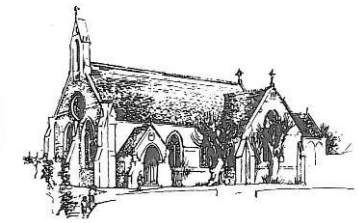
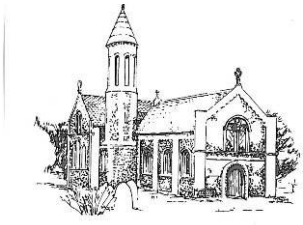
Living God's Love

The Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde

Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026







Going Deeper into God Transforming Communities Making New Disciples

CONTENTS

Agendas	3
Minutes of Annual Parishioners' Meeting 2025	3
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025	4
Report of the Trustees and Accounts	5
Financial Review	6
Parish Wardens' Report	10
Fabric Reports	11
Safeguarding Report	13
Deanery Synod	14
Mission Action Plan (2022)	15
Reports on the life of the Parish:	
Local Ministry Team	18
St John's Committee	19
Pastoral Care Group	20
Ministry in Schools	20
Symeons	21
Junior Church	22
St Peter's Toddlers	22
Pete's Café	23
Let's Get Together	23
Nursing and Care Home Worship	24
The Why Group	24
Helen & Maggie's Home Group	24
Music in the Parish	25
St Peter's Girlguiding	26
List of Members	28

Sunday 19th April 2026 at 12noon

Opening Prayers

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' MEETING

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**
3. **Election of the Clerk to the Vestry**
4. **Election of the (Parish) Churchwardens**
5. **Reports on the Parish Charities**

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Agenda

1. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**
2. **Reception and adoption of the New Electoral Roll**
3. **Annual Report on the financial affairs of the Parish, presentation of Accounts and their submission to the Independent Examiner**
4. **Annual Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches**
5. **Deanery Synod Report**
6. **Election of lay representatives to Deanery Synod**
7. **Election of members of the Parochial Church Council**
8. **Election of Sidespersons (usually delegated to the church committees)**
9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**
10. **Reports on Parish Organisations**
11. **Any matters concerning the Parish**
12. **Closing Prayers**

Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISHONERS AND APCM
HELD ON SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025 at St THOMAS'S CHURCH

The meeting started at 12:10 hrs. After the parish service with a prayer from Helen

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING 2025

In the absence of a vicar, the meeting was chaired by Premi – PCC Vice Chair.

1. **Apologies:**
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**: The minutes of the previous meeting of were agreed unanimously.
3. **Election of Clerk to the Vestry:** Bryan Cross has agreed to continue in this role.
4. **Election of the (Parish) Churchwardens**: Prior to the meeting, John Clifford decided to stand down after 5 years as Parish Warden. Thanks were given to John for his sterling efforts throughout his term. Helen Ford has agreed to stand for 1 year; Proposed: Elaine

Dobbs; seconded: Anne Short; this was unanimously agreed. Premi remains happy to continue in her role, again this was unanimously agreed. Church Wardens: Tony Funnell agreed to remain as St Peter's Churchwarden; Rachel Smith decided to stand down as Churchwarden for St Thomas' – Denise Stuart has decided to take over from Rachel – agreed unanimously; St John's have a churchwarden team.

5. **Reports on the Parish Charities**: This was deferred to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

In the absence of a vicar, the meeting was chaired by Premi – PCC Vice Chair

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**:
   Proposed: Maggie Owen. Seconded: Christine Bunce. Agreed - Unanimous

2. **Electoral roll.**
   Elaine discussed the Electoral roll. This year's roll is a total renewal which happens every 6 years and everyone who wishes to be on the role must re-apply. For this year's roll we have 85 people which is down 31 on last year.
   This has decreased by 55 over the last 6 years, where there was 140 on register.
   St Peters – 57 registered; St Thomas's - 22 registered; St Johns – 6 registered
   Accepted and received – unanimous

3. **Finance**
   Tony and Anne discussed the finances for the last year.
   Bequests: John Cameron and Julie Shepherd.
   The finances are in a healthy position.
   Independent examination to be approved.
   Restricted funds – Donated for the Development fund £17,000 and Heronsgate - £1000
   Friends of St Thomas's have a separate charity that is a donation towards the running costs and is not for any other works.
   Proposed: Rachel Smith, seconded: Elaine Dobbs; Agreed - Unanimous

4. **Deanery, Diocese and General Synod**
   Alan Wills informed all that the Ascension Day service at St Pauls in Chipperfield will be held on 29th May 2025
   At present there is 1 vacancy for the Deanery, need 1 more person to stand.
   Alan and Maggie are our members.
   Accepted and received – Unanimous

5. **PCC Members.**
   Terms ending 2025: Elaine Dobbs and Christine Bunce agreed to continue on the PCC. All were in agreement. Alice Fryer has decided to stand for PCC – this was unanimously agreed by all. Rachel Smith has decided to stand down as safeguarding lead.

6. **Independent Examiner**
   Simon Merchant to has agreed to continue. Agreed – Unanimous

7. **Organistions.**
   All organisations have forwarded their reports for the APCM booklet – thanks to al

8. **AOB**
   Rachel is stepping down as the safeguarding lead and church warden. The role will need recruiting, as it's a 3-year role. A plea was put out for a new Safeguarding Lead as this was a vital part of the running of the Parish. Chris Walton has taken away some information and will make a decision.

Update: Chris decided he would like to take on the role of Safeguarding officer which was agreed at a later PCC meeting

- The New Vicar, Rev'd Dr Mark Harris will have his licensing service on September 1st, 7:30pm at St Peter's.
- The Vicarage will be ready for when Mark and his family arrive, it will have new windows, wall insulations, new ceilings, and fully decorated, and a Net Zero heat pump.
- Thank you to all.
  St Thomas' Flower festival – thank you Barbara and Pat. Next festival will be held in July.
  Special thanks to the Ministry team of Helen, Mary, and Scott.
  Derek and the serving team.
  Special thanks to Elaine for her ongoing hard work.
  Elaine, Helen and Anne for the recruitment and selection of the new vicar.
  Richard, the choir, and the band.
  Church wardens – Basia, Rachel and Tony
  Congregations in all 3 churches.

Gifts were given to John and Rachel thanking for all their hard work and dedication in their roles.

Final Thank you went to Premi for her hard work in standing in as chair until the new vicar was recruited.

Closing prayer from Helen.

Meeting closed at 13:15hrs

Report of the Trustees and Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2025
for the Parochial Church Council of the
Parish of Mill End & Heronsgate with West Hyde

CHARITY NUMBER: 1134153

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Mill End & Heronsgate With West Hyde ("the PCC") serves the benefice of the same name which has a population of approximately eleven thousand.

The parish has three churches: St Peter the Apostle, Mill End; St John the Evangelist, Heronsgate and St Thomas of Canterbury, West Hyde and Maple Cross.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number
1134153

Principal address
Berry Lane
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 7HQ

Trustees during the year 2025

Christine Bunce	Tony Humphreys (Treasurer)
John Clifford (Parish Warden)	Premi Mowll (Parish Warden, Chair)
Bryan Cross (Secretary)	Maggie Owen
Elaine Dobbs	Anne Short
Helen Ford (Reader, Parish Warden)	Rachel Smith
Alice Fryer	Denise Stuart
Patricia Fryer	Chris Walton
Sally Funnell	Alan Wills
Rev. Mark Harris (Chair)	

Independent Examiner
Simon Merchant

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
The PCC is a body corporate and is governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Syndical Government Measure 1969 as amended). In 2009 the PCC was required to register as a separate charity and obtained charity number 1134153.
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Risk management
The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims
The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the management of the Parish Hall and St Thomas House, Maple Cross.

FINANCIAL REVIEW
Reserves policy
The PCC has total reserves of £143,865 of which £37,267 is restricted for specific purposes. Although these reserves give us some security in the immediate future it continues to be of concern that our regular income does not cover our annual running costs and we will need to draw on our reserves for any substantial repairs or unforeseen expenses.

Principal funding sources
The major funding sources are the people who regularly attend services in the three churches to whom the PCC is extremely grateful.

In 2025 the parish received three bequests: £4,000 was received by St Peter's Church, £1,000 was received by St Thomas' Church and £10,000 was received by St John's Church. St Thomas's Church also received a donation of £650 from The Friends of St Thomas' Church.

Restricted Funds
The £37,267 in Restricted Funds is designated as follows:
£17,000: Special Development Fund for a specific project to extend our mission throughout the parish.
£10,000: For a specific project to extend the work of the Church within Heronsgate.
£4,635: To encourage and support local students as a members of St Peter's Choir.
£3,334: Messy Church
In addition there are various small funds held within the church accounts: Hall Refurbishment Fund, Toddlers, St Thomas's War Memorial, St Thomas's Churchyard, St Peter's Organ, Fund for the Elderly & Young.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Premi Mowll – Parish Warden
Dated: 5th April 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

Simon Merchant
Princes Risborough. Dated: 30th March 2026

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Mill End & Heronsgate with West Hyde
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
INCOME	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Collections	6,665		6,665	7,853
Donations	2,665		2,665	10,176
Bequests	15,000		15,000	16,192
Envelopes	18,870		18,870	20,798
Standing Orders	15,731		15,731	16,073
Parish Giving	16,109		16,109	14,763
GA Tax Recovered	15,707	1,250	16,957	12,636
Fundraising Events	3,889		3,889	4,711
Deposit Account Interest	2,545		2,545	1,982
Wedding and Funeral fees	2,032		2,032	2,920
Hall Hire	8,444		8,444	9,901
Chronicle	848		848	737
St Thomas's House Rent	19,200		19,200	18,045
Grants				150
Church Activities, Toddlers	151	355	506	108
Hall Refurbishment Fund				879
Total Receipts	**127,856**	**1,605**	**129,461**	**137,924**
EXPENDITURE	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Organist & Music Licences	8,303		8,303	7,705
Utilities	9,910		9,910	11,004
Insurance	5,377		5,377	4,652
Church Running Expenses	2,879		2,879	3,225
Church & Hall Maintenance	4,880		4,880	4,247
St Thomas's House				6,374
Clergy Expenses	4,676		4,676	5,795
Diocesan Quota	62,644		62,644	53,881
Outward Giving	2,495		2,495	2,292
Wages	9,840		9,840	8,843
Office Costs	1,524		1,524	2,091
Hall Running Costs	1,632		1,632	2,093
Church Activities, Toddlers, Choir Scholarship	223	1,210	1,433	2,174
Gifts, Sundries	166		166	30
Fundraising Costs	137		137	185
Hall Refurbishment Fund (2024 Adjustment)		38	38	606
Vacancy Expenses	5,765		5,765	
Total Expenditure	**120,453**	**1,248**	**121,701**	**115,197**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
Surplus/Deficit	7,403	357	7,760	22,727
Brought Forward	99,195	36,910	136,105	113,378
Balance at end of the year	**106,598**	**37,267**	**143,865**	**136,105**
Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2025				
Funds				
Current Accounts	31,575	10,267	41,842	
Savings Accounts	75,023	27,000	102,023	
Net Assets	**106,598**	**37,267**	**143,865**	

Budget for the year ended 31st December 2026

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
INCOME	**£**	**£**	**£**
Collections	6,800	6,665	6,500
Donations	3,000	2,665	2,800
Bequests		15,000	
Envelopes	21,100	18,869	19,000
Standing Orders	12,500	15,731	14,700
Parish Giving	14,400	16,109	15,600
GA Tax Recovered	15,600	16,957	15,100
Fundraising Events	4,200	3,889	4,100
Deposit Account Interest	1,900	2,545	2,600
Wedding and Funeral fees	2,700	2,032	1,800
Hall Hire	10,000	8,444	9,000
Chronicle	700	848	850
St Thomas's House Rent	19,000	19,200	19,200
Grants	200		
Church Activities (Inc. Toddlers)	500	506	400
Total Receipts	**112,600**	**129,461**	**111,650**
EXPENDITURE			
Organist & Music	7,700	8,303	8,800
Utilities	11,900	9,910	10,800
Insurance	4,990	5,377	5,740
Church Running Expenses	3,400	2,879	3,200
*Churches & Hall Maintenance	9,000	4,880	11,600
St Thomas's House	4,000		4,000
Clergy Expenses	5,000	4,676	4,000
Diocesan Quota	64,000	62,644	65,370
Outward Giving	2,300	2,496	2,500
Wages	8,800	9,840	9,500
Office Costs	2,000	1,524	1,800
Hall Costs	2,000	1,632	1,800
Church Activities/Sponsorship	1,600	1,433	2,100
Sundries, Gifts	190	166	210
Fundraising Costs	300	137	650
Hall Refurbishment Fund		38	

Vacancy Expenses	1,000	5,765	
Total Expenditure	**128,180**	**121,701**	**132,070**
Surplus/Deficit	**-15,580**	**7,760**	**-20,420**

*****Budget for Church Maintenance includes £7,000 for the repair of the plasterwork in St Peter's Church, after external work to stop further water penetration into the walls.

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by:

Premi Mowll (Parish Warden)
Dated: 5th April 2026

Tony Humphreys (PCC Treasurer)
Dated: 5th April 2026

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and reporting by Charities' 2005.

Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.

St Thomas' House
The PCC is the Management trustee of St Thomas' House, a property used to house curates during their tenure with the parish. When there is no curate, the property is let out on commercial terms. The value of the house was estimated at £700,000 in September 2024.

APCM REPORT OF THE PARISH WARDENS - 2026

Parish Wardens – Premi Mowll; Helen Ford

Objective of the group:
Parish Wardens are lay officers responsible for the administration, maintenance and mission of the parish, representing the laity and supporting the Vicar.

Review of May 2025- March 2026
The PCC has met 7 times this year – 6 scheduled meetings and 1 extraordinary meeting and discussed various topics/issues relating to the parish.

Preparations for welcoming our new vicar took place. This included working with the Diocese in ensuring that the Vicarage was fit for purpose following a burst water pipe which caused much internal damage. All work was completed – new ceilings, installation of air source heat pump and internal decoration – in time for the Vicar to move in in July 2025.

We welcomed our new Vicar, Rev Dr Mark Harris to the parish and his ministry began following his Licensing by the Bishop of Hertford, The Right Reverend Jane Mainwaring on 1st September 2025, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.

PCC elected a new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Chris Walton in May, taking over from Rachel Smith who stepped down from the role at the last APCM. Chris has worked hard to ensure the parish is compliant with the Diocesan Safeguarding policy, and that all officers/

volunteers requiring Safeguarding training have completed it. Chris has kept the PCC informed of any changes and information which is relevant for our parish. Our thanks to Chris for all he does in this area.

PCC is continuing to assess disability access in all three churches – this is an ongoing project at present.

During the past year St Peter's and St Thomas' have had their Quinquennial inspections carried out by the Diocese. The reports showed no major issues. The internal plaster work at St Peter's in the main body of the church above the organ, and above the vestry door is being addressed. The report also highlighted work required on the plaster inside the porch. (See individual church wardens' reports regarding the fabric of each church).

Annual Archdeacon's inspection was also carried out in our three churches by Assistant Rural Dean, Rev Gary Norman. Positive reports were received for all.

We appointed a PCC governor for St Peter's School this year – Mrs Sally Funnell. PCC voted that this position should be filled by a current PCC member willing to stand. Sally was duly elected this year which will also help with building firm relationships with the school working alongside the Vicar and the Headteacher.

We are currently advertising for a Director of Music to replace Richard Hickson after his 17 years of service to the parish. To date we have had no responses to our advertising.

2025 was the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Church and PCC discussed various events to be held during this anniversary year. The Archdeacon presided at the Sunday Eucharist in July, and a celebratory tea party in the parish was also held. This occasion was made special as past vicars, curates and associates with St Peter's church came along too.

The finances for St Peter's, St Thomas', St John's and the PCC are discussed at each meeting with the Treasurers – see individual report. Our thanks to Tony Humphreys and Anne Short for their hard work in ensuring the budget is adhered to and that we are using our funds diligently.

An extraordinary PCC meeting was called in June as we had been made aware of a planning application to build an electric motocross track on the field behind the churchyard at St Thomas'. We wrote to the planning inspectors of the local and county councils with our concerns and also met on site to discuss. All points raised were taken into consideration by the planning officers. No work has been carried out to develop this site for the racetrack to date.

Actions Proposed for 2026/2027

- Review Quinquennial Inspection Reports
- Appoint Director of Music
- Arrange PCC Away day to revise Mission Action Plan (MAP)

FABRIC REPORTS

St John's Church:

The **church gate** was damaged by an HGV from Travis Perkins in August 2023. The contractor that employed the supplier, Jigsaw Construction, agreed to fix the gate. The gate is in working order, but the gate pillars are yet to be replaced.

Following removal of the ivy to a **section of wall**, re-pointing is pending.

The **gas boiler** was last serviced on 20th August 2025 and a more efficient timer installed.

The **fixed wiring** was last checked on 1st February 2024.

Fire extinguishers were serviced on 27th January 2026.

PAT testing was carried out in December 2025.

Smartmeters are being installed.

Two **trees** (one dead) have been identified for pruning as a preventative measure against future damage to the church.

In support of **Net Zero targets**, the following items remain outstanding:

- Draught proofing door.
- Insulating heating pipes.

Access into the church at present is a level path with a purpose-built ramp used to compensate for the entry steps. The **Deanery accessibility report** (Sept 2022) recommended completely step free access, and also replacement of the portaloo with an accessible toilet. However, due to the current finances, no additional work is being undertaken for the time being.

Basia Hargreaves

St Peter's Church:

The following items have been attended to at St Peters during the last 12 months:-

The **lightening conductor** test was completed.

The **organ** was tuned.

The **fire extinguishers** have been checked.

We had another **garden clearance**, less well supported this time but we made good progress. I endeavour to keep on top of it, Anne Short is a great help with this, spending 2 hours a week cutting back ensuring that the brown bin is never empty when collected! Main areas tackled this year has been the boundary by the kitchen and cutting back overgrown bushes. As with most jobs I would appreciate more help with the garden. 2 trees were pollard by professionals.

Unfortunately, the **toilets** continue to have a problem with the drains that require them to be unblocked regularly although, touch wood, they have been better lately.

Two **soak away drains** from the church downpipe are blocked (probably by tree roots). This will be a major job to resolve.

We are still concerned about the evidence of mortar weather erosion on the **external walls** of the church and damage to **internal plastering**. Contractors have now checked the whole building for any water ingress and have repaired areas that needed it. Internal and external plastering repairs will continue when funds allow.

Some **minor maintenance** has been completed this year, namely more gutter repairs and bulb replacement where required.

I am grateful to Allan Fryer for **repainting the white edges** to the steps in the car park, on Berry Lane and into the church and for all the other jobs he assists with.
We have also filled 2 **potholes** in the church car park.

My continued thanks go to all who work so hard to keep St Peters running smoothly; cleaners, brass cleaning, sidespersons and all those who willingly give up their time to help with gutter and drain maintenance, gardening parties as well as those that help with specific maintenance tasks which are beyond my skill level.

I would like to thank specifically Elaine Dobbs, Anne Short, Frederick Frater and Allan Fryer who have been a great help to me during the year.

Tony Funnell
St Peters Churchwarden
April 2026

St Thomas' Church:

Actions completed 2025/2026

Further to the **electrical inspection** noted in last year's report, the mains board was replaced in 2025.

The **double oak doors** at the west entrance were sanded and re-waxed in 2025, a preservation measure which has restored their appearance to its original beauty.

The **chubb lock** on the vestry door was repaired in March 2026.

Following the **quinquennial inspection** last year, the church is generally in good condition, with any items due to be addressed within the recommended timeframes.

We continue to be hugely grateful to Geoff Watson for his dedicated care of the churchyard. His maintenance of hedges, shrubs and lawns, and planting of the flower beds is greatly appreciated.

Safeguarding Report

Group: Report to the PCC by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Objective: To safeguard the vulnerable children and adults in our Parish

Members:	Siu Palmer Cheung	DBS Administrator
	Chris Walton	Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) [from May 2025]

Actions 2025/2026

The DBS Administrator maintains a database for the Parish and is in regular contact with the PSO to check that Church Activity Group Leaders and helpers, PCC Members and clergy and staff keep DBS certificates up to date. Renewal reminders and requests are sent out to keep everyone up to date. The Parish thanks Siu for all her work and diligence throughout.

Parish Dashboard

The **mandatory** requirements for each recognised Church Activity are completing risk assessments**,** providing role descriptions for group leaders and some volunteer roles, and also having in place an Induction process and Oversight. The Promoting a Safer Church Dashboard (an electronic checklist to make sure that actions are completed), managed by the PSO and the Vicar is currently 93% complete.

Safeguarding Training

The Diocese requires all PCC members, Wardens, Church Activity Group Leaders and helpers to complete a *Basic Awareness* course, a *Foundation Course in Safeguarding* and a *Responding Well to Domestic Abuse* Course. Training also needs refreshing every 3 years depending on role.

Actions Proposed for 2026/2027

- Complete and return Archdeacons Visitation Enquiry Form 2026 about Safeguarding to Diocese.
- Non-Church users of church premises provide copies of their Safeguarding policies or sign a Safeguarding Addendum.
- A Safeguarding Oversight Meeting is planned for 26 April 2026 for Church Group Leaders to include the Induction process.
- To continue to review and update the Parish Dashboard
- To Identify any Safeguarding training issues
- To work alongside the DBS Administrator to keep the DBS Parish database updated
- Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda at PCC meetings as the PCC has a legal responsibility to authorise changes.

Comments/Observations:

The PSO will continue to work with the Vicar to deal with any potential or actual Safeguarding issues that may materialise, and take steps to ensure that the Parish remains compliant with mandatory Safeguarding requirements and also help build the Safeguarding culture and trust to the benefit of all in the Parish.

As a Parish we have due regard to the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. Posters are displayed in all three churches to outline this practice and list contact numbers.

Deanery Synod Report

Report to Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19th April 2026 of the Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde on the Proceedings of Rickmansworth Deanery Synod

Objectives:

Strapline: “We are the Body of Christ.” As the third tier of Synodical Government in the Church of England, the Deanery Synod is a representative body comprising clerical and lay members from each of the eleven churches in Rickmansworth Deanery, and sits between the lowest tier of individual PCCs and the second tier of the Diocesan Synod. Members act as the electoral colleges for their respective Houses in the Diocesan and General Synods, and conduct a range of business including responding to issues referred down from the General Synod via the Diocesan Synod. The year 2025/2026 was the third year of the 19th triennium of Rickmansworth Deanery Synod. Lay members of the Deanery Synod exercised their eligibility to vote in the by-election caused by the resignation owing to emigration of Mr. Ben John from the General Synod. The successful candidate was Mrs Emma Robarts, from the Royston area of Hertfordshire, who will serve for the remainder of the current quinquennium.
The Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee (DSPC) assists the Rural Dean in determining priorities across the Deanery, and particularly where there is a vacancy in a parish; during 2025/2026 one incumbency vacancy in the Deanery was filled, although the Reverend Rita Namakula has not yet been instituted as Vicar of the parish of St.Oswald’s Croxley Green.

Members:

1. The Reverend Dr. Mark Harris (House of Clergy) (from September 2025).
2. One vacancy (House of Laity).
3. Miss Maggie Owen (Lay Reader emerita, House of Laity).
4. Dr. Alan Wills (House of Laity).

Actions complete in 2025/2026

1. Continuing steps in the formation of a Deanery-wide project (the "Trinity Project") to provide support to school children who may be suffering from mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. The Synod is regularly updated on progress, several of the churches have established weekly or monthly after school activities for pupils in years 6, 7, and 8 with varying attendances. Prayers continue to be offered as the project develops.
2. Three Business Meetings (July 2025 in person, November 2025 in person and March 2026 by Zoom).
3. "In person" Deanery Ascension Day Eucharist (29th May 2025).

Actions proposed in 2026/2027

1. Three Business Meetings (July and November 2026 and March 2027).
2. Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day (14th May 2026) at St. Peter's Church, Mill End.
3. Possible Deanery Choral Evensong (date and venue to be confirmed - action carried over from the proposals in several previous years).
4. Continuing implementation of the Trinity Project.

Comments/Observations

We still have a vacancy in the House of Laity of Deanery Synod. Readers of this report are encouraged to consider putting themselves forward to serve on the Deanery Synod for the new triennium. Elections will be held at the APCM on 19th April 2026.

The July Deanery Synod was addressed by the Reverend Canon Dr. Tim Bull, who is Diocesan Director of Ordinands and also specialises in the application of digital technology. He spoke about Christianity and Artificial Intelligence. This was an open meeting, at St. Andrew's Chorleywood, and well attended. The Deanery Synod in November, at All Saints Croxley Green was addressed by the Reverend Mark Rodel, Deputy Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry, and an associate priest at Harpenden, introducing a consultation on the preparation of a new Diocesan Ministry Strategy. The March meeting on Zoom received a presentation from Mr. Nigel Hollington, a member of Bovingdon Baptist Church, who had recently visited the West Bank in the Holy Land and gave a vivid account of the activities of the Israelis in controlling the Palestinian residents.

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS Living God's Love

Mission Action Plan

Flourishing CHURCHES

This is our current MAP from 2022 which is to be reviewed this year.

Name of Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice	**Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde**

What is the vision for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

We seek to be a community that:

- Worships and serves God in in word and action
- Is a living example of Christ's love to all

What are the core values for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

Spirit-filled
Sharing love
Making peace
Nourishing worship

What is your 1st Priority to make your vision a reality?

Elderly and Isolated.

We will resume worship and pastoral in the care homes of the parish

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 1st Priority most focus on?

Going deeper into God	Making New Disciples	Transforming Communities
X		X

SMART Goals to achieve your 1st Priority 3 goals maximum.

Within a year:

1. Speak to Meresworth/Dapplemere to ascertain what they might want from us
2. Draw together a team to work with the ministry team
3. Train to plan and lead a simple service

What second Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

Children and families

To have restarted Play and Praise in Autumn 2022.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does this Priority most focus on?

Going deeper into God	Making New Disciples	Transforming Communities
X	X	X

SMART Goals to achieve this Priority 3 goals maximum.

1. Seek volunteers to plan, set up, prep craft, make refrfeshments and take down
2. Advertise restart date before the summer break
3. Communicate with schools and Children Centre

What third Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

Being involved in the community

To identify where the Kingdom of God is and to join in - building community with others.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does this Priority most focus on?

Going deeper into God	Making New Disciples	Transforming Communities
		X

SMART Goals to achieve this Priority 3 goals maximum.

1. Be present and support at the Community cafe on a Wednesday/MIll Cafe and foodbank
2. Attend Community Hub meetings with other churches/agencies
3. Finally launch after-school hot chocolate project in Mill End and Maple Cross

How do you rate your MAP?

Requires attention	Average	Good X	Excellent

How are your priorities and action goals going to be resourced? Have you got the human resources, time and money to achieve this? Think about what is being done? By whom? By when? How will it be funded?

Need human resources - volunteers
Lay leaders of worship scheme/something similar to skill volunteers - Vicar to explore
DBS checks and safeguarding training - PSO and Safe Recruitment lead
Need a coffee machine to make drinks easily for Play and Praise plus milk/sugar/ biscuts/cakes/fruit/squash - Treasurers
Urn/cups/hot chocolate/biscuits - apply to Community Life Fund?

Would you like any support from the Diocesan Office?
Tick the areas you would like help with.

Buildings & Grants	Flourishing Churches - Church Growth	Flourishing Churches - Stewardship & Giving	Reaching New People X	Youth & Children X

Please give details
Would value conversation with CME//RNP about how most effectively to restarting Play and Praise.

Historically how far has the MAP process helped you achieve your priorities?
1 star = Not at all 10 stars = Very helpful / We are closer to our vision

8-9 in our early years, yes very much.

We believe that the following elements help build Flourishing Churches; which of the following areas is your MAP focusing on?

Profound Worship	Engaging Youth and Children's Work X	Effective Communications	Empowering and Inspired Leadership X	Warm Welcome and Invitation

Deepening Discipleship	Sound Finances and Teachings on Generosity	Courageous Community Engagement X	Appropriate Governance and Safeguarding	New Worshipping Community X
In the preparation of your MAP, did you use any support from the Flourishing Churches team?				
I/people from my parish attended a MAP workshop	We had one to one support from one of the Church Growth Officers	We used the Mission Action Planning literature from the website		

Reports on Groups and Committees around the Parish

Group: LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Objective of the Group: To bring the Kingdom of God and the love of Christ to all with whom we come into contact through our various ministries; and to support and share in the ministry of the Vicar in the parish and community.

Members: Rev'd Mark Harris (Vicar) Helen Ford (Reader), with support from Rev'd Mary Kingsley.

Objective of the Team: Our focus this year has been twofold - whilst we waited for our new vicar to arrive the ministry team maintained the current service patterns, the seasonal services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter and into Ordinary Time. During this period (to the end of our Vacancy in August 2025) we continued to welcome retired clergy and also clergy from St Albans to lead us in Sunday worship and at the Wednesday morning Eucharist at St Peter's.

It was then with great excitement that we welcomed Rev'd Dr Mark Harris to his Licensing ceremony at St Peter's Church on 1st September, conducted by the Bishop of Hertford the Right Rev'd Jane Mainwaring, and to the parish as a whole.

The ministry team has been working alongside, and supporting Mark as he settles into his new ministry with us as he gets to know the parish. We have met six times during this past year – March and May 2025 Rev'd Mary Kingsley and Helen Ford; September, October, December 2025 & February 2026 Rev'd Mark, Rev'd Mary and Helen.

Actions completed for 2025/26:
Two candidates came forward for confirmation this year and, following their preparation, were confirmed in November 2025 at All Saints Church, Croxley Green by the Bishop of Hertford.

Monthly pastoral visits to two members or our congregations who are no longer able to attend Sunday worship began and is continuing on a regular basis. Both are appreciative of this contact and feeling part of the church community again.

A monthly service is held at Dapplemere (Care Home). Fr Mark is now leading these, with two other members of our congregations from St Peter's and St John's. This short act of worship brings the love of God into that community.

Fr Mark has now introduced a new mid-week liturgy for the Wednesday Communion service which has been well received.

The seasonal services – Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Thanksgiving Service, Advent, Christmas including Toy Service, Carols & Cakes, Crib Service, Carol service, Ash Wednesday and Lent have all followed the same liturgical format as in previous years, and were all well attended.

Fr Mark led two parish Advent discussion sessions during December and also Lent discussion sessions at the weekly Symeon's group which meet on a Monday evening.

Actions proposed for 2026/2027:

- Review of the parish Mission Action Plan
- Preparing a candidate for confirmation at St Albans Cathedral on Easter Saturday.

Group: <u>ST JOHN'S COMMITTEE</u>

Objective of the Group: To support the running and upkeep of St John's so that regular worship can continue including during the vacancy. To promote the pastoral care of the local community. To support the Ministry team and Parish as a whole.

Members: Rev Mark Harris (since September 2025), Basia Hargreaves, John Pope, Andrew Ross and Chris Walton serve on the Committee.

Sandra Lewis served until September 2025 – sincere thanks were extended for her support and enthusiasm over the years.

John Pope relinquished his role as Assistant Treasurer in October 2025 and handed over to Basia Hargreaves. John agreed to remain on the Committee. Sincere thanks were extended for his unwavering dedication and commitment as Treasurer and more recently, as Assistant Treasurer, over an extensive number of years.

Actions completed 2026/27:

Heronsgate WhatsApp group Advance details of Services and Events continue to be circulated using the Heronsgate Community WhatsApp group. New neighbours in Heronsgate are welcomed by Chris and a welcome letter given where available.

Flower Arrangers – we are grateful for the beautiful floral displays for the church arranged by helpers as and when required. This is with the exception of Christmas flowers that are arranged by a Heronsgate resident in memory of her mother. When no one is available during the year, synthetic flowers are used.

Gardeners' rota - members of the local community continue to volunteer to maintain the upkeep of the garden outside the church for which we are very grateful. A rechargeable mower and strimmer eliminate the need for fossil fuel use.

Cleaners' rota – grateful thanks to two volunteers from the local Heronsgate community who help out.

Parking -There is no church car park and parking is arranged with local residents. The Vicar and visiting preachers park at The Hop Garden. Additional parking is arranged as notified in advance from among the local community.

The local community continues to further support us by donating a Christmas tree and helping to set up candles for Christmas. Helen continues to play the organ most Sundays. This all helps enhance the church and makes the services enjoyable.

Special Services and Events

During 2025, as usual, following the Harvest Festival on Sunday 7th September, the Harvest produce was gratefully received by the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice.

A tea and cake afternoon was held on Monday 29th September 2025 with help from Carol K.

Due to local demand, an Autumn Bring & Share Supper was organised by Kathy W. and Zina E. on Saturday 25th October 2025. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

A Poppycraft session was held on Saturday 8th November and enjoyed by local families.

The Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside St John's Church on Sunday 9th November was led by Helen Ford and attended by members of the local community.

A very well-attended joint Carol Service with the Heronsgate Residents Association took place on Monday 22nd December.

A Spring Bring & Share Supper at Heronsgate Hall was organised by Kathy W. on Saturday 7th March 2026 which was enjoyed by the local community.

Actions proposed for 2026/27:
A concert by the Chiltern West Gallery Quire is planned for 27th September 2026.

Comments/Observations:
Card payments continue to be taken but using a mobile phone App, after the card reader stopped working following a software upgrade.

Group: PASTORAL CARE

Objective of the Group: To help care for people in any way required.
Members: Dianne Harris, Elizabeth Woods

This Group was, as most of you know, started at the commencement of the Covid lockdown when it was thought people could become lonely and isolated. It isn't used to the same extent now, but it is felt important to continue its existence as a lifeline to those who may require help and also to assist our Vicar so he knows who, in his Parish would benefit from some contact with him.

There's a confidential WhatsApp so our assistance can be monitored and altered accordingly.

Dianne covers the St Peter's congregation and Elizabeth does St Thomas'. There is a notification on the Parish pew sheet so those who are not regular churchgoers, may benefit from this help if required. Both Churches have volunteers who monitor and care for people accordingly.

There are no actions proposed for 2026/27. Our intentions are to carry on helping people if and when required.

Group: MINISTRY IN SCHOOLS

Objective of the Group: To ensure that there is a 'broadly Christian' act of worship in Maple Cross school and St Peter's school each week and support the worship and teaching of RE when requested by other schools locally. To ensure the Christian foundation of St Peter's school is

upheld. To share the Gospel in approachable but challenging ways in the school context. To provide pastoral support.

Rev'd Gary Norman from St Mary, Rickmansworth has been assisting with our ministry in schools until Mark joined us. Mark has continued to attend St Peter's School regularly, and led their 'in church' Christmas and Easter Services at St Peter's Church. The leavers' service is planned for the end of the Summer term. Arnett Hills School have also held a service in St Peter's church.

Maple Cross had their whole school Christmas service and a class Remembrance Service at St Thomas'.

The relationship with both schools is still very positive, and Mark is continuing to build on existing relationships.

Group: SYMEONS

Objectives:

1. To be a society of the members of the congregations of St. Peter's, St. John the Evangelist and St.Thomas of Canterbury and their friends.
2. To maintain the corporate image of the Church.
3. To worship regularly.
4. To share in active service to the Church.

Committee 2025/26:

1. Mr. John W. Ridgeway - Chairman.
2. Mr. Anthony M. Funnell - Hon. Treasurer and Acting Bar Steward.
3. Dr. Alan J. Wills - Hon Secretary.
4. Mr. Allan D. Fryer - Hon. Membership Secretary.
5. Mr. Guy Anstiss, Mr. Richard Hickson, Mr. Russell Mardling and Fr. Paul Palmer.
6. Fr. Mark Harris - Hon President-designate (from September 2025).

Actions complete in the 2025/2026 session:

1. Several Symeons Socials.
2. Quiz Supper in November 2025.
3. Bottle Tombola at the Christmas Fair at the beginning of December 2025.
4. Christmas Party in December 2025.
5. Hosting Fr. Mark's evening Lent course in March 2026.
6. Limited maintenance activities.

Actions proposed for 2026/2027:

1. Quiz supper and Christmas Fair Bottle Tombola in November 2026.
2. Christmas party in December 2026.
3. Monthly guest nights / Symeons Socials.
4. Membership recruitment drive.
5. Hosting Fr. Mark's evening Lent course in February / March 2027 (to be confirmed).
6. Continuation of maintenance activities and fund-raising.

Comments/Observations:

The after effects of the coronavirus pandemic are still exerting an influence not only in the Symeons Club activities but also on the wider life of the parish. For example, we have been unable to resume either the Symeons outing or the gift of afternoon tea parcels at the beginning of September. Regular Monday evening Club nights are attended by a small but loyal number of members, and attendances at the monthly Symeons Socials have continued to be rather variable. The summer barbecue and the annual darts competition in the autumn remained popular. The

annual Quiz supper was a sell-out event and raised a significant sum; it is the Club's policy to allocate monies raised to church projects. The bottle tombola at the Christmas fair generated a creditable result, with all tickets sold in record time. The Christmas party in December and the celebration of the Chinese New Year of the Horse in February also attracted good attendances. The demography of the Symeons membership tends predominantly to middle age, and it still seems extremely difficult to encourage younger members of the congregation to commit to parish organisations in general and the Symeons in particular, and indeed there has not been the recovery hoped for in the attendance at Sunday services, and in particular few of the younger families are in evidence. Unfortunately, the Honorary Secretary has been continuing to be substantially less active than in previous years.

Group: JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church continues to provide the opportunity for children to meet on the first Sunday of the month (except April & August) during the 11am service at St Peters. They participate in a variety of fun and age-appropriate activities such as story, craft, role play and messy play! The theme of the session mirrors that of the worship for adults to provide continuity between worship in church and at home.

Numbers are beginning to grow and we currently have 6 families who attend regularly. Their baby siblings come along too and play in the family area! Other children occasionally join us and we always encourage them to come back when they can!

The children enjoy coming and really appreciate the support the congregation gives them, especially when they feedback what they have been doing at the end of the service. It is lovely that their parents attend too, and they have received a really warm welcome from everyone.

Group: ST PETER'S TODDLERS

We have had a successful first year at Toddlers with 25 families registered with us, although numbers naturally fluctuate due to family circumstances. We meet every Tuesday morning in term time from 9.30-11am in St Peters Church Hall and the 4 regular leaders are very grateful to the others who so willingly step in to support us when needed.



Everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a range of toys, activities, crafts throughout the morning before finishing with a story, songs and occasional parachute fun! The children have also enjoyed going into church with Fr Mark for seasonal activities such as an egg hunt for Easter and singing around the Christmas tree before a visit from Santa!



During the morning the children enjoy a group snack time, and the adults have a chance to chat over a cup of coffee and home-made cake!

We still have plenty of room for more families to come so please encourage anyone you know with babies or children in the pre-school age range to come along. They will be assured of a very warm welcome!

Group: PETE'S CAFE

Objective of the Group: To offer a safe space for Year 6 leavers from St Peter's Primary school to maintain friendships as they move to Year 7 in their new Secondary schools; to ensure that transition goes well; to provide pastoral and wellbeing support; to gently share Christian faith.

Members: Chris Walton, Alice Fryer, David Fryer

Actions completed 2025/2026:
Chris spoke to St Peter's Year 6 pupils about Pete's Cafe after the May 2025 half term, inviting them to 3 taster sessions on consecutive Mondays in June at the Parish Hall, and handed out welcome invitations to each Year 6 class member. The taster days went ahead. Risk assessment and contact forms were completed for Safeguarding purposes.

Pete's Café opened in September 2025 between 4pm - 5:15pm during term time. Thanks are due to David and Alice, and to Allan Fryer for his help with set up with Premi's support to keep the Café running. Those who came enjoyed themselves. Games, refreshments, and Alice's craft sessions and chat proved especially popular.

The highlight was 8 students attending in one week. By the beginning of November, students had settled into their new schools so the café closed.

Actions proposed for 2026/2027:
We aim to continue to provide a safe space, integrating faith and being open to new ideas such as trialling Pete's Café during the summer months.

Group: LET'S GET TOGETHER

Objective of the Group: To provide a gathering place in the Parish Hall on the first Friday of every month, for people in the community to mix with people who attend our churches; to enjoy tea and cakes and chat, play games and build friendships.

Members: There are 12-14 people who attend on a regular basis, both from our churches and the wider community.

Actions completed 2025/26:

- The group has remained popular, with attendees looking forward to our meetings and helping with setting up and making tea and clearing up.
- It has attracted new members.
- One member has been providing us monthly with a quiz which kicks the session off with lots of laughs and is a fun whole-group activity that gets us all talking together.
- We provided a window display for the Christmas Festival at St. Peter's.

Plans for 2026/27:

- For the group to maintain numbers and hopefully keep growing.
- To continue to spread the word and attract new members from the community.
- To keep providing opportunities for fun and friendship.

~~~~~~
~~~~~~

Group: NURSING AND CARE HOME WORSHIP

Objective of the Group: To offer worship and pastoral support in the only local nursing home.

Members: Rev'd Mark Harris, Dianne Harris, Andrew Ross, Maggie Owen(until Sept 2025).

Actions completed 2025/2026
Monthly worship service at Dapplemere. Holy Communion administered as requested.

Plans for 2026/2027
To continue to offer the service

Comments/Observations
A new activities organiser in post at Dapplemere who is most helpful. Very few residents are mobile enough to join us. One lady we take communion to her bedside following the service.

Group: THE WHY GROUP

Objectives of the Group: To study and discuss a Bible passage over a simple lunch.

Members: 6

Actions completed 25/26: The group has met fortnightly on Wednesdays for about an hour, starting at 12.30pm. Soup, cheese and crackers (and sometimes other goodies!) have been shared while we discussed the Bible passage. This year we have used study guides by Tom Wright (Gospel of Mark), and Bible Reading Fellowship's Journeying through Advent and Journeying through Lent.

Actions proposed 26/27: To continue meeting as before with suggestions from members regarding material to be studied.

Comments: We have some very lively discussions and everyone is keen to contribute. Members are supportive of each other and not afraid to share personal problems and experiences and to ask questions. Over the year the group has grown in confidence and trust of each other and persevered in our objective to learn and grow nearer to God.

Group: HELEN & MAGGIE'S HOME GROUP

Members: Helen Ford; Maggie Owen; Ally Fryer; Trisha Fryer; Andrew Case; Dianne Pitts ; Joan Frater; Premi Mowll, Elizabeth Woods

Objective of the group: To study scripture and to grow in faith and fellowship

Our Home Group has continued to meet fortnightly over the past year. Elizabeth Woods took the decision to temporarily leave the group due to travelling in the dark nights and we greatly miss her lively input into our discussions.

Deciding our next study material was agreed by acknowledging the group's desire to further our knowledge of the Old Testament. We chose to use Michael J Kruger's 8 lesson study on 'Hebrews – An Anchor For The Soul' which, although is a letter found in the New Testament has many references to the Old Testament scriptures. The author of the study wrote in his introduction 'the book of Hebrews is not a light appetizer. It is more like a porterhouse steak'.

And we certainly agreed with that statement! There was so much to think, ponder and discuss, it took us the best part of six months, (with breaks for Advent and Lent) to complete this study!

These studies have given opportunity for the group to meet regularly for fellowship, friendship and fun.

Action complete in the 2025//26

- Completing the Lent study At The Cross
- Completing the study Hebrews – An Anchor For The Soul
- Attending the Advent and Lent discussion sessions held by Fthr Mark

Actions proposed for 2026/2027

- To continue to meet fortnightly and explore different ways of furthering our faith journeys, both individually and as a group, through bible studies.

Comments/Observations

Through meeting together our group continues to grow in fellowship and is a support and encouragement to each other both in the group sessions and outside of it. We share and learn from one another and value the deepened friendship which has resulted in our commitment to studying together.

The vision is to be able to establish more Home Groups in the parish so that others may benefit from exploring the Christian faith and establishing their own faith journey in this way.

Group: <u>MUSIC IN THE PARISH</u>

Music in the Parish is led by Richard, Director of Music, who directs the choir at St Peter's and plays the organ regularly at both St Thomas' and St Peter's Church, and for occasional services at St John's. On regular Sundays, St John's Church have their own organist to accompany services. Richard is has recently resigned from this role after 17 years and the process is underway to appoint a successor.

Richard has composed liturgical music which is sung regularly throughout the year including two Eucharistic settings, one of which was written specifically for the monthly Healing Services.

As a Parish, we are well-resourced musically. All three churches have Church Organs with two manuals/pedals which are used regularly for services. St Peter's and St Thomas' have traditional 'tracker-action' organs which are fully mechanical other than the electric bellows and are tuned and maintained by Cousans Organs. St John's have a fully electronic organ which is relatively new. The St Peter's church choir has an extensive music library.

St Peter's and St Thomas' have electronic keyboards and amplifiers which can be used for less formal settings, hymns and worship songs. The St Peters Worship Band performs on the second Sunday each month.

Music has traditionally been central to enhancing worship in the Parish, with two of our churches still using a variety of sung eucharistic settings and all three churches regularly singing hymns and worship songs.

At St Peters the church choir, which has eleven dedicated singers, rehearses each Thursday evening and performs a schedule of sung Eucharistic settings, hymns and worship songs and a regular sung anthem.

The choir also performs at some special services, including the Installation of Fr. Mark last September and the Christmas Carol Service which were augmented by additional singers and are well supported by the local community. More recently, the choir has dressed informally for regular services although we do 'robe up' for special services.

We have been fortunate to secure some funding for a Student Singing Scholarship and we currently have two Student Scholars who are singing and contributing to music in the Parish in addition to pursuing their own educational studies.

Group: St Peter's Girlguiding Groups

"Girlguiding exists to help girls and young women find their voice, and build skills and confidence – inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and empower them to make a positive difference in their community"

Members of the Groups:
2nd Rickmansworth Rainbows. Leaders: Elaine Dobbs, Linda Yates, Emma Willicombe, Unit Helpers: Jay Baecke. Young Leader/DofE Helpers: Grace and Martha
Number of Girls: 18/20

1st & 6th Rickmansworth Brownies. Leaders: Carol Paley. Young Leader: Heather Paley.
Number of Girls:

8th Rickmansworth Brownies. Leaders: Sally Funnell, Hazel Carmichael
Number of Girls: 28

8th Rickmansworth Guides. 3 Leaders, 1 DofE Volunteer
Number of Girls: 18

1st Rickmansworth Rangers. 1 Leader
Number of Girls:

2nd Rickmansworth Rainbows: Over the course of the year, we've had between 17 and 20 Rainbows attending our meetings.



Joining with our other Rainbow friends in the District we enjoyed 2 sleepovers; June with an 'Imagination' theme and November for a 'Toy Story' themed night. With our Girlguiding family we have taken a trip to the Zoo for a Girlguiding takeover day and the Pantomime, we've also joined in with a special District Thinking Day event, celebrating 100 years of Thinking Day.



As well as our Girlguiding Skills Builder badges, in our weekly meetings we have undertaken a few challenge badges including 'Sangam Challenge' where we learnt how to tie a sari and tried various types of Indian sweets and drinks; 'Dark in the Light Challenge' – making suncatchers and putting our hands into dark boxes to feel what's inside and 'Anglia Summer Challenge' going out on walk with a picnic in the park and Highland Games session where we tried out hand at throwing the caber, welly wanging and haggis hurl.



Over the Spring Term our challenge badge involved trying marmalade sandwiches, deciding what to pack for a trip to darkest Peru, thinking of others and being kind to one another. One of our favourite activities over the years has been re-planting the tubs outside the hall with lovely flowers, herbs and fruits and watching them grow (when Sun remembers to water them!). We have also really enjoyed returning to Parade Services, even though we only get a few Rainbows attending





8th Rickmansworth Brownies:

We have up to 28 girls who attend our meetings each Friday. Each term we work towards exciting badges which contribute towards Awards based around different themes. This year our themes have been Know Myself (where we think about our role in guiding and the wider world) and Have Adventures (where we go out and about to explore the outdoors). We also completed the Hertfordshire Golf Challenge Badge where we enjoyed a lesson from a golfer.

We have enjoyed a variety of activities including planning and holding a festival evening, sharing our collections, completing the bird watching badge, finding out about the planets, icing biscuits for Mothering Sunday, holding an evening about Canada, a visit from Toms Talking Reptiles and dancing in the rain to name but a few!



Dancing in the rain!



On route to the chip shop



Meeting a snake!

We also enjoy trips out, including earning the Chippy Hike badge by completing an orienteering challenge as we walked to the chip shop on Tudor Parade and visiting the Maple Lodge nature reserve as part of the Frog Quest Challenge. We take part in events organised by the District such as watching the Pantomime at Watersmeet and celebrating Thinking Day when we remembered other members of the Girlguiding movement all over the world.



We do our best to support the Church community and have been pleased to be able to attend Church Parades again. At the Community Christmas Fair we enjoyed decorating a windowsill and helping with the Teddy and Chocolate tombola.

8th Rickmansworth Guides:

Actions completed 2025/2026: We have had a successful year. We organised a District camp for both the Guides and Rangers at Leeswood camp site - which was probably one of the hottest weekends of the Summer.

We have changed the evening that we meet on to a Wednesday evening and we had to say goodbye to a few guides who could not attend on that day but they all transferred to the other units within Rickmansworth & Chorleywood.

We have recently welcomed 7 new guides and said goodbye to 3 who are due to join the Ranger unit in the summer term. We took part in the Zoo Takeover in September that was organised by Hertfordshire Girlguiding. Some Guides attended the District Thinking day event in February and we all had a great time at the Pantomime in Dec at the local theatre.
We have been doing a number of badges including a badge all about Canada as Heather one of the Young Leaders from St Peters Brownies is going to Canada on an international trip organised by Anglia Girlguiding. Other activities have included an evening celebrating International Women's Day that was organised by our DofE volunteer where the Guides wrote a letter to their future self which were put in sealed envelopes and given to parents to keep until their 18th Birthdays. We also learnt about money and the work that Foodbanks do – including a trip to the local Supermarket where each patrol was given a list of essential foods and £5.00 to see what and how much they could buy which was then shared at Harvest Festival to go to the Foodbank

Actions proposed for 2025/2026: We are joining Royal Masonic School Guides and attending the Hertfordshire County camp planned for July and one of our Guides is going on a Hertfordshire International trip Croatia. We will also be attending the Big Gig in October which is a pop concert just for members of Girlguiding at the O2 Arena London in Oct.
Comments/Observations: changing our meeting night has meant that we have been able to keep a volunteer team - although any new members of the team would be very welcome.

PCC MEMBERS 2025-2026

Reverend Dr Mark Harris	*Chair (from Sept 2025)*
Bryan Cross	*PCC Secretary*
Tony Humphreys	*PCC Treasurer*
Premi Mowll	*Parish Warden (vice chair)*
Helen Ford	*Parish Warden; Licensed Reader*

Christine Bunce	Maggie Owen
Elaine Dobbs	Anne Short (churches treasurer)
Alice Fryer	Denise Stuart
Patricia Fryer	Chris Walton (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Sally Funnell	Alan Wills