PARISH OF ESHER

Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Growing together in faith, hope and love

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Growing together in faith, hope and love

Rector: Vacancy

Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA

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The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2025

The overall management of the church is the responsibility of the Rector, The Reverend Darren McCallig, and the two churchwardens. The Rector had returned from his one-year adoption leave in November 2024 but, to our surprise, announced on 25 May that he would be moving on, "after five really special and happy years with you in Esher". He continued to be engaged until his last Sunday service, on 10 August, and officially vacated his post on 2 September.

The forthcoming vacancy became a key driver, and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 15 July elected our two churchwardens, Fraser McGuicken and Will Stevens, as Co-Vice Chairs. The churchwardens took on a great deal of the managerial workload, with much support provided by the Reverend Jonathan Andrew, and a rota was established for the conduct of services later in the year, drawing primarily on local clergy.

The PCC has the responsibility of working with the Rector and churchwardens, in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End. Members of the PCC may be ex-officio, such as the Rector and the churchwardens, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted, in accordance with the church representation rules.

Rector	Revd Darren McCallig, until 2 Sep 25
Churchwardens	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell, until 18 May 2025 Will Stevens WEF 18 May 2025 Fraser McGuicken WEF 15 June 2025
Treasurer	Martin Fuller
PCC Secretary	Peter Bedford
Deanery Synod Representatives	Polly Jordan until 18 May 2025, Will Stevens
Elected Representatives of the Laity on the PCC	Teresa Allen, Michael Banks, Ann Battensby, Martin Fuller, Bridget Williams. Until 18 May 2025: Andrea Lindow, Jennifer Meade, Mair Molteno, Valerie Msoka. WEF 18 May 25: Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Fraser McGuicken WEF 15 Jul 25: Sandra Argent, Bob Lonnon, Sia Marshall, Valerie Msoka, Helen Coulson

Other Parish Appointments

Honorary Assistant Priests	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Parish Administrator	Melanie Williams
Director of Music	Stuart Whatton
Assistant Organist	Oliver Macfarlane
Organist Emeritus	Keith Howell-Jones
Senior Organ Scholar	Theo Tang
Junior Organ Scholar	Robert Cunningham
Choral Scholars	Alexandra Sweeney, Natalie Mechelewska, Alex Bernard
Parish Bookkeeper	Vacancy (covered by Martin Fuller)

Fabric Chairperson	Vacancy
Safeguarding Officers	Alison Mohamed, Polly Jordan until 18 May 25
Deputy Churchwardens	Christ Church: Will Stevens until 18 May 25, Sandra Argent WEF 15 Jun 25. St George's, West End: Andrea Lindow until 27 Mar 25, then Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator	Michael Banks
Bell Tower Captain	Ann Battensby
Children, Young People & Families Worker	Kathryn Chapman
Esher Church School Lead	Bob Lonnon
Chair of the Enlighten Learning Trust Board	Helen Coulson
Flower Coordinator	Carol Calvert
Gift Aid Officer	Alan Doolan
Pastoral Team Coordinator	Wendy Tanqueray
Fellowship Group Leader	Jan Sayer
Book Group Leader	Revd Jonathan Andrew until August 2025, then Jane Anderson
InSpire Editor	Juliet Philip

Peter Bedford
Honorary Secretary

Churchwardens' Report

Early in the year a survey was sent out to everyone on the Electoral Roll to complete. On receipt of the responses, the PCC met and drew up a Church Development Plan.

On Saturday 1 February over 20 of us received basic life support training. This was organised by Polly Jordan. However, on the day she was in hospital and her family helped and provided refreshments for those who participated. After her illness and gradual recovery, it was lovely to see Polly sing at a Peace & Contemplation evening and at the Nine Lessons & Carols towards the end of the year.

A Thanksgiving & Celebration Service was arranged for Sunday 4 May for the many people who volunteer in the parish.

We rely on volunteers to do very many tasks including:

- Revd Jonathan Andrew, our Honorary Assistant Priest, who not only leads many of our services, but does pastoral visits, keeping in touch with those, and/or their families, on our sick list, keeping in touch with the bereaved, preparing and conducting funerals, interments and weddings, administrating last rites, regularly communicating with our church schools, including holding fortnightly assemblies, takes communion to the care homes in our parish, and gives us lots of sound advice. A special thanks to Jackie Andrew, who generously shares Jonathan's retirement with us.
- Kath, Stuart and Melanie, who do so much more than they are paid to do and are so very good at their jobs.
- Our PCC, particularly our Secretary, Peter Bedford and our Treasurer, Martin Fuller
- Our Deputy Churchwardens from the APCM onwards, Charles Hawkshaw-Burn and Sandra Argent
- The St George's West End committee
- Our Gift Aid Officer, Alan Doolan
- Our Safeguarding team of Alison Mohamed and Helen Coulson, plus until the APCM Polly Jordan
- Those who help with our services - as sidespeople, by reading lessons and preparing and reading the intercessions
- Those who seek volunteers and maintain the rotas for these tasks at both churches.
- Those who care for our grounds, and tend to our buildings, including the Rectory, and other fabric matters, particularly Ian Royce and Hugh Miller
- Andrea Lindow, Graham Stevens and Claire Craigmile who maintain the both the inside and the garden at St George's
- Ian Royce, who prepares for the interments of ashes at Christ Church
- Juliet Philip, Jane Tyrrell and Bridget Williams, who prepare our quarterly Parish newsletter 'Inspire', and helped to put together our parish profile
- Oliver MacFarlane, Theo Tang and Robert Cunningham, who play the organ, and those who play other musical instruments
- Those who sing in our Christ Church choir
- Carol Calvert & Naomi Bedford and those who arrange the flowers and decorate Christ Church and St George's so beautifully.
- Paul Puccioni, who enables the live-streaming of our services at Christ Church, and deals with any technical issues

- Jill Woolgar and Teresa Allen who use the camera system to livestream all the Christ Church services via our parish YouTube channel.
- Ann Battensby, our Tower Captain, and all our bellringers and trainee ringers.
- Diana Hollands, who chimes the bell at St George's
- Those who lead our Fellowship Group, Book Group, Lent and Advent courses
- Our Diocesan church school governors, June Coppel, Bob Lonnon, Kath Chapman and, for part of the year, Sandra Argent
- Gordon Manickam, our independent examiner
- Helen Coulson, the Chair of the Enlighten Learning Trust board
- Wendy Tanqueray and those who serve on the pastoral support team
- Those who serve refreshments and provide milk, biscuits and/or cake for our services
- Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Andrea Lindow who cooked for our volunteer supper. Plus those who baked cakes and/or scones and those who made desserts for this supper.
- To everyone who organised, volunteered and supported our fundraising initiatives at the Esher May Fair and the West End Village Show.
- Those who baked cakes and/or scones for these events
- Those who participate in and/or help with the Peace & Contemplation evenings, Music on the Green concerts etc.
- Michael Banks, who, as our community affairs lead, is our Chamber of Commerce representative, our link with Elmbridge Multi-Faith, and has managed to hire out Christ Church for events such as 'The Case of Aid'.
- Claire Coppel, who assessed/finalised a letting agreement for hiring out our churches
- Greg Moreton who repaired the Christ Church candle snuffer and removed logs after a Christ Church cedar tree had a broken limb removed by council contractors.
- Those who clean the altar linen and holy linen
- Those who help with Crazy Crafts
- Those who deliver our Easter and Christmas leaflets
- Those who arranged for a memorial stone to be erected in the St George's garden.
- Those who provide lifts to and from church to others in the congregation, including visiting clergy and music performers
- Those that provide financial support to the parish and helped raise £2,715 for our Princess Alice Hospice Lent appeal and £1,217 for our Lower Green Community Centre Advent appeal.
- Those who donate food and/or toiletries to the Lower Green Community Centre
- Those who donated to the 'Link to Hope' Christmas Shoebox appeal.

At our APCM our Churchwardens Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell and our Deputy Churchwarden for St George's West End, Andrea Lindow, stood down. We owe them immense gratitude and appreciation for all they have done for our parish after many years of excellent work. We are extremely grateful for their continued help. Polly Jordan, Mair Molteno and the late Jennifer Meade stepped down from the PCC. We honour and thank them all for helping the parish in many ways. Fraser McGuicken, Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Sandra Argent, Bob Lonnon and Sia Marshall were elected to our PCC.

Shortly after the APCM our Rector, Revd Darren McCallig, advised us he was leaving and the PCC's main priority then switched to working with the Diocese to find a new Rector. Some items on the Church Development plan were put on hold until a new Rector is in place, and others were delayed, it was though helpful in preparing the Parish Profile and knowing what changes we would like our new Rector to consider. We are very grateful to the Inspire Team and everyone who contributed towards the 33-page Parish Profile, which was ready in line with the timeline set out in the Archdeacon's newsletter.

Thanks to Darren and Kath, we had five young people in the parish – Samuel Collins, Josephine Griffin, Henry Owen, George Petri and Ana Petri – confirmed by the Bishop of Guildford in June.

Darren's last service and lunch was on Sunday 10 August and that was a well-attended, memorable occasion

Two long-serving bellringers passed way during the year. Jennifer Meade, who had been our Tower Captain for 37 years and Ann Tennant. We remember them and the contribution they made to our parish bellringing. Ann Battersby, our current Tower Captain, has recruited and trained several new volunteers, and the bells at Christ Church continue to be rung for most of our Sunday services, as well as weddings and funerals and special occasions

When the ask came for parish representatives to join the interview panel for our new Rector there were three volunteers. Fraser McGuicken and Helen Coulson were elected at a Section 11 meeting on Tuesday 16 December and the Parish Profile and Church Times advert were approved.

Many thanks should be given to all our visiting clergy, particularly Revd William Allberry and those from the Parish of Weybridge. William has also conducted funerals for us.

We are also grateful to our Area Dean, Jackie Richardson, has given us a lot of advice.

Microsoft equipment has been installed for all parish staff to use, being considerably more cost effective than the Mac equivalents and the Parish are now using OneDrive closed storage to facilitate information sharing. Thank you to Andy Petri.

We close with the vacancy prayer:

God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be His body in this place: Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of uncertainty and change, to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community.

Give your heavenly wisdom to those who are to choose a new incumbent for this parish, that she or he may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, Jesus.

Amen

Will Stevens & Fraser McGuicken
Parish Churchwardens

Finance Report

In 2025 the income to Parish funds amounted to £331,630, which included an unanticipated and very generous legacy of £99,025. Expenditure came to £243,156. Leaving aside the windfall of the legacy, therefore, our expenditure exceeded income by £10,551.

The Parish depends heavily on its regular givers who contribute by standing order or other means, but the number of regular givers has fallen to about 80 each month (from about 120 five years ago). A small number of these donate very generously £200 or more each month, but the average monthly donation is £70-80. In total, receipts through regular giving were some 7% less in 2025 than in 2024.

Gift Aid from eligible donors is an important contribution, producing over £25,000 last year. This was due to the efforts of our Gift Aid Officer, Alan Doolan, who for the last few years has collected and submitted claims to HMRC, Understandably, however, because of his heavy family and work commitments, he had to relinquish this role at the end of 2025. With no volunteer to take on this role, the PCC decided to move our regular giving to the Parish Giving Scheme. This Scheme, which is endorsed by the Diocese, uses an external provider to collect donations and submit Gift Aid claims on behalf of parishes. Donors make their donations to the Scheme rather than direct to the Parish.

The Parish's other sources of income – from Music on the Green, the letting of church premises including the curate's house, fees from weddings and funerals – continued to make modest but useful contributions to Parish funds. The Parish benefits considerably from the Few's Cottage Trust, which meets all the costs of Parish support for children and young people, including the costs of our Children and Families Worker and the Organ and Choral Scholarships.

Expenditure was about 7% less in 2025 than in 2024, mainly because of lower maintenance costs. It was possible, even so, to carry out a full replacement and much needed upgrading of the Parish information technology systems, using legacy funds donated for this purpose. The largest item of expenditure continues to be the Parish Share – the amount set by the Diocese as the Parish's contribution to overall costs in the Diocese, which includes clergy stipends and pension costs and contributions to central Church of England funds. The Parish Share was marginally higher in 2025 than in 2024 (and for 2026 is some 6% higher than in 2025).

The main donations by the Parish to charitable causes were the Lent and Advent Appeals, which raised £2,715 for the Princess Alice Hospice and £1,217 for the Lower Green Community Centre.

Looking ahead, the Parish needs to find ways to increase regular giving in order to cover its ordinary operating costs and to fund future projects, such as the replacement lighting for Christ Church.

Martin Fuller
Parish Treasurer

Safeguarding Report

Alison Mohamed continued as our appointed Safeguarding Officer in 2025. Polly Jordan stepped down during 2025, and we are most grateful to her for all the input and advice that she has given since 2019.

In addition, we appointed Helen Coulson as our safeguarding link on behalf of the PCC.

We have ensured that -

- Safeguarding posters are on display in both Churches.
- Contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines are displayed in both Churches.
- Dedicated Safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both Safeguarding Officers easily accessible.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.
- Safeguarding tab clearly visible on website. This provides details of the Parish Safeguarding officers and Diocese Safeguarding advisers.

Outstanding

- Some PCC members, and other volunteers have outstanding updated Safeguarding Training to complete.
- Due to a data breach at the Diocesan appointed DBS checking agency a number of DBS checks and renewals were put on hold in 2025 whilst the Diocese appointed a new DBS agency.

COVID

- We have continually kept our covid regulations under review and have retained the simultaneous administration of the sacraments (i.e. the president dips the bread in the wine before giving it to the communicant), and the suspension of the physical sharing of The Peace. We are keeping this under review and will revisit this upon the appointment of a new Rector.
- Our goal continues to be to strive to keep our Churches as safe as possible and keep the best interests of our more vulnerable members as our top priority.

Conclusion

Overall, the PCC has made good progress with regard to Safeguarding and continues to prioritise this within our school, community and churches and comply with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines.

Alison Mohamed – Parish Safeguarding Officer
Helen Coulson – PCC Safeguarding Link

Electoral Roll Report

During 2025, leading up to the APCM on Sunday 18 May, the parish was obliged under the Church Representation Rules to draw up a new Electoral Roll (as it is every sixth year). This resulted in a new Roll of 105 members.

During 2025 membership of the Electoral Roll has remained relatively unchanged since. One long-standing church friend sadly died who had been a member of the Roll.

By the end of 2025 the Roll had 107 members from 102 households. Of these, 69 from 56 households are resident in the parish and 38 from 32 households are not resident in the parish.

Melanie Williams
Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

Seven PCC meetings were held in 2025, taking place in January, March, May, July, September, November and December (the last being directly linked to the vacancy process). All were held at Christ Church.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were held on Sunday 18 May. Will Stevens was elected as churchwarden. Those elected to the PCC as lay members comprised Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, and Fraser McGuicken (but see 15 June). Andrea Lindow had completed her second three-year term, and Polly Jordan, Mair Molteno and Jennifer Meade stood down. Valerie Msoka, having been co-opted in November 2024, did not stand for election (but see 15 July). Peter Bedford, who had completed his PCC term in 2023, agreed to continue presently as PCC Secretary (having taken up the role in 2021). The PCC at its meeting on18 May elected the following lay members: Sandra Argent, Bob Lonnon, Sia Marshall, Valerie Msoka, and Helen Coulson. To our surprise, the Rector announced on 25 May that he would be moving on and officially vacated his post on 2 September. At a Special Meeting of Parishioners on 15 June, Fraser McGuicken was elected as our second churchwarden.

The major issues and items of business that arose during the year were as follows:

- A major focus on vacancy matters, as per the formal and detailed procedure laid down by the Church, including the direct involvement of our Patron, Wadham College, Oxford. A vacancy vision workshop was held, with the assistance of Guildford Diocese, and then much effort was devoted to developing the Parish Profile (drawing in part on the Church Development Plan approved earlier in the year). At the so-called Section 11 Meeting on 16 December, the Parish Profile was approved, two lay members of the PCC were selected to represent the PCC in connection with the selection process, and a formal request was made to the Patron to advertise the vacancy in early January 2026 (subsequently approved).
- A focus on attracting new members of the PCC and ensuring leadership continuity by electing the Churchwardens as Co-Vice Chairs (on 15 July).

- Addressing financial pressures, given the ongoing disparity between income and expenditure, the need to increase regular giving, and the identification of an alternative method for claiming gift aid.
- Ensuring full compliance with safeguarding regulations, including implementing the new Esher Parish safeguarding policy, in line with Diocese direction, and renewing and developing related procedures.
- Major fabric matters, including key church maintenance tasks, the continued but unsuccessful quest for a chairperson, and the initiation of essential recovery work in the rectory building and garden following the Rector's departure.
- Community engagement, including with Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum, Esher Chamber of Commerce, Save the Children and Peace & Contemplation.
- Continued support for Parish music, ranging from Music on the Green, in its various formats, to the very successful organ and choral scholarships.
- Further expansion of the role of the Children, Young People and Families worker, involving a wide range of activities across the Parish.
- Continued development of the close relationship with Esher Church School, including via the Christian Distinctiveness Committee.
- Continued emphasis on bellringing activities, including recruitment and training, of further volunteers, and monitoring the structural integrity of the bell tower.
- Investment in information technology to replace the hardware and software in the Parish Office.
- Support to charities and local causes, ranging from the Princess Alice Hospice and the Lower Green Community Centre to the Christmas shoebox campaign.

Peter Bedford
Honorary Secretary

Deanery Synod Report

The Parish of Esher is part of the Emly Deanery, a group of 13 parishes within the Diocese of Guildford.

On Saturday 8 March I went to a Diocesan event called 'Growing Community' led by Michael Moynagh. He talked about Soulscape and how to introduce worship into an outreach or social action group. More information can be found via the following link: www.cofe.io/soulspace

On Thursday 20 March Polly Jordan and I attended a Deanery Synod meeting at Holy Trinity, Claygate led by Revd Stuart Sadler on 'being a Christian Monday – Saturday'. Stuart works full-time and is an ordained minister in the Church of England.

He advised that wherever God places us Monday to Saturday, whether this is in the workplace or at the school gate or in that hectic time erroneously called retirement God is passionate about what we do here and the people we spend so much time with. He also advised what the Bible teaches us about this time not in church and how we can be more active and loving in showing the joy that is knowing Jesus in these places. The talk focused on this precious time in the week and aimed to practically enable us to be excited about heading out into the world. He suggested that we

should start the day with prayer and Bible, allow God to punctuate our day, and end the day with prayer and reflection. He asked us to consider what daily triggers we could use to stay connected to God at work.

On Tuesday 17 June, there was a Deanery Synod meeting at St Christopher's, Hinchley Wood. Beth Collingridge of the Single Friendly Church network gave a presentation on 'Singleness in the UK church' exploring how our churches can truly welcome and honour single people. I was unable to attend. A notice was put in the pewsheet but I'm not aware that anyone from our parish was there.

On Monday 13 October Sia Marshall and I attended a Deanery Synod meeting at St Mary's, East Molesey. Parishes had been asked to make brief presentations about initiatives they had taken which had been successful. They included:

- St Nicholas, Thames Ditton shared an update on their Men's Club which is going well. They suggested that regarding mental health issues men tend to open up better in male company.
- St Peter's, Hersham described their Sunday evening programme of 'Music to Calm the Soul'. Once a month during Summer they hold a Sunday 4pm service outside and have enjoyed various activities including kite flying and bat detecting.
- St Mary's, Long Ditton are using 'The Big Read' scheme from Book Box. The cost is £10 a head. Most books are available from the Regency bookshop in Surbiton, who sell tickets and offer a discount if the book and ticket are both bought by them. They serve homemade refreshments afterwards.
- St Christopher's, Hinchley Wood, whose neighbour is Hinchley Wood school, has plans to open it up as a new 'Study Zone' for their sixth form students. One example of 'Youth Catalyst' work.
- St Mary's, Oatlands mentioned an initiative called the 'Pirates Club', which is an interactive service for children using puppets.
- St Mary's and St John's, Walton Upon Thames, are very thankful for their new youth worker curate, Esther, who could be even more valuable as a new large SEN specialist school is opening in their area soon.
- Holy Trinity, Claygate have a 24 hour prayer room.

According to the number of members on our 2025 Electoral Roll, we are entitled to four Deanery Synod lay representatives. That number is fixed for three years.

William Stevens
Churchwarden & Deanery Synod Representative

Children, Young People & Families Report

<u>Sunday School</u>

"Kath is kind, she always creates such a welcoming environment for the children and teaches them the lessons from the sermon in an age-appropriate way that the children can connect with. The children love the space, the friendship, the snacks, the activities and learning - it's made them feel comfortable and welcome in church, with a place just for them."
Sunday School parent and child.

Attendance at Sunday School is approximately 6-8 children per week. Sessions comprise registration, prayers and Gospel-linked craft activity. We have a core of six regular children with visits from more ad-hoc families and those who come to church for a one-off specific reason. Positive influences on numbers include baptisms/major calendar services; negative influences include family and seasonal holidays/children participating in sporting events.

Example activities include:

- Updating our 'Values Cross' that included our strapline - 'The Parish of Esher Sunday School, where Curiosity and Service meet Faith, Hope and Love.'
- Co-creating a Sunday School wreath that the children laid on the Esher Green War Memorial during the Act of Remembrance for Remembrance Sunday.
- Threading prayer bracelets where each coloured bead represented a different subject.
- Creating our annual Easter garden scene, burying the Hallelujah and counting worms in the Sunday School garden at Christ Church.

Youth Group

"I like going to Youth Group because every month Kath comes up with fun and new ideas of how to explore different topics. I learn a lot about myself, and I use that knowledge every single day. I can't wait for the next session; Kath is such a kind person."
Youth Group attendee.

We meet on the first Friday of the month exploring different ways to grow in mind, body and spirit. Sessions comprise of food, games and discussion, and we end in prayer. Themes explored in 2025 include holistic nourishment, using our voice, intention setting and gratitude, Mindful Photography and life after death.

Baptisms, Eucharist preparation & Confirmation

We have a steady stream of Baptism enquiries - families often remark on our warm and welcoming approach. 2025 had confirmation preparation for five candidates, with the Deanery Confirmation Service being held at St Peter's Hersham in June. In December (and January 2026) I wrote and delivered the first parish Eucharist Preparation course for two nine-year-olds.

Church Schools

We hosted seasonal services in 2025 for our parish schools, Esher Church School and Esher High School. We welcomed the ECS choir for services (including Mothering Sunday and Christingle) in Christ Church and had members of both schools acting as Young Servers during All Age Worship. Bob Lonnon and I serve at ECS through governorship (Bob Lonnon leads the Christian Distinctiveness Committee that I also sit on), including supporting the new school values work and helping prepare for a 2026 SIAMS inspection at ECS. Revd Jonathan leads twice-monthly drama-based Collective Worship assemblies and supports EHS Christian studies.

Esher Church School

- In March, we launched the ECS Prayer and Reflections book, written by pupils.
- Our Sunday School children, along with ECS pupils, created Easter Rainbow Banners containing prayers, reflections and artwork, that were hung in both churches.
- In June we attended the Diocese Year 6 Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral.
- During Harvest, the ECS community participated in collecting food for the Lower Green Community emergency food store.
- In October, I met with some of the Faith Team (Y1-6) and learnt about the impact of their role. Responses included, 'It's like church business but at school - talking about Jesus and God and stories from the Bible'.
- In December, I met with the Faith Prefects (Y6) and asked them questions about what they like in their role and how it helps their faith - 'To help others to who want to find Jesus'; 'To hear other people's thoughts which helps you think differently.'

Esher High School

- We were delighted to collaborate with the new Youth Hub Leader, Tim Richardson, which has meant a much closer working relationship.
- Revd Jonathan provided support to RE teaching, took part in an, 'Ask the Vicar' class-room discussion, provided theological input to three classes, facilitated the Y10 'Mock Wedding' lesson and attended staff prayer meetings.
- I support the Y7 Welcome, Y11 Leavers and Christmas services and visit the Monday lunchtime club, led by Tim Richards, for discussions on faith, religion and spirituality.

<u>Community</u>

At the end of April, we hosted the St. George's Day service at Christ Church for the Esher District Scouts' renewal of their promises, and parade of district and group colours. The service was accompanied by a 15-piece scout band from Claygate, and Stuart Whatton on the organ. Special guests included Revd Mike Branscombe from St. Andrew's, the Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge and local councillors.

Crazy Crafts

"Both myself and my 8-year-old daughter have absolutely loved being involved with the craft events with Kath, they have helped improve our connection with the local community and church. I think these events are a real asset to the local community."
Crazy Crafts, helper and participator

2025 was a bumper year for our popular free Crazy Crafts events that run in partnership with the Lower Green Community Centre as part of our community Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrations. We keep costs down by making many activities in-house and advertise via word-of-mouth, social media, database emails, weekly pewsheet, plus leaflets, posters and door-drops around the parish.

Peace & Contemplation

I assisted by creating the visual slideshow, co-ordinating the recorded music and managing the tech for these events.

Social media

I manage our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram (@esherparish) and we work to engage people through initiatives such as the Parish of Esher Creatures gallery in Christ Church.

Shoeboxes

Our annual delivery of Parish-filled shoeboxes to the Link to Hope distribution centre in Ferring took place at the end of November.

Deck the Halls

Our new Christmas event in December at Christ Church was a great success and included food, carols, Christingle making, crafts and lighting up the main church Christmas Tree.

Crib service

I led our Crib service and rewrote the No-Rehearsal Nativity Play for 2025 - feedback included, "My husband and all our family felt that Christmas had started", and, "It was the best Crib Service they'd been to in 16 years." We had a gate of 127 adults and 49 children, with over £170 in donations on the night.

Thank you to Revd Jonathan Andrew for his help and contributions.

Kathryn Chapman
Children, Young People & Families Worker

Esher Church School Report

Overview

Esher Church Primary School (ECS) is a highly rated two form Primary school and is a single Academy Trust. ECS has prospered over the last 12 months. Numbers on Roll (NoR) were 394 at the Audit Census point for DFE funding with 26 places left to fill but now just 19! – This shows an excellent growth under the helm of Ben Foley and the SLT. An improvement over the three years of some 17%, against an overall declining birthrate across Surrey of 12%+ across the last eight census years. It is worth noting that Surrey is expected to have a significantly worse birthrate from the 4-5% forecasted nationally through 2024-28.

ECS is well supported by an ambitious Trustee team along with the Esher Church School Association (ECSA). The ECSA are wonderfully active in raising additional funds for school teaching materials and technology as well as major projects. In addition, through local authority CIL bids secured, a new innovation hub project is to commence in the summer of 2026.

Christian Distinctiveness (CD)

ECS operates a Christian Distinctiveness Committee chaired by Bob Lonnon (PCC Member) and Kath Chapman (Children & Families Worker). Head Teacher with Faith Leads and LSA sit on this Committee. ECS is a pathfinder lead for holding this committee in the Diocese. CD working has much enriched and touched the lives of the whole School Community as well as visitors.

- SIAMS progress review conducted by Susan Costa on her January 2026 visit exceeded her expectations yet again! Susan Costa noted the further progress made since her last visit in late Spring 2025. Diocesan curriculum engagement and training for Faith leads continues and with much positive feedback on classroom workbooks. A SIAMS inspection is imminent.
- New Vision: 'Love one another'(John 13.34). Rooted in Christian values of community, wisdom and courage, we aspire to grow in kindness, learn with confidence and make a difference in the world.
- New Values: Community, Courage and Wisdom. The theme of roots and flourishing growth have now led to tree house names being used after votes by the school community - Ash, Birch, Chestnut and Oak. Vision, values and house name introductions have been a big success and embraced by all.
- Faith Prefect role description produced and approved. A new Faith Team is in place and developing well. The older members of the Faith Team met with recent candidates for the Rector's vacancy and asked some amazing questions. Their favourite story or piece in the Bible and why and if they described themselves as an animal, what would it be and why?
- Pupil written Prayer Book has proved a huge success and is much acclaimed by all who visit the school and is in regular use by pupil led worship which is now a weekly feature.
- Collective Worship is supported fully by the Parish of Esher and Holy Trinity Claygate. Hinchley Wood Vicar engagement has stopped due to serious illness and prayers for Revd Baines are on church service sheets as well as in school. Kath Chapman also supports school visits to church, engages in worship assemblies and has links with the Chaplain at Esher High School.
- Full calendar of activities between school and church have taken place and are in hand going forward. Children's Christmas artwork took pride of place in Guildford Cathedral at Christmas.
- Spirituality is a developing work with much progress made.
- School areas are refreshed and expanded for faith themes. There is always more to do on along Christian Visual presentation across school and online
- Collaborative interschool working is planned for the Autumn.

Bob Lonnon
Esher Church School Lead

Esher Church of England High School Report

As many of you will know we have two Church Schools within our Parish, something that is very unique. There are only three CofE Secondary schools in the Diocese and we have strong links with both our primary and secondary schools, supporting them through governance and links with our Children & Families worker Kath Chapman and the work of previous our Rector Darren McCallig and Jonathan Andrew and other clergy and congregational members.

In 2025 Esher High School celebrated another year of outstanding success in their summer's GCSE and vocational examinations, with students achieving record-setting results across the board.

In addition to their academic studies, the students at Esher High School experienced and supported a variety of projects and organisations in their local community and abroad including The Princess Alice Hospice, Macmillan Coffee Morning, the local East Elmbridge Foodbank and the overseas David Livingston School in Zambia.

As a Parish we have also continued to support the school through our Children & Families worker, Kath and Revd Jonathan Andrew as well as the governance oversight and support that members of our Parish community have given. We have welcomed pupils and staff from the school to Christ Church for their annual welcoming and thanksgiving services and their Christmas Community Carols.

The late +Andrew Watson was a great supporter of Esher High School, being a member of the Academy Trust Board of Enlighten Learning Trust, of which Esher High School is a part. Bishop Andrew visited the school on a number of occasions, most recently in November 2025 to celebrate and support the staff of Esher High School at their inset and training day. The school and trust are very grateful for his support.

Esher High School continues to be an amazing part of our Parish and we look forward to continuing our links and support with the school.

Helen Coulson
Chair of the Enlighten Learning Trust

Music Report

<u>Liturgical Music</u>

The Parish Choir continued to provide a backbone of musical support to worship services through their annual calendar cycle, and membership of the choir was largely stable, though the hit & miss nature of individual singers' attendance remains an increasing problem, especially on the alto line.

It was also a year of welcome stability on the organ and choral scholarships front, in which the only personnel change was the arrival of a new bass choral scholar, Alex Bernard – a former head chorister at Croydon Minster - to replace Rowan Marshall, as the latter moved on to university alongside a depping role with Guildford Cathedral Choir. We shall miss Rowan enormously but hope he will continue to grace our own choir stalls now and again during vacation time. Meanwhile, Natalie Mechelewska and Alexandra Sweeny continued

to make valuable contributions as our soprano and alto choral scholars, most memorably appearing as a duo for the dedication of the new Memorial Stone at St George's West End. Our two young organ scholars Theo Tang and Robert Cunningham continued to grow in confidence and achievement, with various competition and exam successes to their name. We were also grateful for periodic instrumental input from members of the Doolan family and from Josephine Griffin.

A particular highlight of the year was the opportunity for us to host a visit from Guildford Cathedral Choir, as part of their monthly roadshow of 'away fixtures'. This special Choral Evensong at Christ Church on Sunday 9 March (which happened to be 'Woman Composer Sunday') was attended by a near 100-strong congregation, who heard repertoire from a variety of female composers and hymnwriters, and were also treated to the premiere of 'Radiance', a short choral introit by our organ scholar Theo, which had been the winning entry in a composition competition at Hampton School.

We were all extremely sorry to lose Darren as our Rector when he moved on to his new post at Chingford in the summer, and I would like to put on record my own debt of gratitude to him for all the support and encouragement he has given to our parish music, in his own quiet inimitable way, since his arrival in 2020. It is every Parish DoM's dream to have a clergy boss who is musically knowledgeable, flexible and appreciative but who avoids the temptation to interfere. (Having said that, one of the few advantages of being without a Rector, as we currently are, is that we can with impunity choose all our favourite hymns in the full confidence they will not be vetoed!)

The termly series of Peace & Contemplation evenings continued to build its reputation, with sessions held in March, June and November on the respective themes of hope, joy and gratitude. Although the musical element was predominantly a carefully curated selection of recorded music, we made sure to include an element of live music each time as well.

The organ loft at Christ Church continues to be a heavily used part of the building, even resembling Piccadilly Circus at times, but one constant has been the quiet professionalism of our parish assistant organist Oliver Macfarlane, who remains the rock on which both our choir and congregational singing rely and who provides us with such a wholesome diet of wonderful organ voluntaries throughout the year. Thank you, Oliver, and my renewed thanks to everyone who has lent their musical talents to the cause of our worshipping community during 2025.

<u>Music on the Green</u>

We have continued to enjoy a variety of monthly concerts in our flagship Music on the Green lunchtime series, with performers including a trombone quartet, a flute/viola/harp trio, a piano duo, a guitar duo and a trumpet soloist, as well as two jazz-focused concerts. One of the jazz fixtures featured a Big Band from Coulsdon comprising some 17 performers, which was an MOTG record for the number of performers involved!

Our visiting artist for Music in the Tower in early April was a superlative young guitarist, Nathaniel Rosales-Merkies, who brought us a programme entitled 'The Pendulum of Passion' which included a compelling performance of Bach's iconic Chaconne from the Partita in D minor.

A special highlight of the year, in June, was our Silver Swan Festival marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Orlando Gibbons. Old St George's Church, which would have been newly built when Gibbons was alive, played host to two concerts (a solo harpsichord recital and a recorder consort) as well as a special Choral Evensong with all-Gibbons music.

In November we took part in a special initiative for 'National Play the Organ Year' by holding an Organ Open Afternoon at Christ Church on St Cecilia's Day (22 November), during which we offered a drop-in for people both young and old to try out our Walker pipe organ.

As ever, I am tremendously grateful to other key figures around me who help to keep our wider parish music show on the road: Melanie Williams in the parish office, Michael Banks for his invaluable support with publicity and lighting, Debbie Banks for overseeing the much-praised catering operations, Tom Radford as 'chauffeur-in-chief' and Jan Sayer for her assistance with Music in the Tower. MOTG would not continue to achieve all it has done without the hard work of its many volunteers, so thank you to one and all.

Stuart Whatton
Parish Director of Music

Bellringers' Report

The year has sadly seen several losses to our band. In October we lost the invaluable Jennifer Meade, earlier in the year Katharine Lankey retired, Paul Thirtle moved away and we lost Janet Critchley to a recurrent bad shoulder (not bell related!). Although not a ringer for the past few years we were also saddened by the passing of Ann Tennant.

Of the original millennium band that Jennifer pulled together after the reopening of the spire, only Mary Purves is still ringing. We were therefore delighted to welcome her back to ring the treble bell on three occasions last year.

To recruit more ringers, we placed notices in the pewsheet and the West End Village News, we even had five call outs on Radio Jackie on Thursday 11 September. The result was one ringer Sarah, who joined as a complete beginner at the end of July. She is delightfully enthusiastic and keen to learn; consequently, after much hard work on her part she was able to join us for Sunday ringing on December 7 – see picture below.



Despite the continual shortage of numbers were able to ring bells for six funerals and three weddings. We were also able to ring for all main services throughout the year, although we missed some Sundays and Wednesday evening practices. This is in common with many other local bands due to the shortage of ringers.

Our band is now made up of seven ringers, of whom six can ring regularly. Of those six, only two can ring during the week as they are retired. Special mention should be given to Emma who although not a regular ringer is able to assist us when we are desperate; even though she has usually just come off night shift from the RNLI lifeboat!

We continue to work on our own skills by ringing with other local towers and to help them by bumping up their numbers on their own practice night. Morgan and I regularly do the required maintenance on the bells and ropes by going up into the belfry and keep things oiled and tightened where required. As a band we keep the Tower clean (including all those steps!) and try to maintain control over the dead flies!

Jennifer Meade's legacy to the Christ Church Bell Fund had many questioning the safety of the bells (and the framework in which they hang). The last report was done in 2018 by Malcolm Loveday (Steeple Keeper to the Chertsey District). In conjunction with Malcolm and Bill Hibbert (same roll for the Diocese of Southwark, including the Cathedral), our bells were reinspected this year. Initial findings show the bells are tonally very poor, with the first two bells being completely out of key with the other six.

It was also noted that the framework in places was dubious; this will obviously only get worse over the coming years as we continue to ring. Of more concern was the support beam to the whole frame moved when the number seven bell rang, it will move significantly more when all six or even eight bells are rung. Despite this it was concluded the bells are safe to ring but that further investigations should take place by selected bell hangers and foundries and will be done in 2026.

Ann Battensby
Parish Tower Bell Captain

St George's West End Report

2025 was another rewarding year for St George's as we welcomed several new members to our congregation and continued to go from strength to strength. After the 9am Service, we visit the Prince of Wales for coffee and a chat. It provides a good opportunity to catch up with each other's news and to check on the wellbeing of any who are absent.

Following many generous donations and much gardening help, a large bed of spring bulbs, plants, flowers and shrubs with a 'white theme' has been created on the right-hand side of the church. Many thanks to all those who have contributed and helped.

Our Mothering Sunday and Easter Services were very well attended and the beautiful Easter gardens, one inside the church and the other on the porch, were much admired.

St George's Day was celebrated by festooning the fence with bunting.

In August we welcomed a group of pilgrims from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton to our church. They greatly admired our 'temporary' church and were pleased to learn about its history.

Our major fundraising event remains the West End Village Show, when we open our doors for people to enjoy this unique church and purchase our popular home-made cakes and visit our card and gift stall. We make a huge effort to ensure this event is a success as we rely on our fundraising to help pay for the ongoing maintenance of St George's.

September heralded our fun Pet Service. This was the17th, we welcomed a large number of people who brought along their enthusiastic animals. There were four dogs and the star of the show, Robbie the ginger cat, Robbie stole the limelight draped around his owner's shoulder not at all phased by the dogs or the attention he was getting!

The idea for erecting a Memorial inscribed with the names of those connected with St George's church was first conceived during lockdown in 2020. Clare Craigmile and Andrea Lindow kindly offered to donate the stone and its cost of installation, and the relatives of the deceased would be invited to pay for their loved one's inscriptions. Over many months of painstaking work, Andrea and Mair Molteno traced the relatives of deceased parishioners. This resulted in 25 names being inscribed on the stone. A special service for the Blessing of the stone was held on Saturday 8th November. 80 relatives came from far and wide to attend the service which was beautifully conducted by the Revd Jonathan Andrew. Stuart Whatton played the organ and Natalie Mechelewska and Alexandra Sweeney sang a moving duet. The orders of service, provided by Mair Molteno, featured photos of the church and the garden taken by Stephanie Parcell. Following the service inside the church, everyone moved outside to the garden where the Memorial was blessed by Revd Jonathan Andrew and the inscribed names were read by Peter Bedford. The atmosphere was very special and all those present appreciated being part of this unique occasion.

As always, the church was beautifully decorated for the very well attended and popular Village Carol Concert (a secular event), and the Eucharist on Christmas morning.

Despite the Interregnum the life of the church continues to thrive. We have had all our usual services covered by The Revd Jonathan Andrew and numerous visiting clergy to all of whom we are extremely grateful.

I cannot end this report without expressing our sincere gratitude to my predecessor Andrea Lindow who has been our Deputy Churchwarden for the past eight years and has done so much to make St George's and its congregation what it is today. Before her own eight years of service, Andrea had supported her husband in this role during his nine years of illness. Andrea remains very much involved in the life of St George's and continues to support me as I take over the reins.

Thanks too are due to everyone at St George's for the many hours they devote to maintaining the church and garden, working tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes for the benefit of all.

Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Deputy Churchwarden, St George's Church

Community & Business Outreach Report

We continue to be well established members of the Esher Chamber of Commerce, Elmbridge Multi-Faith and the Esher Planters Club.

In addition to encouraging fellow members to join our own church community it also provides the opportunity to promote our other events with some success.

Christ Church hosted an evening to support 'Save the Children', which was also attended by our local MP, Monica Harding, and an overseas director of 'Save the Children'. This brought a number of new faces into the church.

Peace and Contemplation has become firmly established with many in the audience eager for the next date. This includes those who we do not otherwise see in church.

Thanks to Stuart Whatton's ability to maintain a very high standard of performer, our most successful outreach is 'Music on the Green' where audiences are frequently in the seventies/eighties. This also allows us to encourage them to join our other events.

The international success 'The Chosen' depicting the life of Jesus seen through the eyes of those who knew him is in the planning stages and is destined to be shown on Christ Church's big screen early in 2026.

Michael Banks
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator

Pastoral Support Team Report

I am disappointed to report that, over the past twelve months, my team have had very few requests for help. I have followed up the few enquiries I have received and hope that more requests occur.

We have all passed the relevant checks and I am sorry we have not been called upon more often. I thank all my helpers for their patience and support. Please contact me in the first instance if you, or anybody you know, requires our help.

Wendy Tanqueray
Pastoral Visitor Coordinator

Fellowship Group Report

What a year it has been! With the departure of Darren to pastures new, and the need to 'keep the show on the road', it has been as important as ever for us to meet regularly, sharing our Christian faith, worship, friendship and ideas.

We held a review which focused on the purpose and meaning of our group since its inception in 2010. We greatly value our acts of worship, especially the Bible Readings which can provoke lively discussion, and central to this is our prayer time when we pray for the community and beyond, as there is so much for which prayer is needed. Although politics affects so much of our lives, we agreed not to indulge in party politics owing to its divisive nature and agreed to keep each other in check! We have looked at the work of various writers including a powerful sermon by William Allberry, written in Lent 2006.

As we are getting on in age, we have inevitably lost long standing members, so would like to attract new ones. To this effect, together with Melanie Williams we are producing a leaflet to distribute in various different areas. Melanie has worked closely with us over the years producing lovely displays for our worship booklets.

Later in the year we have agreed that Christine Steeds will share the leadership with Jan Sayer. In the meantime, we look forward to more shared faith, fun and fellowship!

Why not join us?

Jan Sayer
Fellowship Group Leader

InSpire Report

We made it!

InSpire reached the milestone of being 10 years old, with 40 issues, in December 2025. During that time the newsletter has chronicled the many changes within our parish and covered all aspects of our churches' activities.

The editorial team of Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Juliet Philip have remained the same throughout this period and are very grateful for the continued support from the community. Bridget and Jane remain the continual presence within our two churches, collecting the stories as they happen. Meanwhile Juliet edits and paginates InSpire alongside distributing it. Breakfast meetings have continued!

As a team we were honoured to play an initial role in writing and editing the Parish Profile.

It remains our mission to attract more members of the congregation to sign up to receive the newsletter, which remains an email/online only publication. We cannot, because of GDPR, just add people to the distribution list using information from the Electoral Roll. If you are not receiving it and would like to please let one of us, or the Parish Office, know and we can add you to the list.

It remains the position that a printed version would be expensive to produce, not have ecological credentials, and be very restrictive in content. Currently 'breaking news' can be inserted right up until an hour before the send button is hit, whereas a print version would have to be completed a month prior to publication with minimal flexibility.

We hope that you continue to enjoy receiving it.

Juliet Philip
InSpire Editor

Book Group Report

I took over the running of the Book Group in August, taking over from Revd Jonathan Andrew who has chaired discussions for five years, and allowing him more time to fulfil his many commitments during the interregnum. It has been a pleasure to do so, as the monthly meetings continue to deliver interesting and thought-provoking discussions on a wide range of books (and topics). What distinguishes this Book Group from others is that it includes both men and women, that we discuss both fiction and non-fiction, and that we are happy to talk about religion and beliefs. In contrast, most other book groups – in my experience anyway- tend to be predominantly female, favour fiction and steer clear of religion!

We continue to have a steady core group, with others – from outside the congregation as well as members – joining us when available. Our reading over the last year has been very varied, taking us into the dangers of social media (Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*), the plight of the English coastal resort (*The Seaside* by Madeleine Bunting), Asquith's affair with Venetia Stanley as the First World War broke out (*Precipice* by Robert Harris) and colonialism (*Blonde Roots* by Bernardine Evaristo). Novels from the last century featured too: *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* by George Orwell provoked a lively discussion on the effect of poverty and *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Elizabeth Jenkins) one on fidelity. The wide range of reading reflects the interests and experience of our members as they choose the books. Some of our best discussions are when we hold different views, and I think we all value the broadening of horizons our meetings bring.

Anyone who reads is welcome to attend, even if only to discuss a particular book, and our meetings are publicised in the pewsheet.

Jane Anderson
Book Group Leader

On behalf of the PCC

Will Stevens	Fraser McGuicken	Peter Bedford
Churchwarden	Churchwarden	Hon Secretary

Minutes of the Parish of Esher Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church, Esher on Sunday 18 May 2025 at 12 noon.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1 **Opening Prayers**

The Revd Darren McCallig welcomed those present, explained the format of the meetings, and opened with a prayer.

2 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Teresa Allen, Jackie Andrew, Ann Battensby, Sue Dunne and Jane Tyrrell.

3 **Election of Churchwardens**

One nomination was received for the position of churchwarden – William Stevens – who was duly elected.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4 **Minutes from last year's meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2025 were approved unanimously as a true record. Proposed by Andrea Lindow and seconded by Tom Radford.

5 **Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

6 **Parish Annual Report 2025**

Parish Financial Statements 2025

Martin Fuller introduced his report, explaining that the deficit for the year was around £50,000. Whilst the generosity of regular givers was appreciated, their numbers had fallen, the totals raised had reduced, and we needed to address this trend. The refurbishment of the former Curate's house at Cranbrook Drive had been costly, exacerbated by the non-payment of rent by the previous tenants and the need to evict them. Overall costs had been around £100,000, with the sum for 2024 being circa £37,000. Martin stated that overall running costs for the Parish were approximately £5,000 per week.

The point was raised that we perhaps we should illustrate our outgoings by visual displays in both churches, showing what our expenses are, and emphasising that we have a Parish Share to pay.

In answer to a query on Cranbrook Drive, Martin confirmed that the property is now generating a regular income, about £26,000 in 2024, and that the monthly rental will be increased shortly on a change of tenancy. Helen Coulson confirmed that there would be no need for refurbishment between tenants, as the property was in good condition.

Following a question about whether we should ask regular donors to increase their giving by the rate of inflation, Darren intervened to inform the meeting about the approach to stewardship for this year. He said that the PCC had agreed that there would be a stewardship season between June and July, inviting all concerned to donate to the Parish, or to increase the amount that they currently give. He agreed that it was important to remind all who make donations to do so with gift aid wherever possible.

Helen Coulson, as outgoing churchwarden, thanked Martin Fuller for his outstanding work as Treasurer, given that this requires considerable effort, and is very much appreciated.

The meeting agreed to accept the Financial Statements, as proposed by Brian Elliott and seconded by Helen Coulson.

7 **Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025**

Martin tabled the further appointment of Gordon Manickam as Independent Examiner. Gordon provides his services pro bono, we are very grateful for his endeavours in this respect, and thanks will be conveyed to him formally. His appointment for 2025 was approved, having been proposed by Martin Fuller and seconded by William Stevens.

8 **Elections of PCC members for three years**

There were two nominations for lay membership of the PCC, being Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, who had recently been appointed as Deputy Churchwarden for St George's West End, and Fraser McGuicken. Both were duly elected. [One further candidate's election has been deferred awaiting action by the PCC].

9 **Any Other Business**

Darren expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish to those who have given up their time over the years, in many different roles, and who were now standing down from the PCC:

- Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell as Churchwardens.
- Andrea Lindow after her lengthy service including as Deputy Churchwarden St George's West End.
- Mair Molteno, Jennifer Meade, and Polly Jordon (who has also done sterling work as one of the Parish Safeguarding Officers), and Valerie Msoka (who had been co-opted in November 2024 but plans to rejoin). voiced thanks for the continuing efforts of the current incumbent!

Darren presented gifts of hydrangeas to Helen and Andrea as a token of our appreciation. [Note: a presentation will be made to Jane Tyrrell on her return from holiday].

Helen, also on behalf of Jane Tyrrell, thanked all those involved with the running of the Parish and our two churches, including the many volunteers across the whole range of activities, who contribute so much of their time and are greatly appreciated. She emphasised that she was not leaving but having a break and will remain engaged with activities in the Parish.

10 **Closing Prayers**

Darren closed the meeting at 12.40pm and invited all present to say the Grace.

Peter Bedford
Honorary Secretary PCC

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

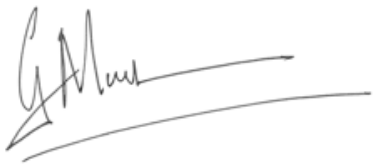
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1 which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA
84 Greenways
Hinchley Wood
KT10 0QJ

May 2026

Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025

Incoming Resources

£s	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025	2024
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Regular giving	88,579	-	-	88,579	95,219
Gift Aid	24,614	-	749	25,363	19,236
Church collections	20,592	-	-	20,592	16,303
Donations & bequests	9,744	17,446	60	27,250	4,842
Sales of donated investments	2,140	-	-	2,140	2,015
Sundry receipts	2,185	230	38	2,454	4,969
Church fundraising events	402	-	-	402	2,092
Card & notelet sales	-	-	-	-	255
Church fees	10,726	-	-	10,726	8,204
Music on the Green	-	7,282	-	7,282	7,350
Investment income (dividends)	487	-	20,951	21,438	21,054
Traidcraft & merchandise sales	68	-	-	68	389
Rental income	-	22,975	-	22,975	22,031
Totals	159,540	47,933	21,799	229,273	203,964
Other incoming resources					
Appeal donations	-	-	3,331	3,331	7,560
Legacies	-	99,025	-	99,025	-
Grand Totals	**159,540**	**146,958**	**25,130**	**331,630**	**211,524**

Resources Used

£s	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025	2024
Cost of generating funds					
Music on the Green	-	4,756	-	4,756	5,264
Fundraising events	57	157	-	214	77
Merchandise purchases	370			370	
Flyer print costs	1,250	-	-	1,250	625
Totals	1,677	4,914	-	6,591	5,967
Cost of Parish activities					
Grants & appeal payments	180	-	4,064	4,244	5,618
Parish share	94,485	-	-	94,485	93,575
Clergy telephone	569	-	-	569	827
Clergy car & travel	79	-	-	79	43
Clergy other expenses	246	-	-	246	122
Rectory gas/electricity	638	-	-	638	1,004
Rectory running costs	1,090	-	-	1,090	1,081
Repairs & maintenance	11,852	10,627	-	22,479	55,737
Cleaning	2,499	-	-	2,499	2,633
Electricity - Christ Church	9,589	-	-	9,589	10,393
Electricity - St George's	1,650	-	-	1,650	1,716
Gas - Christ Church	6,423	-	-	6,423	9,528
Water bills - Christ Church	259	-	-	259	289
Water bills - St George's	86	-	-	86	87
Insurance - Christ Church	4,074	719	-	4,794	4,661
Insurance - St George's	563	-	-	563	510
Sundry expenses/petty cash	4,166	792		4,958	3,014
Communion table	577	-	-	577	1,044
Flowers	450	-	-	450	450
Organists' fees	11,980	-	-	11,980	10,350
Organ/piano maintenance	6,127	-	-	6,127	2,882
Choir expenses & music	192	10	-	202	312

Resources Used (continued)

£s	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025	2024
Cost of Parish activities (continued)					
Organ & choral scholarships	-	-	4,639	4,639	2,800
Church meetings	-	-	-	-	39
Training & courses	-	-	-	-	-
Youth worker	-	-	15,777	15,777	14,008
Youth activities	-	-	1,627	1,627	1,967
Office salaries/taxes	22,384	-	-	22,384	23,369
Printing & stationery	1,105	-	-	1,105	1,006
Church telecoms/internet	1,948	8,830	-	10,779	1,995
Photocopier costs	1,276	-	-	1,276	1,675
Depreciation	1,712	52	1,351	3,116	3,861
Bank charges	809	-	-	809	634
Office sundry costs	1,013	40	-	1,053	973
Totals	188,032	21,073	27,459	236,565	258,216
Grand Totals	**189,709**	**25,987**	**27,459**	**243,156**	**264,183**

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

£s	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	859,253	158	4,054	863,466	811,583
Investments	-	-	1,302	1,302	1,354
Fixed assets	859,253	158	5,357	864,769	812,938
Current assets					
Debtors	1,979	-	-	1,979	2,341
Cash at bank & in hand	(101,160)	262,789	42,743	204,372	114,210
Current assets	(99,181)	262,789	42,743	206,352	116,551
Liabilities					
Creditors (amounts falling due in one year)	1,305	60	1,733	3,099	4,891
Net current assets less current liabilities	(100,486)	262,729	41,010	203,252	111,660
Total assets less current liabilities	758,767	262,888	46,367	1,068,022	924,599

Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

£s	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Unrestricted					
General Fund	758,767	-	-	758,767	733,934
Designated					
Lighting Renovation	-	10,980	-	10,980	10,395
Music on the Green	-	16,892	-	16,892	14,377
West End	-	44,003	-	44,003	31,160
Cranbrook Drive	-	35,668	-	35,668	22,419
Bell Fund	-	1,746	-	1,746	161
Legacies	-	153,597	-	153,597	63,402
Restricted					
Advent Appeal	-	-	(285)	(285)	(302)
Property	-	-	5,516	5,516	5,549
Fews Cottage	-	-	27,290	27,290	28,302
Spire Appeal	-	-	6	6	6
Other Appeals	-	-	-	-	-
Boiler Renovation	-	-	4,054	4,054	5,406
Children & Young People	-	-	4,495	4,495	4,495
Garden of Remembrance	-	-	5,289	5,289	5,289
Funds of the Parish	**758,767**	**262,888**	**46,367**	**1,068,022**	**924,599**

Grants for Charitable Purposes

£s	Total
Lower Green Community Centre	80
Kathryn's Mercy Home, India (Sponsorship of child)	180
Lent Appeal 2025 (Princess Alice Hospice)	2,715
Royal British Legion	90
Children's Society (Christingle)	132
Advent Appeal 2025 (Lower Green Community Centre)	1,217
Total	**4,414**

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a market value estimated in 2026. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less that £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Employees

The Church employed two people in 2025: the Parish Administrator and a Children & Families Worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.



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