ST MARY'S

AYLESBURY



Annual Report 2025

APCM 10th May 2026

Rector's Report 11 May 2025 – 10 May 2026

With the Sun beginning to warm our gardens – even as the rain seeks to soak our Bank Holidays, we gather again as the congregation to Assemble in reviewing the year past. But without looking forward, the past's meaning falls short. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for St Mary's in the year to come!

This worshipping community has been busy with Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral farewells. We have also been busy being the people of God in this town, and for each other. We've enjoyed Indian Food (22May) Heritage Open Days Activities and Tea (13 Sept) Harvest Supper/Pet Blessing/Flower Workshop (all on 4 th October), made Angels, Christingles Christmas Wreaths; we watched Flamenco Dancers and Studied Light and dark with Lenten Soup!

Your dedication as Schedulers, Servers, Fundraisers and Fund Counters, Bakers, Bingo-ers and Front Door Greeters has enriched our fellowship. Your churchwardens have been hard at work all year long, and I know that I have also asked much of them! Thank you Sue and Donna for your faithful service! Kenton and our Choir have worked diligently throughout the year to lift our prayers into beautiful music. We are truly blessed to have such a versatile group of singers. It is exciting to see the growing numbers of adults, and growing Youth Choir Network – Thank you again Kenton, and Tamara.

I must also single out our Weekday Greeters! Together we see that St Mary's draws people in. While a surprising number visit because their "car is at the mechanic", every single day, people come in as long as the door is open. Even if the door is not open, people still try to come in! Sometimes we forget that this building stands as a beacon of hope, awe and curiosity! People come in to pray alone, to ask for prayer, or perhaps just to sit with God without words. Aylesbury SPACE is a brilliant partner in ministry, providing a Space for people going through difficult times. While SPACE is distinct from the Church, I make a point to be available to the group as much as I can. Many members of the group have begun coming to Morning Prayer. Not using the calendar year, but since our last APCM, we have celebrated 16 Baptisms, 3 Confirmations, 20 Banns, 2 Weddings and 5 Funerals. We host 2 Grief groups, U3A groups, Scouts, Schools and even the Collation Service for Archdeacon Cassa Messervy in March.

We are blessed with a large, acoustic and comfortable environment. Being the next largest "venue" after the Waterside Theatre, we attract a wide variety of groups and activities. If you like music, our Lunchtime Music delights between 60-100 people every Thursday at 12:45. You can enjoy Jazz Upfront, Aylesbury Symphony, Aylesbury Choral Society, Opera, Drama and Talks on topics such as the Friars Club, Historic Aylesbury Families and even Bats! Popular music performed by Lumos, has drawn fans of ABBA and Coldplay! We have enjoyed the dramatic flair of "A Christmas Carol" and "The Lion in Winter." The Dung

Beatles always sell out when they come to this, their favourite venue! (Wow, Bats Lions and Dung Beatles in the same paragraph!)

In this amazing building, we also need to tend to the worldly matters of Wi-Fi, crumbling walls, Victorian drains and compromised tombs from 1841. The heating, lighting and insuring of this space depends on our common financial and physical support. We are so very thankful for your support. We have needed each penny, and then some! Our vision is even greater, and we will be seeking more funding to reach Net-Zero, bringing better heating, better lighting and better electrical service. Our purpose is to love more people into relationship with Jesus. May God Grant us success in all his purposes.

Doug+

Fabric Report 2025-6

When we talk about the fabric of a church building, we aren't talking about the altar cloths or the curtains. In architectural and ecclesiastical terms, "fabric" refers to the physical structure itself—the literal bones, skin, and shell of the building.

The fabric is generally divided into several key systems that work together to keep the building standing and weatherproof.

We are making progress on several areas. After many years of decline, our electric system is having an official Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR). The exciting news is that we have plans to upgrade and rewire the whole church. In the meantime, there is some work that needs to be done to keep the building and users safe. This will be happening soon!

Our Boiler is thankfully, currently still working. It is now quite old, and we will need to replace it with a "green" heating system. We cannot get permission to replace it with another gas boiler. The plan is to participate in Ground Source Heating. Stay tuned for progress, we are using diocesan grant money to see if this is possible here. This has been raised because of our Net Zero Feasibility Study.

You will all have seen the beautiful work on the Boundary Wall along Parsons Fee. Buckinghamshire Council has done a brilliant job with this. The next step will be for them to restore the Grade 2-listed brick piers and metal gates at our Church St Entrance.

The East Wall of the South Transept has been repaired and redecorated with the appropriate Limewash, and it looks great as you enter the building.
Our lovely clock is still not "working like clockwork," but we are keeping watch and having it serviced as needed!

Much work has been done on the 1841 grave of Georgina Henrietta Owen. The Buckinghamshire Council Subcontractors performed an unauthorised "making safe" and will likely be compelled by the Diocesan Registrar to make it good, with official conditions and permissions.

BT/Open Reach. Grrrrr! We ordered Full Fibre service from them in July 2025. Open Reach refuse to acknowledge the work they have already accomplished and are unaccountable/uncontactable. If they do not attend by the date they set in January (20th May 2026), they will be reported to the Communications Ombudsman.
We continue to work on getting works phased, financed and finished regarding Electric Upgrade, Roof and Window Repair and Underfloor Heating. These will all cause disruption, but it will be well worth it!

Associate Priest's Report

The year 2025 has been a time of both challenges and grace. I give thanks to God for the life of St Mary's Church, the faithfulness of the congregation, and the opportunities in this Parish. It has been once again a privilege to walk alongside people in their time of joy and sorrow, and to witness God's work among us.

My ministry this year included:

- Leading and assisting in regular worship services.
- Preaching and teaching across the liturgical seasons.

- Administering the sacraments, including baptism and funerals.
- Providing pastoral care to individuals and families.
- Supporting Parish events where possible.

I am pleased that there has been a continued emphasis on ensuring that worship remains prayerful, inclusive, and rooted in Scripture, at the same time being attentive to the spiritual needs of the congregation.

Pastoral care has remained at the heart of my role.
This has involved:

- Visiting the sick, housebound, and bereaved.
- Offering spiritual guidance and prayer
- Supporting families during significant events.

Attention has been given to those facing illness, grief, isolation. These encounters have been sacred moments of presence for me, listening and prayer.

Throughout the year, I have contributed regularly to preaching, seeking to:

- Proclaim the Gospel in a way that is accessible and relevant.
- Encourage spiritual growth and discipleship.
- Connect Scripture with everyday life.

Special Services during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter have been meaningful highlights for me, drawing people deeper into the story of our faith.

Engagement with the wider community has included:

- Supporting Parish outreach initiatives.
- Building relationships beyond the Church walls.
- Participation in community events and partnerships.

I am grateful for the collaborative spirit within the ministry team, including Clergy, Lay Readers, and volunteers.

Working together has enabled us to:

- Share responsibilities effectively.
- Support one another in ministry.
- Discern God's direction for the Parish.

The contribution of volunteers continues to be invaluable and deeply appreciated.

This year, I have continued to reflect on my calling and ministry, including:

- Ongoing theological reflection.
- Participation in training, supervision and Retreats.
- Deeping my prayer life and spiritual discipline.

I remain committed to growing both personally and in ministry, seeking to serve with humility and faithfulness.

However, the year has not been without its own challenges, including:

- Managing increasing pastoral demands as an SSM.
- Balancing ministry responsibilities with family and personal wellbeing.
-

These challenges, however, have been opportunities for learning, resilience, and trusting God's provisions.

As we look to the coming year, key hopes and priorities include:

- Deepening discipleship and spiritual formation.
- Strengthening pastoral structures.
- Expanding community engagement and outreach.
- Encouraging greater participation in the life of the Church.

I am looking forward with hope and prayer as we continue to discern God's leading together.

I am grateful for all the support, encouragement, and partnership of the Parish community. It is a privilege to serve as an Associate Priest, and I remain committed to faithfully participating in God's mission here.

Revd Mother Rainah Madzorera
Associate Priest

Churchwardens Report

Another busy year. We attended the Archdeacon's visitation at The St Marys Church Princes Risborough.

We are actively researching lottery grants to help us to plan a way forward with much needed work on our lovely building.

We have been grateful to Kate Lawton for being our treasurer as well as doing the bookkeeping free of charge for the last year. We have now, with Kate's help recruited a volunteer bookkeeper.

We are also grateful to Lynn Moulds for her help with PCC minute taking.

Sue Newling and Donna Riley Churchwardens.

Treasurer's Report – 7 May 2026

The pack of Financial Statements includes an Independent Examiner's Report, a Statement of Financial Activities (Profit and Loss), a Balance Sheet, the movement on our funds made and some Notes to the Accounts.

Here's some headlines:

- The accounts were approved by the PCC on 22 April 2026

- The Examiner's Report confirms that the accounts give a true and fair view of the church's position and meet the required financial regulations. **It also highlights that we need to carefully monitor our expenditure and look for ways of increasing income, to grow our general fund reserves.**
- We made a loss of £11763 during 2025.
- We saw an increase just over £10000 in income from regular giving, fundraising events and general donations. Thanks to you all for your generous contributions to and support of St Mary's Church.
- In addition, we reduced our annual costs by just under £1700.
- During 2025 we saw an increase in regular giving and income from fundraising events. We are thankful to all who have given.
- We paid our full Parish Share in 2025 & we are up to date with payments for 2026.
- The PCC has made the payment of Parish Share a priority and is committed to paying in full going forward. Paying the full amount in 2025 has put us in good standing with the Diocese and enabled us to apply for funding that we were previously ineligible for.
- Our Parish Share costs go towards clergy salary, clergy housing, and expert advice on historic buildings, faculties, safeguarding, proper church system and much more. All services worth retaining.
- To complete our Parish Share payment the PCC agreed to withdraw £39000 from our Dixey Fund

investment. £19000 was paid in 2025 to fulfil our quota and the remaining £20000 will go to our 2026 payment which is set at £55222.

- We did suffer significant losses on some of our investments with the CCLA that were not anticipated. The CCLA is the Church of England investment platform. The losses were not specific to our funds – but a general trend. Encouragingly, the CCLA statements for the first quarter of 2026, show all funds have gained or maintained value. It is unexpected losses that have caused led to our year end shortfall.
- During 2025 we acquired funds from the Friends of St Mary's upon their charity's closure.
- Thanks to all for your support. If you have further queries ask me on a Sunday or email: opsmanager@aylesburystmarys.church

Kate Lawton - Treasurer

St Mary's School Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund has been running for many years now and the funds emanate from the sale of the school site in 1996.

The sum of £70,000 was, and still is, deposited in a CCLA account under the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Trustees. The Capital is not accessible, but the interest gained, about £750 each quarter, is available for the School to make

application to the Trustees for the enhancement of the spiritual well-being of the pupils.

The fund has not been called upon since December 2022 and so the accumulated funds from interest amounted to £10,201.33 on 13th February 2026.

The School recently made application for assistance towards a sensory garden to be built and the trustees were pleased to make a grant of £5749.00 on 23rd March 2026.

The Trustees are:

Fr. Doug Zimmerman – ex-officio
Susan Newling – School Governor
Donna Riley – PCC appointment
Jo Hodgson – PCC appointment - Chairman

Wendy Prestage – Secretary to the Scheme

Electoral Roll Report

As the electoral roll was completely renewed in 2025 there has been very little movement this year. We have three new additions bringing the total on the roll, as at April 2026 to 92.

Donna Riley

Pastoral Team

We have trained a small Pastoral visiting team, however in order to make this a viable project we need more volunteers please. Training available.

Sue Newling

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults to worship and grow in Christ safely. We value and respect everyone we work with and our safeguarding team endeavours to be as relational, transparent and proportionate as possible.

We work hard to ensure that all church officers are up to date with the required training. Safeguarding is on the PCC agenda every month.

I was privileged to read at the Safeguarding Sunday service held in Christ Church cathedral last November.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please speak Sue Newling, the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Sue Newling

Sides-people Report

Since being elected as Senior Sides-person at the AGM in 2021 I have had the pleasure of getting to know the sides-people who have been doing this at St Mary's for a number of years and learn from their previous experience. I have also recruited some new to the role.

After many years of being part of the team, Brigid Sargent has decided to step back. Thanks Brigid for all you have done in this role. Very recently Heather Cotman has also had to stand down, again after many years of dedicated service.

Norah and Joy have joined us, but it would be good if we could further expand the team.

If you would like to join us, please talk to me and I will let you know what our duties are.

Thank you to all the team, from me and the congregation of St Mary's. I think we all agree that is a privilege to welcome people to the Services and particularly to help put newcomers at their ease in a building often new to them and to our "St Mary's ways".

May I ask that the following be elected as Sidespeople:

Maame Esi Baffoe, Terry Bloxham, Helen Mitman, Alison Newitt, Sue Newling, Margaret Nyambo, Jenny Parkinson,

Wendy Prestage, Janet Sampson, Jeremy Sampson, Joy Gombera and Norah Chawarika.

Wendy Prestage
Senior Sides person

Junior Worship Annual Report

Junior Worship is available to all young people between the ages of 2-11, on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday is All Age Worship / Holy Communion and children are invited to stay with their families in church.

Junior Worship is taken by 3 regular leaders, and myself, Jeremy Sampson, Nicolette Rushmere and Sophia Harley has been helping us out on occasions where we were short of leaders.

I would like to thank very much Jeremy, Nicolette and Sophia for their commitment to this invaluable ministry. Thank you for all your hard work each month with the amazing lessons the young people get that attend.

If anyone feels that they are able to help or assist the leaders in anyway that they can please speak to myself or one of the team. We really need more people to support this ministry. Please keep Junior Worship in your prayers.

Thank you.
Catherine Mannion

Deanery Synod Report

There were 3 meetings of Deanery Synod during 2025: March (Church of the Good Shepherd, Southcourt) / June (St Mary's Church, Haddenham) / November (Church of the Holy Spirit, Bedgrove). At these meetings a variety of issues were presented / discussed / voted upon. These included:

- Phil Evans from Christian Aid (regional rep covering the dioceses of Oxford and St Albans) came and talked to Synod about all the work they are involved in through partners in about 30 countries in the world.
- Dave Bull, the new Bishop of Buckingham, spoke to Synod about his journey to becoming Bishop and reflected on his first 100+ days in post. He then challenged the Deanery to focus particular attention on how God is already at work in our parishes.
- The new Deanery Treasurer (Chris Nurse who replaced Tania Dovey) explained there will bean increase of between 5-13% in Parish Share for all parishes (the average increase will be 10%). This is because there is an approximately 4% increase from the Diocese for all Deaneries (possibly slightly higher for the Aylesbury Deanery due to marginally more favourable socio-economic data) and the Diocese is no longer paying for the

ministry costs in Quarrendon (this cost now has to be covered by the Aylesbury Deanery itself).

- A vote was taken which adopted the proposal that "the Aylesbury Deanery agrees to the merger of the current Pastoral Committee with the Standing Committee to be known as the Standing and Pastoral Committee".
- Graham Strachan stepped down as Deanery Lay Chair, as he is moving away from the area. Mike Fulker submitted his candidacy and was unanimously voted in as the new lay chair.
- Updates were also provided on: Rural Affairs / Parish Share allocation / Deanery Finance / Deanery Mission Grants / Parish Vacancies.

Further meetings of the Deanery Synod were planned for 2026 in March, June and November.

Jeremy Sampson, Deanery Synod Representative

Fundraising Report

Due to my personal circumstances 2025 got off to a slow start, however with the Team's incredible support we gathered pace and put on some successful and enjoyable events e.g. flower making workshop, Heritage Day. We learned about the flying creatures that inhabit our lovely building, although disappointingly they didn't play ball and come out on our bat walk! This year the craft fair

welcomed outside stall holders which added to its success and gives us something to build on for next year.

We welcomed Alison to the team and are benefitting from her support and ideas. Once again a huge thank you to the congregation for their support and donations for our events none of it is possible without them. All monies raised feed into St Mary's income which helps the PCC pay the Parish Share and the church stay open.

Anyone looking for a new challenge please come and join us or if you have ideas for events then contact us, fundgiving@aylesburystmarys.church. Advertising is our area of weakness so if anyone can help…

Finally I would like to thank Pam, Lesley, Alison and our regular volunteers for the support, friendship and fun we have.

Jo Hodgson

Julian Meetings Report

Another year has passed and it is now eleven years since the Julian Meetings began again after a break in 2013-15. We still meet each month and have welcomed new members and have said farewell to those who have moved or are unable to join us now. Everyone who comes seems to find great peace and values the quiet time together. One

members husband said 'Why can't you sit in silence at home?' But, she told him it was the bonding with in the silence which brought her peace and quiet joy. I hope we can carry on meeting, although age and ill health may make this difficult eventually.

New members are always welcome to join us on the second Wednesday each month by 2pm.

Heather Cotman

Bellringers Report

16 members renewed.

1st Feb. Funeral Ringing
8th Feb. Aylesbury hosted Central Bucks AGM
8th May. Quarter Peel - Rung to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.
20th May. Quarter Peel Rung. First Quarter Peel for Edward Goodridge.
24th June. Quarter Peel - Rung for Duncan Purchase's Birthday.
6th Sept. Wedding Ringing at St Mary's.

13th Sept. Heritage Day - 49 adults and 3 children visited the ringing chamber.
2nd Oct. Wedding Ringing at Waddesdon.

10th Nov. 1st Aylesbury Scouts visited the ringing chamber. There were 13 scouts, 4 leaders.
15th Nov. 9th Aylesbury Cubs visited. 17 cubs, 5 leaders.
16th Dec. Ringing Sir Henry Floyd Schools Christmas Service.
19th Dec. Wedding Ringing at Waddesdon.
25th Dec. Christmas Service Ringing.

Grant Edney
Bell Tower Captain

St. Mary's Altar Servers

May 2025 – April 2026



As with many aspects of our church's life, there have been highs and lows during this year! For me, the big high has been watching the obvious joy of our younger servers as they learn and perform their roles, and what any of them lack in finesse, they certainly make up with their enthusiasm. It's also good to see our other servers actively supporting and encouraging them. I am pleased too, with the training sessions held, which hopefully give more confidence to those performing their responsibilities. A low for me has been the difficulties I have in compiling the rota, due to the lack of availability of many members of our Team. Despite this, we have provided servers for all the Sunday Sung Communions, Remembrance Sunday in Aylesbury Market Square, two Carol Services, Midnight Mass,

Christmas morning, the Collation of the new Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday Services, as well as a wedding and a funeral.

We have been pleased to have welcomed Michelle Onyewuchi to our team and are overjoyed that Katy Roberts has rejoined us. We are sorry to have lost Tadiwanashe Chawarika, Nyasha Gombera, and Alex Williams, and thank them for their service.

An unexpected delight came this year, when members of our St. Mary's Needlecraft Group, volunteered, 'out of the blue' to inspect all the Servers' cassock albs and to do any running repairs that were necessary. This involved checking the security of and replacing buttons where necessary, re-stitching any seams that needed it, and adjusting the lengths of hems. It has been an enormous act of kindness for which we cannot adequately express our gratitude.

In June, I held a training session for those who had volunteered to become thurifers. Neil Esslemont was incredibly helpful in producing a first draft of what we do, which after some discussions and agreement from Fr Doug remains a helpful aide-mémoire. Unfortunately, the number of occasions we use incense has reduced in recent years – we no longer have a sung evening Communion on the Feast of the Epiphany, and the Sung Communions on Candlemass and Ascension Days, have been replaced by Sung Evensong. Despite there now being, potentially six others, in addition to Neil and myself, there are still times when our lack of

availability prevents incense being used.

In July, I produced guidance notes, and held a training session for our Eucharistic Ministers [those lay people with permission to administer the Blessed Sacrament], particularly for those occasions when one of our team is used to distribute both the bread and wine or say words of blessing, when there is no second priest taking part in the service.

Our rotas during the year have included: John Bush*, Shirley Bush*, Norah and Tadiwanashe Chawarika, Alex Chichera, Humphrey and Lucia Chitsike, Lesley Divers*, Tony Divers*, Neil Esslemont*, Joy, Nyasha and Taffy Gombera, Ayden Kunaka, Herbert Madzorera*, Nathan Matthee, Beauty Mlizani*, Sophia Murove, Joe O'Neill*, Michelle Onyewuchi, Chris Parkinson*, Donna Riley*, Katy Roberts, Bev Russell*, Pam Russell* and Alex Williams [*denotes those with permission to administer the sacraments].

Serving brings new friendships, new skills and insights into the Christian faith, as well as the ability to trust others and work as a team to the glory of God. People join us for different reasons and at different times of their faith journey. I hope this involvement will bless and encourage them on their way.

I am extremely grateful to my wife Shirley for assisting me in the training of our new servers, and to all our servers

and Eucharistic Ministers, for the time, dedication and devotion, they give.

John Bush
April 2026

The Free Community Christmas Day Lunch

2025 marked a major milestone for us – it was our 21st year of organising the event having grown it from about 30 guests in 2004 up to 140 this year! It all takes a lot of

preparation and like previous years' work begins well before December. Planning and volunteer recruitment start at the end of August and continue throughout the autumn and right up to Christmas Day itself.

Christmas Eve is always a happy, busy and productive day with many tasks include wrapping guests' presents, preparing and organising areas within the church, washing dishes, preparing vegetables, and cooking and slicing the turkeys. For 2025, this involved 50kg of Brussels sprouts & carrots, along with 30kg of high-quality turkey supplied by Starveall Turkeys, 450 roast potatoes and 450 pigs in blankets.

On Christmas Day, the chefs began cooking at 8.00am and by 11.15am, 65 volunteers arrived to transform the church

into a welcoming Christmas venue. Guests joined us from 11.30am and were greeted with tea and coffee. Throughout the morning, Christmas entertainment was provided by a local ukulele band and a choir singing traditional carols.

At 1.00pm, guests were seated at festively decorated tables and served a full Christmas dinner. This included traditional turkey as well as vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options, followed by Christmas pudding with custard, mince pies, and fresh fruit salad. In total, 140 meals were served, matching the largest event we have ever hosted.

No food was wasted with guests being offered second helpings, and additional meals were provided in takeaway containers for their enjoyment over the holiday period. After lunch, Father Christmas presented gifts to all guests, and a free raffle was held. Guests were also invited to take a carrier bag and select from a range of goods generously donated by local organisations and individuals.

Our guests came from all walks of life — some for companionship, some because they are unable to cook for themselves, and others due to financial circumstances. As an open-door event, attendance cannot be predicted in advance, aside from those guests we transport to the church. This year, local transport company TWK kindly collected 18 guests who were unable to walk to the venue.

The entire event is free of charge for guests, made possible by the generosity of local organisations, churches,

individuals, and fundraising events. In particular, we would like to thank our main sponsors, Starveall Turkeys, The Rotary Club of Aylesbury, Waitrose and Helping Hand (a DWP Government Household Support Grant Scheme (HSF) provided by Buckinghamshire Council).

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated team of 65 volunteers who give up their Christmas Day to support others. Volunteers undertake a wide range of roles, including meet-and-greet, catering, serving, hairdressing, clearing, washing up, and many more. Without their commitment and generosity, the Community Christmas Lunch would not be possible.

Paul Walter





St Mary's Bloomers

2025 was again a busy year for the Bloomers with the usual weekly arrangements, as well as 3 Weddings and a Blessing, including the privilege of doing the flowers for our own Mel and Debs' wedding.

As usual at Easter we offered people the opportunity to buy a lily in remembrance of a loved one, which seems as popular as ever, and helped to provide the funds for the Easter displays.
In September we did a display of flower arranging for Heritage Day giving visitors the opportunity to 'have a go'.

The Harvest Festival displays in October were as usual enhanced by all those who supplied vegetables and props. Some of the contributions then went towards making jars of chutney which were sold at the Christmas Fair. All the proceeds from which go towards St Mary's.

In November the Church was once again decorated for Remembrance Day with various handmade poppies courtesy of the Needlecraft Group, as well as arrangements for the various remembrance services.

In December, in aid of the Christmas Lunch, a Christmas wreath making class was held in St Mary's with over 20 people attending. A number of Christmas wreaths were also made, on request, for members of the Congregation which

together with the sponsor a rose opportunity, helped to pay for the Christmas flowers.

The Bloomers had an 'away day' in May and took a coach trip to Salisbury Cathedral to see their Flower Festival Spirit of Water and bring back some ideas.

Flower arranging has been the subject of discussion during this year including at the General Synod. At St Mary's we use biodegradable oasis, and although admittedly it has a limited life span it does not end up in landfill. Wire has been one the alternatives suggested but this on the whole limits the size of arrangements and is vicious for flower arrangers and anyone getting too close, and although it has a longer life span it does in the end, probably go to landfill. We are lucky to have people who provide foliage and flowers in the summer, but with the best will in the world we do not have access to enough gardens or those large enough to constantly provide the number of flowers needed. Hedgerows are far and few between in Aylesbury but even so it is discouraged if not illegal to cut hedgerows particularly between the beginning of March to end August because of the damaged to nesting birds and other wildlife. Where possible we use flowers grown in this country but with the vast majority of flowers being imported this is not always possible especially during the winter months, but we do our best and are always open to suggestions.

I would like to thank my fellow Bloomers – Donna, Margaret, Andrea, Kim and our three new ladies who joined us

Lynnette, Frances and Jeannette for their unstinting dedication in giving their skills, time and money to make sure there are always flowers in the Church. Our thanks also go to the members of our own congregation for all those generous donations towards the Easter Lilies, Harvest and Christmas arrangements - it is only with your support that we can make sure that there are always flowers in Church to be enjoyed by the congregation and visitors alike.

Bev Russell

Needlecraft Group

Unfortunately, the 2024 report was inadvertently missed from last year's Annual Report and therefore circulation was limited. I am therefore covering some of the things that have been done during both years as it is important to acknowledge and thank everyone for their hard work.

During both years repairs were carried out on some of the Church linen and altar clothes, as well as running repairs on the servers' albs, vestments and more recently choir robes. The work on the additional and final kneeler was completed in 2024 thanks largely to Anne Aylett. Following agreement of the PCC the Needlecraft Group provided cushions for the servers' pews and seating in the Chancel with Wendy Prestige and Bev Russell carrying out this work. The first of the cushions were funded by donations from members of the congregation, and more recently by private donations, and therefore there was no impact on Church finances.

There were no poppies on sale during 2024 although some were sold to an outside organisation and raised £12 to be shared between St Mary's and the Royal British Legion. However, during 2025 poppies were sold both within St Mary's and again to another organisation raising small but hopefully valuable funds to both the RBL and Church. During November displays of the poppies, of all kinds, can be seen decorating the Church. A number of items made by the group were also sold at the Christmas Craft Fair

including, bags, tree decorations and knitted nativities, and our best-seller pot openers which are on sale throughout the year (just ask - it is a MUST). We remain grateful to members of the Group, and others, for providing these items completely free of charge and thereby raising valuable funds for St. Mary's.

Although not just a Needlecraft Group project it would be remiss not to mention the display of angels that decorated the Church during Advent and Christmas and brought with them a great deal of interest and appreciation from the congregation and visitors. Angels were knitted, crocheted and sewn, made of various materials and using various crafts. We are grateful to the crafters from Space who supplied so many paper angels, from members of the Team, members of the congregation and from friends from outside the Church. Again, it would be remiss not to mention and thank Christine Hales who knitted a vast number of angels. During the November session about six of us spent an enjoyable morning just sewing 'hanging tags' on dozens of angels – yes our angels have wings and tags! After Epiphany the angels were sold in aid of the Street Angels (Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy) and raised c. £136. Thanks to everyone involved.

The Group continues to work closely with the St Mary's Fundraising Group and the Flower Arrangers, and we are extremely grateful to all those who have supported us – those who contributed to the kneeler and cushions and other funds, those of you who have bought items and to all

those who have used their skills and time to benefit St Mary's … thank you all!

Looking Into the future work will continue on many of the things already started, another nativity has already been ordered for Christmas 2026, and work has begun on the preservation of banners etc.

The Needlecraft Group continued to meet on the second Saturday of every month. There are normally about five or six regular members and other people who join us from time to time. Everyone is welcomed to join us, whatever your personal preference of crochet, knitting or sewing, those who already have skills and those who would like to learn more. If you are interested in joining us please do make contact, or just come along and join us for a cup of coffee and biscuit and chat!

Pam Russell

Parish Office

Reflecting on 2025, it was challenging and rewarding, high points and low for many reasons, both professionally and personally. Kim Hopping, our long-time Bookkeeper and Events Co-ordinator retired in April, and with no successful applicants for her job this left plenty of opportunities for us all. Kate stepped in and has thankfully dealt with the finances and bookkeeping, Donna took on the PRS returns, and I took a few extra hours a week to try to keep the

events on track, which is like dealing with an octopus, tentacles all over the place. However, it has been rewarding to see so many new events taking place and the regular bookings continuing to be popular. This has also given us extra opportunities to offer refreshments or a bar in order to raise more funds for the running of the church. Thank you to the Bar Team, especially Donna who orders all the drinks and snacks and Sue for continuing to make the now famous cheese platters for the Jazz Nights. It is a pleasure to work with you all on what I consider to be a night out.

I had thought that it should be a fairly smooth run on the 'normal' side of my job as most of the service booklets were up to date, wrong! They have all had to be (and are continuing to be) converted from the lovely Publisher software that Fr Doug so likes (and made me us, and now like despite my first reservations) back into Word, as Publisher will no longer be available to use from October this year. The booklets are also having to be reprinted due to a change in our bank details.

I am extremely grateful that we now have our own website, this helps with the amount of information available to the public and reduces the need for the website 'A Church Near You' to be continually updated. It isn't linked to our calendars and requires manual inputting for all the extra services and events.

I would like to say how wonderful it is to hear from so many visitors who are welcomed with such joy during the

week and on Sundays, putting people at their ease and sending them in the right direction.

Please don't mention BT/Openreach to Fr Doug he might grrr. . . owl. It's the latest of many, ongoing, problematic issues that he has been dealing with as his role as Building Manager!

Finally, thank you to all who help with the numerous roles that it takes to keep a church like St Mary's operational; it is a mammoth task.

May we all be filled with God's Love and Grace.

Karen Baker, Parish Administrator

Baptism Report

During 2025 there were 11 baptisms (7 adults including young people plus 4 infants')

Please pray for them and continue to support them in their journey with Jesus. And let us look forward to welcoming many more new children and adults into the family of God as they come forward for holy baptism.

Karen Baker, Parish Administrator

Weekday Welcomers

Thank you to our dedicated team of Weekday Welcomers who have once again ensured that the church doors remain open Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12pm.
This allows people a place for private prayer and sanctuary with a friendly welcome and information for visitors from farther afield.

If you feel able to give one morning a week to help, please speak with Fr Doug or the Churchwardens, Sue and Donna, or contact the parish office t: 01296 437641
e: administrator@aylesburystmarys.church

Karen Baker, Parish Administrator

Aylesbury Lunchtime Music

It was with mixed feelings that the decision to close the Charity was made due to a declining numbers of members, together with the death, aging and ill health of many of the more involved members. The matter was brought to a head with the death of Janet Frost early in early 2024. Simon Weaver and myself were the only remaining Trustees and even before the 'crisis' caused by Janet's death both were intending to stand down at the next AGM as Simon was no longer a member of the congregation because of his plans to eventually move to Wales, and my more limited involvement

with the Friends and Church. Therefore, it was decided that there was little alternative but to close the Charity.

From 28 April 2025 the Charity Commission agreed to remove The Friends of St Mary's Aylesbury from the Central Register of Charities and therefore responsibility passed to the PCC.

Responsible for all funds relating to the Charity has now been passed to the PCC. All monies relating to the Friends are restricted in accordance with the Charity Governance/Constitution basically to promote the preservation, repair, maintenance, restoration, improvement and ornamentation of the fabric of St Mary's Aylesbury and to provide articles for use in worship there. In the case of monies given and raised for the reredos the money both in the Friends and St Mary's Accounts are ring-fenced for that purpose only.

Pam Russell Ex-Trustee

Readers and Intercessors

Our worship is enhanced by the number and variety of readers and intercessors, who regularly take part in our Sunday service.

Readers also take part in services at Christmas and Easter.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols is always popular at Christmas time and a number of readers are always needed at the magnificent Easter Vigil as well as the dramatic reading of the passion narrative, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

We welcome new readers and intercessors and there is help available if you are nervous about putting intercessions together to start with.

A huge thankyou to all who have taken part in this ministry over the past year.

Sue Newling

Good News Breakfast

The Good News Breakfast takes place on the last Saturday of the month in the chapter house 9.30-11.30 attendees are encouraged to bring some good news and some food to share, or to give a monetary donation. The number of attendees varies from month to month, the average being 20 coming for food and chat.

There is a dedicated team of volunteers, who help to set up, serve, clear up, wash up and bake. I am so grateful for their contribution.

Catherine Mannion

New Horizons Bereavement Group Cafe

'New Horizons ' is currently a small group of likeminded people who are all in either short or long-term bereavement from loved ones.it is not a therapy group or a counselling group. It is a group of friends getting together for coffee or tea and cake and to support each other through shared experiences and friendship.

Anyone is most welcome to attend. Third Wednesday 10am - 12noon, Chapter House St. Marys.

Currently we are advertised through St Mary's Facebook page, within the church and on 'A Church Near You'.

It is not particularly a church 'group' or by any means religiously orientated. We encourage anyone in the community who is experiencing pain and loss through bereavement to chat and find friendship with people going through similar circumstances.

There have been a discussion recently to drop the 'café' part as it may indicate to people have to pay for their coffee and cake which they don't. In future it will be called 'New Horizons Bereavement, Coffee and Chat'.

Catherine Mannion

Pioneer Youth Ministry Report



Sunday Youth Service September 2025

A group of the Cross-Parish youth from two Homegroups attended St. Mary's Sunday service to share with the congregation about their involvement with Summer Festivals, Homegroups, and Pop-Up Cafes. These young people also led the prayers and shared with us an 'Aylesbury's Got Talent' skit. At the Limitless festival 6 of the young people made an independent personal commitment to be a Christian. There have been five baptisms and one confirmation this year from these groups.

Thursday Homegroups Years 6-13, 3:45-8:30pm.
The 5:15pm and 6:45pm Homegroups are both doing well, and we continue to spend each week looking at scripture, praying, and playing games. Both are at capacity, with ten

regular attendees at each. These are co-led with Amelia Godden, Oaks Youth Minister.

Starting in September and co-led by Corinna Johnson, Holy Trinity's Children and Families Worker, we have launched the new third Homegroup for Years 6 & 7. This runs at 3:45pm. This group is at capacity with 12 children in regular attendance.

The young people attending these three Homegroups are from St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, Oaks Church, St. Peter's, Kingsbrook & Broughton, Southcourt Baptist and Church of the Holy Spirit.

Second Sunday Sermon Skippers Years 6-13, 10-11:30am.
Sermon Skippers monthly sessions are going well. We gather in the Lady Chapel after the Gospel reading and spend the time looking at the lectionary readings, saying prayers together for the needs of the group, joining the congregation for communion, and then returning to the Lady Chapel for a game of Uno before the end of the service. We have Naomi, Caroline, Alex, Nathan, Taffy, Michelle, Norah and Ayden as regular attendees.

Second Sunday Pop-Up Youth Cafés Years 6-13, 5-7pm.
These Cross-Parish youth expressions are continuing to go well, with an average of 40 young people attending. They are hosted at St. Mary's, St. Peter's, The Church on Fairford Leys, Oaks Café, Holy Trinity, and The Church of the Good Shepherd. Bishop Dave visited us in July, and we

went for a scavenger hunt through town, and he bought kebabs for the whole group. He shared with us a little about what it is like to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and will be back this evening at the Pop-Up Café at Holy Trinity to continue this discussion. These young people attending have become like an extended family to each other, so each event feels like a very special reunion. The format is an hour of free time, with table games and football and/or Nine-Square. This is followed by a time of worship, a short talk from a guest speaker and prayer.

Amplify Adventure July 11-13th 2025

In July 2025, we took 27 Homegroup and football youth from Aylesbury to our Diocesan Youth Retreat.
26 of these young people have re-booked to go back this coming July, and bookings for Aylesbury have closed as they need to hold space for other churches in the Diocese.

Limitless Festival August 9-14th 2025

In August of 2025, along with Ameila Godden, Oaks Youth Minister, we took 15 Homegroup children to the Limitless Festival in August at the Stafford Showgrounds, and we already have a group of 24 so far, signed up for the next one this coming August.

Youth Camp, July 3rd-5th 2026

As Amplify Adventure is at capacity, at the request of the Diocese, I have set up a new Pilot Youth Camp in July for Year 5-7 children, and we have a team of 14 adults (local

Youth Ministers, a Vicar, two first aiders and some parent volunteers) along with a group of 40 children and youth team signed up for this.

Aylesbury Youth Choir Network

Working with Kate Warner, Music Teacher at Bedgrove Elementary School, we have been successfully building this new Youth Choir Network, and held two Choir Network Sundays before the summer.

Beginning in September, Kenton and I have been going into three Primary Schools every week; Thomas Hickman, St. Mary's, and Stone School. We have had a very positive response from these children and have been signposting them to sing at events at St. Marys. A few of them sang at the Remembrance Sunday service in Market Square; 28 of them sang at our Lessons and Carols service on December 21st, and eight sang at the Mayor's Carol Service.

Starting in January we are now inviting children from this network to sing alongside the Main Choir on Second Sundays. This means that they are also able to attend the Sermon Skippers session, before returning to the Main Choir sing the Anthem.

It is our hope that in the near future, we will be able to reintroduce the Voice for Life program, here at St. Mary's on Monday evenings.

Tamara Zimmerman
Pioneer Youth Minister

Choir Report

The past year has been a busy one for the choir, with a number of new developments alongside our regular commitments. In particular, we have begun integrating a Youth Choir project into our calendar. This has involved building relationships with several feeder schools, and marks an important step in developing the choir's future. As a result, we are now beginning to include young choristers more regularly within our services.
We have continued to support the church's usual pattern of services, including mayoral and civic occasions. A highlight this year was the involvement of younger singers in the Mayor's Carol Service, followed by a well-attended Nine Lessons and Carols, where around 30 children joined us. This was a very encouraging occasion, and we hope to build on this in the future.

In terms of membership, the adult choir has seen a small increase, and we now have 16 regular members. We are pleased to have welcomed new singers, including Rajini and Rob. Rajini has strengthened the alto line, while Rob's arrival has had a noticeable impact on the bass section. However, the year has also brought sadness, with the loss of Fiona, a much-valued member of the choir. Having recently begun a new chapter in her life pursuing a vocation as a nun, she sadly passed away earlier this year. She is remembered with great affection by us all.

Our outreach work has developed further this year. We now have links with three local schools—St Mary's, Stone, and Thomas Hickman—as well as continued collaboration with Kate Warner and her choir. Under the leadership of Tamara Zimmerman, who has taken on the role of Youth Choir Coordinator, this work has become more established. Tamara has led the development of "Sermon Skippers" and supported the introduction of a monthly pattern where children join us for services. We are now seeing three developing school groups, along with a small number of young singers beginning to attend more regularly.

Outside of services, the choir has maintained its presence within the wider community. We took part in Heritage Day in September and sang at the King's Head, joined by singers from Wendover Choral Society. We also continued our tradition of Fireside Carols at Hartwell House, which remains an enjoyable and valued part of the year.

We have also begun to give some consideration to the future of the Viscount organ, which is now around 20 years old. While it continues to serve the choir and congregation, it is beginning to show signs of age and has recently required more careful management in use. We are therefore exploring options for maintenance and repair in the near future to help ensure its continued reliability for services.

There are, however, some ongoing challenges. While the youth work is encouraging, adult membership still requires growth, and we continue to rely on a core group of committed singers. Opportunities for adult training have also been limited this year. It is hoped that this can be addressed in the coming year through the reintroduction of the Voice for Life programme. The intention would be to offer this primarily to those young singers already attending regularly through our school links, providing a clear pathway into the main choir, while also supporting development within the existing group.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue building on the foundations established this year, particularly in developing a more consistent group of junior singers and strengthening the overall membership of the choir. We look forward to upcoming services, including Ascension Evensong, and to continuing to support the musical life of St Mary's. In time, we hope this approach will lead to a more consistent and sustainable choir, with a clear pathway for younger singers to become regular members.

As always, we are very grateful to all those who support the choir in its work. In particular, we would like to thank Fr Doug, Karen, Sue, Kate, Charles, Mike. This year a bit thanks to Pam, and Bev for their continued encouragement and practical support, including their help in maintaining and adapting the choir robes. We are also especially grateful to Wendy for generously donating and making ten new choir stocks this year. Special thanks go to Tamara Zimmerman

for her commitment to developing the youth choir, and to Libby Hough, who continues to offer her time and support even while at university. Their contributions, along with those of many others, are greatly appreciated as you are the foundation of the choir without which we wouldn't be able to stand.

Kenton Brigden
Director of Music

Messy Church

Messy church is just about to celebrate its 2nd birthday at St Mary's.

We have a strong committed team from the congregation to help run the monthly sessions from 3.45 to 5.45 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The monthly routine is usually:

Welcome and register your children.
Light the candle and prayers, sometimes a song.
Story or short film based on the theme.
Activities which include paints, colouring, making crafts, sensory play with water, sand or playdough, sticking and gluing with textiles.
This is all based around the month's themes.
The children then have tea together helped by parents and helpers.

We have prayers at the table and after tea the children can finish what they were making or play with toys.
The session ends with the Grace and blowing out the candle.

Parents and carers are encouraged as much as possible to participate in the activities so their children can get the best out of messy church.

Adults are also encouraged to email in advance numbers of children and any allergies so that we have enough of everything and we can cater for allergies. A small monetary donation is also encouraged on arrival.

We have recently changed the layout of the space used in church to make it more streamlined. This seems to be working well.

Messy church will break over July and August for the summer .

Catherine Mannion

Church on Berryfields

living life to the full

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ending

31 December 2025

Vicar: Revd Gareth Lane

Treasurer: Chris Farrant

www.churchonberryfields.org

Treasurer's Notes, Statement and Declaration – Year Ending 2025

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 are attached and include details of Receipts and Payments for the year, Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2025 and Treasurer's Notes to the Accounts.

The church unexpectedly received £22,400 from Oxford diocese this year, the diocese's contribution to our parish share for the year. This was then paid out at the end of the year and makes comparisons to previous years more complicated.

Excluding this income rose by approximately 20%, however the majority of this was the result of one large donation. The rate of growth of income from the congregation has slowed when compared to 2024. Expenditure increased by approximately 38%, primarily due to a large increase in parish share as well as having an employed youth worker, along with children and families worker, for the whole year.

2026 will again see a large increase in parish share, the church's largest single expense, presenting the challenge of income needing to continue to increase.

Name: Chris Farrant
Treasurer
Church on Berryfields

Signature:  **Date:** 10th Feb 2026

Independent Examiner's Report – Year Ending 2025

I report on the financial statements of Church on Berryfields for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out overleaf.

Respective Responsibilities

The Church Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is considered that an audit under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 43(3)(a)) of the Act and to state, based on procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(1)(a) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

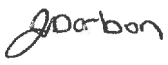
Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination of the Church funds, nothing came to my attention which gave me cause to believe otherwise than that the financial statements accord with the accounting records of the Church and that those records satisfied the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Name: Jane Darbon
Independent Examiner

Signature:  **Date:** 2nd Mar 2026

Income – Current Account Receipts 2025

Category Group	Category Detail	Actual Income
Church Giving	Donations at Gatherings	1,422.98
	November Gift Day	1,470.00
	Grants	33,150.00
	One Off Gifts	1,718.73
	Regular Donations	41,223.00
	Total	**£78,984.71**
Gift Aid	Gift Aid	9,826.24
	Total	**£9,826.24**
Other Income	Bank Interest	704.39
	Church Activities	1,430.00
	Fundraising Events	0.00
	Total	**£2,134.39**
TOTAL INCOME/RECEIPTS		**£90,945.34**

Expenditure – Current Account Payments 2025

Category Group	Category Detail	Actual Expenditure
Admin	Finance Software	479.88
	Fundraising Fees for Card MC.	34.22
	Online Marketing/Advertising	22.00
	Print Promotion	801.43
	Recruitment costs	0
	Safeguarding DBS and Training	99.03
	Song Licensing	352.75
	Stationary	766.54
	Website/Email/Domain	0
	Total	**£2,555.85**
Church Activities	Capital Expenditure	161.98
	CAP LifeSkills	396.40
	Children's Ministry Expenses	468.44
	CoB Core Leadership Training	0
	Conferences	2,545.20
	Discipleship Training/Books/Courses	78.21
	Discretionary Fund	0
	Events Costs (Christmas/Light Party)	2,031.76
	Gifts for guests/people	852.22
	Hospitality (for church gatherings)	475.05
	Pastoral Care	161.23
	Sunday Gatherings	159.46
	Worship Team	119.65
	Youth Work Expenses	953.10
	Total	**£8,402.70**
Church Giving	Church Giving	3,924
	Total	**£3,924.00**
Fixed Costs	Insurance	452.59
	Parish Share Contribution	55,405.00
	Rent	5,212.63
	Total	**£61,070.22**

Expenditure continued overleaf....

Expenditure continued

Staffing	Books	32.26
	Expenses - Communications	337.65
	Expenses - Travel	467.35
	Hospitality (for staff)	130.76
	Salaries: Youth and Children & Families	19,612.62
	Staff tax	195.96
	Training	190.40
	Total	**£20,967.00**
Total Expenditure/Payments		**£96,919.77**

Current Account Summary

Balance brought forward 1st January 2025	Current Account	7,852.14
	Notice Savings Accounts	35,437.32
	Petty Cash	28.03
	Total	**£43,317.49**

Total Income 2025	**£90,945.34**
Total Expenditure 2025	**£96,919.77**

Account Balance 31st December 2025	Current Account	11,083.10
	Notice Savings Accounts	26,122.86
	Petty Cash	137.10
	Total	**£37,343.06**
Balance Carried Forward to 2026		**£37,343.06**

Fairford Leys LEP

The Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 7HT

www.fairfordleyschurch.org.uk



Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2025

Adrian Lloyd Church Treasurer

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CONTACTS

Minister (until 28 February 2026)

Rev Anthony Howells
Coldharbour Farm House
Swallow Lane
Fairford Leys
Aylesbury
HP19 7HW

Secretary

Mrs Emma Allen
Fairford Leys
Aylesbury

Treasurer

Mr Adrian Lloyd
3 Viney Lane
Fairford Leys
Aylesbury
HP19 7GR

Church Administration Team

Mrs Shwetha Bandari
Mr Nathan Bandari
Berryfields
Aylesbury

Independent Examiner
Mrs Deborah Smith
80 Lomond Drive
Linslade
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2XH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 are attached and include details of Receipts and Payments for the year, Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2025, Treasurer's Notes to the Accounts and a Statement of funds held centrally by the United Reformed Church (URC).

Name: Adrian Lloyd Signature: Date: 30 June 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Fairford Leys L.E.P for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out overleaf.

Respective responsibilities

The Church Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is considered that an audit under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 43(3)(a)) of the Act and to state, based on procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(1)(a) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination of the Church funds, nothing came to my attention which gave me cause to believe otherwise than that the financial statements accord with the accounting records of the Church and that those records satisfied the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Name: Deborah Smith Signature: Date: 30 June 2026

CURRENT ACCOUNT RECIEPTS

Name	Details	2024	2025
	Standing Order	16,627.00	15,787.49
	Easyfundraising	168.66	162.52
	Donation Box	968.70	1,700.35
	Parish Giving Scheme	4,672.20	4,507.38
	Card Reader	635.13	2,058.00
	Cheques	0.00	0.00
	Gift Aid	6,024.42	5,781.33
	URC Drawdown	6,000.00	12,781.50
	Total	35,096.11	42,778.57
Property	Disraeli Square Rent	12,500.00	12,000.00
	Woodmans Croft Rent	9,891.84	11,400.00
	Church Buildings Lettings	16,577.00	18,280.00
	Solar Panels	2,302.55	2,495.53
	Total	41,271.39	44,175.53
Other	Donations	1,996.05	1,198.71
	Minister Refunds	1,080.00	1,080.00
	Weddings, Funerals, Christenings	829.00	453.00
	Miscellaneous	3,478.00	933.43
	Total	5,387.00	3,665.14
Total Receipts		**83,750.55**	**90,619.24**

CURRENT ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Payee	Details	2024	2025
Ministry	URC M&M Fund	18,465.00	24,040.80
	Ministers Travel Expenses (including Car Allow)	1,380.60	0.00
	Ministers Phone / Internet	1,183.56	1,082.48
	Ministers Books / Courses	300.00	300.00
	Youth Work	1,904.82	4,850.62
	Hospitality	755.62	436.29
	Older People	0.00	0.00
	Lunch Club	0.00	0.00
	Total	23,989.60	30,710.19
Admin	Photocopier	0.00	39.99
	Stationary/Printing	76.86	0.00
	Copyright	229.00	239.00
	TV Licence	238.50	180.00
	Treasurer Expenses	0.00	161.13
	Office Equipment	63.23	29.98
	Bank Charges	112.85	135.94
	Digital Costs	3,791.92	214.38
	Card Reader Charges	0.00	28.13
	Weddings, Funerals, Christenings	978.94	349.00
	Total	5,165.07	1,377.55
Property	Farmhouse Council Tax	3,337.31	3,508.03
	Farmhouse Oil	1,069.87	1,407.95
	Farmhouse Electricity	2,988.12	1,982.87
	Farmhouse Water	505.00	614.00
	Farmhouse Rent	5,076.00	12,255.53
	Farmhouse Maintenance/Garden	538.34	0.00
	Woodmans Croft Maintenance, Fees & Insurance	673.00	2,101.20
	Disraeli Square Maintenance & Insurance	0.00	1,144.83
	Church Insurance	4,942.49	4,047.34
	Church Gas	5,588.13	5,791.80
	Church Electricity	1,033.75	3,743.73
	Church Water	5,299.74	0.00
	Church Phone	726.27	937.54
	Church Repairs, Maintenance & Security	2,485.43	12,151.49
	Church Equipment	0.00	669.40
	Church Garden	0.00	0.00
	Church Security	360.00	360.00
	Church Cleaning	6,938.78	12,065.00
	Village Square Fees	1,289.70	1,265.70
	Total	42,852.72	64,046.41

Other	Catering	0.00	384.19
	Communion Wine & Candles	70.75	78.60
	Books	0.00	135.08
	Church Flowers	300.67	0.00
	Miscellaneous	218.00	10.00
	Total	589.42	607.87
Donations	Storehouse/Water Aid	969.00	0.00
	M&M Anglican	2,000.00	1,975.00
	M&M Methodist	2,000.00	1,975.00
	Other Donations	0.00	664.00
	Total	4,696.00	4,614.00
Total Payments		**77,891.25**	**101,356.02**

CURRENT ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Balance Brought forward 1 January 2025	8,683.36	14,503.53
Total Receipts 2025	83,750.55	90,619.24
Total	**92,433.91**	**105,122.77**

Expenditure in 2025	77,891.24	101,356.02
Bank Account Balance 31 December 2025	14,542.66	3,766.75
Total	**92,433.91**	**105,122.77**

FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY URC

Payee	**31/12/2024**	**31/12/2025**
Current Account	90,724.31	93,511.28
Withdrawals	6,000.00	12,781.50
Total	84,724.31	80,729.78
Investment Account	175,217.31	166,254.18
Balance carried forward	**259,941.62**	**246,983.96**

TREASURER'S NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. **Accounting policies**
   The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, section 144 (2), receipts and payments to small charities. They follow the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP) 2005 and the guidance notes as issued by the United Reformed Church, November 2006.

2. **Church Assets - approximate total £991,749**

20 Woodmans Croft, Fairford Leys	£327,000 (approx. valuation)
3 Disraeli Square, Fairford Leys	£414,000 (approx. valuation)
URC held funds	£246,983 as at 31/12/2025
Lloyds Bank Current Account	£3,766

   - Property values are estimations only based on Zoopla valuations.
   - URC funds are subject to investment performance fluctuations which can go up and down are not guaranteed

3. **Church Giving - total £29,997.07**

Standing Order	£15,787.49
Parish Giving Scheme	£4,507.38
Donation Box	£1,700.35
Easyfundraising	£162.52
Card Reader	£2,058.00
Gift Aid	£5,781.33

   - Gift Aid is the annual Gift Aid from donations made in financial year 2024 made direct to Church Giving or collected via the Parish Giving Scheme.

4. **URC Drawdown - total £12,781.50**
   The Church Council decided in 2024 to drawdown the investment income from URC centrally held funds to bridge the gap between income and expenditure. This totalled £4,130. The Church Council also decided to drawdown £8,651.50 of capital to finance the following activities:

Church Roof Repairs	£5,700
Internal Repairs	£1,586.50
Church Chairs Deep Clean	£1,365

5. **Property Income - total £28,698.01**

Woodmans Croft Rent	£11,400
Woodmans Croft Maintenance, Fees & Insurance	(£2,101.20)
Disraeli Square Rent	£12,000.00
Disraeli Square Maintenance & Insurance	(£1,144.83)
Solar Panels	£2,495.53
Church Lettings	£18,280
Church Maintenance, Fees, Security & Insurance	(12,151.49)

   Our premises are hired to various health and wellbeing groups serving the local community, several music groups and choirs and our community choir. We also support the AA Group to provide a Friday safe space on their Aylesbury circuit.

6. **Farmhouse Utility Bills and Rent Costs – total £18,688.38**

Farmhouse Rent	£12,255.53
Farmhouse Utility Bills	£7,512.85
Farmhouse Maintenance	£0.00
Ministers Refund	(£1,080.00)

7. **Church Utility Bills, Maintenance - total £39,766.30**

Church Gas	£5,791.80
Church Electric	£3,743.73
Church Insurance	£4,047.34
Church Cleaning	£12,065.00
Church Maintenance	£12,151.49
Church Broadband/phone	£937.54
Church Security	£360.00
Church Equipment	£669.40

8. **Donations to Outside Causes - total £664.00**

The Children's Society	£110.00
WaterAid	£159.00
Aylesbury Vineyard	£395.00

9. **M&M Donations - total £25,238**

Donations made as part of our Ecumenical Partnership were as follows:

URC	£21,288
Anglican Church	£1,975
Methodist Church	£1,975

The Church Council agreed to increase our donations at 2024 levels to stabilise our own Church finances and will look to restore MM obligations in 2025.

10. **Signatories**

Church Bank Account - Adrian Lloyd, Alan Lambourne and Roy Rogers.
Cheques - cheques written by Treasurer and counter signed by second signatory.
Online payments – online payments made by Treasurer and authorised by second approver
Debit Card – Treasurer is authorised by the Church Council to use the Church Debit Card for payments that cannot be made by the above payment methods

11. **Debtors** – N/A

TREASURER'S STATEMENT AND DECLARATION 2025

This years' accounts show that our expenditure exceeded our income in 2025 and how local reserves and drawdowns from URC funds help maintain Church Finances.

Church Income continues to be received from three main sources; donations from Church members, rental income from our two properties, and income from Church Lettings.

Church Expenditure covers the utility bills and maintenance for the Farmhouse and Church buildings, and finances our outreach and ministry. This year we have invested in repairs to the Church roof to prevent flooding to the side chapel and extensive electrical repairs. We also deep cleaned all Church seating.

The challenge to the Church Council is to improve Church Giving to meet the demands of full M&M donations and to bridge the gap between income and expenditure without the reliance of drawdowns from URC held funds. That being said we remain a truly financially fruitful Church.

Thank you all for your continued financial support throughout these unprecedented times. I would also like to thank Alan Lambourne and Deborah Smith for their assistance with Church finances.

Adrian Lloyd, Church Treasurer, 30 June 2026



StPA ACCOUNTS 2025

Parish of Aylesbury

St. Peter's Church Quarrendon

Receipts

	2024 £	Code		£	2025 £	Restricted £
	34 173 00	101	Covenants and Gift Aid	33 430 76		
	8 828 05	102	Income tax recovered	8 780 13		
	1 740 00	103	Uncovenanted giving	5 511 00		
	385 93	104	Loose collections	615 49	48 337 38	
		100R	Restricted Income			
R	7 106 00		Special Projects			1 875 00
R	120 00		Building Project		0 00	1 050 00
	0 00	105	Donations		2 778 54	
		201	Grants & Legacies (part restricted)			
	100 00		Holy Trinity			7 586 00
R	3 413 80		Putnam House			6 030 60
R	3 500 00		Community Café			1 068 17
R	1 000 00		Thomas Hickman			11 500 00
R	5 000 00		National Lottery			19 550 00
R	0 00		Benefact Trust			16 000 00
		203	Fund Raising			
	216 20		Misc. Sales of Items	19 33		
	0 00		Bank Interest	108 24		
	1 291 00	402	Hall letting	2 374 17		
	1 772 00		Statutory Fees	1 841 97	4 343 71	
	68 645 98		Total Receipts to December 31st 2025		**120 119 40**	

Parish of Aylesbury

St. Peter's Church Quarrendon

Payments

2024 £	Code		£	,2025 £	Restricted £
17 519 04	2001	Diocesan Parish share	21 855 85		
2 026 00		Mission Partnerships	2 270 00		
872 97		Outreach Activities	473 54		
317 86		Revelation Wellness	305 89		
37 19		Pastoral Care	84 27		
782 63		Youth & Children	218 23		
318 85		Gro outdoors	354 88		
250 94		Play & Gro	914 50		
566 99		Other Ministry Related expenses	572 42		
58 80		Discretionary Poverty Fund	65 22		
1 036 00		Diocesan Fees/Costs	1 183 00		
1 418 75	2004	Clergy & Staff Exp.:travel	1 310 00		
172 97	2002	Clergy & Staff Exp.:other	306 35	29 914 15	
	2005	Church Running Expenses			
1 110 34		Insurance	1 110 62		
2 929 54		Heating/Lighting	7 319 68		
432 13		PA system/Lighting/AV	479 71	8 910 01	
	2006	Church Maintenance			
935 05		Minor Fabric repairs	278 81		
476 83		Maintenance Contracts	480 61	759 42	
	2007	Upkeep of services			
941 98		Copyright licence/Subscriptions	1 241 48		
2 922 53		Miscellaneous	3 782 00	5 023 48	
35 127 39		c/f		44 607 06	0 00

				£	£	£
	35 127 39		b/f		44 607 06	
		2010	Hall running costs			
	398 18		Water	836 55		
R	3 841 36		Lay Worker-Community Café	0 00		3 965 42
	0 00		St. Peter's meals	997 77		
	1 521 73		Cleaner & Cleaning Materials	1 539 14	3 373 46	
			Major Works			
R	4 389 84		Community Garden Project/Facilitator			1 848 90
	8 763 39		Planned ongoing Bldng. & Devlpmnt. Costs	0 00	0 00	
		4000	Church administration			
	380 76		Office Administration Costs	469 48		
	1 250 50		Office Telephone/Internet	1 460 70		
	776 53		Communications	733 18		
	92 60		PCC/Staff Training/Conferences/Retreats	118 65		
	8 719 56		Administrator	9 376 59		
	163 95		Office Furniture/Items	475 63		
	34 74		Petty cash	0 00		
	309 95		Special Projects	334 54		
	6 47		Bank Charges	11 01	12 979 78	
					60 960 30	5 814 32
	65 776 95		Total payments to 31st December 2025		**66 774 62**	

Parish of Aylesbury

St. Peter's Church Quarrendon

Note to Accounts.

Bank balances reconciliation	£	£
Opening balances as @ 1.1.2025		
Main Account	40 463 36	
Building/development Account	4 714 60	
Reserve Account	8 157 88	
Other	702 84	**54 038 68**
Add: 2025 total receipts	120 119 40	
Less: 2025 total payments	66 774 62	53 344 78
Closing Balance		**107 383 46**
Represented by:		
Closing Balances as @ 31.12 2025		
Main Account	93 699 90	
Building/development Account	4 752 35	
Reserve Account	8 222 76	
Other	708 45	**107 383 46**

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the above accounts and, in my opinion, they represent a true and fair view of the income received and expenditure incurred by St. Peter's Church, Quarrendon, Aylesbury for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.

P.F.Phillips FCMA/CGMA

A signed copy of these accounts is available on request.

Parish of Aylesbury - St Mary's PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	83,172.06	1,487.34	-	84,659.40	66,356.70
Activities for generating funds	34,954.28	-	-	34,954.28	35,606.99
Investment income	45,601.87	30,414.03	(71,787.43)	4,228.47	23,935.26
Incoming resources from charitable activities	6,709.01	3,161.91	-	9,870.92	2,250.81
Other incoming resources	14,251.33	10,321.08	-	24,572.41	31,251.01
Total income	**184,688.55**	**45,384.36**	**(71,787.43)**	**158,285.48**	**159,400.77**
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	10,139.46	-	-	10,139.46	4,482.37
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	14.41	-	-	14.41	5,616.98
Investment management costs	539.57	-	-	539.57	466.03
Charitable activities	128,213.92	14,132.41	-	142,346.33	128,604.02
Governance costs	485.00	-	-	485.00	514.50
Other resources used	16,523.98	-	-	16,523.98	15,631.67
Total expenditure	**155,916.34**	**14,132.41**	**-**	**170,048.75**	**155,315.57**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**28,772.21**	**31,251.95**	**(71,787.43)**	**(11,763.27)**	**4,085.20**
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	11,050.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	(11,050.00)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	18,802.05
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**28,772.21**	**31,251.95**	**(71,787.43)**	**(11,763.27)**	**22,887.25**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**16,101.03**	**49,594.98**	**840,520.62**	**906,216.63**	**883,329.38**
Total funds carried forward	**44,873.24**	**80,846.93**	**768,733.19**	**894,453.36**	**906,216.63**

Parish of Aylesbury - St Mary's PCC

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
	CCLAENDINV: CCLA Endowment Investments	780,418.77	840,520.62
	Total Fixed assets	**780,418.77**	**840,520.62**
Current assets			
	BAR01: Barclays Friends Account	10,682.18	-
	CCLA01: Bank CCLA	18,925.91	9,222.07
	CH001: Skipton Building Society	47,329.43	39,175.67
	LL001: Bank PCC	7,620.94	12,081.21
	LL002: Refectory	-	-
	LL003: Bank Holding	27,802.45	5,215.93
	LL004: Bank Covenant	933.27	1.00
	LL005: PCC Account	-	-
	OFF1: Bank Petty Cash	100.00	0.13
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	-	-
	Total Current assets	**113,394.18**	**65,696.01**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	(640.41)	-
	Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-
	Total Liabilities	**(640.41)**	**-**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**894,453.36**	**906,216.63**
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	(11,763.27)	4,085.20
	Z01: Starting balances	906,216.63	883,329.38
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	-	18,802.05
	Total Reserves	**894,453.36**	**906,216.63**

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	34,508.93	9,908.73
Designated	10,364.31	6,192.30
Restricted	80,846.93	49,594.98
Endowment	768,733.19	840,520.62
Total	**894,453.36**	**906,216.63**

Parish of Aylesbury - St Mary's PCC

Fund movement summary

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Friends Invest - CCLA Friends Investment - CB3040629	-	11,685.58	-	-	-	-	11,685.58
Grinnell - Grinnell Bequest - 127001269S Rec a/c 627154001D	22,151.55	(885.58)	-	-	-	-	21,265.97
Tuffneybeq - Tuffney Bequest - 127002761F Rec a/c Skipton	379,305.70	(15,163.90)	-	-	-	-	364,141.80
Dixey2 - Dixey Invest - 127002682S Receiving a/c 777400002D	358,310.75	(52,352.71)	-	-	-	-	305,958.04
Bequests - Bequests - 627154002S Receiving account 777400001D	60,865.19	(2,433.27)	-	-	-	-	58,431.92
Roscoe - Roscoe -273740001T Receiving Account 0/00448640PCC	19,887.43	(951.97)	-	-	-	-	18,935.46
Woodward - WoodwardBequest-CB3040833-001-Income-CB3031062-001	1,325.15	1,766.08	-	-	-	-	3,091.23
Dixey - Dixey Bequest-CB3040834-001-Income-CB3012053-001	7,427.80	7,322.91	-	-	-	-	14,750.71
PCC - PCC1 - CB3031060-001- Income-CB3011579-001	468.80	615.51	-	-	-	-	1,084.31
Milennium - Milennium - CB3031061-001	0.99	(0.66)	-	-	-	-	0.33
Giftskp - Small Gifts Skipton Account	1,711.47	-	-	-	-	-	1,711.47
MemorSkip - Memorial Garden	1,914.99	-	-	-	-	-	1,914.99
RESTRSKIP - Restoration Project	19,547.90	83.90	780.94	-	-	-	18,850.86
Mission - Mission Partner Support Fund	1,470.43	2,163.94	1,732.40	-	-	-	1,901.97
Young people - Children And Youth Ministry	1,095.41	2,652.24	565.16	-	-	-	3,182.49
TuffneySkp - Tuffney Skipton Admin by Rector & Churchwardens	21,739.48	10,539.59	10,219.46	-	-	-	22,059.61
Microfund - Microphone Fund	-	1,653.39	-	-	-	-	1,653.39
Fees - Parochial Fees	-	3,161.91	2,025.82	-	-	-	1,136.09
Youth worker - Pioneer Youth Worker	-	1,333.44	1,106.19	-	-	-	227.25
Friends - Friends Of St Mary's	-	10,682.18	-	-	-	-	10,682.18
ReliefSkp - Relief of the Poor Skipton Account	266.18	(40.00)	-	-	-	-	226.18
FlwPedsSkp - Flower Pedestals Skipton Account	143.83	-	-	-	-	-	143.83
General - General fund	8,583.58	176,452.90	153,618.78	-	-	-	31,417.70
Totals	**906,216.63**	**158,285.48**	**170,048.75**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**894,453.36**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Charities Act 1993 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015/2026).

The financial statements have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Funds

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

Restricted funds are given for a specific purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees (the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for a particular purpose.

Endowment funds are restricted funds, which are held permanently, and the capital is maintained while the income is restricted.

3. Endowment Funds

All endowment funds are held with the CCLA and held in the name of 'Rector and churchwardens of St Mary's Aylesbury.

There were some losses on these funds during 2025 that weren't anticipated. This is a general trend across all CCLA funds and not specific to St. Mary's.

In addition to the funds shown in the financial statements, St Mary's is the beneficiary of the Clock & Chimes Charity. The income from this charity is used for the upkeep and repair of the church bells and tower. Independently examined financial statements will be prepared for the charity and presented to the PCC in due course, for the purposes of information and transparency.

4. Friends of St Mary's

On the 28 April 2025, the Friends of St Mary's Aylesbury charity closed and it was removed from the Charity Commission Register. The remaining funds became the responsibility of the PCC of St Mary's. These are restricted funds given to encourage music in a church setting and the restoration of St Mary's Church.

5. Equity Share In 4 Cubb Field

St. Mary's Church has a 47.64% interest in 4 Cubb Field. HP19 7SH.

During 2021, it was agreed that £1250 per quarter of our part of the rental income from Cubb Field would be sent to the North Aylesbury Team as part of our Mission Giving. This agreement ends on 31 December 2025.

6. General Funds

General Funds have increased during 2025. £20000 of this total was designated by the PCC in November 2025 towards the payment of our Parish Share in 2026.

7. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the church becomes legally entitled to the income.

Income Tax is recoverable on donations from UK taxpayer under the Gift Aid scheme.

8. Change of personnel

The personnel overseeing the preparation of Financial Statements changed in 2025.

This is resulted in differences in coding of income and expenditure which can be subjective.

To the Church Wardens of St Mary's Parochial Church Council.

Examiner's Report

This report is regarding the Financial Statements for yearend 31st December 2025, which are attached.

Responsibility of the Independent Examiner

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has agreed that that an Independent Review is required in accordance with the Charities Act for the above year.

It is my responsibility to carry out this review in order to-

a) confirm that the Accounts comply with the relevant Acts,

b) ensure the procedures as laid down by the Acts are followed,

and c) report any matters which have come to my attention during this examination.

Basis of Independent Examiners Report

This review was in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and included a review of records kept and maintained by the PCC. It also included an examination of supporting evidence for the Accounts, to confirm the figures. This process is not a full audit and therefore this report does not express an Audit opinion on these Accounts.

Examiners Statement

I am pleased to report that there are no major matters of concern that have been identified during this review and can confirm records comply with the 2011 Act. Although there is a concern that this year resulted in a loss of £11,763 and would therefore recommend tighter control of Expenditure, together with efforts to increase Income levels.

Follow up Items

Review financial situation.

I would like to thank the Treasurer for her help and co-operation with this.

.....

S. Marks, FMAAT. 5 th May 2026

File Ref St Mary Cert2025