St John the Evangelist

Grove Lane | Kingston upon Thames | KT1 2SU
Charity RN 1181704

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Celebrating 154 years of worship, welcoming, community engagement, fellowship & prayer.

The Diocese of Southwark

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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PCC MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing board of our parish church, functioning much like a board of trustees for a charity. It is a partnership between the Vicar and elected members of the congregation who share responsibility for the church's "business" and its vision. Practically, they manage the finances and maintain the building; spiritually, they help decide the church's direction to ensure it remains a safe, welcoming, and active presence in the community. During 2025, we were served by this team:

Chair	:	Revd Lindiwe Maseko
Rector	:	Revd Joe Moffatt
Licensed Lay Ministers	:	Isobel Robinson Andrea Campanale Julie Bishop
Churchwardens	:	Michael Wraight Shona Pitcher
Treasurer	:	Monika Sosnowski
PCC Secretary & Elect Roll Officer	:	Luanne Higgins
Deanery Synod Representatives	:	Isobel Robinson Julie Bishop
Co-opted Members	:	Emmanuel Koloko Lisa Aird-Mash
Elected Members: Our thanks go to	:	Frances Hazelgrove David Campanale Grant Vanstone Katy Winter Ghada Khoury Kate Lyon – (maternity) Colin Bowes Carolynne Cotton

OUR COMMITTEES

To ensure the smooth running of St John's, the PCC operates through four focused committees:

1. **Standing Committee**
   The Standing Committee (SC) is the PCC's legally required executive body. It comprises the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, and one or two elected members. Its principal role is to ensure that the church's business proceeds smoothly between full PCC meetings, exercising delegated authority to make urgent decisions and to prepare agendas. While it undertakes day-to-day administration, it remains accountable to the full PCC and reports all actions for formal oversight.
2. **Fabric Committee**
   The Fabric Committee—comprising the Vicar, Churchwarden Michael Wraight, and the Treasurer—is responsible for the careful stewardship of our physical assets. It oversees the maintenance and care of the church building, hall, and grounds, ensuring that St John's remains safe, welcoming, and well maintained. Its work also safeguards our historic heritage for future generations.
3. **Finance Committee**
   Established in 2025 in response to financial challenges, the Finance Committee—comprising the Vicar, Treasurer, Churchwardens, and Giving Officer (Lisa Aird-Mash)—works to secure the long-term sustainability of St John's by transitioning from reactive budgeting to proactive growth through professional financial oversight, modernised stewardship via the Parish Giving Scheme, and the strategic expansion of income streams including maximised building hires, digital giving solutions, and targeted grant applications.
4. **Hall Committee**
   The Parish Hall Committee was established by the PCC to oversee the Hall Improvement Project. Operating under the Church Representation Rules, the team is made up of the Vicar, Chair (Jan Hartley), Treasurer, Churchwardens, and the Hall Administrator. The committee is responsible for guiding the hall project through its various stages, ensuring that all work is carried out professionally and effectively. Its aim is to deliver a modernised space that will better serve both the church and the wider Kingston community for many years to come.

The PCC met six times in 2025, following a commissioning service on 17th May. Beyond the "nuts and bolts" of church life, our hearts remained fixed on worship, mission, and the essential duty of Safeguarding.

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Compliance and Oversight

The Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) and the PCC are responsible for providing an annual report on safeguarding, affirming compliance with the duty to have **'due regard'** to the House of Bishops' (HoB) Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Currently, **Shona Pitcher and Grant Vanstone** jointly hold the role of PSO.

Audits and Policy Reviews

Safeguarding remains at the heart of all Church and PCC activities. To ensure continued compliance, the following measures are in place:

- **Policy Reviews:** Safeguarding policies are reviewed annually every October. All recent reviews are complete.
- **Parish Audit:** A full Safeguarding Audit was completed in March 2025 in accordance with HoB guidance. As this is a five-year requirement, we remain fully compliant.
- **Diocesan Alignment:** A further audit is scheduled prior to October 2026 to align with the updated Diocesan processes following the 2019 review and the post-COVID-19 recovery period.
- **Operational Compliance:** Insurance cover and rental agreements have been audited and found to be in full compliance with HoB guidance.

Governance and Visibility

- **PCC Oversight:** Safeguarding is now a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting to ensure ongoing vigilance.
- **Public Information:** Formal notices are prominently displayed as per HoB guidance. These include contact details and photographs of the Safeguarding Officers to ensure they are easily identifiable to the congregation and visitors.
- **Ongoing Training:** A three-year cycle for reviewing and updating safeguarding training and policies is currently being implemented for all current and future PCC members.

Risk Management and Procedures

We maintain robust systems to identify known offenders or individuals who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults.

- **Risk Assessments:** Detailed assessments are conducted for all activities occurring within the church and its managed areas. Comprehensive guidance is provided to all third-party hirers of church premises.
- **Incident Response:** While procedures are in place to manage allegations or suspicions of abuse promptly, these remain under constant review to ensure they meet the highest standards.

Summary

We are pleased to report that there have been **no major safeguarding issues** identified this year.
The PCC remains committed to the principle that strong, robust procedures reduce the likelihood of incidents. By maintaining stringent checks and clear protocols, we ensure that any concerns are handled with the necessary sensitivity and professionalism, minimising the impact on those involved.

Shona Pitcher (Church Warden) and Grant Vanstone – **Parish Safeguarding Officers.**

VICAR'S REPORT

It has been a real joy to see St John's filled with so much life from across our community throughout 2025. Attendance has remained steady, with gentle signs of growth, especially at Christmas and our other special services. I am thankful for the faithfulness, kindness, dedication, and energy of our church family during a year that has included change, challenge and transition.

Church Attendance

Our Sunday services remain vibrant across our different services, including the 9am Said Holy Communion, the 10am Reflections and Holy Communion services, Diddy Disciples, and Junior Church. This year, we have been greatly encouraged by an average weekly attendance of approximately 40 adults and 12-15 children. While individual attendance patterns naturally vary, the underlying consistency of our congregation shows that many continue to find a welcoming church family and spiritual home here at St John's.

Younger Generations

Our work with children and young people has continued to flourish in 2025, and I am grateful to the many volunteers especially the parents who lead and support these ministries with such love, dedication and care.

Junior Church

My sincere thanks go to Kath Edwards and the team of Junior Church parents for their commitment. They often prepare a meal each week for the children to enjoy during the service—so much so that the children have affectionately renamed it "Dinner Church". It is encouraging to see friendships growing as the children share time together and enjoy good fellowship.

Little Groovers

Little Groovers continues to thrive as an important community group. During term time we have welcomed, on average, 35 children and 32 parents or carers each week.

Diddy Disciples

We are grateful to Katy Winter and Susan Andrew, and the wider Diddy Disciples team for nurturing our children in faith with love and care. It has been lovely to welcome a growing number of new families, which says a great deal about the friendly and welcoming atmosphere the team has helped to create. Thank you also for the enthusiastic help given during the church spring clean. As special thanks to Susan for painting and recarpeting the children's room in church.

Children's Corner

Children's Corner continues to be a valued and well-used space during our services. Thank you to Lyndsay Lyndsey de Valmency and all who help to maintain and support this area, ensuring it remains welcoming for our youngest members.

Faith in the Community

It is a privilege for St John's to play an active part in our local community and to offer a place where all are welcome. This has included Banquet Records concerts, school concerts and events, our Community Café, the St John's School and Church Christmas Fayre, and many other occasions that have brought people into the church and strengthened local connections.

Schools Work

We are pleased to maintain strong links with our local schools, the university, and other community partners. This includes leading Collective Worship at St John's School and hosting seasonal services for both Bedelsford and St John's. We are also grateful for our ongoing connections with King Athelstan School, Surbiton High School though school visits and through their 'Soul in the Community' programme, and Kingston University. It is wonderful to partner with St John's School for our annual Christmas Fayre each year, and we are delighted to see this relationship continue to grow and strengthen

Monday Club

Held monthly, Monday Club provides a friendly social gathering that is especially appreciated by our older members. It is open to all within the church and the wider community, and it continues to be a good place for conversation, social engagement, friendship, and support. Everyone is welcome.

Community Partnerships

Our ongoing work with Refugee Action Kingston, Banquet Records, St John's school, Kingston Methodist Church, Spring Grove Pub, Kingston University, Surbiton High, Ward Councillors, Community Police Officers and many others continue to be a blessing, and we are thankful for the chance to support those who are new to our area. We also support Acts 435, helping to meet practical needs locally when we can.

Prayer and Midweek Activities

Our commitment to prayer remains strong. Morning Prayer is held Monday to Wednesday and is attended by around 5 people each week.

Thank you to everyone who has served so faithfully in worship, welcome, children's work, community events, and in the quiet day-to-day tasks that keep our church strong. It has been a real encouragement to see our church family growing, and to see the energy that children, young people, and their leaders bring to St John's. Please keep praying for our life together, and for God's guidance as we look ahead. I would love to thank everyone by name, but I know I would inevitably miss someone…

Rev'd Lindiwe Maseko
Vicar

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC met six times this year. The PCC Standing Committee this year introduced a rotation system to allow diverse and new people to participate. As a result we welcomed a new ex-officio member joined the Standing Committee. We are grateful to the four PCC members who stepped down this year — Colin Bowes, Daisy Burton, Julie Bishop, and our PCC Secretary and Electoral Officer, Luanne Higgins, who stepped down in December 2025. We thank them all for the excellent work they have carried out over the years and greatly appreciate their hard work, commitment, and support. We are now looking for a new PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer, and if you are interested in the role, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

ELECTORAL ROLL

As required by the Church of England, the Electoral Roll was completely reset last year as part of the six-yearly renewal process. All names from the previous Roll were removed, and anyone wishing to be included was required to complete a new application form. We are now gradually rebuilding the Roll. Last year we had 67 names on the Electoral Roll, and we are pleased to report that this year's total is now at 82 and continuing to grow. While these figures provide a formal snapshot of our membership, our community impact is more fully reflected in wider attendance at community events in the church. During 2025, we were encouraged to see an average Sunday attendance of around 40 adults, alongside a growing Junior Church and Diddy Disciples, which together welcomed an average of 12–15 children each week.

We would like to thank Luanne Higgins, who served as our Electoral Roll Officer with such dedication and diligence for three years. We are therefore seeking a new volunteer to step into this important administrative ministry and help keep us "on the straight and narrow" for the coming year.

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

St John's has had another happy and busy year, with our building used for many different activities. Worship was central to everything else going on, and the regular pattern of services included an All Age Communion Service at 10.00am on the first Sunday of the month, Parish Communion on the last two Sundays of the month—when the Diddy Disciples joined us for Communion after their own worship—and, from September, a fourth-Sunday service following the 9.00am Said Holy Communion. We are grateful to Isobel and Andrea for all they do, and to Julie who led the service of Reflections which is now in its 2nd year. It has been a successful addition to our worship schedule. Junior Church met on Sunday afternoons during term time, led by Lindiwe and Kath Edwards, and attendance numbers have steadily grown.

Thank you to our loyal servers—Kath Edwards, Neville Hall, Jim Duffy, and Raymond Kendall—and our great team of sides-people, who ensured our services ran smoothly and everyone received a warm welcome. Thank you to Katy Morbin and Susan Andrew, and their team of parents, who led the Diddy Disciples' worship, and to our lovely team who made the coffee and provided delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy after the services. We thank Mark Brooks for being our helpful and efficient verger.

There were eleven baptisms, six candidates got confirmed by Bishop Martin, there were no weddings, and four funerals during the year, including two at the crematorium. Our Community Café opened on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 1.00pm, not only providing a space for people to meet and enjoy toasted sandwiches and homemade cakes, but also raising money for our church funds and the charities we support. Thank you to the loyal team who cooked, served coffee, made and sold cakes, and washed up!

We were pleased that Simon Briggs, our Special Police Community Support Officer, and Councillors Nicola Nardelli, Roger Hayes, and John Sweeney from the Liberal Party continued to hold surgeries with residents. The First Monday Club met each month, and Little Groovers continued on Tuesday mornings. Thank you to everyone for making St John's the warm and welcoming church it is, and to the many people who give their time and energy to our church life, as the reports will testify.

Our thanks go to our former treasurer, Tony, for his work in handing matters over to our new treasurer, Monika Sosnowska, and for his good stewardship of our resources. Monika has worked tirelessly to get both the church and hall accounts balanced and working properly—despite a lack of assistance from NatWest!—and to Jo Need for her support and help with Gift Aid. Thanks also to our Standing Committee, the PCC, and our Safeguarding Officers, Shona Pitcher and Grant Vanstone. Thank you to Evie Ng for continuing to be our efficient and helpful Church Administrator, and to Emma Peries who, together with Evie, kept our website up to date.

We have enjoyed being your Churchwardens over the past year, and it has given us an insight into what it takes to run St John's. Without the amazing team of volunteers we have, the church would certainly not be in the good shape it is today. We have both agreed to continue in this role for a further term, if you will still have us!

Michael Wraight and Shona Pitcher
Church Wardens

FABRIC REPORT (2025)

Overall, the church building continues to be well cared for and is cleaned regularly to a good standard. The annual spring clean once again went well, with a strong turnout of volunteers—thank you to everyone who helped. We successfully repaired the kitchen window after it was damaged by adverse weather; I am pleased to note that this was fully covered by our insurance. All the usual annual servicing has been carried out as planned. There are, however, a few areas now needing attention. The church floor, which was due for repair after five years, has reached that point and will need to be addressed and we have a quote for this of nearly £30,000. We have applied for a grant and are praying for a successful outcome on this. We have also experienced ongoing problems with the heating system. Although the control system has been replaced, this has unfortunately not resolved the issue.
We are currently waiting for a detailed report to help us understand what is going wrong and how best to fix it. In addition, some damp has been noticed near the south transept, and this will need to be investigated and dealt with.



On a much more positive note, the church grounds continue to look wonderful. Our team of volunteer gardeners have done a fantastic job throughout the year, and we regularly receive compliments from people in the community about how the grounds look. We are very grateful for their hard work and dedication.
We would also like to thank Surbiton High School's "Soul in the Community" group, who have supported us over the past three years. Their contribution has been invaluable—they have helped with planting, weeding, watering, building a raised bed for RAK, and relaying paving stones the Bloomfield Road entrance. Finally, thank you to the Junior Church, who during their Eco Church sessions got involved in weeding and planting wildflowers in their patch on Springfield Road. It's been encouraging to see their enthusiasm and care for the environment.

Michael Wraight - Church Warden Fabric

TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 December 2025 and Receipts & Payments Accounts.

Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

As of 31.12.2025 St. John's Church reports a deficit of £5.8k and accounts are prepared on cash basis (only physically received cash and money spent are considered for year end result, unlike in the accrual basis approach).

Total income was £20.9k lower than previous year, mainly due to lower demand for hiring, less fundraising activities as well as not claimed Gift aid of £4.6k. The latter is due to the process of passing on the authorisation from the previous Treasurer as well as obtaining access to HMRC account. Respective claim has been submitted in April 2026 and will be included in the accounts for year 2026.

Income from regular givers not materially different than last year's, as in accounts 2024 majority of Gift Aid governmental contribution was already considered.

Regular hiring resulted in the total income of £40k and was slightly lower than in previous year.

Expenses were £20.2k lower than in previous year, mainly thanks to change of utilities provider (lower rates gave savings of £5.7k), insurance, maintenance and savings across various functional costs.

The total loss was higher by £680 comparing to year 2024, thanks to the efforts of the entire team. Church is seeking to apply for further grants to help finance improvements and maintenance.

Related party transactions included: reimbursement to the Vicar for supplies purchased for events and operations of the church: £1.5k, payment for accounting services and Xero subscription to the treasurer and bookkeeping team: £0.9k, payment to subcontractors for office and admin work as well as reimbursement for office supplies £10.7k.

Signed,

Monika Sosnowska

07.05.2026

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who gives, volunteers, hires our facilities, and helps care for the church buildings. Your support enables St John's to remain a welcoming place of worship and community service. With God's help, we look forward with confidence to the year ahead.



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Profit and Loss

St John's Church Kingston
For the year ended 31 December 2025
Cash Basis

	2025	2024
Turnover		
115 - Gift aid income	28,054.75	36,618.00
116 - Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals)	918.00	-
117 - Income from hiring property (for choir, little groovers and other hire and rental)	40,251.14	38,131.00
118 - Grants received	2,250.00	-
200 - Sales	12,916.43	-
260 - Other Revenue	13,189.33	43,258.51
270 - Interest Income	1,248.00	1,784.00
Total Turnover	**98,827.65**	**119,791.51**
Cost of Sales		
310 - Cost of Goods Sold	7,251.51	-
320 - Subcontractors' remuneration	10,840.03	-
Total Cost of Sales	**18,091.54**	-
Gross Profit	**80,736.11**	**119,791.51**
Administrative Costs		
401 - Audit & Accountancy fees	942.96	-
404 - Bank Fees	72.00	-
408 - Cleaning	6,729.58	-
418 - Charitable and Political Donations	48,187.50	62,922.31
429 - General Expenses	3,326.24	18,092.23
433 - Insurance	3,792.65	5,988.00
445 - Light, Power, Heating	11,881.85	17,623.00
461 - Printing & Stationery	2,645.73	-
463 - IT Software and Consumables	217.84	-
473 - Repairs & Maintenance	8,306.27	20,332.00
485 - Subscriptions	220.00	-
489 - Telephone & Internet	260.00	-
Total Administrative Costs	**86,582.62**	**124,957.54**
Operating Profit	**(5,846.51)**	**(5,166.03)**
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	**(5,846.51)**	**(5,166.03)**
Profit after Taxation	**(5,846.51)**	**(5,166.03)**

Balance Sheet

St John's Church Kingston

As at 31 December 2025

Cash Basis

	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
S John's church	16,293.49	14,166.26
ST JOHN THE	5,049.33	-
St John The Evangeli Liquidity Manager	56,198.67	-
Tony Hardy	-	70,337.04
Total Cash at bank and in hand	**77,541.49**	**84,503.30**
112 - Other receivables	-	2,537.61
Total Current Assets	**77,541.49**	**87,040.91**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
201 - Other liabilities	-	3,652.91
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**-**	**3,652.91**
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	**77,541.49**	**83,388.00**
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	**77,541.49**	**83,388.00**
Net Assets	**77,541.49**	**83,388.00**
Capital and Reserves		
301 - Unrestricted Fund	21,130.03	21,130.03
302 - Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39,538.00	39,538.00
303 - Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20,596.00	20,596.00
304 - Restricted Fund (C) - Family	7,290.00	7,290.00
960 - Retained Earnings	(5,166.03)	-
Current Year Earnings	(5,846.51)	(5,166.03)
Total Capital and Reserves	**77,541.49**	**83,388.00**

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of:

St John the Evangelist {charity number 1181704}

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St John the Evangelist (the charity) for the year ended 31st Dec 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Association's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Abi Aiyegbayo **ACMA, CGMA**

Date: 8th May 2026

19-21 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 5EG

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL - TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

This year the Parish Hall achieved a trading surplus of £16,522 and also received a grant of £15,000 from Garfield Weston Trust towards future refurbishment. With deposit interest added, total funds increased from £94,210 to £127,733 by the year end. Income from regular hirers rose by over 21% year on year while occasional hire was on a par with 2024. Expenses in 2025 were down by over £4k (27% lower) as significantly less was spent on repairs and maintenance. This is in anticipation of major works in 2026 on the Hall fabric and facilities. With funds already boosted by the Garfield Weston grant, the Parish Hall Committee is seeking to apply for further grants to help finance improvements to access and toilet facilities, replacement of the windows and doors and full redecoration of the Hall. The committee would especially like to thank Vanessa Hamilton who is leading the grant applications and is hopeful of more success here. Huge thanks are also extended to Frances Hazelgrove who has managed the Hall bookings and invoicing so diligently for many years and is finally stepping down from the role to take a well-earned rest. Thanks also to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee, Revd. Lindiwe, Michael Wraight for looking after Hall maintenance, our marvellous caretaker Silvana Silva, Paragon Green Cleaning and to all the Hall hirers for their valued support. Having stepped down as Church Treasurer after 35 years and moved out of the area in April, I continued to look after the Hall accounts as Treasurer (a role I have had since 2012) and am pleased to hand over the reins to Monika Sosnowska.

Tony Hardy - Hall Treasurer

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS 2025

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Regular Hire	24987		24987	20557
Sundry Hire (net of deposits)	3831		3831	3821
Grants	0	15000	15000	
Interest	2001		2001	
TOTAL	**£30,819**	**£15,000**	**£45,819**	**£24,377**

EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 year to date	2024
Water, Light & Heating	3479		3479	3746
Insurance	1511		1511	1461
Caretaker & Cleaning	4002		4002	4334
Administrator & expenses	1197		1197	1080
Repairs & Maintenance	2107		2107	6060
Sundries	0		0	104
TOTAL	**£12,295**	**£0**	**£12,295**	**£16,785**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**£18,523**	**£15,000**	**£33,523**	**£7,592**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2024 BALANCE SHEET			**£94,210**	**£86,618**
ASSETS FROM 2025 BALANCE SHEET			**£127,733**	**£94,210**

NOTES
1. Net figure - £50 deposits returned to occasional hirers are deducted from gross income.
2. Grant from Garfield Weston towards Hall refurbishment marked as Restricted Funds.
3. At 31/12/25 £29,722.69 held in current account + £98,010.64 in 95 days deposit account.

BREAKDOWN OF REGULAR HIRE INCOME 2025	
Yoga	330
Spring Grove Fringe	3004
QMC Capoeira	2057
Firth Fridays	528
Rose Theatre	1210
Pilates	748
Jiu Jitsu	5307
Teddy Tennis	880
Hartbeeps	3520
S London Alliance Church	2816
BTA Theatre Group	2024
Salsa	1683
Badminton	880
Total	**£24,987**

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The year 2025 has been marked by energy, creativity, and steady growth in the life of St. John's. Our church building continues to serve as a lively and welcoming setting for worship, community activity, music, and outreach.

We were pleased to welcome back regular hirers such as Daisy First Aid, Ginger Tonic, Sound Bath, and Kingston Spring Grove Morris. Music has remained a strong feature of the year, with the St. John's School Choir, Orpheus Choir, Eclipse Choir, and other visiting ensembles filling the space with song. The Best Bedelsford Café continued during term time, offering students a meaningful opportunity to serve the community with dedication and enthusiasm.

Our partnership with Banquet Records has remained a significant part of church life. During 2025, thirteen concerts were hosted, each supported by our committed bar team. These evenings not only brought new visitors into the church but also contributed valuable income to sustain our mission and ministry.

Church-led activities have continued steadily throughout the year. First Monday Club, Little Groovers, Junior Church, Community Café, and Ping Pong each play an important role in nurturing fellowship and friendship across different age groups.

We were also pleased to host ministry gatherings such as the Diocese Greenhouse meeting and Growing Leaders, enabling learning, reflection, and leadership development within our shared space.

St. John's School and Bedelsford School continued to made regular use of the church for Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and leavers' services. Their involvement brings vibrancy and joy to the building and strengthens our connection with the wider community.

In November, we held our much-loved Christmas Fayre, which once again brought people of all ages together for festive fun and successful fundraising.

In addition, several independent concerts enhanced the cultural life of the parish, including performances by North Kingston Choir, Ben & Dom, and Colourstrings Music School. A new highlight this year was the introduction of three candlelight concerts presented by Lumos Live. These beautifully staged events attracted large audiences and created a truly magical atmosphere within the church. Overall, 2025 has demonstrated once again the breadth of life at St. John's. We remain grateful to all who give their time and gifts so generously, helping to sustain a church that is active, welcoming, and rooted in faithful service.

Evie Ng - Parish Administrator

HALL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Our parish hall continued to be a popular and appreciated venue. Another busy year with our regular hirers the Badminton group, Pilates, Jiu Jitsu, Teddy tennis, the Rose Youth Theatre, a Mother and Baby group (Hartbeeps), Poco Loco Salsa dance class, Capoeira and the Spring Grove Fringe, who gave four performances during the year, all continuing to enjoy using it for their separate activities. The South London Church Association continued their hire of our hall on Sunday mornings for their young people to meet. Most weekend afternoons and evenings were taken for children's parties and school fund raising events. A big thank you to Silvana, our Caretaker, for the continued conscientious attention she gives to the hall and her friendly manner with our hirers. The hall continued to be regularly professionally cleaned. The Hall Committee of Reverend Lindiwe, Jan Hartley, Tony Hardy, Michael Wraight and I met regularly. We were very sorry that Tony moved away in April and we missed his contribution to the committee and the practical support that he had always given in many ways. We were pleased Tony was able to continue looking after the hall finances for the rest of the year. Each member played a part in keeping the hall in good repair and in a safe condition. Their wisdom and support were very much appreciated.

Frances Hazelgrove - Hall Administrator.

CHARITIES, CAUSES & CAMPAIGNS TEAM

In the course of 2025 St John's Church community was able to support a range of good causes at home and overseas, thanks to the continuing generosity of members and friends. In February £450 was collected for The Leprosy Mission, following an update on the charity's work from our regular contact, Sally Carter-Esdale. The Lent Appeal enabled us to add around £1000 (including JustGiving donations) to the amount raised before Christmas through the Kingston Matabeleland Link for St Cecilia's School, Lupane. And in May, Christian Aid Week proved very successful, with over £1500 raised, mainly from the house-to-house collection (many thanks to all who dropped off envelopes in their own roads) but also from cake sales and individual donations.



Later in the year, nearly £300 was raised for WaterAid, as well as further amounts totalling around £600 for Princess Alice Hospice, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness and The Children's Society. The last of these is also supported by individual church members who have collecting boxes at home.

Once again, generous donations of food and other items from church and school members were brought into church in early October for Harvest Festival and delivered to Kingston Foodbank. Then, in early November, 61 filled and wrapped boxes of gifts were collected by a representative of Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, to begin their long journey to reach families and elderly people suffering from displacement and poverty in Ukraine and Eastern Europe before Christmas. The Appeal was, as always, supported by St John's and All Saints churches, with St John's School families proving particularly generous this year.

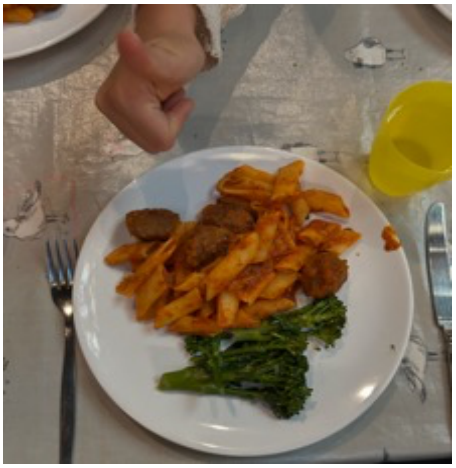
The Charities Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have given so generously of their time and resources in these difficult times, enabling St John's to continue to reach out to people who need our help, whether locally or in the wider world.

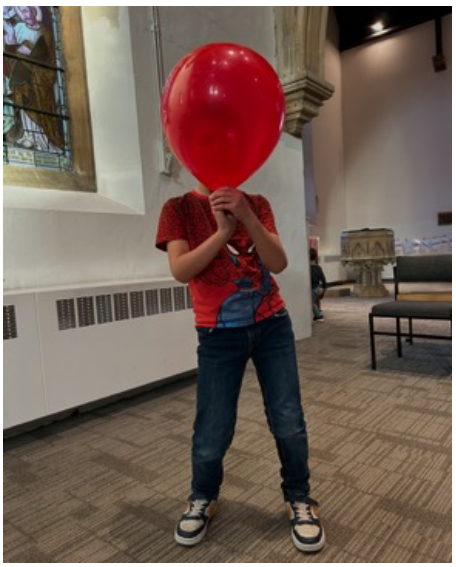
Rev. Lindiwe Maseko, Kay Baker, Shona Pitcher, Isobel Robinson, Tony Williams

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JC, affectionately known as "Dinner Church" by the children, continues to meet in church most Sundays during term time, from 4.30pm to 6pm. The JC sessions have continued to provide a safe, inclusive, welcoming and fun space for our primary age children - aged 5 to 10 - to explore their growing faith. Membership of the group has stayed steady this year and numbers of children attending
range from five, to 10, with a much larger group usually taking part in the JC Gardening Sunday in spring. The JC meetings give the children an opportunity for creative expression, in song, dance and arts and crafts, as well as a chance to learn more about key Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.


We have recently introduced a child-friendly service at the beginning of each session, during which the children follow thanks, prayers and praise in a simply written service booklet, replicating the worship in the morning's Communion Service.

The JC sessions give the children the chance to find out why and how the Church celebrates the main festivals, like Christmas and Easter, through a mixture of Bible Readings, age-appropriate videos and talk, as well as hands-on crafting. During Advent 2025, for example, JC and a couple of our kind and generous adult supporters, put their creative and fund-raising skills to the test by making paper-based Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas bazaar and in Church on Sundays. Lindiwe and I were very impressed by the children's patience and perseverance in making so many

decorations and the generosity of all the people who bought them. All the £175.00 funds raised will be used to support children's activities in the JC and Diddy groups. As always, we must give thanks to the wonderful parents and carers who have supported the JC sessions over the year, especially by cooking delicious and healthy meals for the children to enjoy at the end of each session. The children love this opportunity to share a meal with their friends. Without our lovely JC parents, “Dinner church” simply wouldn't be the same!

Kath Edwards

SERVERS & CHALICE ASSISTANTS



As a server, our role in church is to assist Lindiwe during the main service. Before the congregation arrive, we prepare the altar for communion. I find this a very peaceful time getting things ready for the service in our beautiful church. There are currently five of us who serve, myself, Kath, Jim, Raymond and Mark. If you would like to join our team, please speak to anyone of us or Lindiwe. I find it very rewarding and spiritual to assist in this way.

Neville Hall







Diddy Disciples have had another active, engaged and busy year. We've continued to be supported by a core group of parent helpers who run the sessions on rotation and provide a good balance of storytelling, reflections and crafting activities for the children who join us each week.

We've welcomed new families into our community this year and actively encouraged new children to join in with the sessions. It's been lovely to see younger siblings of some of our older Diddy group join us and be an active part with their older siblings guiding them along the way!

A highlight of our year was our church children's Christmas party, a lovely celebration held jointly between little groovers, junior church and Diddy Disciples. It was wonderful to see the church full of the younger generation celebrating a special time and eating together.

Katy Winter

FIRST MONDAY CLUB



Still holding senility at bay, the FMC has had a busy year. Avoiding the university exams in January the Hardys invited us to tea. In February we played Literary Detectives with Lynn and in March 'puzzled it out' with a jigsaw afternoon and a London Underground quiz. We made two visits to Richmond Park: once to see the Spring flowers and later to the Isabella Plantation for the azaleas. In May, Mimi took us to the Chapel of the old Middlesex Hospital and to All Saints, Margaret Street. During the lovely weather we visited Claremont Gardens, Morden Hall, Bushey Park and Polesden Lacey where Jill and Tony joined us. We also had a wonderful day with them in their beautiful new home in Hazelmere which even included a trip round the charity shops! Back in church, we finished the year with a Beetle Drive and Christmas celebrations. Do come and join us if you free on first Mondays.

Jo Need & Frances Hazelgrove



Little Groovers had a slower start to the year, as the community took a break in January and February due to exams being held in church. After that, it picked up pace and has continued to flourish. We've welcomed lots of new children, parents and carers. I'm very grateful to the parents who help out each week and make it such a welcoming space for everyone. We wouldn't be able to run the group without their support. Thank you also to the team who help set up and pack down each Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who supports Little Groovers — we wouldn't be such a thriving community without you all. It's always lovely to see so many babies and buggies in church, as shown in the pictures.









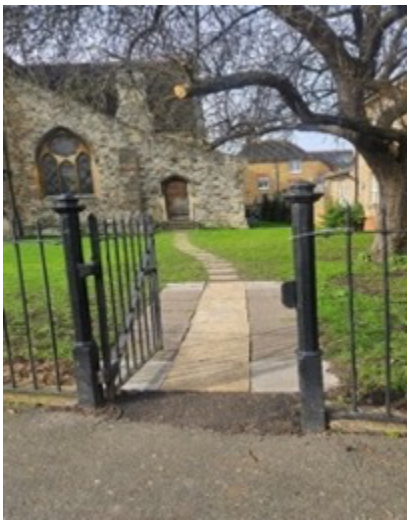
The SJC Gardening Team remains committed to nurturing the church grounds as a place of beauty, reflection, and welcome for all who pass through. While we may describe ourselves as fair-weather gardeners, we are always ready to give of our time when the grounds require it. The lawns and rose beds continue to attract kind and encouraging comments for those walking by. Often, we hear, "Oh, it's so beautiful…". It is this simple expression of joy that motivates us. Knowing that others see and appreciate the beauty of the grounds, is deeply rewarding and inspires us to …pull out another weed out.



Pyracantha



The path before



The path after

This summer brought further practical improvements to the church grounds. Many will recall the poor condition of the footpath providing access to Bloomfield Road, which had become uneven and presented a trip hazard. We are extremely grateful to Surbiton High School for their generous support. In June 2025, as part of their "Soul in the Community" programme, students accompanied by members of staff spent a day working with us. The path project needed to carefully lift the existing paving slabs and level out of the ground beneath. With slabs kindly donated by neighbours to replace the broken ones, they were able to restore the path to a safe and level condition. We are also thankful for the new trellis panels donated by the school, which have transformed the rear brick wall. Their hard work continues to make a lasting difference to our grounds.



Before the trellis set up at rear of church.



After trellis set up at rear of church.



Clematis

Chris continues to lead the team in becoming more self-sufficient and environmentally responsible. This year saw the introduction of a "HotBin" composter, enabling us to recycle grass cuttings and garden waste efficiently. Within approximately three months, the heated system produces rich mulch that can be returned

to our beds, improving soil quality while reducing expenditure on compost. A heartfelt thank you goes to Chris for his vision in this area—alongside his continued dedication to maintaining the beautiful lawns that frame our church. Sustainability remains central to our approach. We continue to source essential materials through Freecycle and welcome donations from our supportive neighbours. This year, we extend particular thanks to Helen and Mike of Portland Road for their generous donation of paving slabs.

Above all, the gardening team finds great joy in tending these grounds. We warmly invite anyone with a little time to spare to join us in caring for this special place. Together—with willing hands and a little help from nature—we can ensure the church grounds continue to flourish for the whole community.

Chris Stuart, Trisha and Karoline Molberg

SIDES-PEOPLE

Every Sunday – and at our special services too – our Sides-people are the friendly faces who welcome us as we arrive. A smile at the door and a quiet word of greeting make a real difference, helping everyone settle and feel ready for worship. Over the past year, this great team has continued to serve with care and faithfulness.

From handing out service sheets to helping newcomers find their way, they calmly keep things running even when it's busy or the unexpected happens. Whether the church is full or only a few of us are gathered, they help make St John's a place where people feel comfortable, noticed, and at home. Thank you to each one of you for giving your time so generously.

Much of what you do happens quietly, but it really matters and is deeply appreciated. We would also love to welcome a few more people to the team. No experience is needed – just a friendly face and a willing heart. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Frances, David H, Michael, Kay, Carolynne, Jo, Pam, Emmanuel, Adam or Mark. All the support you need will be there. Thank you again for all you do.

Revd Lindiwe

LICENSING/BAR TEAM

I am writing this report as the Premises Licence Holder to update you on the activities of the Bar Group throughout 2025. We had a successful year, with 16 concerts taking place in conjunction with Banquet Records, hosting the following artists: Julian Baker, Biig Time, Patrick Wolf, Billie Marten, Cian Ducrot, Jade Bird, Lucy Soraggan, Jordan Davis, Mammoth, NewDad, Tom Speight, Starsailor, Tanita Tikaram, Rianne Downey, Henry Moodie and LuvCat. We also hosted a successful charity concert on behalf of the Janke Saye Foundation, which raised over £10,000 towards the work they do with stroke victims.
Many artists take the time to thank the church staff and have photographs taken with members of the team and their families afterwards. We have also continued our tradition of the bands signing a picture for our wall, which will be moved to its new permanent home at the back of the church shortly.





Most of these shows sold out, meaning capacity crowds of up to 350 people were able to come and enjoy the wonderful surroundings of St John's. Taking time to speak with attendees, the most common response was how lovely the building is, and how good it was to see it being used for such vibrant community events. We cannot underestimate the support of Jon Tolley and his team at Banquet Records for bringing these events to us, enabling us both to promote St John's within the community and to raise much-needed funds for the building. On behalf of myself and the church, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the whole team. Without them, none of this would be possible. The effort that each and every one of them gives ensures the smooth running of these events. A special mention goes to my two Bar Supervisors, Jan Hartly and Linda Richards, without whom these bars simply would not happen.







Our collaboration with The Park Brewery has grown again this year, and exciting things are hopefully ahead for both St John's and Park in the coming months. We are also grateful to our other local suppliers, Hampton Court Spirits and Against the Grain Cidery, who continue to support St John's.

Regular training and ensuring compliance with the terms of our licence have made the Bar Team not only a great asset to the church, but have also forged new friendships within the group, with many now attending other local concerts when these are not held at St John's.
I have also had discussions with our new Archdeacon, who is very pleased with what the church is doing with Banquet Records and is hoping to come and join us in the coming months to see the church in action. Here's to another successful 2026, with many acts already coming here over the coming months.

Michael Wraight
Licensee

BEDELSFORD WORK EXPERIENCE CAFÉ REPORT







The Best Bedelsford Café has continued to grow during 2025 and remains a happy and welcoming space for students, families and the community. Pupils from both the Primary and Secondary classes attend together and enjoy spending time socialising with each other and the wider community. The sandwich board kindly provided by the church continues to help attract visitors, and we are pleased to welcome regular members of the local community to the café. Students have enjoyed helping to prepare and serve drinks, supported by the kettle tipper and trolley purchased for the café. We are very grateful to Reverend Lindi and everyone at St John's Church for their continued support and for allowing us to use the church space.

Bedelsford School

REFUGEE ACTION KINGSTON

Refugee Action Kingston (RAK) is extremely thankful for the partnership it has built with the dedicated team at St John's Church. Our organisation uses the church for our weekly Community Hub drop-in session. The session is a full day that offers our clients the opportunity to take part in several different activities as well as to share a healthy, hot lunch. The activities run at our Community Hub at St John's Church include:

- English learning classes from beginners to more advance levels,
- the chance to drop-in for advice with RAK lawyers and welfare advisors,
- a popular sewing club,
- art class,
- and other games such table tennis and chess,
- a digital help desk run by a client volunteer who is a trained engineer,
- regular free health checks.

In 2025 the sessions at the church were more popular than ever and attracted up to 100 clients each week. One client told us that the sessions are a … *"Friendly Environment - Find friends - To meet new people with different languages and nationalities - The most amazing am not lonely - I did not feel that I was a refugee because they were pleasant care – to be in a family - especially for people who are alone."*

As part of our weekly event at St. John's Church the kitchen facilities are invaluable to us. Food is an important part of our community days and provide people with a healthy meal with vegetables and fruit. Fresh vegetables are not regularly offered to people seeking Asylum who live in the hotels where meals are delivered – so our meal is an important part of their week. Coming together for a meal or warm drink and refreshment is also an important part of many people's days, the chance to come together in a supporting environment. We know that the social elements around food are important aspects of wellbeing.
The kitchen at St. John's has also offered a broader opportunity for our volunteers in 2025. Due to the facilities, we have been able to recruit a strong team of kitchen volunteers who provide the tea, coffee, refreshments and meal to our clients each week. This is something that has not only benefited the clients but also provided positive opportunities for our volunteers.

Volunteers across our organisation have also gained a lot from their work with us, and also the opportunity to be part of our regular community days at the church. A volunteer teacher of our English classes told us: "*A new student appears to be relishing the RAK sessions. Her communication skills, good to start with, have improved very much over the short time she's been attending. All the students are very appreciative of the excellent lunches provided. The space at St John's is welcoming and has a remarkably peaceful atmosphere.*"

The photos below show some of the key activities and highlights from the year we have had at St. John's Church:



Games being played together



RAK Team of advisers providing advice to clients during one of our weekly Community Hub drop-in sessions at St. John's Church.



Art exhibition displaying the work of the art group at the Church.



A volunteer cooking a traditional Egyptian meal at St John's Church.



A meal being shared at our RAK event at the church



RAK Team of advisers providing advice to clients during one of our weekly Community Hub drop-in sessions at St. John's Church.

About Refugee Action Kingston

Refugee Action Kingston exists to enable people seeking sanctuary in Kingston and surrounding areas to succeed as integrated members of the local community. We've sought to be a positive source of support for people finding refuge in Kingston and Southwest London, one that focuses on matching the needs and ambitions of the people we work with.

Since 1991, Refugee Action Kingston has been the leading organisation supporting people seeking sanctuary in this area. We help over 2,000 clients a year in the following areas:

- Legal advice
- Welfare advice
- Counselling and wellbeing support
- Community integration and support
- English language teaching
- Supplementary school services
- Employment guidance

Our staff and volunteers are passionate about ensuring all members of our community – whether they were born here or have just arrived – get the opportunity to thrive.

Louise Bloom
Community Hub Manager

SOUL IN THE COMMUNITY

SURBITON
HIGH SCHOOL

Planters built for St Matthew's Church (2025)



Footpath re-laid, St John's Church (2025)

Summer 2025 was a wonderful opportunity for students to bring their energy, positivity, and commitment to Soul in the Community. A total of 21 projects took place across public parks, churches, charities, hospitals, primary schools, and care homes, each making a meaningful local impact. One particularly rewarding partnership was with our local church, St John's, where pupils generously gave their time and care to garden projects, refreshing footpaths and fences, and helping to breathe new life into these much-loved surroundings. Over two days, 550 pupils and 90 members of staff contributed nearly 4,000 hours across 21 projects, creating real and lasting benefits for our community. There's something special about seeing hard work turn into positive change - it truly feels good when you've got soul! We're already looking forward to doing even more this summer, including another visit to St John's Church and an exciting opportunity to work with St John's School.

KINGSTON TEAM MINISTRY REPORT

The Kingston Team Ministry is a group of three parishes: St John the Evangelist, Kingston (in Sprig Grove); St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale (in Robin Hood Lane) and All Saints Kingston (in the Ancient Market Place). An important aspect of our team ministry is the mutual support that the clergy provide for each other. We meet up for an hour every week to discuss our work and pray for each other. We also provide holiday cover and pulpit swaps. We were delighted to see the clergy team expand with the licensing of Rev Sylvie Collins-Mayo as an Associate Priest in March and Rev Michael Stokes as Pioneer Curate in June. We look forward to Michael's priesting on July 4th 2026. Another significant joint activity is the Lent Course that we do together in mixed groups, with each church hosting sessions at different times of the week. Our theme for 2025 was 'Speaking of God' and we reflected on a superb series of sermons by chaplains who all worked in challenging settings. We will repeat the format in 2026, focussing on 'Thorny Passages of the Bible'.
A notable development in 2025 was the running of a Growing Leaders course. Nine participants from our churches were commissioned at the end of the year, having met together every month as a group and also with individual mentors. They are now all exploring future lay leadership roles within our churches. This is a great encouragement. In 2025 we also introduced a joint annual service for Ascension Day. St. John the Baptist hosted an outdoor communion in their wonderful church garden, culminating in the release of helium balloons, carrying our prayers heavenward. In 2026 we will gather at All Saints on May 14th.
There is also a joint Parish Weekend Retreat which is planned for June 5-7, 2026, at Storrington Priory in the Sussex Downs. This is an opportunity to build friendships across our three churches as well as enjoy time in prayer and relaxation.

Finally, I'd like to celebrate the launch of an exciting new initiative at St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale, called Wellspring. Rev Mandy Beck, the Team Vicar, writes:
'Wellspring a community which aims to bring life in all its fullness to its members and the community in which it is set, caring for the whole person body, mind and spirit.
'Since its launch in October, more than 50 people have joined. To care for our bodies, we offer exercise classes, walks and nutrition talks. For mental wellbeing, we host social activities such as games nights, film nights and community lunches. For spiritual development, we gather for meditations in nature, poetry by the fireside and times of mindfulness and reflection.

'As fellow team churches, we would value your prayers for this growing work. If you would like to join us at any of our activities, you would be most welcome. More information can be found on our website: www.inthevale.org.uk/wellspring.'

Rev Joe Moffatt, Team Rector

GALLERY OF PICTURES REFLECTING LIFE & COMMUNITY AT ST JOHNS



JC Wild Garden after planting wildflowers - April 2025



JC Wild Garden in full bloom – Summer 2025



JC helping Gardening Team with weeding



Newly confirmed - June 2025



Spring Cleaning Team



Parish Conversations with +Martin



Parish Conversations with +Martin



Maundy Thursday meal 2025



Diddy, LGs & JC Christmas Party



Lumos – Candlelight concert



Confirmation Bring and share



Joint Carol Service with Kingston Methodist Church