots of parents and their children. The Nativity play once again was very well attended. Thanks to all who helped.

The carol service was held after the Nativity. Three young people read poems or readings. Visitors attending were able to have refreshments between the two services. Thanks to all who helped with refreshments. Thanks also to Margaret, Judith and Graham.

Messy Mondays is normally well attended. It is really good to see mums, grandmas, child minders and a dad talking together and offering advice. Thank you to all our helpers.

Worship Group

The Worship Group assist the Vicar in reviewing and planning the sung aspects of worship; the group is not required to report regularly to the PCC. During 2025, whilst we were without a vicar, the group took responsibility for choosing hymns and appropriate pre-recorded AV clips for use in services. The group consisted of Penny Crane (until October), Brenda Davies, Judith Dodds, Emma Seymour and (from November) Val Ferguson.

Standing Committee

The Committee is required by the Church Representation Rules to consist of the incumbent and churchwardens, together with at least two other members elected from the PCC. The St George's custom is to include the PCC Treasurer and Secretary, with the addition of one further PCC elected representative. The Committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

During 2025 this committee consisted of Margaret Walker (Churchwarden), Brenda Davies (Churchwarden), Judith Dodds (Treasurer), Chris Newman (Secretary) and Penny Crane LLM, who acted as the additional elected member until October when she moved away from the area. Margaret Walker prepared the agenda, acted as chair and took minutes. This group covered Ministry and Standing Committee business during the Vacancy.

The Committee met five times during 2025, in January, February, June, October and November.

Finance Committee

Members of the Committee were Judith Dodds (Treasurer), Chris Jones (Gift Aid Secretary), and Margaret Walker (Churchwarden). In March, Chris Newman (PCC Secretary) replaced Brian Francis who died in December 2024 and whose presence on this Committee will be sadly missed. Chris Newman became a new signatory. The PCC are grateful to Chris Jones for her continued work on the committee and for continuing to be Gift Aid Secretary.

The Committee met six times in 2025, in January, March, May, July, September and November, reporting to the PCC for oversight and approval of decisions on financial matters.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is responsible for minor repairs and overseeing the general maintenance of the church building, garden, and car park. The members of the Committee throughout the year were David Hewlett, Brenda Davies (Churchwarden) and Matt King. A summary of works undertaken during the year appears later in this report under Works of Repair and Maintenance. The Building Committee did not meet formally in 2025, but matters were managed informally.

Safeguarding Committee

The Committee did not meet formally this year due to the parish vacancy, but the existing members, consisting of Matt King as Safeguarding Officer, Judith Dodds (Children's Advocate) and Linda Hewlett (Pastoral Assistant), have been in regular contact to ensure that the parish safeguarding policy and activities are being maintained. A safeguarding report is presented as an item on every PCC Agenda. The PCC has complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Representation on Sandhurst Churches Together

St. George's is a member of the Sandhurst Churches Together (SCT) and enjoys good relationships with other local churches. The ministry and mission of the SCT is led by the Enabling Group. Unfortunately, there has been no one representing St. George's on the Enabling Group since Pat Rae retired in 2024. During 2025 and the time of Vacancy, Margaret Walker and Brenda Davies have kept in touch with the Enabling Group and with leaders and ministers of the SCT, and members of the St. George's congregation have attended ecumenical services, held each month in a different member church. St. George's has taken its turn, holding a Songs of Praise in July and joining with Sandhurst and Crowthorne Churches Together in a production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in St. John's Church Crowthorne in June.

The churchwardens have attended Sandhurst Churches Ministers' lunches and hosted one of these. St. George's members took part in the Remembrance Day Service and Parade held at the War Memorial in Sandhurst, and in services for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We also helped to provide a band and singers for the ecumenical Carol Service at The Meadows Shopping Centre in December, as well as Carol Singing events. A monthly Songs of Praise is held for Sandhurst Day Centre residents and is led by a group representing all the churches in Sandhurst.

The 5@5 initiative, which encourages everyone to stop and pray at 5pm on the second Thursday of the month, is continuing. A theme is set and there is information on the pew sheet to help guide prayers if people want it. It is good to know that people across our community are all praying at the same time.

Church Statistics

The number of worshippers at St George's (as reported to the Church of England statistical department) during 2025 is compared, where possible, with 2024.

Easter attendances decreased to 41 from 47. Christmas services were very well attended in 2025 with a total of 232, up significantly compared to the 182 of 2024. The October count shows the average Sunday attendance was 29, down from 44 of 2024, which had included an exceptional attendance for Revd Catherine's last service, otherwise numbers were expected to have been similar. Tuesday services averaged 16, an increase from 14 of 2024. Lighthouse averaged 10 adults and 3 under 16's, down from 13 and 5 of 2024.

There were 6 baptisms, including 2 adults, no marriages or confirmations, and 3 funerals in church in 2025. There was 1 confirmation in the name of our church. The worshipping community (as defined in the parish returns) is numbered at 69 compared to 62 in 2024. 4 people left, or died, and 11 people joined. The age profile on a best guess basis was: children (age 0-10) 4, young people (age 11-17) 5, adults (age 18-69) 31, adults (age 70+) 29, making the total of 69.

PCC Business During the Year

The PCC met six times during the year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Every regular meeting received reports from the Treasurer, Building Committee, Safeguarding Committee, Deanery Synod, Standing Committee, the Vicar, and the Churchwardens. PCC meetings generally begin with a Prayer and Dwelling in the Word or Sharing where we have seen God's Work. They end with a review of the meeting in light of the Diocesan Vision, reflecting on whether we have been contemplative, compassionate, and courageous.

Main subjects discussed by the PCC during the year included:

Finance Overview

During 2025 the Finance Committee monitored the financial health of St. George's dealing with income and payment of bills. The Committee met 6 times via Zoom but is in regular contact through emails. The Committee is also required to make recommendations to the PCC for payment of the Parish Share, which for St. George's was £56,403, with a vacancy support contribution of £470 a month. We managed to pay £33,000 towards the Parish Share.

Regular church lettings have continued to fall despite advertising. There were several miscellaneous bookings and a total of £1,066 was made through hiring the church. The regular church groups such as Messy Monday, Singalong, Knit & Knatter, and Table Tennis, all contribute towards the cost of heating the church, as does Comfort & Cuppa. However, above regular maintenance, we paid £4,308 towards the church floor repairs.

The card reader continues to be regularly used, particularly for events such as quizzes, and raised £2,037.36. The transaction fees, which are negotiated by the Church of England, are offset by the gift aid claimed.

Despite the generosity of our church members our regular income through bank transfer continues to fall, mainly due sadly to bereavement and people leaving the area.

Building - works of repair and maintenance

The following works of repair and maintenance were carried out during the year:

- Heating and boiler systems serviced
- Regular testing/servicing of fire alarms, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and intruder alarms
- Light bulbs replaced as required in worship area and narthex
- Regular maintenance of hedges and gardens
- Installation of a small handrail by the South steps of the Sanctuary
- Cleaning, repair and resealing of the worship area floor
- Replacement of all rubber ferrules on the stacking chairs.

Safeguarding

There have been no reported incidents or issues regarding safeguarding in the time since the last APCM. The Safeguarding Committee reviewed, as required, the Safeguarding Policy and documents, to ensure that a safe environment was maintained for everyone in the church.

Safeguarding continues to be a standing item for all PCC meetings. The Safeguarding Officer is in regular contact with the Diocesan Office, and in January attended a workshop at Easthampstead Parish Church, held by the Oxford Safeguarding Team.

The majority of the safeguarding training required by various church officers has been completed - training needs to be provided for members who have recently joined the PCC. The same is also true of DBS checks. The Safeguarding Officer has updated the list of individuals, training, and DBS checks, and this is regularly being reviewed. Jan Herd has agreed to be appointed as the parish DBS verifier in place of Paul Crane, who has moved away from the area. She needs to attend a training course arranged by the Diocese about the DBS process of the new DBS provider - Verilife. She has been informed of this and will be arranging a suitable time.

The church continues to participate in the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard scheme. This has proved to be very useful for future planning and is kept up to date by the Safeguarding Officer. We are a Level 3 parish, which means that we comply with all the national safeguarding requirements and guidelines. The PCC has reviewed and continues to follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. We continue to be a parish dedicated and committed to the safeguarding of the congregation, children, and vulnerable individuals in the community.

Music and Organist

Adrian Cox continued as organist throughout the year, and we are very grateful to him for supporting the music of St. George's in this way. Throughout 2025 the congregation enjoyed singing the full choral setting and hymns every Sunday.

In June a group of St. George's joined a combined choir of Crowthorne and Sandhurst Churches Together to sing in Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat at St. John's Church in Crowthorne. The Songs of Praise held in July for ourselves and for Sandhurst Churches Together, which was led by Penny Crane and with organist Lee Dewsnap and some of our own instrumentalists, was very well attended. Singalong Group Singers and our own ex-choir members formed a choir for the Carol Service at Christmas.

Our new Worship and the Word Service continues on the first Sunday of each month, and more worship songs are being introduced using the piano and organ together to accompany these. Appropriate songs are also used and introduced in our Lighthouse Service on the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

Communications

The monthly Newsletter continues to be well received and to be published on the first Sunday of every month, and is emailed to all members who are on our GDPR list. It proved a good way of informing the congregation of the process and progress of finding a new vicar for St. George's.

In preparation for producing the Parish Profile and advertising the position of Vicar, our website was updated, refurbished and thoroughly refreshed, with thanks to Matt King. This included putting all back editions of the newsletters and a collection of our posters on the website and continuing this as they are produced. In addition, a Looking Ahead in the Month section was added, and the present month's newsletter and this information are put on the front page with any current posters. We hope this makes the website more relevant for use and hence a good source of communication.

Our Facebook page is also refreshed weekly, and updated with services and events. Notice boards in church are kept up to date and the Pew Sheet is a weekly source of updated information on services and events. We would like to thank Ursula for her work on the weekly Pew Sheet, Matt for the website, and Brenda for posters and Facebook publications.

Fundraising

Fundraising continued throughout the year. Events were held for the benefit of church funds: a Beetle drive, a Singalong coffee morning, annual Garden Party, a Breakfast, Ride & Stride, a Quiz, the Christmas Hamper raffle, and a Community Band Carol concert.

Funds were also raised and given to other charities: Thrive ((Harvest Charity) £270, Bishop's Outreach Fund £115, Children's Society £260, Foodbank £100 and Crisis £100.

Our 2% mission giving went to the Sandhurst Community Minibus fund £750, as voted for at the 2025 APCM.

Sharing God's love in the Community

Our Mission Statement for St. George's is 'To Share God's Love in the community'. Much of this 2026 Report demonstrates how we are endeavouring to achieve this. Without a warm, well-maintained building we would not be able to invite people in to use the space in a variety of ways. The church was planned to work as a community space and we welcome our worshipping congregations and our regular users such as Knit & Knatter, Table Tennis and Singalong. We welcome hirers like Pilates, the band rehearsals, and parties. Without equipped and devoted teams of volunteers we would not be able to do all that we do, and without generous giving by our church family none of this would be possible. We are under no illusion that there is a lot more that can be achieved both within St. George's and out in the Community and we hope that in the coming year with a new vicar installed, albeit only three days a week, we can move forward with outreach into our community.

We have had only one 'Breakfast' this year, which was Christopher Auckland talking to us about his work in the North Atlantic and Antarctic. This proved fascinating and we would certainly like to thank Christopher for giving us such an interesting morning. Thank you to Angela Stephens for her usual delicious breakfast.

Both of our Primary Schools have visited St. George's this year. College Town came for curriculum support with workshops given to two different year groups. One workshop was on Easter and the second on Worship in the Church of England. Owlsmoor Primary School came for their Harvest Festival Assemblies and the Nursery and Year 1 for Christmas Assemblies. We would like to encourage Owlsmoor Primary School to use us for curriculum support as College Town does. We also hope that our new vicar will be able to go into both schools for regular contact.

Community groups come in to use our facilities but we also try and have some contact with them. Comfort & Cuppa meet on Monday evenings. It is a friendly and supportive group that we can recommend to the bereaved and to their family and friends.

Regular weekly activity groups who meet here such as Singalong, Table Tennis, Messy Mondays and Knit & Knatter cater for a variety of people in the community both young and older. Singalong gave a singalong coffee morning in the Spring to friends and family. At Christmas the Knit & Knatter Group produced an amazing Teddy Bear Christmas Tree as contribution to the St. Michael's Christmas Tree Fair. The bears were subsequently donated to the children's wards at Frimley Park Hospital.

Several Quiz Evenings, a Beetle Drive, Songs of Praise, Garden Party and Festive Christmas Singalong with Sandhurst Community Brass and their young Brasshopper Group have brought many people into St. George's.

Our prayer cards continue to go out street by street and we thank those who deliver them. We do have responses to these from time to time, making their delivery so worthwhile. It may be asking for prayers or help and in some cases we have been able to support with prayers, a visit, food, putting people in touch with the foodbank, or providing vouchers for clothing.

This has been a challenging year in Vacancy, maintaining worship, work in the community and the maintenance of the church building while at the same time going through the Church of England's process of advertising and finding a new vicar. We were delighted to appoint Revd Peter Hyson in October and welcome him and his wife Hilary to St. George's early in December. Revd Peter introduced himself to our Christmas congregations.

A Year in Vacancy

2025 saw St George's continue without a vicar until 11th December. Churchwardens Brenda and Margaret considered it a priority to maintain as far as possible the normal routines of worship and activity for the church community.

One of the main tasks in achieving this was to maintain a full calendar of visiting clergy to run Sunday and Tuesday Holy Communion services and other occasional services as the season demands. Three people, Revd Marina Brain, Revd Roy Burgess and Revd Jane Kraft, became regular visitors to St George's and we are very grateful for their support during the period. Other visiting clergy included the Venerable Norman Russell, Archdeacon Stephen Pullin and Area Dean Laura Wheatley Downs. On the first Sunday of each month our LLM Penny Crane was able to lead our Worship and the Word Service, for which we had the Bishop's permission to run without Holy Communion.

In the background all the steps of the vacancy process to appoint a new vicar were worked through by the PCC, with support from the Diocesan Advisor Rhodri Bowen and Archdeacon Stephen Pullin. The posts of Area Dean and Bishop of Reading were vacant for much of the year, which reduced the support available to us.

A couple of Vision Mornings were held with Rhodri Bowen in April, which were to help us focus on where we are and the future direction for St George's, and consequently on the sort of vicar we would want to appoint. The discussions were not confined to those mornings. PCC meeting time and special sessions were also used along with sharing via email. The congregation was invited to participate via questionnaire and suggestion box. The conclusions of the ideas and suggestions were collated into the Parish Profile, which went through several drafts. In support of this, St George's website was thoroughly updated. The main driving force behind the decision to look for a House for Duty Vicar, which automatically means a part-time post, was economics, with St George's only having the ability to afford this option.

In July the Parish Profile was officially approved and the process moved forward to preparing to advertise the post and start thinking about possible interviews. The Archdeacon's office took care of managing our advertisement once it was written and advertising costs paid, and we were given guidelines on how to conduct an interview day so we were ready to jump should we receive applications. And jump we did once we knew we had two candidates.

An interview day was arranged in October. This included visiting Owlsmoor Primary School, a tour of the local area, a visit to the vicarage, a lunch and the interviews. The day went well and a decision was reached. The process did not end there. The Bishop's Office took over and eventually we were able to announce that Revd Peter Hyson had been appointed.

It was a mad scramble for the final step: the organisation of Revd Peter's Collation and Induction Service on 11th December 2025. Following the guidelines from the Bishop's Office an Order of Service was prepared, invitations sent out, cake ordered, rehearsal organised and finally a wonderful service held, so Peter could be with us at St George's for Christmas, even though he and Hilary could not move into the vicarage until early January 2026.

Thank you to everyone who supported St George's during our year in Vacancy and a special thank you Peter for firstly applying and secondly accepting the post.

Conclusion

Whilst 2025 was certainly challenging it was also a year in which there was a shared feeling of belonging. People stepped up to take on jobs, including coping with the intricacies of Church of England procedure, and it was encouraging to witness the church family working together to love and support each other and the community in which we live. This feeling of fellowship was observed by the Deputy Mayor, who had attended Revd Peter's Collation and Induction Service, and who has written in the March publication of the Sandhurst Residents Association magazine to say that "*the service was beautifully conducted and very well attended, reflecting the warmth and support of the congregation. It was a meaningful occasion for the parish, and I wish the new vicar every success as he begins his ministry in our community*".

So now as we continue through 2026 and with Revd Peter in post, we can look forward as the church family with hope, excitement, and trust in God, continuing to worship together, support each other, and be a witness to God in Owlsmoor. And we pray for God's love taking root in people's hearts and bearing fruit, in this parish and beyond.

(signed) .

on behalf of the PCC

26th April 2026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please see
Separate Document

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT UNDER SECTION 50 OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION AND CARE OF CHURCHES MEASURE 2018

**Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church of St George in
Owlsmoor and College Town for the year 2025**

APCM 26th April 2026

Annual Fabric Report

Written report from Churchwardens, Brenda Davies and Margaret Walker for the year 2025.

During 2025, Brenda Davies and Margaret continued as Churchwardens. We can report that the Terrier and Inventory, which include the Log Book and the Church Property Register, are up to date. The annual services of the central heating, the fire and intruder alarms with some updating of the fire appliances and the emergency lighting have all been carried out in the last six months, annually as required. Security required some repair of the locking system on the rear entry double doors and EuroWindows attended to this, with no charge as the doors are still under guarantee.

Work has continued on items highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection carried out on 17th February 2023 by Sophie Blackmore BSc(Hons) MRICS of Ridge and Partners LLP. During 2025 Sophie Blackmore moved on from Ridge and Partners but it was decided by the PCC that, as we were given the choice to retain Sophie and as she now knows St. George's building so well, we will continue to use her as our Surveyor during the 7th Quinquennium (2023-2028), and beyond if the PCC in 2028 so wish.

During 2025, refurbishment of the main worship area floor took place using Floorteq Limited. In order not to damage the new flooring, all the feet on the worship area chairs were removed and replaced with new ones by an in-house team. The flooring and chair feet replacement seems very successful.

PAT Testing is due to take place early in 2026.

Outside, the shrubbery and gardens have been kept tidy and in good order by David Hewlett and Chris Auckland. Kieran Clements has also cut the long hedge between church and vicarage and is helping with other building and ground works.

The Articles of Enquiry from the Deanery were completed and submitted in April. They covered a wide variety of questions this year including: Discipleship; Church Welcoming; Children and Young People actively participating in worship and planning ministries and services in our church; Environment; the use of digital card payment in church; Kitchen facilities.

This year of vacancy has been a challenging one for St. George's but the completion of the Church of England process for finding a new vicar which includes writing a Church Parish Profile, Advertising and Interviewing for a House for Duty Vicar and finally after appointing, the full Collation, Induction and Installation Service has been accomplished effectively and efficiently by Churchwardens and PCC despite some difficulties of communication with both Deanery and Diocese. We were pleased to welcome Revd Peter Hyson and his wife, Hilary, to St. George's in early December and look forward to the next years of his ministry here.

We would like to thank all who have contributed and supported us this year at St. George's in time, energy and donations to maintain the fabric of St. George's in such excellent order. Building teams, cleaners, flower arrangers, vergers, gardeners and Treasurer and Finance team and many more who

serve refreshments, welcome and do many administrative jobs that often go unnoticed. This year the support has been exceptional, and the challenge of vacancy has probably brought us together as a congregation in many more ways than are obvious. Perhaps those newly volunteering to take on serving, verging, chalice assistant and intercession preparation is an indication of this. Finally, I think we must thank Judith Dodds who has done such sterling work as Treasurer over the past six years, putting everything back into immaculate order and maintaining that so efficiently. We would like to thank Ann Summers for taking on the Treasurership from Judith, and promise her our support.

Churchwardens: Brenda Davies and Margaret Walker

SONNING DEANERY SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Once again, it has been a year of significant change in Sonning Deanery.

In September 2025, Revd. Julian Bidgood (Barkham) finished serving as Deanery Co-ordinator. We give thanks for his ministry among us, particularly through his support of the many parishes who found themselves in vacancy and his work on our Children and Young People's Plan, which has given us a firm foundation to work from. A thank you was given to Julian before his sabbatical in the summer of 2025. In June 2025, Deanery Synod also said thank you to John Sutton and Lynne Paine who stepped down as Lay Chair and Treasurer respectively. A huge thanks for all they gave to those roles.

The Bishop of Reading asked Revd. Laura Wheatley Downs (Crowthorne) to serve as Area Dean from September 2025, and she has been working alongside Leigh Welham (Secretary), Anthony Pollock (Treasurer) Anna Pearce, David Horrocks, John Sutton, Revd. Gemma Donnell (Parish of Finchampstead and California) and Revd. Mark Gould (Twyford and Ruscombe) who have served as members of the Deanery Standing Committee and Mission and Pastoral Committee. Revd Mark Gould was licensed as Associate Area Dean on 1st March 2026. Behind the scenes, advocating for deanery is Peter Wells. Special thanks also go to him for all his work managing our Parish Share allocations.

Over the last year, the remaining three incumbent vacancies have all been filled. It has been an absolute delight to welcome Fr. Sam Tanna-Korn (St. Paul's and Woosehill), Revd. David Chislett (Wargrave and Knowl-Hill) and Revd. Peter Hyson (Owlsmoor). It has also been wonderful to welcome other priests into the parish - Revd. Cathryn Howse as Associate minister in the parish of Finchampstead and California, Revd. Andrea Platt as Associate priest at All Saints and Revd. Robert Wynford-Harris (PTO).

This year, we have also said farewell to Revd Julian McAllen who left the parish of Finchampstead and California in the summer. And farewell and good luck to Revd. John Castle in Sandhurst who has taken up a new role at St. John the Baptist, Aldenham. He had joyfully served his community for 21 years, and we have been enriched as a Deanery through his ministry. We wish him all the best!

Sadly, Revd. David Webster died in February. He had continued to minister to those at Suffolk Lodge which was his home toward the end of his life. We give God thanks for his years of faithful service.

One of the most significant beginnings within the Deanery has been the first phase of work on our Deanery plan which has taken up the majority of our time at Synod since September 2025. During this time Synod has been discerning where our deanery priorities lie. A consultation has also taken place in Deanery Chapter and explored through conversations across parishes. The Deanery has reflected on: signs of God at work, parish treasures, anxieties, priorities, community needs, required resources, and hopes for the Deanery's future.

Out of this work have emerged some exciting key priorities to focus on as a Deanery which will be discussed at our next Synod AGM, alongside our vision and values.

Our next step will be to encourage those with a gifting, passion or skill in our priority areas and other key offices who would like to facilitate informal deanery clusters which meet a few times a year where others who are also interested in collaborating and sharing learning, encouragement and

2.5

prayer about a particular area can gather together. e.g. safeguarding, churchwardens, children and young people. This already works successfully amongst our Treasurers and our Green team - a huge thankyou to all those involved in that.

We are also in the process of looking for a new Deanery Secretary. This is an important role within the life of the Synod. Leigh has been a fantastic secretary, but serves in so many other places - if you want to know more about what the role entails, please do speak with her. We're also looking for a new Lay chair. Again, an important role that enable the voice of the faithful members of our churches to be represented, and to ensure balance in how we work together as clergy and as laity. Please do speak with Laura if you'd like to find out more.

This next year, I would encourage anyone who has a heart to see our churches work together to grow God's Kingdom through any of the roles above or below, to sign up to be a deanery representative over the next 3 years at your APCM. And don't worry, if synod isn't for you - there are plenty of other ways to be involved! I look forward to seeing what God does through us.

Grace and peace,
Revd Laura Wheatley Downs

Supporting

Clergy, individuals and churches to serve their parishes and communities by meeting together, sharing resources and engaging in mission.

Discerning

Deanery Synod is a place where encouragements, concerns and missional ideas from individual parishes can be shared and potentially considered by the diocesan synod, which can then be considered at General Synod. At each of these stages, those involved are seeking to serve God, and grow God's Church.

Connecting

People together from different churches across the area in worship, mission and governance. Parishes with deanery, diocesan and national initiatives and vice-verse through the sharing information.