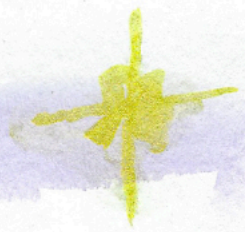


Annual Report 2025

Parish of St Mary the Virgin



Christmas Card Design by Dexter Jefferson





Azita's Farewell



Holiday Club Team

**Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denham
Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th May 2026, 10.30am
St Mary's Church, Denham and Online**

AGENDA

1. Short service of worship

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2. Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens for the previous year
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. Number of parishioners present and apologies for absence
5. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2025
6. Matters arising

Reports

7. Presentation of the copy of the church Electoral Roll
8. Annual Report for 2025
9. Financial Report
10. Churchwardens' Report
11. Deanery Synod Report

Elections

12. Election of Deanery Synod Member
13. Election of PCC Members
14. Appointment of Independent Examiner
15. A.O.B.
16. 2026 and beyond
17. Closing Hymn and Blessing

APCM (provisional date): Sunday 9 May 2027, 10.30am

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denham
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 11 May 2025 10.30am
St Mary's Denham and via Zoom**

1. Welcome

The Rector chaired the meeting, which followed a short worship service and refreshments. He welcomed everyone in the building and on Zoom (hosted by Tim Macqueen). This was the first meeting using the new AV system; the tech team were thanked for all their work.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

2. Vote of Thanks to the Churchwardens

Jane Brown took on the role of churchwarden from Sam Carter, who had completed her six-year term but continued to work alongside Cathy and Jane during the Sabbatical. They worked brilliantly as a team and have all been a great support to Christoph and Edda and to the church. They were each presented with a 'blessings' rose.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Both churchwardens had agreed to stand for re-election.

- Cathy Macqueen (proposed by Mike Stewart, seconded by Peter Wager)
- Jane Brown (proposed by Charlotte Hearnden-Smith, seconded by Edda Lindner)

Both were re-elected on a show of hands.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. Number of Parishioners Present, and Apologies for Absence.

There were 55 people present in the church building, and 10 on zoom, a total of 65 attendees.

Apologies were received from Janet Allen, Caroline Ashcroft, Clive Ashcroft, Mona Zadeh, Stephen Barrett, Alison Barrett, Vicky Birkby, Avril Cherry, Sophie Clements, Ann Collins, Sally Cooper, Peter Creer, Brenda Davis, Paul Davis, John Hawkins, Chris Macqueen, Robert Melis, Deborah Miller, Jackie Ryde, Phil Thompson, Fay Williams, Stephanie Williams

Julie Laughland was thanked for her role as PCC Secretary.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2024

The minutes were accepted with no corrections on a show of hands (proposed by Pam Montgomery, seconded by Jane Brown).

6. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

REPORTS

7. Presentation of Electoral Roll

The Rector thanked Maurice Litchmore for his role as Electoral Roll Officer, particularly with the additional work of building a new Roll this year. He welcomed the 15 people who have joined, and noted the absence of people who have died, giving thanks for all that they meant to St Mary's. The Roll stands at 135.

8. Annual Report 2024

Everyone was encouraged to read the Report which provides an overview of the year in the life of our church. Every member of the church is important for our mission and ministry; together we pray, welcome, share and dare like Jesus. The following were highlighted:

- Anne Thomas proofread the Annual Report and looks after the cards and gifts for sale in the church.
- Dexter Brown has embraced his new role as chair of the Fabric Team, and has become the resident expert on the history of St Mary's church.
- Tony Drane has stepped down from the Fabric Team but remains a valuable source of advice.
- Sandy Wickenden and Chris Macqueen led the listening project, with many hours of interviews and analysis; this will continue to be a helpful resource in the months and years ahead.
- Sandy Wickenden for all her contributions to St Mary's, especially on the PCC, in the choir, and leading the Haven bereavement group. Sandy will be presented with a gift.
- Siân Reading did a fantastic job as interim secretary at a critical time when the Parish Secretary role was vacant and the Rector was on sabbatical.
- John Breese continues to care for the roses in the churchyard, and the flower beds at St Mark's Hall.
- Caroline Goodwin and Craig Alexander lead the Give and Share ministry from the heart; they and their team help countless people who are in material need.
- There are many people at St Mary's with the spiritual gift of 'helps', they don't seek the limelight but their contributions are essential for the church to thrive. These include Jenny Brown, Brenda Davis, Seetha Davis, Heather O'Regan, and the Sunday Club helpers: Sarah Leer, Laura Philips, Eliana and Robert Melis, Briony Nevitte.

- The flower team for the joy they bring through their creativity.
- Joan Bell and Julie Laughland for planning an itinerary for Samuel Kpageri (Wycliffe Translation Consultant) who visited from Togo for a month in early 2025.
- The Bellringers, especially Tower Captain Andrew Simpson.
- Mike Stewart has brought new momentum leading the St Mark's Hall refurbishment project.
- Finally the Rector thanked his wife Edda for her personal and ministry support; she is organised, creative, perceptive, and loves people.

9. Financial Report

The Treasurer highlighted the very fortunate position we are in financially. An extremely generous £600,000 gift to the Fabric Fund (plus £150,000 Gift Aid) has been transformational, giving us the confidence to carry out significant repairs to St Mary's church building, and to proceed with plans to upgrade St Mark's Hall.

The General Fund ended the year with a £19,000 deficit, but we are forecasting a small surplus this year, thanks to the giving of church members. All funds are in good shape, and bank interest has provided generous additional income.

Allocation of money from the Fabric Fund is balanced across the maintenance of (in priority order) St Mary's Church, St Mark's Hall, the church houses, and the churchyard; and finally the St Mark's Hall refurbishment, the funding for which will be dependent on the costs of the St Mary's Church building works.

Proposals with outline designs for the building works at St Mark's Hall were presented to the PCC by the Project Team in February 2025, and the architects will be sharing the results of their feasibility studies with the team shortly. Helpful responses have been received from Bucks County Council as part of the pre-planning process. The PCC and the church family will be kept informed.

We were able to make charitable donations of over £23,000 in 2024. The Treasurer paid particular tribute to Craig and Caroline for their work leading Give and Share.

Over 75% of the costs of running the church are met through church members' regular giving, with the associated Gift Aid. The Treasurer emphasised that these costs cannot be covered by the Fabric Fund; donations to the General Fund are essential to keep the church going.

The Rector added that legacies allow us to do more than we can plan for from our budget, and encouraged everyone to consider leaving a gift in their will to bless the work of this church. Meanwhile planned giving - such as through the diocesan Parish Giving Scheme - allows us to budget effectively.

He thanked Mike for his commitment and diligence in managing the finances, but also for his generous spirit.

The Financial Report was received on a show of hands (proposed by Mike Stewart, seconded by Michele Lee).

The budget was circulated at the meeting, and adopted on a show of hands (proposed by Dom Birkby, seconded by Samantha Carter).

10. Churchwardens' Report

This was commended as a helpful summary of the year.

11. Deanery Synod Report

Michael Carmody and Brian O'Regan were thanked for representing St Mary's at Deanery Synod. It was noted that Brian is now on the 'Vacancy in See' committee, which only meets when a diocesan bishop leaves their role.

ELECTIONS

12. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Michael and Brian have another year of their three-year term. There were no other candidates nominated, so we will continue to carry one vacancy.

13. Election of PCC Members

With an Electoral Roll between 100 and 200, we can have up to 12 elected lay members of the PCC.

Michele Lee has completed her 3-year term and will not be standing for re-election. We have benefited hugely from her leadership, experience and engagement with PCC business, and are grateful that she will continue to chair the St Mark's Hall committee. She was presented with a gift.

The Rector thanked all previous and current PCC members, who are actively engaged as trustees, stewarding the life of the church.

Two members stood for re-election: Kathy Paine (proposed by Kath Sole, seconded by Edda Lindner) and Mike Stewart (proposed by Dexter Brown, seconded by Kathy Paine).

There were two new candidates: Samantha Carter (proposed by Cathy Macqueen, seconded by Julie Laughland) and John Wertheim (proposed by Jane Brown, seconded by Robert Ash).

As there were 6 vacancies and only 4 nominations, no election was required, and all four were declared elected.

14. Appointment of Independent Examiner

David Steel was re-appointed as the independent examiner for the coming year: proposed by Mike Stewart, seconded by Michael Carmody, approved on a show of hands.

15. Any Other Business

The provisional date of the next Annual Meeting is Sunday 10 May 2026.

Cathy Macqueen led thanks to Christoph for his diligent leadership – and for coming back from the Sabbatical!

A group photograph was taken.

16. 2025 and Beyond

The Rector reviewed the priorities covered in his sermon earlier.

Strategy for sowing

Growing deep roots in the love of Jesus, fertilising the soil of our souls. We each have a responsibility for our own soul, which underpins everything now, and is eternal. A sportsperson trains regularly; how do we train to deepen our discipleship? We need to develop healthy rhythms and spiritual practices:

- Prayer and Bible reading, eg Lectio 365 app, or Bible reading notes.
- Small groups, where we grow in friendship and faith – everyone is invited to join a Lifegroup, or start a new one. A one-off series for a term, such as the Bible Course, is a good way to try this out.
- Sundays: it is so important that we come together as a worshipping community: 9am, 10.30 (in the building or online for those who can't attend in person) and Café Church on the first Sunday of the month.
- Praying together, in church on Sundays plus the Well once a month - the format of this is being reviewed, including the option of a short regular online prayer meeting. Prayer for family ministry: Edda spoke about coming alongside families - as a church we are looking to bring new children and young people to faith, and to build the faith of those already in the church; the important role of grandparent figures, both within families and in the church community.

Nurturing missionary disciples

How to bear fruit for Jesus wherever we are, throughout the week, not just on Sundays.

- We need to nurture new leaders, including Alpha which is currently dependent on Christoph and Edda.

- 'Hotel to Home': we should all be playing an active role in ministry. Growing a small team of people to help Christoph – who is currently the only ordained minister – to lead services, give talks, etc.
- PCC members are entrusted with the mission of the church - we need new people who are willing to serve in this way. The Electoral Roll represents our church family – if you worship regularly at St Mary's you can join at any time.
- Spiritual gifts – what are they, and how can we use them - this was a theme that came out of the Listening Project. Sermons and small groups will be following a series in June addressing this: You are a part of everybody.

An intergenerational church focusing on families and young people

How do we reach out to the next generation?

- Pray – will you commit to praying for our family ministry?
- Associate Minister – we are looking for someone to join our leadership team with a focus on families and young people. Interviews will be at the end of June. Please pray for the recruitment process, and spread the word about the vacancy.
- 'Growing Younger' – Lead Academy will be facilitating a strategy morning – turning our dreams into an action plan for family ministry.
- Lighthouse Holiday Club is running again this August, with more children, plus 'lamplighters' (young helpers). Could you join the team leading this event?
- Kids' choir, which ministers to the whole church congregation: we would like to welcome more children and leaders.

God wants to transform us all by his spirit, growing the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

17. Closing Prayer

*Holy Spirit of the living God,
 Help us to sow
love where there is division,
joy where there is sorrow,
peace where there is pain,
patience where there is hurry,
kindness where there is fear,
goodness where there is evil,
faithfulness where there is neglect,
gentleness where there is anger,
 and **self-control** where there is greed.*

The meeting closed at 12.32

**Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denham
Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

Incumbent:

Rev'd Christoph Lindner, The Rectory, Ashmead Lane, Denham, UB9 5BB

Bank:

Barclays Bank, 142 High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1JX

Independent Examiner:

David Steel, Danescroft, 37 Kingsway, Chalfont St. Peter, SL9 8NX

Background

The PCC of St Mary's Church Denham has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Christoph Lindner, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church through regular public worship, pastoral work, teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, events, small groups and religious assemblies in schools; children's and youth work; working for the common good of the parish in co-operation with other agencies; supporting other charitable work in the UK and overseas; ecumenical co-operation with other churches.

Membership

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and in 2011 was registered with the Charity Commission as THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DENHAM with Charity Registration Number 1144358.

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Up to the APCM 2025:

Incumbent: Christoph Lindner, the Chairman

The Churchwardens: Cathy Macqueen (Vice-Chair), Jane Brown.

Elected members of the PCC were Janet Allen, Kathleen Anderson, Dexter Brown, Charlotte Hearnden-Smith, Michele Lee, Christopher Macqueen, Kathy Paine, Kathryn Sole, Mike Stewart, Sandy Wickenden. Sandy resigned from the PCC in October 2024, creating a casual vacancy.

The representatives on the Deanery Synod were Michael Carmody and Brian O'Regan. The Treasurer was Mike Stewart. The Secretary was Victoria Lucas until

May. Siân Reading was our Interim Secretary until October. Our new Parish Administrator Sarah-Jane Bennett started in December.

From the APCM 2025:

Incumbent: Christoph Lindner, the Chairman

The Churchwardens: Cathy Macqueen (Vice-Chair), Jane Brown.

Elected members of the PCC were Janet Allen, Kathleen Anderson, Dexter Brown, Samantha Carter, Charlotte Hearnden-Smith, Christopher Macqueen, Kathy Paine, Kathryn Sole, Mike Stewart, John Wertheim. Jenny Tebboth joined the PCC as Associate Minister in October. Kathleen resigned from the PCC in December 2025, creating a casual vacancy.

The representatives on the Deanery Synod were Michael Carmody and Brian O'Regan. The treasurer was Mike Stewart. The PCC secretary was Julie Laughland. The Parish Administrator was Sarah-Jane Bennett.

Committees

The *Cockpit Crew* is the *Standing Committee* of our PCC. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Apart from its statutory members (Rector and Churchwardens) the members were Kathy Paine and Mike Stewart.

Our *Fabric Team* looks after the fabric of St Mary's Church and the churchyard. It is chaired by Dexter Brown.

St Mark's Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC within the ministry of Denham Parish Church, responsible for the maintenance and running of St Mark's Church Hall. It is chaired by Michele Lee. The Rector and Churchwardens are ex officio members.

St Mark's Hall Refurbishment Project Team is chaired by Mike Stewart.

Give and Share is a ministry of Denham Parish Church which reports to the PCC. It is led by Craig Alexander and Caroline Goodwin, together with a leadership team. The Rector is an ex-officio member.

Church Attendance

Please refer to the Electoral Roll Report below for details on the Electoral Roll.

In 2022 we started to count the number of screens/devices joining us online during the service (rather than the total number of views on YouTube). In several cases a screen will represent more than one person.

The average attendance at St Mary's in October 2025 was **66 adults in the building (2024: 65), 8 children (2024: 8) and 15 screens (2024: 22)**. The figure for adults and children in the building is largely steady, with numbers of screens down on 2024..

In 2025 around 550 adults (2024: 525) and around 92 children (2024: 115) came to our Carol and Christmas services at St Mary's and St Mark's. The number of online screens was around 66. The largest service (total of adults, children and online) was again our Christingle-Crib service with 179 people, followed by the Family Carol Service with 173. A particular highlight was Carols at Café Church with a bumper attendance of 42.

Our choir led or supported carol singing events in both Care Homes and at the Memory Café at St Mark's.

Occasional Offices

In 2025 we had 7 baptisms, 5 weddings, 29 funerals and 9 burials of ashes.



Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. Please refer to the separate report by Samantha Carter for details.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2026

St Mary's Denham Church Electoral Roll has been reviewed and amended as required by the Diocesan Synod and is available for viewing at this meeting. The roll will also be displayed on St Mary's, St Francis and St Mark's Notice Boards.

The review for this year has seen the removal of six names and the addition of eighteen new entries; this has resulted in an increase of twelve on the 2025 roll. The number of names entered upon the Church Electoral Roll for the parish is one hundred and forty-eight (148).

Parishioners who are listed on the Roll are entitled to vote at this meeting however, to qualify for nomination to the PCC they must have been registered on the Electoral Roll for at least six months.

Addresses have been checked and verified by the Churchwardens and are held on the Electoral Roll Database. In accordance with the Data Protection guidelines, addresses of members are not published on copies of the Roll that are on display in the churches of the parish.

New applications may be submitted after the closure of this meeting for inclusion on the next Roll. Application Forms are available from the Electoral Roll Officer or at St Mary's from the display area near the church entrance.

Copies of the Church Electoral Roll Certificate will be displayed for a minimum of fourteen days alongside the roll already on display in the parish churches after this meeting.

Maurice W Litchmore, Electoral Roll Officer

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2025

Aims, Objectives & Activities

Our aims and objectives are summarised by our Vision Statement:

We pray like Jesus. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to God as 'Father' and was in constant communication with Him. As his followers we want all our life to be grounded in our relationship with Him.

We welcome like Jesus. We have experienced God's welcome in Jesus and want to be a welcoming community for everyone.

We share like Jesus. We are called to share life, faith and ministry and to develop a culture of generosity that speaks of our generous God.

We dare like Jesus. The church must be courageous at a time when it would be so easy to retreat. This needs to be a courage that is discerned in listening to God together and sustained by his Spirit.

The PCC met eight times in 2025. In addition, there was a PCC Morning in February and a Strategy Day with a focus on families in June, to which all PCC members were invited.

Our Standing Committee (Cockpit Crew) met eight times.

OUR VALUES



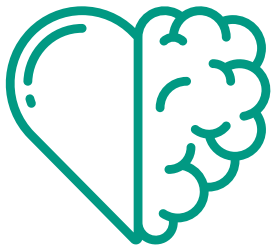
PRAYERFUL

Everything we do is rooted in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We long to see the transforming power of His Spirit at work.



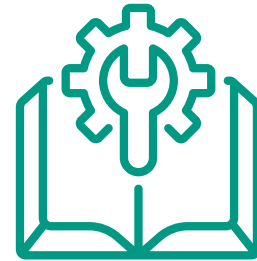
WELCOMING

God loves us unconditionally. We therefore warmly welcome all people, no matter how they think, believe, live, or where they are from.



HEAD & HEART

The message of Jesus Christ touches and transforms not only our hearts, it also renews our minds and is relevant in how we live today. Exploring, probing and questioning are part of a healthy faith.



WORD & DEED

The Bible is God's Word to us. Jesus is our model and inspiration and we invite others to find out more about him. At the same time we express his love and care for others in practical ways.



ROOTED & INNOVATIVE

We are rooted in the 2000-year-old Christian faith and its reformation renewal 500 years ago. We are applying this precious inheritance for our context today.



INTERGENERATIONAL

The good news of Jesus is for all ages. They can be a blessing to each other. Together we are focusing especially on connecting with families and children.

RECTOR'S REPORT



It was a lovely surprise on Mothering Sunday this year, when churchwardens past and present marked ten years since Edda and I arrived in Denham.

The Churchwardens' Report and individual reports in this booklet paint a vivid picture of our church's life last year, so I want to zoom out a little and reflect on the values that undergird who we are and everything we do. If our vision (Pray, Welcome, Share, Dare like Jesus) describes the destination, then our values describe how we behave on the journey. One of the hardest things to change in any organisation is the culture. It's the water we swim in and often we don't notice where our culture is healthy or otherwise. But a healthy culture is the bedrock of our church's life and will make a positive impact even beyond our individual times as members of this church.

So, here are the values I am commending to us all. Our recently launched All-In Service has the potential to be a catalyst for culture-change, so I will always reference it in each section.

PRAYERFUL

Everything we do is rooted in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We long to see the transforming power of His Spirit at work.

Prayer takes many forms - individual and corporate, praise, thanksgiving, lament, intercession and quiet waiting on God. Just before the outbreak of Covid we hosted a day of training for prayer ministry with the aim to introduce it at some of our services. Nothing came of it as churches had to close their buildings and we lost the momentum when we came back to St Mary's and St Mark's. While we have always offered to pray for one another, we didn't have a point in our

services where it was natural to ask for prayer. Each All-In service has a response time, where we can choose an activity. From the outset we offered prayer and it's been wonderful to see that every time, people want to pray - either quietly or together with a member of the team.

WELCOMING

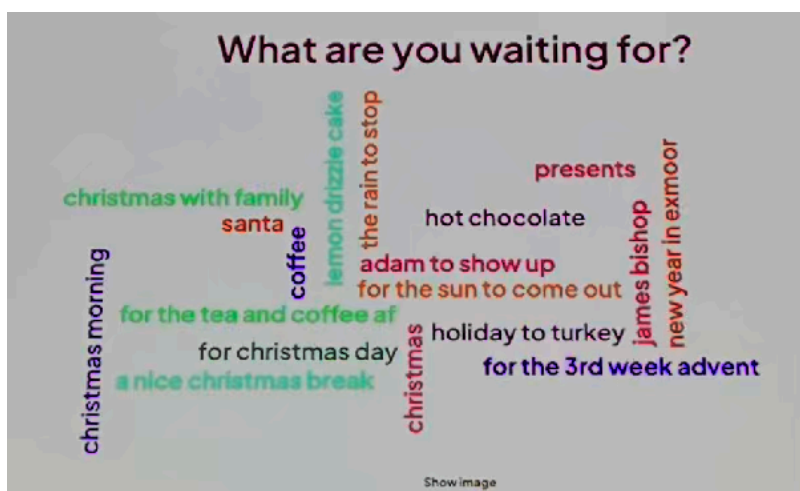
God loves us unconditionally. We therefore warmly welcome all people, no matter how they think, believe, live, or where they are from.

Over the years we have worked hard on our welcome, decluttering the entrance of St Mary's, giving welcomers name badges, printing a welcome leaflet for those who are new to church, offering refreshments at the back of church after the service to make it easy for newcomers, and encouraging each member to look out for those who are not part of our community yet. Ten years ago, Edda and I were welcomed warmly by this church family and over the years we have welcomed many more. The goal is not to 'sell them' something but to give them a taste of God's welcome.

At the All-In service we aim to have a diverse welcome team, made up of adults and children. This already expresses that you are welcome, irrespective of age, background, ethnicity. One day every tribe and tongue will confess that Christ is Lord (Philippians 2.11), and our gatherings can be a little foretaste of that.

HEAD & HEART

The message of Jesus Christ touches and transforms not only our hearts, it also renews our minds and is relevant in how we live today. Exploring, probing and questioning are part of a healthy faith.



Smaller groups have always aimed to connect head and heart and we are so thankful for all our small groups, whether they meet in the room or online. But our Sunday services tend to be mostly in 'presentation mode' without much interaction. At the All-In, we build in interaction - early in the

service when we start engaging with the theme (*above: an interactive word cloud from the December All-In*), and then after the talk in the various options to respond. Some are about thinking, others about praying, others again about making something with our hearts. There are different learning styles and we are invited to receive the good news of Jesus in a way that helps us to put it into practice. Often there is a take-away so that we can take what we have learnt into

our daily lives. In March we reflected on silence and solitude and some of us made a 'settling jar' which invites us to take a short break during the week, to shake up the jar and then be still and pray while we watch it settle.

WORD & DEED

The Bible is God's Word to us. Jesus is our model and inspiration and we invite others to find out more about him. At the same time, we express his love and care for others in practical ways.

Our unique treasure and offering to the world is Jesus. That's why he has to be front and centre of all we do. Our love for Jesus flows out into our daily lives and must not be contained within the church walls. Sometimes, at the end of our service we all turn towards the door to prepare to go out to "love and serve the Lord". Last year we reflected on the gifts that we all bring to the body of Christ under the heading "You are a part of everybody". We all bring different gifts and have different spheres of influence. At the All-In we are encouraging everyone to contribute actively, to discover and practise their gifts - not just for an hour on Sunday, but throughout the week.

ROOTED & INNOVATIVE

We are rooted in the 2000-year-old Christian faith and its reformation renewal 500 years ago. We are applying this precious inheritance for our context today.

Many people have predicted the demise of Christianity and the Church in the West, but - like the tide - it keeps coming back. It is encouraging to see how young people who often haven't grown up as Christians, are asking deep questions about life, faith, purpose, God. And they are not seeking thrills and entertainment they can find in many other places, but deep roots. "New life in the old walls" means that we treasure the faith and tradition of 2000 years, while building bridges to the people of today, across which they can walk into a life of faith. In our All-In service we retain the shape of the liturgy, including confession, absolution, intercessions, Lord's Prayer, hymns old and new, and a blessing. At the same time we use styles of communication (interaction, prayer ministry, visuals, hands-on activities, music group) that can help us gain a fresh perspective on the timeless message of the gospel.

The screen we introduced at St Mary's about 18 months ago is helping us to communicate in a range of ways and to free up our hands from what some have called 'the library' (notice sheet, service sheet, hymn book, etc.).

One special project for our first All-In service in November was the "All-In apple juice": Ann Collins and a few others donated the apples and Chiltern Ridge made them into beautiful juice and created a bespoke label. We sold out after only two Sundays - the bottles weren't just enjoyed by church members but also given away as presents - a lovely way to share the blessing of "All-In" (*see photos below*)!



INTERGENERATIONAL

The good news of Jesus is for all ages. They can be a blessing to each other. Together we are focusing especially on connecting with families and children.

At our “Growing Younger” strategy day with LeadAcademy in June we homed in on how we can increasingly become an intergenerational church. Jenny Tebboth has a particular focus on families in her ministry. Being intergenerational is baked



into the vision for the All-In service. Young people are encouraged to be part of all the teams - welcome, tech, prayers, etc. It’s been beautiful to see the energy and excitement of some of the young people. They are not there to be entertained but to actively contribute to the life of the community. Focusing on families does not leave anyone out - no matter how old we are, God’s vision is that we are part of a family of all ages.

Please let me know what your thoughts are about these values and how we can live them out together. Thank you for being a part of everybody!

C. Lindner

(Rev'd Christoph Lindner, Rector)

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



In February we welcomed Samuel Kpagheri from Togo who is our mission partner with Wycliffe Bible College. It was lovely to finally meet him in person. He preached in our Sunday services and was interviewed at Café Church (left: Samuel welcomes Marion Francis at Café Church). A number of parishioners took him on some sightseeing in the area - from Windsor to London, local pubs to restaurants and to other churches who also pray for and support him. His most exciting moment in Windsor was seeing a life-size cardboard cut-out of Mr Bean, with which he had to get a photo!

The PCC morning in St Mark's was a time to focus on reviewing The Listening

Project, where parishioners had given feedback on many areas of St Mary's services, mission and outreach. We also discussed and reviewed the St Mark's Hall potential development project which would enable a larger and more versatile space for use by Denham Parish Church as well as the local community.

In March, we hosted tea and cakes in the Vestry for the Deanery Chapter meeting led by the then new Bishop Dave Bull, and attended by local ministers. The Kids' Choir performed another beautiful song at our Mothering Sunday service.

April was our annual spring clean of St Mary's before Easter. Our organist, Stephen, conducted a "Come and Sing" concert with a choir made up of local singers (including our choir) and talented voices from afar, singing John Stainer's *Crucifixion*. It was a moving performance and a lovely lead-up to Easter. The annual Easter Egg Hunt proved popular again and we had a number of new families joining us.



We had a farewell Bring and Share lunch after a service in May for Azita. Not long after this we arranged a coach to support her licensing service as she moved onto pastures new at St Francis, Terriers in High Wycombe (*see photos above*).

At the APCM, Cathy and Jane were both re-elected to serve as Churchwardens for another year. It was a major year for renewing the Electoral Roll, ably co-ordinated and overseen by Maurice Litchmore.

The annual May Fayre was a great success again and couldn't have happened without so many volunteers giving up their time to help in so many different ways. It was lovely to see the village buzzing with people. The refreshments in the vestry, children's activities and bottle tombola in front of St Mary's, were very popular, with many also coming into the church to see the children's art display and hear the organ recital, Blend Choir and the Singing Vicar.



In June Cathy and Jane were sworn in for another year at the Archdeacon's visitation service in Princess Risborough. We started interviewing for a new Associate Minister. A strategy day, focusing on those involved in youth and children's work, was led by Lead Academy.

We completed the annual inventory of the church valuables, and also completed the annual Articles of Enquiry. Kathleen Anderson has helped raise the profile of Health and Safety across all the church premises and Dexter Brown (Fabric) and Mike Stewart (Treasurer) continue to so willingly and ably co-ordinate and oversee their responsibilities, making the life of a churchwarden so much easier! August saw another very successful Lighthouse Holiday Club for primary school children. We had a fabulous team of helpers - both teenagers and adults, and there was a real buzz of energy and fun and it was a great opportunity to share God's love within the community.

St Mary's Festival in September, was kept slightly smaller but involved a fun 'Bring and Share' lunch with games and general mingling and chatter.

Rev Jenny Tebboth was licensed at the end of September and has been a great asset since then within the Parish (*see photo below*). Lifegroups all took part in

The Bible Course, which included videos and group discussions. Some groups met together for this in St Mark's Hall.



Harvest donations - predominantly vouchers, have allowed us to help local families and those in need throughout the year which has been a blessing to many.

We started the All-In Services in November, which is proving a great success, with break-out times for contemplative crafts, prayer and other activities. It has been wonderful to see how so many of the youngsters

have stepped up to the challenge of helping with sound, AV and welcome.

Jane was away for two months at the end of the year and Samantha Carter kindly stepped back into her old shoes and supported Cathy during this time. Thank you Sam!

The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas - thank you Flower Team for your quiet ministry in this area throughout the year. The Choirs (Adult and Kids'), Refreshment and Welcome Teams all contributed to make our many services a time of worship and joyful reflection on Jesus, the reason why we celebrate Christmas.



Reflecting back on the past year, we have much to be thankful for. In and amongst the variety of meetings, planning, admin and co-ordinating, are the people - our church family whom, with God's grace, we willingly serve.

(Cathy Macqueen and Jane Brown)

2025 FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS

The Annual Accounts, which have been reviewed by David Steel FCA, acting as an Independent Examiner, show an increase of £4,742 in the General Fund, an increase £1,199 in the Fabric Fund, a decrease of £584 in the Rector's & Churchwardens' Fund, an increase of £5,841 in the Church Growth Fund and a decrease of £4,072 in the Give & Share Fund.

At 31 December 2025 the General Fund stood at £48,205, the Fabric Fund at £1,016,047, the Rector's and Churchwarden's Fund at £42,942, the Church Growth Fund at £20,595 and the Give & Share Fund at £7,178.

In total there was an increase in the combined Funds of £7,126 so that the total of all the funds stood at £1,134,967 at 31 December 2025 compared to £1,127,841 at 31 December 2024.

Cash balances at 31 December 2025 totalled £1,147,584 compared with £1,155,378 at 31 December 2024.

This year for the first time the Balance Sheet includes Fixed Assets with the label "Building Work in Progress". This asset which at the 31 December 2025 stood at £12,958 represents the investment the PCC made during the year in the design of the proposed extension at St Mark's Hall.

Once again we were most fortunate and most blessed to receive donations and legacies totalling £71,512 of which £50,000 has been allocated to the Fabric Fund.

As a Grade 1 listed building St Mary's Church and the associated Churchyards and church houses require constant maintenance and upkeep which last year totalled £83,504, as set out in Note 6, which compares with the £134,662 incurred in 2024. As we seek to progress with once in a generation repairs to St Mary's Church and a major improvement to St Mark's Hall we need to keep the Fabric Fund, in particular, in a robust financial position.

The PCC would all like to give a special thank you to the wonderful Fayre Committee who this year raised £15,071 for the maintenance of the Church and the Churchyard. They do an incredible job in keeping the 800 year old Charter Fayre so vibrant to the benefit not only of the Church but also the village and parish as a whole. Thank you.

Total Incoming Resources in the Unrestricted General Fund were £151,414 compared to £133,580 the previous year. Planned Christian Giving at £64,517 and Weekly Collections at £7,474 were both very similar to the previous year.

Without question it is these regular monthly donations and the associated Gift Aid, that this year totalled £17,259, that enables our local Church to both balance

the books and keep spreading the word of Jesus Christ – so thank you all so very much.

This year the General Fund benefitted from the rental of Church Houses that generated £16,735 and interest on the cash deposits of £19,965.

The rental income received from St Mark's Hall is shown at £3,650 with the expenditure at £5,129. The reduction in rental income is due to one user that has recently changed their systems which has led to a delay in payments being released.

Total Costs in the General Fund increased to £146,672 from £132,001 the previous year. The main reason for this was the increase in secretarial costs and some end of lease maintenance to St Marks House when Azita moved to her new Parish.

Once again as in previous years steps were taken to trim back on discretionary expenditure where possible without damaging the activities of the Church, the contribution that everyone has made to this is most appreciated.

The PCC has targeted a figure equivalent to three months costs as the appropriate level below which the General Fund should not fall which in our case is about £40,000. The budget for 2026 assumes a small loss so we expect the General Fund to remain ahead of this important yardstick.

Charitable donations made by the PCC totalled £23,518 this year slightly up on the £23,378 we made last year. Full details of these payments are shown in Note 5 to the accounts.

Can I particularly draw your attention to the Give & Share Team whose donations to those in need in our Parish totalled £12,568 compared to £11,718 last year. A number of people help with Give and Share but without doubt the driving forces are Craig and Caroline and it is only right that their incredible Christian commitment to this Fund, and all it stands for in our community, should be applauded and recognised. Thank you Craig and thank you Caroline!

Expenditure from the Fabric Fund reduced in the year to £83,504 of which £32,840 related to St Francis House which has required extensive refurbishment. Some of this should be covered by insurance but this will only be taken to the accounts when it is agreed and paid. Any receipt will be credited to the Fabric Fund.

We are expecting expenditure on the fabric of the buildings to increase significantly in the short and medium term as the church building has significant problems with damp and other structural issues. Professional advice has indicated the actions that may need to be taken and it is intended to take these a step at a time and assess the impact of that remedial work before moving to the next

stage. In that way it is hoped that the most expensive remedial work can either be avoided or reduced in scope.

The Rector's and Churchwardens' Fund stood at £42,942 at the year end again benefitted from the higher rates of interest payable on deposited funds.

The Church Growth Fund stood at £20,595 at the year end and is ring-fenced to support appropriate expenditure for new growth activities as and when required.

It is self-evident that without the faithful commitment of all givers, the work of Denham Parish Church could not continue. Thank you all very much for your support in 2025 and through the coming year.

(Mike Stewart, PCC Treasurer)

Correspondence Address for the PCC:

St Mary's Church Office

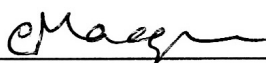
Village Road, Denham, UB9 5BH

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Denham

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets		
Building Work in Progress	12,958	-
Current Assets		
Short term deposits	1,118,034	1,118,034
Bank current account	<u>29,550</u>	<u>37,344</u>
	<u>1,147,584</u>	<u>1,155,378</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	(26,930)	(27,901)
Other Debtors	<u>1,355</u>	<u>364</u>
Net Assets	<u>£ 1,134,967</u>	<u>£ 1,127,841</u>
Funds		
General Fund (unrestricted)	48,205	43,463
Fabric Fund (designated)	1,016,047	1,014,848
Rectors & Churchwardens Discretionary Fund (restricted)	42,942	43,526
Church Growth Fund (restricted)	20,595	14,754
Give & Share (restricted)	7,178	11,250
	<u>£ 1,134,967</u>	<u>£ 1,127,841</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 3 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by
Rev. Christoph Lindner (Rector) and Mrs Cathy MacQueen and Mrs Jane Brown (Church Wardens)



Rev C Lindner

Mrs C MacQueen

Mrs J Brown

The Notes below form part of these Accounts

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP

Funds

The General Fund represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The Fabric Fund is designated for improvements, major repairs, insurance and maintenance of the Church and the Churchyard.

The Rector and Churchwardens Fund is a Restricted Fund for the benefit Charity and for the growth of the Christian message in this Country and overseas as deemed appropriate by the PCC.

The Give & Share Fund is a Restricted Fund for charitable purposes in and around the Parish.

The Church Growth Fund is a Restricted Fund for the growth of the Christian message in the Parish and beyond as deemed appropriate by the PCC.

Accounting Records

The accounts, include all transactions, assets & liabilities for which the PCC are responsible in Law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Collections, planned giving & donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when received. Funds raised by the Village Fayre are accounted for net of associated costs.

Assets

Consecrated & beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s96(2)a of the Charities Act 1993, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure is written off as incurred.

Continued from previous page

Extracted from the Annual Report of the PCC for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Denham


Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted)		Fabric Fund (Designated)		Rectors & Churchwardens Fund (Restricted)		Church Growth Fund (Restricted)		Give & Share Fund (Restricted)		Total Funds	
		2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Miscellaneous		5,265	7,688									5,265	7,688
Fabric Fund Expenditure	6			83,504	134,662							83,504	134,662
Give & Share Fund								6,373		2,888	2,148	2,888	2,148
Church Growth Fund Expenditure												6,373	-
Total Resources Expended		146,672	132,001	84,504	137,662	2,500	3,250	6,373	-	15,456	13,866	255,505	286,779
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		4,742	1,579	1,199	646,764	(584)	(887)	5,841	3,809	(4,072)	(2,623)	7,126	648,642
Balances brought forward at 1st January		43,463	41,884	1,014,848	368,084	43,526	44,413	14,754	10,945	11,250	13,873	1,127,841	479,199
BALANCES C/FWD AT 31st DECEMBER		48,205	43,463	1,016,047	1,014,848	42,942	43,526	20,595	14,754	7,178	11,250	1,134,967	1,127,841

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
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirement of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 have not been met.
- 2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Steel FCA

Date: 13/12/26

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin - Denham
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
	£	£		£	£
1 St Francis House			6 Fabric Fund		
Insurance	803	744	St Francis House - Refurb	32,840	30,767
Plumbing & Heating	375	2,016	St Marys Church Windows	7,950	
Council Tax	832	-	Tree & Churchyard Maintenance	4,973	12,360
Other Maintenance	850	1,092	St Marks House - Windows	4,746	2,400
Fees	1,275	450	Audio Visual System	3,135	41,160
	4,135	4,302	Tower Repairs	2,016	2,806
			Office Printer	1,560	-
2 St Marks House			Professional Fees	3,180	2,735
Insurance	833	805	Drainage Soakaway	-	9,114
Alarm Service	126	119	St Marks Hall - Gutter & Soffits	-	6,850
Painting, Decorating & Electrical	680	-	St Marks Hall - Fees	-	2,118
Plumbing & Heating Repairs	1,688	654	Other	-	2,699
Council Tax	2,225	-	Computer	-	1,500
Other Maintenance	1,241	190	Heart Defibrillator	-	450
New Fittings	1,790	-	Insurance	5,333	5,345
Fees	1,569	450	Churchyard	10,252	7,102
	10,152	2,218	Maintenance (See Note 7)	7,519	7,256
				83,504	134,662
3 St Marks Church			7 Maintenance		
Utilities	2,552	2,224	Waste Collection	2,358	2,205
Cleaning & Maintenance	1,712	1,590	Security	1,051	1,209
Insurance	664	540	Fire Extinguishers	262	248
Other	201	163	Clock Annual Maintenance	266	266
	5,129	4,517	Mowing Equipment Repairs	475	500
			Heating Maintenance	600	1,010
4 Associate Ministers			Electrical Repairs & PAT Testing	450	168
Expenses & Utilities	1,059	2,781	Organ Tuning	372	690
Council Tax	888	6,872	Window maintenance	720	-
	1,947	9,653	Miscellaneous	965	960
				7,519	7,256
5 Charitable Donations					
Mission Partners					
Tearfund	2,500	2,050			
Care for the Family	1,500	2,050			
SHOC	1,500	1,300			
Wycliffe Bible Translations	1,500	1,300			
Bible Reading Fellowship	1,500	1,300			
Other Charities					
Give & Share	1,000	-			
Royal British Legion	300	360			
Childrens Society	150	300			
Give & Share	12,568	11,718			
Village Fayre Share	1,000	3,000			
	23,518	23,378			

REPORTS FROM OUR GROUPS AND MINISTRIES: FROM A TO Z

ALPHA

From January we ran Alpha in the Rectory on Monday evenings with seven guests. While this was a smaller Alpha, the group gelled really well. The evenings were hosted by Christoph and Edda Lindner. Two participants had done Alpha the previous year and acted as helpers. This is a very helpful role and creates a helpful (pun intended) link between the hosts and the participants. Have you done Alpha before? **Would you like to come back as a helper? Let us know!**

One couple who took part and were expecting a baby had a scan on the same day and we were the first to be told her gender at Alpha! In the meantime, Elsie has been baptised.

Edda and Christoph hosted an Alpha social in the Rectory garden in August and several people brought family members. It was a happy occasion showing the friendships that were built during the course.

In the feedback form everyone said that their experience was highly positive. Several said they made new friends, others reported they felt more at peace and more loved and that the course had strengthened their faith. One person said they had discovered a relationship with God through Jesus.

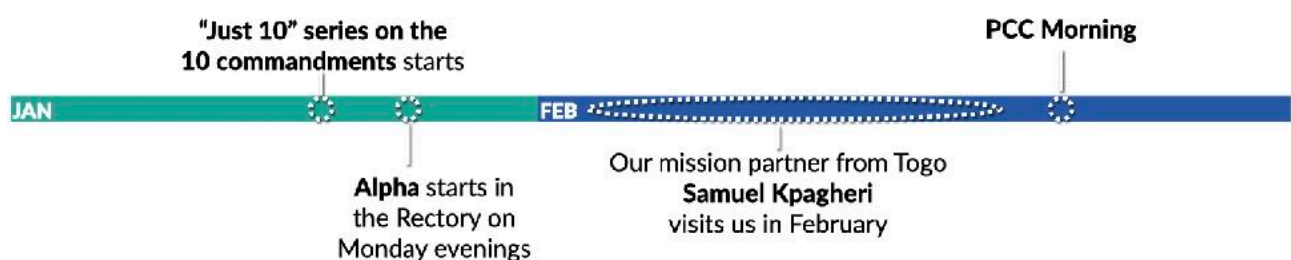
Alpha continues to be a very effective way to introduce people to the Christian faith irrespective of their background. If you'd like to take part in 2027, please send a message to the office so that we can let you know more information in due course. While we have had a few people signing up via the national Alpha website, the vast majority of guests come because they have been invited by a friend. **Whom could you invite to Alpha next year?**

Here are some of the comments from attendees:

- ▶ "Lovely group. I loved the prayers. Movies were educational."
- ▶ "Great course and great hosts. Highly recommended."

BELLRINGERS

Another quiet year for the bellringers, with no major events to mark but of course the important role of calling to worship continued. My own involvement was limited by further cancer treatment, but I hope to get back to normal this year. As before, my thanks to the other ringers and the wider church for their support.

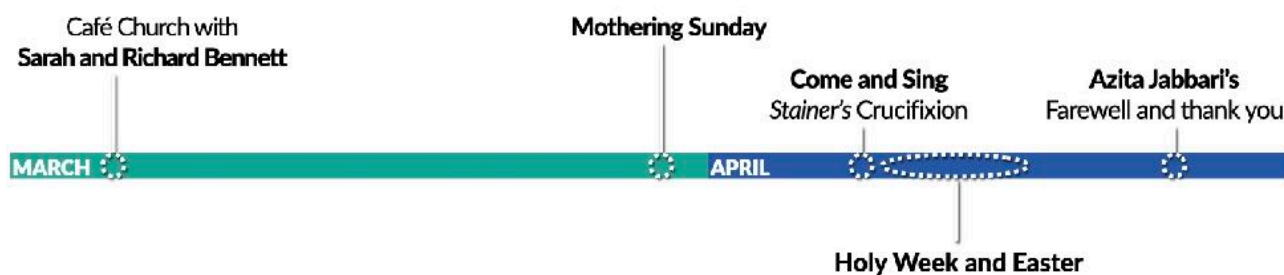


Ringing as a band for services has generally been limited to once a month to make sure we can assemble a full band, with extra ringing over Christmas and on New Year's Eve. We also rang for Azita's farewell service and to open the Fayre, and half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday. We used the Ellacombe chimes on other Sundays subject to a volunteer being available, and for a number of weddings and funerals. We have again welcomed a couple of visiting bands to ring our well-regarded bells.



We have not needed any significant repairs this year so our finances are still in good shape topped up by fees from weddings and funerals, with enough in reserve to cover possible expenses such as a broken stay or replacement ropes.

Illness, age and other commitments mean we can struggle to field a full band so we do have space for a keen learner or three; it needs a bit of time to learn plus



the ability to count at least up to 6, plus reasonable co-ordination and fitness, but no great strength. Having lost some regular volunteers, we would also love to add to the rota for ringing the chimes, which can be picked up in a single session; adults are welcome but it would also be ideal for a 10+ age child to do with a parent once a month, or as a Duke of Edinburgh's Award activity. Anyone who might be interested is welcome to contact me to find out more, or speak to the chimer on a Sunday morning.

Andrew Simpson, Tower Captain (March 2026)

andrew@simpson.trumail.com (01895) 255594

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Individual reports below on:

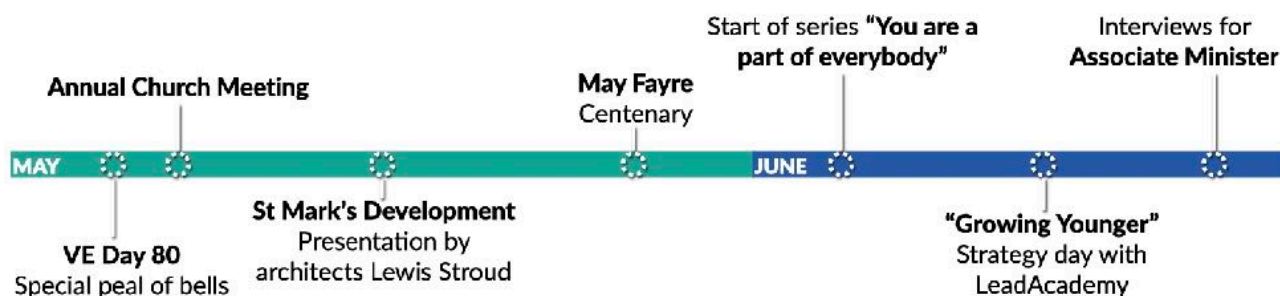
- ▶ Destiny Youth Group
- ▶ Children's Ministry and Kids' Choir
- ▶ Lighthouse Holiday Club
- ▶ Little Lions Toddler Group
- ▶ School Assemblies
- ▶ All-In Service

DESTINY



Destiny (youth aged 10 and above) continues to provide fellowship and fun-filled biblical discussion for the kids of our church family. Tim Macqueen and Charlotte Hearnden-Smith continue to run the group with brilliant support from Jane Brown. We have carried on with the community focus and emphasising the creation of a group of friends, alongside good biblical teaching.

We focus on creating a comfortable and welcoming environment for the Destiny members and have been brainstorming new ideas on games



and activities for each session - with key favourites being the “Dobble and Sky Jo” card games and the “Geoguessr” online map game where the kids work together to figure out where in the world they are. We have been encouraged to see growth in the bonds between the Destiny members and hope to see them continue to develop stronger friendships and potentially bring other friends into the group. With the exciting prospect of a few new members about to reach Destiny age, we are encouraged by the future.



In a session at the end of the previous series we were following, we asked Destiny for their big questions about God and faith and it's our goal to explore them this year. Questions like “What happens when we die? “. “How does the trinity work?“, “Was Joseph Jesus’s real dad?” and many more. Our quest to answer these big questions has been helped massively by the Youth Alpha series. The series has caused great laughter and interest using skits and humour to break down complex themes without taking away from their importance. Following in their footsteps, Tim and Charlotte have put on their acting shoes and have used skits and scenes to help teach important lessons like “love thy neighbour” in a fun way. Destiny has also enjoyed creating reminders of what we discussed in each

Lighthouse Holiday Club
at St Mark's

JULY

AUG

A wildfire
in the churchyard!

session from a hand drawn “Polaroid” or “life lines” of their most important/ proudest moments, to “stained glass” crosses made of card and tissue paper.

We look forward to the future and the continued support from the church, families and most importantly the Destiny members.

(Destiny Team)

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

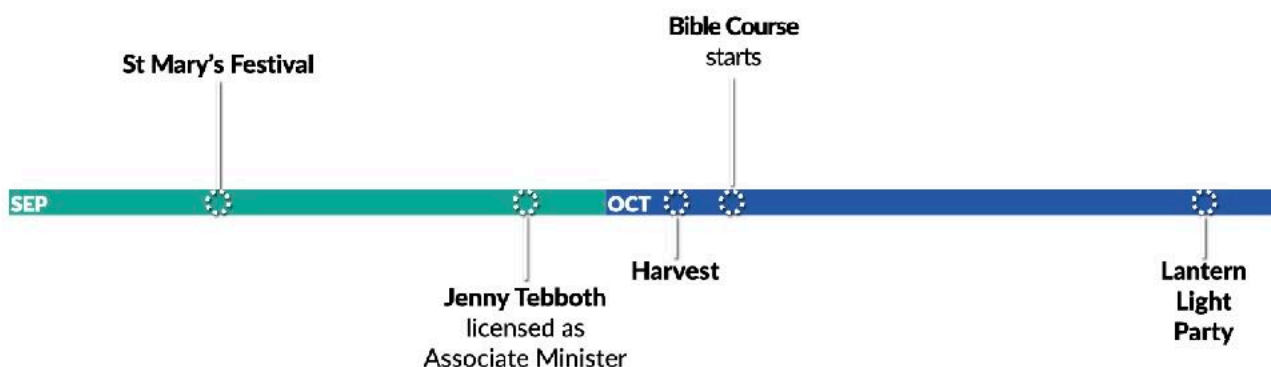


On 41 Sundays we provided **Sunday Club as part of the 10.30am service**. The average attendance is at nine children, ranging from three children to top numbers on Easter Sunday, Father’s Day, Mothering Sunday and End of school year celebration with up to 25. Some of the sessions included Kids’ Choir rehearsals. Our very dedicated and reliable team of leaders and helpers are Sonja Clements, Kathy Paine, Kath Sole, Sian Reading, Edda Linder, Sarah Leer, Robert and Eliana Melis, Laura Philips, Briony Nevitte and Vicky Birkby. We follow the “Roots” teaching resource which follows the lectionary.

There were six consecutive Sundays in the summer holidays when Sunday Club did not run. Instead, children and adults stayed together and we offered clipboards with activities and story bags, so that the team got a break.

Each Sunday is unique – the combination of children is always different and our team has a wonderful capacity and skill to adapt and adjust the prepared activities accordingly to the ages and stages of the children. A huge thank you to their dedication, love and flexibility.

Sadly, we had to say “thank you and good bye” to Sian Reading with her children Imogen and Owen, as they moved away from Denham in the summer.



Sian's contribution to the **Kids' Choir** and assembly team leaves a gap and we miss them.

The **Easter Egg hunt** around St Mary's Church is now a well-established, community event and was a popular event with many families joining in. There were nearly 400 easter eggs to find!

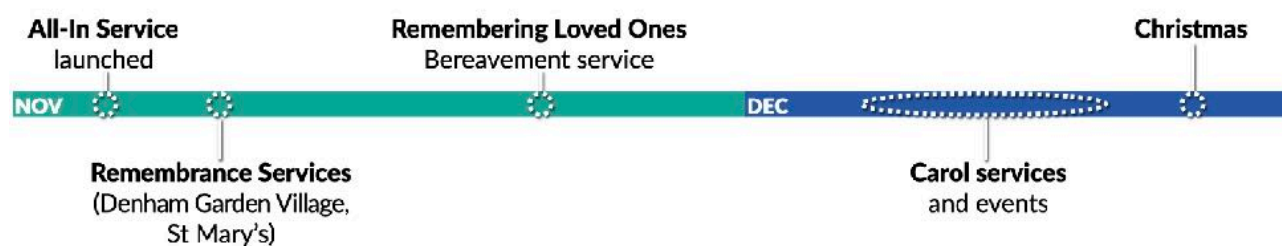
Lightparty: 30 young and older people celebrated Jesus as the light of the world on 31st of October at St Mary's Church, party style! The programme included toasted marshmallows, crafts, hot dogs and the ever popular (giant) marble run!



THE KIDS' CHOIR children enriched our worship at particular Sundays throughout the year, in particular Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday and Carols for all ages, with contributions from up to 13 children, some of whom are now experienced soloists!

LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

2025 saw our second Lighthouse in Denham from 5-7th August. Building on the success of the first year, we had 36 local children attending and a team of 30 volunteers in a huge variety of roles. We were able to run the club at St Mark's Hall as we could use the garden and ground floor of St Mark's House too. Each of the three days was a highlight in itself and a great success. We were learning about the story of Daniel (Old Testament) and space explorations! Yes, there was





a link between these two themes! The visit of the local fire brigade, having teenage helpers (“lamp lighters”), a music band and a little drama group were some of the outstanding features this year. It was wonderful to offer a Christian holiday in the middle of the summer holidays for local children. A big thank you to everyone who supported the week with their help. The club is run entirely on donations and could not happen without St Mary’s generous financial support. The costs per day and child run at £15.

LITTLE LIONS 2025

We have had another fun-filled year at Little Lions with our dedicated team and have been delighted to include Jenny Tebboth into our midst. She is a great addition to our story telling rota - always an unpredictable feat with toddlers and



babies! Other members of our amazing team are Anna Nash-Steer, who was one of our first mums and she simply didn’t leave, though her youngest (not even a bump at the time) is 8, Brenda Davies and Jenny Browne.

We average about 12 families each week and find that our turnover continues to be quite high as Mums return to work often within the year of their maternity leave. We do however welcome other carers and grandparents etc., who bring the children and add a lovely dimension to our toddler group community. We love to see each child grow and develop in confidence and enjoy

providing a rich environment in which they can thrive and be introduced to Bible Stories. This year we were really pleased to receive a grant from New Denham Community Association with which we were able to buy some much needed tables and chairs. Many thanks to them.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

We continued with monthly “Open the Book” assemblies in both local primary schools throughout the year. We hosted special events for both schools at St Mary’s. Denham Green E-ACT Academy celebrated their Christmas Concert and Denham Village School their Harvest Assembly and Carols by Candlelight. Our assembly team consisted of Christoph Lindner, Sian Reading, Kathy Paine, Sue Richardson, Michael Carmody and Edda Lindner. It was sad to say “goodbye” to Sian in July and then to Michael at the end of the year. Michael has been part of the team since its start in 2016. His theatrical gifts and dedication are missed. A heartfelt THANK YOU and huge GRATEFULNESS for all his dedication throughout these years remain! Please pray for the team to grow once more.

ALL-IN SERVICE

ALL IN was launched on the first Sunday of November – a refreshingly updated version of our family service, every first Sunday of the month. Our vision is: All Included, All Involved, All Inspired, All in the Room. Please read the Rector’s Report for an in-depth look at All-In!

Edda and Kathy continue to look for willing volunteers so if you have a heart for young children please come and talk to us!

Kathy Paine & Edda Lindner

CHOIR



The church choir of St Mary's, Denham has seen a very stable membership over this past year. The members have remained a willing, enthusiastic and dedicated group of around 15 singers with fairly consistent attendance levels.

They prepared the music for Christmas with interest and enthusiasm and welcomed extra singers to join them, which overall made very acceptable contributions to the Christmas services.

There has been willing attendance for occasional services such as weddings and funerals, and the choir meets monthly on a Thursday evening to prepare music for Sundays and Feast days.

The church choir formed the core of singers for "Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion", which was a fitting start to Holy Week just before Palm Sunday. We had additional singers from other choirs and excellent soloists. The performance was appreciated by all who came.

No choir world tour has yet been discussed but no doubt this will be in the pipeline for some time in the future with such a committed group of people!

Please contact Stephen Armstrong on stephenarmstrong445@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the choir.

(Stephen Armstrong)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There were three meetings during 2025, the first being held on 18th June at Christ Church, Holmer Green, attended by Christoph. Deanery accounts for 2024 were presented and approved and the budget for 2025 agreed. The synod then heard how two Deanery parishes recently created a Mission Action Plan; discussions followed.

The next meeting on 11th September was held at St Mary's Amersham and attended by Michael Carmody and Christoph. An in-person report was given by our Deanery Missionaries Steve and Lindsay Poulson on their work with street children in Honduras, which is clearly gathering scope and momentum. There are 65 children in the programme.

There was also a report by a member of CARE (care.org.uk) on the assisted dying bill, emphasising that we should not seek to support this bill, but that additional support should be provided for palliative care and hospices, as only 1% of NHS budget is in this area. Our current Member of Parliament for this area is in favour of assisted dying.

The final meeting on the 20th November at St James Gerrards Cross had full attendance from our representatives. We heard of the impending retirement of

the Bishop of Oxford, that the new Bishop of Buckingham was in post and that a new Deanery Leadership Team was proposed, including Christoph.

Main business was financial with parish share being agreed and kept in line with inflation. The treasurer gave a report on the Parish Giving Scheme highlighting the results of a recent survey. Seer Green Parish then told us about the success of their new Café project and how they hoped to further expand. Samaritan's Purse also gave a presentation about their charitable work, especially in disaster relief.

(Michael Carmody)

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

Denham Parish News (DPN) continues to be issued once a quarter (December, March, June, September) as a 32-page printed colour edition, with an on-line version available on the Church website www.denhamparish.church/magazine/.

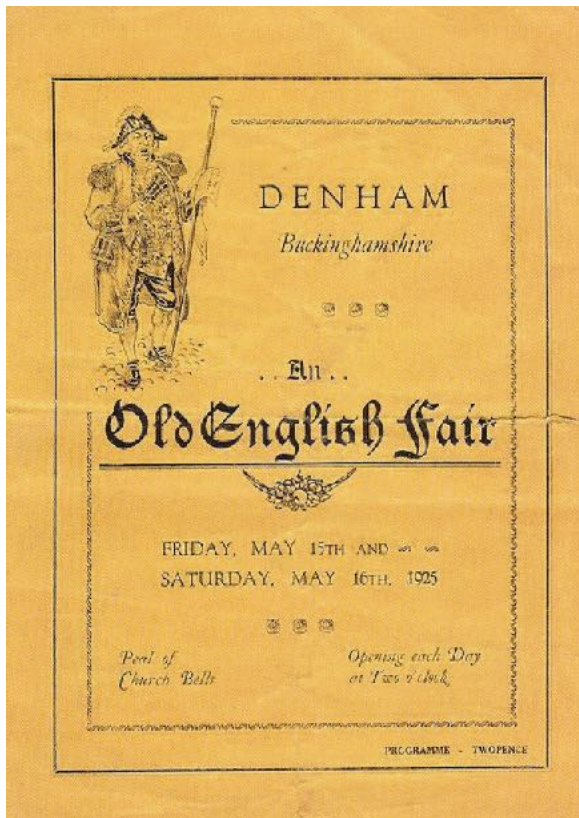
Jenny Brown is invaluable in supporting our dedicated team of Distributors who hand-deliver DPN to over 350 subscribers. We have kept the price the same at £1.50 per issue (discounted to £5 p.a for regular subscribers) but slightly increased the one-space advertiser fee. We see DPN as an arm of outreach and routinely over-print so that we can give away complimentary copies.

We continue to include a varied content of clear Christian messaging with our 'Life and Faith' series, interviewing Kath and Tim Sole, Michele Lee MBE, Sarah and Richard Bennett. The Bible Detective explored 'Easter, what's the point?' and 'Do religion and politics mix?'. The Craft Corner by Kath Sole has been a fantastic creative and colourful section. We have welcomed our new Associate Minister Jenny Tebboth, said goodbye to Azita Jabbari, and marked other parishioner's key life events in the Family Register. Reader contributions included entries for 'My Favourite' walk, railway journey, and Christmas carols. With book and film reviews, poems, photo montages of key events, and interesting historical pieces hopefully there is something for everyone to enjoy! Please pick up a copy or apply for an annual subscription!

In all issues of Denham Parish News, Christoph has provided articles and editorial support and Peter Wager continues to take our words and pictures and create an outstanding final product. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and talent this year, and to everyone who continues to read it! Denham Parish News is very much a team effort.

(Cathy Macqueen, Editor)

DENHAM VILLAGE FAYRE - 100-YEAR CELEBRATION



Having been without a fayre for more than 50 years, in 1925 the Village Fayre was restored, ably organised by Lady Victoria Braithwaite. The funds raised that year helped to repair the rafters of St Mary's Church. Over the last 100 years, money raised by the Fayre has continued to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of our historic and beautiful building at the heart of the village. In 2025 the Fayre Committee is now ably chaired by Amy Kenworthy and in addition to supporting St Mary's, some of the money raised by the Fayre is gifted to local charities. The 2025 recipients were:

1. Community Outreach and Charitable Giving (25%, £500 per charity)

- **Give&Share:** Outreach from Denham Parish Church, supporting local families in need with food parcels and vouchers at Christmas and throughout the year.
- **Pumpkins Wildlife Hospital** – looking after Britain's sick and injured wildlife.
- **Denham Youth FC** – donation will help them attend more away games and enter different competitions as they work their way up the league.
- **Denham Memory Café** - meet first Friday of every month at St Mark's Hall, 11am and 2pm. A lifeline for members and carers with activities, sing-a-longs, chats and a spot of lunch.
- **Thomas Ball Children's Cancer Charity** – supporting children and families who have been affected by cancer.
- **Denham Cricket Club** – donation will help update the clubhouse and replace the practice nets.
- **Higher Denham Lunch Club** – led by Mary Rints, last Friday of the month. £4 for a home cooked meal, raffle and more importantly the camaraderie of friends.
- **Denham Village School:** donation was put towards new library chairs.

- **Denham E-Act Primary Academy:** donation used to update their SEN quiet room.
- **RSPCA Hillingdon** – were very grateful for the donation and also appreciate donations of blankets/animal beds/newspaper.

2. Church Building Maintenance and Improvements (75%, £15K)

Money from the Fayre helped us repair a damaged stained-glass window and add discreet outside protection to our listed windows. It was also used for the upkeep of the churchyard, including tree care and mowing.

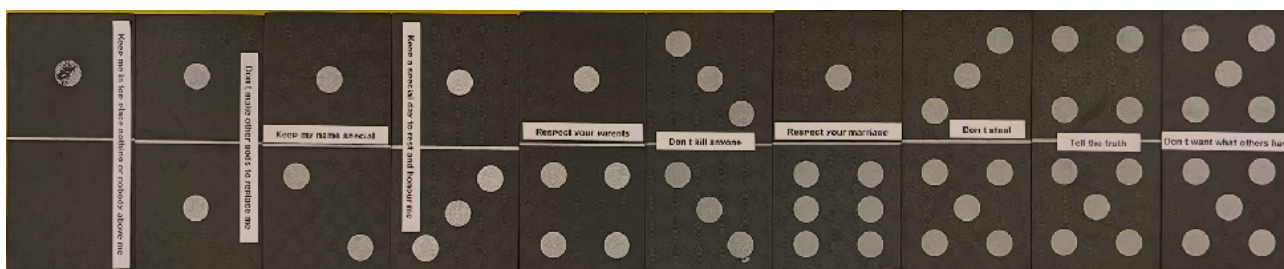
We continue to strive to make the Fayre a family and community event, enjoyed by all. With thanks to our sponsors Carter Duthie, Lightning Recycling and Poppy Cottage; those who donated to the Grand Raffle, and the host of volunteers who make it all happen! Thank you for taking part!

(Cathy Macqueen, on behalf of the Fayre Committee)

DISCIPLESHIP

At the heart of discipleship at Denham Parish Church are our small groups - lifegroups and online “Bible Book Clubs”, some of which also have occasional social gatherings. A list of all existing small groups can be found on our website (www.denhamparish.church/lifegroups).

Pastoral care is a natural part of every small group. It is our dream that every church member can find a small group that helps them to grow in faith and friendship. After Azita moved on, Keith Lang stepped into the leadership of her group, of which he'd already been a part - thank you!



(Above: Sunday Club explored the Ten Commandments with big domino pieces.)

Small group studies alternate between times when we track the Sunday readings or study the materials prepared to accompany a particular sermon series and other times when the groups each decide on a theme or book of the Bible to study. In 2025 we studied the following themes together: “just10 - God’s timeless values for life today” (about the Ten Commandments), and “You are a part of everybody: Serving God with our spiritual gifts”,

The role of lifegroup leaders is central in strengthening the core of our church. In 2025 they met twice on Zoom.

Alpha continues to be an important way in which we invite new people to explore the Christian faith and help others to grow as followers of Jesus (see separate article above). If you'd like to become a host or a helper in future, do get in touch with Edda and Christoph.

(Christoph Lindner)

FABRIC REPORT

This report summarises the works carried out in our fantastic grade 1 listed St Mary's Church building, vestry and surrounding churchyard in 2025. The Fabric Team (FT) is tasked with dealing with these issues and reports to the PCC. Approval for expenditure of projects under £1000 is devolved to the FT, otherwise PCC approval is required. Straightforward maintenance tasks are carried out by FT members. Appropriately skilled trade contractors are commissioned for many issues. For larger projects and higher expenditure, outside professional guidance is often used. The firm of Evans Crawley acts for St Mary's as our church surveyor and is usually our first port of call.

The FT's remit falls into 3 broad categories:

1. Routine maintenance of St Mary's buildings

This includes both planned and reactive maintenance.

Routine maintenance includes amongst other things, servicing and checks on such things as fire extinguishers, electrical appliances, gas boilers, alarms, lightning conductors and the tower clock.

Reactive maintenance includes many minor repairs and replacement tasks that generally go unnoticed. In 2025 some of these included:

a) lead repairs on the spire and roof of the tower along with repairs to the north aisle and vestry gutters

b) UV moth killers for the clock floor level of the tower

c) new glass in the vestry door

The entire lead and glass panel in the vestry corridor door accidentally smashed and it was replaced with a very closely matching safe glass option. If you look closely at the glass you can see it is different to the rest of the glass in the vestry. The glazier told us depending on the way the glass panes were oriented it would look like a tulip or an elephant's bottom! What do you think we ended up with?

d) specialist repair of a stained-glass window in the sanctuary

e) external window protectors for all previously unprotected windows

f) unblocking the vestry loos

g) installing smoke and heat detectors in the vestry, office and kitchen

h) changing the external vestry security lock to comply with fire regulations

2. Churchyard Maintenance

This includes the maintenance of all the churchyard areas to try and enhance the appearance and maintain safety for all users. The FT are responsible for servicing and repair of all the machinery/equipment used. The grass is regularly cut, a task made more difficult by the number of headstones and other obstructions that need to be navigated. The FT have ad hoc 'garden parties' and regular employed gardening help is used for general care and improvement projects in the churchyard. Public footpaths that cross the site need to be kept safe and accessible and the brambles obstructing the path in the New Churchyard have been regularly cut back. John Breese continues to tend to the roses in the Old Churchyard that continue to give much pleasure to many.

The FT are keen to continue to improve the churchyard areas. To this end a comprehensive biodiversity project is being developed. An ecological survey by the Wildlife Trust has been undertaken. These together will enable a comprehensive plan for churchyard improvement to be instituted. We know the general Denham community places great value on the churchyard's appearance and we are hugely grateful for the contributions that the fayre committee has made to St Mary's.

Last summer there was a fire in the New churchyard. The fire brigade attended and it was extinguished, thankfully with only an extensive area of grass burnt. The cause is unknown; however, it was conjectured that Ian Jennings may have been involved (a joke you will only understand if you have heard his sermon about a pyromaniac incident in his youth!). Our policy of leaving the grasses uncut in areas to help nature was frowned upon by the fire brigade, as with the hot dry summer this area had become a fire risk. Sometimes you just can't win!

In the late summer Collins Construction were doing a major construction in Denham for the Bosch headquarters. They offered some pro bono work to the church and we gratefully accepted their help. They cut back and cleared the brambles in the old raised memorial garden in the middle churchyard as well as power cleaning all the pathways around the church.

Last autumn the owners of Bowyer House reported that our boundary lime tree was growing through our boundary wall and into their garden. Investigation revealed dense basal and root growth that had cracked and moved the wall making it a collapse hazard. Consents to remove the tree and repair the wall from Bucks council and the DAC have been sought. At the time of writing the tree has now been felled and rebuilding of the wall is being planned.

3. Projects

Three major projects are currently in progress:

Damp-Masonry issues

Following on from last year's report, 3 faculties have been granted to:

1. Strip all cementitious plaster off the internal in the north aisle to sill height and remove all cementitious plaster in the tower entrance area.
2. Remove cementitious pointing externally to a height of 2 metres above ground level around the flints of the entire north aisle and tower.
3. Replace some damaged masonry, 2 masonry crosses on the roof and conserve (not restore) with lime wash the entrance doorway to the tower and repoint the brickwork down to the boiler basement area.

The works will commence on the Tuesday April 7th (the day after Easter Monday) and the internal works are hoped to be complete by mid-May. As a result, services will be disrupted during this period and alternative plans have been made. About 18 months will be needed to allow the walls to dry out before we consider the final restoration of the uncovered internal surfaces.

Tower Beam treatment and restoration

Following the chemical treatment of the oak beams supporting the clock floor in the tower in 2024 consideration has been given to structural engineering to support the failing beam strength. Progress has been slow and frustrating. The first survey we commissioned recommended a 'resin' based solution. After gaining quotations we found this methodology was not supported by the DAC. A new report has therefore been obtained suggesting a more conventional mechanical solution, however, a final specification and sourcing of suitable companies to undertake such work is still a 'work in progress' and currently taking a back seat to the completion of the masonry works this spring.

Heating

Improving the heating in St Mary's is an issue that the FT are acutely aware is a priority for many of the congregation, as well as ourselves! The FT has considered options and will meet to discuss a final specification and recommendation to put before the PCC this year.

The FT comprise Robert Ash, Mike Stewart, Mike Laide, Clive Ascroft, Gerald Miller and Dexter Brown. We meet regularly for meetings or work parties and have been known to occasionally frequent local hostleries for debriefing sessions!



Robert Ash unblocking the vestry loo drainage with an improvised rod, whittled from a sapling in the churchyard. We are a resourceful team and as you can see by the expression on Robert's face we do enjoy our work?!



The Middle Churchyard

(Dexter Brown on behalf of the St Mary's Fabric Team)

GIVE & SHARE

Another busy year of providing help and hope in the name of our church.

The Give and Share team led by Caroline Goodwin and Craig Alexander purchased and distributed over 250 £50 vouchers (an increase of £10 on last year) to families in need at Christmas 2025, where we responded to requests from local schools who identified families in need of our help with the ever-spiralling cost of the festive period. We were also able to distribute 57 hampers made up of food donated by our generous supporters.

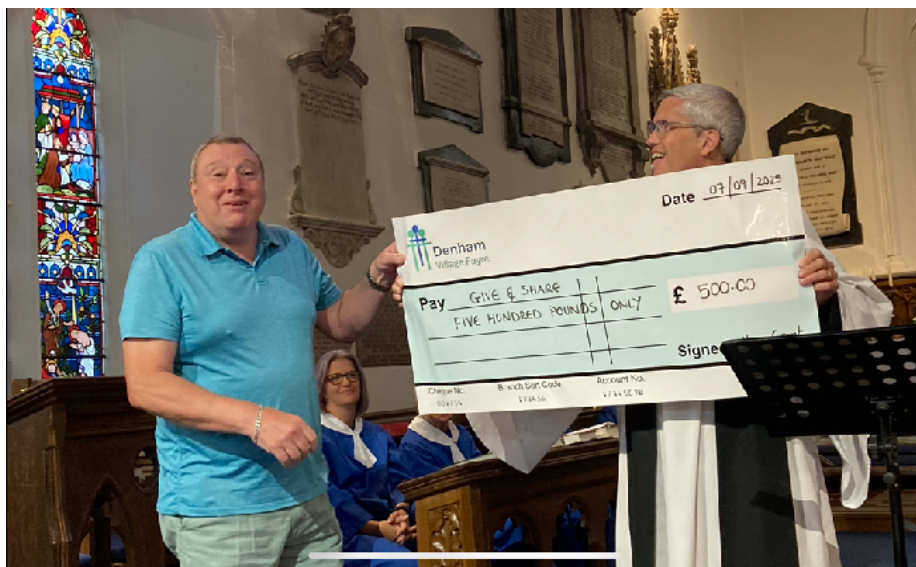
We identified a need for a further 28 food parcels in January, this often being the hardest month for families in need of support.

We also gave each family a tin of chocolates and a small booklet telling the Christmas story. The total of the voucher distribution came to approximately £12,500.

We received excellent feedback from the schools telling us how grateful the families were to receive vouchers rather than goods, particularly as this enabled them to purchase food that they could or would, prefer to.

Craig and Caroline have run a number of fund raising events during the year. However as our budget for Christmas 2026 is £16 to £17k, there is a lot of work to do to ensure we meet this target.

We carry out many other acts of giving and sharing during the year such as sourcing beds and furniture for families transitioning from emergency accommodation to permanent homes. We were also able to help a young lady entering into a semi-independent care placement miles from her original home. As this youngster was suffering deeply from lack of family contact, we put out a call and a very generous donor gave us an iPhone and a £20 voucher to get her started.



We would like to thank our amazingly generous supporters who, whilst wishing to remain anonymous, enable us to continue God's work in a practical and effective way in our community.

(Left: A donation for Give and Share from the Denham May Fayre)

Finally, as always we make a call to arms! This year will be tougher than ever for families and our aim is to bring relief from hardship wherever we can here in Denham and beyond. If you have time and a heart to be involved, please let Craig, a member of the Give and Share team or the Churchwardens know and we will contact you very quickly!

Give and Share accounts can be viewed in the Treasurer's report.

(Report prepared by Clive Ashcroft)

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care in the two residential care homes (Denham Manor and White Plains) continued with monthly services of Holy Communion and other pastoral visits. The work of activities managers in both homes is central to the wellbeing of residents and we are grateful for good relationships. Members of our choir joined us in both homes for short carol services which were appreciated by the residents and a source of much joy. At Denham Manor we sang again on the first floor corridor so residents who are largely bed-bound were able to benefit. It was lovely to introduce Jenny Tebboth to both care homes and her love for older people is palpable and much appreciated by staff and residents.

Various groups hosted at St Mark's and run by volunteers, as well as the Higher Denham Luncheon Club provide wonderful pastoral support for local residents. It was a joy to join them occasionally and to see the good work they are doing.

In 2025 we said good-bye to some of our much loved church members; increasingly families make use of our live-streaming facility to enable family and friends who live further away or are not mobile enough to take part in funeral services at St Mary's. More and more they are sharing the family photo album to show a visual tribute on our screen as part of the service. We continue to live-stream our 10.30am service which enables housebound people to take part or catch up. While the service is screened at White Plains Care Home on most Sundays, they also occasionally organised a minibus to take a group of residents to our 10.30am service at St Mary's, which is always a joyful occasion for them and the rest of the church family.

After Azita moved on, The Haven bereavement group was paused. It had become quite small, but we are open to starting a new group if we find leaders for a new start. Our special service of Remembering Loved Ones in November, to which everyone who was recently bereaved was invited, was again well attended.

Lifegroups continue to be the bedrock of our pastoral care for one another. Please see the separate report under DISCIPLESHIP.



For the Harvest Thanksgiving services we encouraged our church family once more to donate supermarket gift cards, as well as food gifts. This year we were overwhelmed with your generosity: In total you gave £830, which is a record. Thank you! Your gifts have helped a range of people in material need.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding was always a standing agenda item at our PCC meetings and in line with the Church of England Policy and Practice Guidance, the PCC paid due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. I continued as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the DBS Recruiter and Verifier.

The PCC assisted in keeping Safeguarding on the agenda throughout the year. I sent a report to them before each meeting and really appreciated their input at the meetings. We carried out annual reviews of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, the church-run activities and the non-church activities held in our buildings. In November, on Safeguarding Sunday, we dedicated the whole 10.30am service to Safeguarding along with 400 other churches in the UK.

We continued to follow the Church of England Learning & Development Framework on Safeguarding Training. A total of 22 training modules were undertaken with our volunteers investing over 50 hours of their time.

We continued to use the Safeguarding Dashboard portal to help streamline policies, procedures and our action plan of mandatory requirements that we could review and work from. This was always at least 97% complete throughout the year. We finished the implementation of the Safeguarding Hub (another part of the dashboard) to help us track DBS checks and training records.

We recruited two new volunteers and also renewed DBS checks for five existing volunteers. We were sad to see two PCC members, four children's workers and two pastoral workers step down after many years devoted service. We finished the year with a total of 31 volunteers, two paid team members (our administrator Sarah Bennett and our organist Stephen Armstrong). and two members of clergy in a wide range of ministries able to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

In August, we were advised by APCS (Access Personal Checking System), our umbrella body for carrying out DBS checks, that their external software supplier had been subject to unauthorised access. This cyber attack gained access to part of their system and copied data from there. Unfortunately, three of our volunteers were affected by this breach. Along with the Diocese we supported those individuals and we ceased using APCS to carry out DBS checks.

We did have three safeguarding concerns raised. One was immediately referred to the Diocese who supported and guided us with the situation. The other two were talked through, good practice was discussed and the matters did not need to be escalated to the Diocese.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our Denham Parish church family for the support and encouragement that they give me by keeping safeguarding relevant. They not only dedicate their time to our ministry and mission, but also ensure they always follow good safeguarding practices.

In 2026 we will implement more of our safer recruitment process onto the Safeguarding Hub and start using Verifile as our new DBS umbrella body.

(Samantha Carter, Parish Safeguarding Officer)

ST FRANCIS HOUSE

Following the repairs to St Francis House last year, the house was let to a family not associated with the Church through our longstanding letting agent following the advice of the Diocese.

Unfortunately the subsidence reported in 2024 has reoccurred and further repairs are now being considered. Our surveyors have told us that the recent

climate changes with wetter winters and hotter summers has caused an increase in the amount of ground movement especially in clay soils.

These repairs are now being planned and will be undertaken when the insurance company have completed all their investigations. The tenants are paying a reduced rent whilst this disruption continues, but will revert back to the full rent once the repairs are completed.

(Mike Stewart)

ST MARK'S HOUSE

Azita Jabbari and her family continued to live in St Mark's House in the first part of the year, but when she moved to her new parish we took the opportunity to do some routine repairs and maintenance before the house was let out to new tenants, who moved in in October.

The house is now in a good condition and should bring in a regular rental income until it is required by a member of the clergy.

(Mike Stewart)

ST MARK'S HALL

This report covers the activities and maintenance of St Mark's Hall for the year 2025. The Hall continues to serve the local community as a venue for events, meetings and worship-related activities.

The committee met three times during 2025. Membership remained:

- Michèle Lee – Chairperson
- Edda Lindner – Vice Chair
- Rev. Christoph Lindner
- Brian O'Regan – Fabric and Financial Lead
- Paul Davis – Maintenance Lead
- Brenda Davis – AED check person
- Jane Brown Church Warden
- Julie Laughland has kindly continued to write the minutes for our meetings.

Activities

- **Webpage:** Our webpage on the Church website has continued to be used for one-off hirers and enquiries, and provides information about the Hall and an enquiry form; it has proved a good resource for one-off hirers.

- **Hire fees and terms:** There was no change in hire fees. Terms and conditions were updated and will be issued to all regular hirers annually.

- Regular hirers maintained through the year:

- Madeline Paton Luncheon Club
- Rainbows
- Brownies
- The Monday Club
- Harefield Hospital Cardiac Rehab Clinic
- The Indian Catholic Prayer Group
- DPC Dementia Coffee Morning
- Little Lions (weekly in term time)
- Café Church
- “The Well” prayer gathering (second Monday monthly)

- **One-off hirers:** Continued, mainly birthday parties with a few christening parties; overall numbers for one-off bookings have reduced.

- **Planned activities:** A series of First Aid courses are planned for next year, including one specifically for children.

Maintenance and Safety

- **Electrical safety:** Annual PAT testing of all electrical appliances was completed; the Hall underwent its annual electrical inspection.

- **Routine maintenance:** Ongoing plumbing, heating servicing and minor electrical repairs carried out during the year. The Hall is checked monthly and there is an updated protocol and monthly checklist to enable any committee members to be able to carry out the monthly check.

- **Fabric works:** Small scale repairs have continued and we thank our maintenance group for their assistance with these.

- **Health & safety checks:** Regular risk assessments and fire safety equipment servicing were maintained as scheduled.

- **AED:** The Automated External Defibrillator (on the outside of St Mark’s House) remains part of the national defibrillator network and is checked weekly by a committee member; it has not been required for use.

(Prepared and signed on behalf of St Mark’s Hall – Michèle Lee, Chairperson)

ST MARK’S HALL EXTENSION

The St Mark’s Hall Project Team have been fully engaged throughout the year refining the proposed design for the St Mark’s Hall extension with the architects and a team of professional advisers. There was a presentation to the PCC in February and following that meeting the main outline of the design was approved and a number of some of the more detailed issues were discussed and resolved.



(New Hall Internal Concept Image by Lewis & Stroud Architects)

The Quantity Surveyors appointed to assess the cost of the project, based upon the initial more detailed plans from the architect reported that the construction cost of the proposed building would be in excess of £1million to which design and consultancy fees, associated building costs, VAT and a decent contingency needed to be added, which would increase the cost to more than £2 million, substantially more than we can afford.

Following a more detailed review of some of the design proposals, in particular the elimination of some of the proposed changes to the existing hall and a more precise evaluation of some of the heating and electrical proposals, we believed that the construction costs could be reduced by nearly half.

In addition Kevin Townsend, who is a member of the Project Team and has considerable project management experience, has volunteered to manage the project during the construction phase and we have identified processes that we believe will enable us to significantly reduce the final costs of the project so that we can bring it in in line with our maximum budget, including VAT and a 10% contingency.

These changed processes include, for instance, taking the mechanical and electrical contract out of the main design and construction contract and Kevin managing this aspect of the project directly, so that the costs and associated overheads can be more tightly constrained and controlled.

As an indication of the costs involved in such a project as this the initial design and the statutory information required to support the planning application has cost £29,450 and ran to more than 500 pages of technical analysis.

Christoph recently circulated to all members of the Electoral Roll details of the proposed design and confirmation that the planning application has been submitted. The very next day we received a standard email back from Bucks Council saying that they were so busy that they can't comply with their statutory obligation to respond to our application within three months and could take an additional eight weeks!

We are determined to deliver this project, which is self-evidently in the interest of the wider Denham and Parish community, as quickly as possible at a cost we can afford. This will require continuous pressure from us – and your prayers would be most welcome.

(Mike Stewart)

WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning pattern, with a weekly Holy Communion service at St Mary's at 9am, followed by a hybrid service at 10.30am, continued in 2025. We are regularly joined on the livestream by around 15-20 devices during the service and many more catch up at a later stage.

Having expanded our small team of service leaders for 10.30 with five church members, last year, we invited three church members to give the sermon on occasions: Janet Allen, Edda Lindner, Chris Macqueen. They add different voices and approaches to Scripture and their talks have been appreciated by the church family. This is very much part of being the body of Christ, where all the gifts are being used. Our sermon series and small group study "You are a part of everybody" explored this theme in more detail. One of the outcomes was the proposal of one of our lifegroups to plan lead a 10.30am service, with every group member contributing their gifts - watch this space in 2026!

It was a joy to welcome Jenny Tebboth as Associate Minister and she very quickly established herself and made her mark. Her leadership and preaching style complement Christoph's beautifully and we are all enriched by her ministry.

The biggest innovation in 2025 was the launch of the new "All-In Service" on the first month at 10.30. For the first one in November, Christoph had to visit his parents, which did not diminish a successful launch at all - this rather makes the point that all gifts are needed. Please read the Rector's Report for a more detailed review of this new service and how it is a catalyst for the values we want to establish in our church culture. One aspect to underline is our gratitude that the offer of prayer ministry during this service has been received well - together we are learning different ways of praying for one another. We made a conscious decision not to stream this service on YouTube: "All-In" is a safe place to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. There are so many roles in the

service that there will be one for you. Please talk to a member of the ministry team to explore how you could contribute.

Monthly services at Denham Garden Village, Denham Manor and White Plains residential care homes continued throughout the year.

In February we welcomed Samuel Kpagheri, our mission partner with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Togo and West Africa. It was a joy to interview him and have him preach at St Mary's.

Café Church (first Sunday at St Mark's) was held eight times in 2025 and was very well attended throughout the year. Special highlights were services which featured the life and faith of a church member or guest speaker. In 2025 we interviewed our mission partner Samuel Kpagheri, and Sarah and Richard Bennett. Carols at Café Church in December saw a record attendance of 42. Maybe we need a bigger St Mark's Hall ?! A big thank you to everyone who helps to bake cakes, organise refreshments and host a table at this service.



Special services punctuated the year - some part of the church year rhythm, others reflecting special occasions in the life of the community - Mothering Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, Harvest, St Mary's Festival, Remembrance, "Remembering Loved Ones", Advent and Christmas. A special highlight was the licensing service for Jenny Tebboth at the end of September, led by the Bishop of Buckingham, Dave Bull.

At Christmas, we hosted Christmas concerts and services for both local schools at St Mary's.

(C. Lindner)



A wildfire in our churchyard



Decorating the Easter cross





Ministry Team Christmas 2025



Annual Church Meeting 2025