LISTENING – GROWING - RESPONDING

Reports

for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

of the

Parochial Church Council

of the

Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles Church, Codicote

Registered Charity Number 1210550

Curate in Charge (until Sept 2025)
Team Vicar: (from Sept 2025)
Rev'd Dr Christie Gilfeather
4 Bury Lane,
Codicote
Herts
SG4 8XT

Contents

Church Council Report ……. 3

Church Wardens' Report …….. 4

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council ……. 6

Fabric Report ……. 6

Other Reports ……. 7

Structure, Governance and Management ……. 18

Administrative information ……. 19

- Parochial Church Council Members and Teams

Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2025

Church Council Report

As I look back at 2025, I am struck by the variety of things that we have done as a church, and by all that God has been doing in us. There is lots to be encouraged by! This year we had five weddings (and one wedding blessing) and we baptised seven children. We had eight funerals in church and said goodbye to some much loved members of our community. In both the joys and the sorrows, God has been with us.

At the beginning of the year, I organised an away day for the PCC where we talked about the story of St Giles so far and where we hope our church will go in the future. Around this time our diocese invited churches to take the opportunity to reflect on their culture, considering how our churches might become places which are more safe and more welcoming. At St Giles there were some very useful responses to the 'Exploring Church' culture survey and we had an opportunity to discuss some of that at our morning with a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team just before Easter. Having spent some time looking back, we then, at our mission planning morning on the 7th of June, shifted focus to the future of St Giles church. We were joined by the Rev'd Kate Lomax, Church Growth Officer, who helped to host the morning with me. We thought about our: vision, values and what our priorities should be in relation to mission. Three things came through very strongly in our discussion: reaching families and children; growing in our discipleship and sharing our faith in the community. After this event, the Mission Planning Team was formed to develop and draft the Mission Action Plan in concert with the PCC. This team is also given tasks to do in relation to mission by the PCC, with whom it works closely.

Other significant events in the first half of the year included a joyful celebration on Easter day, where we had an all age eucharist with a baptism. This followed our Lent Course, led very well by Catherine Jupp and Frances Maddex which focussed on different ways of meeting God in prayer. At our APCM we thanked Ian MacFarlane and for all of his work as Treasurer and Susan Boardman for examining our accounts and supporting Ian in his role over the years.

The summer began with the School Leavers' Service, where we presented 55 Year Six children with a Bible, generously sponsored by members of the church, and we prayed for them, as they moved on to the next phase of their lives. I reminded them that St Giles continues to be their church after they leave school and that they are welcome back any time. Village Day was another great success thanks to the hard work of many members of our congregation. We welcomed lots of people into our church, including our MP Kevin Bonavia, who, with Team Rector, David Munchin and I, enjoyed a tour of the tower from Chris Coxell.

The beginning of the school term in September marked the start of a new initiative in school. The Alban Way is a program provided by the diocese aimed at children in Year Six. The diocesan website says:

> 'The Alban Way schools programme is delivered in partnership between local parish churches, schools and the Diocese of St Albans. The year-long programme is designed to support pupils in their personal, spiritual, and emotional development as they prepare for the transition from primary to secondary school by giving them the tools to navigate change with faith, confidence and reflection'.

In practice, this means going into school for two blocks of four sessions in Autumn and Spring term with Rachel Drury, the Alban Way Lead for our diocese. In these sessions we help the children to engage with ideas about prayer and spirituality in a way which is accessible and inclusive for all of them. In 2026 I look forward to the second block of sessions with the children before we invite them to spend the day at St Giles towards the

end of the school year. This is a great thing to do in itself, but it is also a way of engaging with our priority at St Giles of reaching children and young people in our parish.

In tandem with this, and in response to the strong feeling that we'd like to do more as a church to reach children and young people, I took part in the Launchpad course also provided by the diocese. Launchpad is for church leaders who want to develop their work with children and young people, and gives lots of practical ideas (informed by useful research undertaken by the charity Youthscape), as well as space to reflect on your context and ask God how he is calling us to love and serve young people. The course was five weeks long and gave me lots of ideas which I am looking forward to exploring more with the PCC and congregation in the new year.

The latter part of the year is always busy, with Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, All Saints and All Souls coming in quick succession. All of these were well attended, and it was particularly good to welcome our uniformed groups into church and to see children leading the prayers at Remembrance. Our services over Advent and Christmas went very well and it was a joy to welcome lots of people into our church. Looking forward to the coming year, I am excited to see how God will continue to reveal his purposes to us, to lead us deeper into his love and help us show that love to the community around us.

Christie Gilfeather

Church Wardens' Report for Year ended December 2025

2025 was another busy year for the churchwardens. A significant amount of time was taken up with fabric and general maintenance matters, some of which are covered in the report of the Fabric Committee.

It is useful to note that in terms of our statutory obligations, the annual fire extinguisher, PAT testing and servicing of the heating system was undertaken and the PCC approved the fire risk assessment. The Leaping Board was also finally restored.

We were formally sworn in, in June 2025 at the Archdeacon's Visitation Service. We have completed our mandatory safeguarding training and attended several Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) led training sessions on maintenance matters. We also met with the Rural Dean who carried out the annual inspection of St Giles. The PCC held an awayday and this was followed by a cultural awareness session for the whole congregation. Thoughts from these have been taken forward by our Mission Planning Team.

We continue to meet regularly with Christie and attend PCC team meetings. Following the retirement of Ian, our longstanding Treasurer. We were very pleased to announce the appointment of a new Treasurer.

January saw the launch of our Tots & Tinies group, which after a cold start, is now thriving. This was followed in February by our first Lunch Together. This is regularly attended by between 15 and 20 people and is a welcome new addition to our Café church and Giles

Coffee Shop offerings. We also started a new weekly prayer group, a wonderful new addition to St Giles.

Despite the reduction of people on the electoral role, the year has seen a welcome increase in attendance at all our services. Café church is now regularly our largest service with over 50 people of all ages in attendance. Attendance, particularly from people who are not regular attendees was also up at our Christmas services.

There was an increase in the number of baptisms and weddings. The school and pre-school also hold regular services in the church.

It was lovely to welcome so many people into church on a very wet village day in July. We were not only able to accommodate all we had planned, indoors, but were also joined by the Friends and the History Society. Despite the weather the teddy zip wire went ahead, with the local MP climbing the tower to launch the teddies.

September saw participation in the annual 'Bike n Hike', for which a significant amount was raised to support St Giles.

September also saw the launch of our review of giving campaign, with the congregation being asked to review their current giving (monetary and otherwise) in support of the day to day running of St Giles.

The highlight in September however, was the licensing of Christie as Vicar in charge at St Giles and the focus of Bishop Jane's address was the importance of prayer.

We continue to host the Codicote Pre-School in our Parish Centre. Following discussions, their contract was renewed for a further year. There were thoughts about expansion on our premises, but this has not been progressed. We were pleased to be able to enable them to offer sessions during the school holidays for the first time.

Sue Grant & Bruce Lendrum

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC met six times during 2025, chaired by Christie Gilfeather, who was Curate-in-Charge until September, when she was licensed as Team Vicar in a joyful service in St Giles, led by Bishop Jane.

The PCC teams and Standing Committee met between the main meetings to carry forward the business of the PCC. Each team leader provided regular updates to the full PCC. The PCC also received reports from Deanery Synod and The Welwyn Team Council following their respective meetings. A code of conduct for PCC members was agreed in March.

Mission became a regular item on the agenda in 2025, with an opportunity for more in-depth consideration of youth and children's work, mission charity partners and the mission action planning process. A Mission Planning Team was created in June to work with the PCC in writing a Mission Action Plan for St Giles.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM was held in May 2025, and was an opportunity to thank our longstanding Treasurer Ian Macfarlane for his work over many years. Sue Grant and Bruce Lendrum were re-elected Churchwardens and we welcomed new members of the congregation to the PCC. Officers and teams were appointed at the July meeting.

During the autumn, the PCC planned and held a successful giving campaign, asking people to consider their individual level of giving and also to make more use of the Parish Giving Scheme. A small group was set up to investigate and plan an overhaul of the church audio visual systems, work which will continue into 2026.

Frances Maddex

Fabric Report

Bruce Lendrum became the Fabric Team Leader in May 2025, taking over from David Stott.

Work to repair the floor in the choir stalls and the replacement of the floor to the rear of the sound desk was completed in 2025. Working parties, to tidy the church and churchyard, were held in April and November and were a great success. A replacement of the grave marker for John Gootheridge, known as a 'leaping board', was installed in the churchyard. Gutters and cesspits continued to be emptied.

An Environmental Assessment was commissioned. Heating engineers carried out an inspection of the boilers. Boiler one remains functional, boiler two was repaired, but boiler three is beyond repair. A cover for the entrance to the boiler house and the installation of a handrail on the steps has improved accessibility. As recommended by the Church Wardens, the heating has been on continuously throughout the year, at a low heat, to assist in the drying of the church. The engineers commented that the boiler house was the driest they had seen it.

The sheep were moved to new areas around the churchyard due the long dry summer and James Howe and family were thanked for their work.

Meetings about the sound and audio-visual system and interior decoration of the church will take place in 2026 and continuation of Quinquennial inspection requirements.

Sue Grant & Bruce Lendrum

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda at every PCC meeting.

During 2025, five Safeguarding concerns were reported and referred through the appropriate channels. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) continues to complete any necessary DBS checks for the Parish of St. Giles Codicote. The PCC is fully compliant with DBS checks.

The St. Giles safeguarding e-mail address is: Safeguarding@stgiles-church.org.uk.

During the earlier part of 2025, the focus for the PSO was to support Christie to implement the 'Exploring Church' culture survey to the PCC and then to the wider congregation. The results were shared and discussed at a meeting in April, facilitated by Christie and Jos Perris from the Diocese's Safeguarding Team. The session led to meaningful discussions and raised people's awareness of their own responsibility regarding promoting and ensuring a safe church.

Compliance with safeguarding training within the PCC is good. All members have completed their training and the PSO, Reader, and Incumbent completed their Leadership Training.

Modules can be accessed through: http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-training

Safeguarding Sunday was held on 16th November 2025 in church. The congregation was reminded of who the PSO is and how to report any concerns they may have.

Debra Brewer

The Welwyn Team 2025

The Team Council met on three occasions in 2025: 19th February, 17th June, and 21st October.

The Team Council consists of: the Team Rector; five representatives of the Ministry Team and two lay representatives from each church. Team Council meetings are a useful opportunity to learn about what is happening in other team churches, as well as to encourage each other and have a space for fellowship between the different congregations.

The more specific purposes and tasks of the Team Council are laid out in its constitution.

Matters discussed in these meeting included:

- Special events in the churches
- Seasonal services
- Safeguarding
- Team events and activities (e.g. Summer Evensongs)

Pattern of Prayer in the Welwyn Team:

Each day members of the Clergy Team and members of the congregations gather at one of the team churches to say Morning or Evening Prayer. This is a good opportunity to worship

together and pray for the work of all of our churches. Anyone is welcome to attend these services, regardless of which church you belong to. The pattern is as follows:

- Monday: 5pm Evening Prayer at St Peter's Tewin
- Tuesday: 8:30am Morning Prayer at St Giles Codicote
- Wednesday: 8am Bible study, 9am Morning Prayer and 9:30am Eucharist at St Mary's Welwyn
- Thursday: 5pm Evening Prayer at All Saints Datchworth
- Friday: 8:30am Morning Prayer at St Michael's Woolmer Green
- Saturday: 9am Parish Prayers at St Mary's Welwyn

Christie Gilfeather

Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod 2025

St Giles, Codicote is a member of the Welwyn Hatfield Deanery. The Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod met three times in 2025: March, June and October. Each meeting included worship, fellowship, and discussion of issues affecting parishes across the deanery.

- Guest speakers during the year included:
  - *Single Friendly Churches*, encouraging greater awareness of how welcoming churches are to single people.
  - A talk on mission in the early church, highlighting the role of families and women.
  - A presentation from *Resolve*, focusing on their work and ways churches can engage in fundraising and community support.
- Ministry and pastoral updates were shared, including:
  - Clergy appointments, departures, ordinations and anniversaries.
  - Support for churches during vacancies and maternity leave.
  - Updates from the Deanery Pastoral Committee.
- Deanery and diocesan initiatives discussed included:
  - Development of a Deanery Sunday.
  - The diocesan focus on Growing Younger and More Diverse.
  - Ongoing work of the Alban Way Project for 16–35 year olds.
- Diocesan and national church matters included:
  - Progress in the process to appoint a new Bishop of St Albans.
  - Discussion of Parish Share and financial pressures on parishes.
  - Updates from General Synod, including safeguarding discussions.
- Safeguarding remains a priority:
  - Parishes were reminded to keep safeguarding on PCC agendas.
  - Attention was drawn to safer recruitment guidance and good data protection practice.
- Deanery Synod continues to offer a valuable way for parishes to share information, support one another, and engage with wider diocesan life.

Mary Henn and Gill Thwaites

Administration and Communication

The PCC continued to buy administration services from The Welwyn Team in 2025, with the team administrator, Tina Hassan working three hours per week for us. All other admin tasks were carried out by Christie, the Wardens and the PCC secretary.

Effective communication is one of our three key priorities at St Giles, with an aim to share who we are as a church and what we believe. This is done for the local and wider community through use of our website, Facebook page, The Parish Magazine, Codicote School newsletter and various themed leaflets and posters displayed in Church and in the village. In 2025, the Communications Team produced a 'Welcome Leaflet' which was delivered or given to people moving into Codicote. This gives basic information about the church and activities that newcomers might want to join. It has proved useful to have this available at the back of church and at Giles Coffee Shop. Logos were produced for the new Tuesday Prayer Group and for Café Church. These will be added to advertising materials.

The weekly update email continues to be an important communication tool for sharing service times, important notices and general information. We worked to improve the format in 2025. It is sent out on a Friday morning to a list of subscribers, mainly with close connections to the church.

The Communications Team meets regularly, maintaining an overview of communications across the church and discussing a wide range of topics including: advertising, displays, Facebook, the website, weekly update email and The Parish Magazine. A who's who board was developed for the church porch and website in 2025 to help people put faces to names.

Working alongside the Mission Planning Team, draft materials for sharing our church core values were developed for use in 2026.

Frances Maddex

Mission Planning Team

The Mission Planning Team was established in June following our Mission Morning led by Rev'd Kate Lomax, Flourishing Churches Officer for the Diocese, and I. Everyone was invited to think about joining the team if they were interested in helping to shape the Mission Action Plan for St Giles and think about the practicalities of the missional activities that we are hoping to undertake. Initially, the team spent some time looking in detail at the feedback and ideas which came up the Mission Morning before refining our core values, which are the foundation on which we plan all of our activities.

The Mission Planning Team is also given tasks to do in relation to mission by the PCC, with whom it works closely.

Christie Gilfeather

School Governors Report

Codicote Church of England Primary School takes its responsibility as a Church school very seriously, with Christian faith and values deeply embedded in its ethos, philosophy and daily practice. The opening paragraph of the school's Self-Evaluation Form clearly articulates this commitment: *"At Codicote Church of England Primary School… children and adults are committed to living Christian values in their everyday lives, irrespective of individual cultures, faiths or material possessions."* The school's motto, *"Everyone shall know success,"* is rooted in theology, deriving from Psalm 20:4: *"May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfil all your plans."* Christian values genuinely infuse the school culture and shape both decision-making and relationships across the school community.

Collective worship plays a central role in school life. Assemblies take place daily, often with parents and carers invited, and Governors are always welcome to attend. Prayer and musical worship form an integral part of these gatherings and are a visible expression of the school's Christian character.

Governance at Codicote Church of England Primary School is robust and values-led. The full Governing Body meets each half term in person on the school site, with every meeting beginning with prayer. Governors and school leadership work collaboratively, taking their responsibilities seriously and striving together to sustain and develop the school in alignment with shared Christian values. In addition to attending and participating in Governors' meetings and enjoying assemblies, I have been delighted to attend School Council meetings with pupils from each year group and listen to them, witnessing how their voice helps to shape the school's direction.

In 2025, Mrs Pollard, completed her twentieth year as the school's Headteacher and is serving her eighteenth term of office as a Trustee on the Diocesan Board of Education. She meets regularly with the Diocesan team to review, reflect upon and refine the school's progress towards its targets and key aims as a faith school. The school uses the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework as a working document to evaluate how its Christian vision informs and drives the school's culture, enabling both pupils and adults to thrive and flourish.

The annual Governors' Day took place on 15th October 2025. Governors each hold agreed areas of focus and specialism, based on their expertise and interests. Governors are encouraged to visit all classes and activities. This 'open door' approach demonstrates how the Headteacher and staff actively encourage constructive feedback. Our Vicar, Christie, has responsibility for Collective Worship and Religious Education and, as a former English teacher, I hold the monitoring role for English, Phonics and Early Learning. The post of Diocesan Governor was filled in 2025 but has recently become vacant at the end of the year, this is a priority item for the PCC.

Engaging young people is one of St Giles' strategic priorities and aligns closely with the shared objective of the PCC and Mrs Pollard to strengthen further the links between church and school. Throughout 2025, the school supported St Giles' initiatives to encourage pupils and their families to attend church services and Café Church. This partnership is already bearing fruit, with increasing attendance at Café Church and excellent participation in Christmas services. Since the beginning of the academic year in September 2025, Christie has also been a regular fixture at the school, spending focused time with Year 6 pupils. A key element of this work has been listening to pupils' ideas on how the church can feel

welcoming and inclusive. Towards the end of 2025, consultation with young people began more formally, including opportunities at Carol Concerts and Christingle services for pupils to share their thoughts. This work will continue and develop further through engagement with pupils during 2026.

Safeguarding remains a clear priority for the school. All Governors have completed PREVENT and safeguarding training, with additional training actively encouraged. Governors report completed courses and qualifications at each meeting, ensuring continued vigilance and accountability. The school was inspected by OFSTED on 25th February 2025 under the new framework and achieved an 'Outstanding' grading in both *Behaviour and Attitudes* and *Personal Development*. While OFSTED reports do not explicitly reference Christian values, inspectors noted that *"Pupils are taught to celebrate and respect differences, preparing them well for life in a diverse society. They know discrimination is wrong. This means that unkindness is rare and not tolerated by pupils or staff."* These findings clearly reflect the school's Christian ethos in practice.

The atmosphere within the school is very positive, behaviour is consistently good, and attendance remains high. This is a significant achievement at a time when many schools are facing increasing challenges in this area and reflects the strength of the school's culture and pastoral care and is testament to the commitment of staff, pupils and families. The school continues to hold services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, as well as a special service for Year 6 leavers and their families in the summer term. At this service, each Year 6 pupil is presented with a Bible from St Giles and prayed for, marking an important moment of transition and blessing.

It is a privilege to continue serving as PCC Foundation Governor, and a pleasure to witness the deepening and strengthening relationship between Codicote Church of England Primary School and St Giles.

Caroline Maddocks

Café Church

This year Café Church has gone from strength to strength, growing in number and in depth thanks to the help of our committed planning team supported by the hardworking kitchen team, who bake and serve the refreshments. Themes over the year have included: waiting patiently; mission impossible and endurance. In early summer we embarked on a series focussing on the parables of Jesus. Particular highlights included hunting around the PMH for 'lost' chocolate coins and 100 tiny sheep that were given out and then subsequently became resident in people's cars/windowsills/handbags as a small reminder of God's love.

One of the great strengths of Café Church is the way that it enables people of all ages to engage in new and creative ways, with the deep truths of our faith. We continue to be encouraged by all that God is doing among the Café Church community and the important place it holds within the worshipping life of St Giles. The team spent some time at the end of the year thinking about how we might make Café Church even more accessible to families, particularly in terms of the time of day that we meet together. In 2026 we look forward to building on what is already a wonderful foundation and trying some new things.

Christie Gilfeather

Tots and Tinies

We launched Tots and Tinies in January in response to a need in the village for a space where parents and carers of young children could get together in a relaxed and welcoming space. Beginning at 9:30am and lasting one hour, the group meets each week in church. There is free play for the children, and snacks and drinks available for both the children and the adults. At about halfway through our time together we sing some songs and nursery rhymes, including a song which encourages the children to give thanks to God for all of his good gifts, and a blessing song at the end. In Spring and Summer, attendance was variable, but the group has really solidified since the beginning of Autumn term. On average we have half a dozen children and the same number of adults, and they are beginning to build relationships and form their own community. It is a great way that we can serve the village and meet people. Thanks to Rev'd Ryan Gilfeather for setting the group up at the beginning of the year, and to all of the leaders and volunteers who support this initiative.

Christie Gilfeather

The Bury Home Group

The Bury is a sheltered accommodation complex of apartments and bungalows for over 55s, located close to the church. Our afternoon home group generally meets fortnightly during term time at a group member's bungalow and comprises seven long-standing members. We were greatly saddened by the loss of dear Doreen (Bath) towards the end of 2025, and we miss her warmth, her laughter, and her kind, caring concern for all.

Each time we meet, we begin with a time of deep sharing over tea and delicious cake, followed by a Bible study and then a fairly lengthy time of open prayer, including prayers relating to any issues which have arisen earlier during the time of sharing. All the group members look forward enormously to the meetings and report often that they benefit greatly from them, not only from a social point of view, but also in terms of learning more about God through his word, and reflecting on how we can apply this knowledge to our lives. We like to take our time over the initial sharing, the Bible study and the prayers, and so the meetings are unusually long, at around two hours! We all support each other with wise advice, comfort and love. The Holy Spirit is palpably present during our meetings, especially during the time of prayer. In between meetings we pray for each other on our own, and it is always a joy and so faith-building to learn of answers to prayer at subsequent meetings.

Nicole May and Philippa Thompson

Tuesday Prayer Group

The Tuesday Prayer Group began in its present format in October 2025 with the encouragement of Christie and the PCC. The group meets at 11.00 am after the Tots and Tinies group, which seems to be a good time as the church is already heated that day, especially in the winter months. The people gather in a circle in the chancel in front of the High Altar where it feels the prayers of the ages have been offered over many centuries.

It is an informal group that is open to anyone who may wish to join. There is no registration or need to commit to attending every week, but an open invitation to come and pray when the time and need require it. There will always be someone in St Giles Church at 11am on a Tuesday to lead a prayer session for one hour, unless it happens to be Christmas Day or something similar. Even when a funeral was taking place in the church, the group were still keen to meet and did so at my house.

Although it is called a prayer group, we use the set readings as found in the Church of England Lectionary for the Sunday coming up as a basis for our prayer, which often results in some Bible study and discussion, which leads into prayer for the world, the Church and individuals. Those who have attended have said that it helps them to concentrate on the readings when they attend the church service the following Sunday and listen more carefully to the sermon. Hopefully it also enriches and develops their relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the worshipping community.

There have been about eight people who have ventured to experience the prayer group with four to six people most weeks, which is encouraging. A core group seems to be emerging who I hope will be people who can lead the group occasionally. Anyone who thinks they might like to come along on a Tuesday at 11am would be most welcome.

Sylvia Green

Music

St Giles' choral tradition remains as strong as ever, with further growth in the choir in 2025; the choir now comprises twelve singers, ably accompanied on the organ by Caroline Agarwala and Margaret Connold. We are a happy, relaxed, yet dedicated team, who love to come together to bring our worship to our amazing God, not only at the services themselves but also at the rehearsals.

It is a privilege for us to be leading the congregation in worship on the regular Eucharistic second and fourth Sunday services of the month. In addition, during the course of 2025, we led the music at various special services, including Palm Sunday, Good Friday open air service in the village centre, Easter Day, the Welwyn Team summer Evensong, Christie's Licensing as Vicar, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Carols and the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion.

We have continued the now long-standing tradition of inviting singers in the congregation and community to join us for the annual Carol Service. In December 2025, the choir swelled to 22! In recent years, some of these singers have joined the regular choir, and 2025 was no

exception. We are always keen to welcome new choir members, not least those from our wider community, as we seek to be as mission-focused as possible.

For the first time in 2025 we supported Codicote Community Choir by joining their carol singing event at the open air Christmas Light Switch-on celebration in the village centre. This was most uplifting, and the Community Choir Leader was very appreciative of our support, so much so that we have been invited to turn this into an annual fixture.

As a group we all support each other in prayer and in practical ways, as and when each of us go through times of need. I am personally so very grateful for the love, kindness, support and encouragement that has been extended to me throughout 2025 by every single one of these wonderful Spirit-filled individuals. Whenever we meet there is fun and laughter, not least at our (occasional) social events, which also include obligatory food and drink!

Nicole May

Bellringing

St Giles has a fine ring of eight bells, but for many years we have failed to get sufficient people with the interest and commitment to ring them. With support from Welwyn we can manage practices but not services, as our service times coincide. Our latest recruits are doing well, but in order to progress they need either a stronger band around them or to visit other towers.

The bells and fittings are all in good order. The very few maintenance issues we have had in recent years have been dealt with by the ringers at zero cost. Two ropes have been reconditioned by splicing and we have two new replacement ropes in stock.

Bells were rung for Remembrance, Christie's licensing and 4 weddings, (with outside help where necessary). We had 4 groups of visiting ringers. New ringers are always welcome, we meet on a Monday evening and no experience is necessary.

Chris Coxell

The Flower Team

The flower team has been busy this year. The team is not only responsible for the pedestal arrangements, but we are also involved in four flower festivals a year: Easter, Village Day, Harvest and Christmas. Additionally, this year, we have had a number of requests for wedding and funeral flowers.

Village day was a very wet affair this year, the church being decorated helped us make a focus on the activities we had running on that day.

When we get together for the festivals we always have a lovely time as a group, ably assisted with tea and cake. The flowers are all kindly provided by the arrangers themselves. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for all their very hard work. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the team.

Becky Bick

Events Team

Gill Thwaites stepped down as team lead in 2025, and we would like to record our sincere thanks for her faithful service, steady guidance and enthusiasm over the years.

We work closely with the PCC, our congregation and the wider community to support church events and to ensure that a genuinely warm welcome is always at the heart of everything we do. We meet regularly to plan and prepare for forthcoming events, and to reflect on those we have held, celebrating what went well and considering how we can make each occasion even more welcoming and inclusive.

During 2025, we were delighted to see new faces at many of our key annual services. It has been particularly encouraging to note the growing demand for posies at our Mothering Sunday service, hot cross buns on Good Friday, Christingles, mince pies and mulled wine at the carol service, and chocolates shared at both the Midnight Service and on Christmas morning.

Events beyond the church building were also very well attended. Our Harvest Festival service at The Goat pub was a wonderful example of taking church into the heart of the community. Meanwhile, the queue of excited children waiting to launch their teddy down the zip wire from the church roof on Village Day brought both smiles and a clear reminder of the role the church plays in village life.

In November, the All Souls Memorial Service and our Remembrance services welcomed many who do not regularly attend church. Both occasions were thoughtfully supported, and we were pleased to offer a space of reflection, remembrance and gentle hospitality.

Alongside our established programme, the Events Team continues to look proactively at both new and long-standing village events, considering how best we can represent the church and model the warm welcome that St Giles seeks to extend to all.

If you appreciate the value of a well-poured cup of tea, can confidently slice a cake, and understand how much it matters to help others feel at home, we would be absolutely delighted to welcome new members to the team. Please contact me for a chat.

Caroline Maddocks

St Giles Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is held every Friday from 9.00 -12.00. There are four teams, each team working one Friday a month. It is run by volunteers mainly from the church. A successful recruitment campaign has resulted in a full complement of helpers. Attendance has built up this year but we would love to welcome even more babies and toddlers, with their grown-ups. During the school holidays some children do attend, which is always lovely.

Recently several customers have told me how important Giles Coffee Shop is to them, to be able to come along and meet other people and have a laugh. Giles Coffee Shop continues to be an important part of village life.

Sylvie Lendrum

The Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine team consists of myself as editor, one designer and several contributors and deliverers across the village community. In 2025 we published ten magazines, one per month and a double edition in both Summer and Winter. We held one meeting in the second half of the calendar year to discuss improvements and areas needing more attention, with a plan to make the process as streamlined as possible. We consistently have enquiries about new advertising and have new articles of various styles being added monthly, from local events and groups to creative writing pieces such as poetry about Codicote and St Giles Church. There is a google sheet that Dave and I used to keep track of monthly contributions to the magazine before it is pulled together for me to do a final edit and send to print. We try to keep a balance of church life and community within the magazine (usually 50/50).

The magazine tries to express everything happening in Codicote and St Giles for local people to easily reference, from goods and services, to regular church services and 'Dear Friends' directly from Christie.

Overall The Parish Magazine is a great source to villagers for a simple and direct point of contact and information on the community.

Katie Garnish

Structure, Governance, and Management of PCC

Members of the PCC are ex-officio, elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, appointed or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC members are all Trustees of the PCC registered Charity and required to act within Charity Law and regulations. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC operates through a number of Teams which meet as needed and report back to the full PCC.

Administrative Information

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered with the Charity Commission (number 1210550)

Correspondence Address
Frances Maddex
213 Valley Road South,
Codicote,
Hitchin,
Herts.
SG4 8UH

PCC Membership

PCC Members who have served at any time from 1st Jan 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Dates run from APCM to APCM.

Ex Officio Members
Team Vicar: Rev'd Dr Christie Gilfeather (July 2022 – present)

Wardens

Sue Grant	(2024 – present)
Bruce Lendrum	(2024 – present)

Reader (Appointed)

Catherine Jupp	(2023 – present)

Deanery Synod Representatives

Gill Thwaites	(2020 - present)
Mary Henn	(2023 - present)

Elected PCC Members

Made Awotesu	(2020 - May 25)
Debra Brewer	(2024 - present)
Malcolm Dawn	(2021 - present)
Fiona Finlay	(2025 - present)
Sylvia Green	(2025 - present)
Frances Maddex	(2023 - present)
Caroline Maddocks	(2022 - present)
Nicole May	(2023 - present)
David Stott	(2022 – 2025)
Philippa Thompson	(2024 – present)

Co-opted Members

Ian Macfarlane	(July 2024 - July 2025)
Peter Brewer	from Sept 25

Officers: (appointed July 2025 until July 2026)

Lay Vice-Chair	Bruce Lendrum
PCC Treasurer	Peter Brewer (from Sept 2025)
PCC Secretary	Frances Maddex
Safeguarding	Debra Brewer
Electoral Roll	Jan Raper until May 2025 Caroline Madocks from May 2025

PCC Teams

Standing Committee
Christie Gilfeather (Chair), Sue Grant**,** Bruce Lendrum**,** Peter Brewer (from Sept 25), Frances Maddex

Pastoral Catherine Jupp (Leader), Colin Beck, Christie Gilfeather, Sylvia Green

Fabric Bruce Lendrum (Leader), Colin Beck, Malcolm Dawn, Sue Grant, Mary Henn, Stephn Jupp, Janet Reddish, David Stott

Finance Peter Brewer (from September) Made Awotesu (until May), Sue Grant, Mary Henn, Bruce Lendrum), Ian Macfarlane (until December), Richard Redfern (until December)

Events Sue Grant, Sylvia Lendrum, Caroline Maddocks, Gill Thwaites (until February) Bron Wild,

Communications Frances Maddex (Leader), Fiona Finlay (from October) Sue Grant, Bruce Lendrum, Philippa Thompson

Café Church Christie Gilfeather (Leader), Becky Bick, Catherine Jupp, Frances Maddex, David Rice-Oxley, Emma Rice-Oxley

Mission Planning (formed June) Christie Gilfeather (Leader), Becky Bick, Fiona Finlay, Sylvia Green Catherine Jupp, Nicole May, Emma Rice-Oxley, Philippa Thompson, Gill Thwaites

Approved by the PCC on 11th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Rev'd Dr Christie Gilfeather.

_____

Rev’d Dr Christie Gilfeather, Vicar and Chair of PCC

31st December 2025

Cash funds

	2025	*2024*
Building Societies	£10	£10
Unrestricted accounts	£13,862	£6,624
Designated accounts	£7,058	£6,564
Restricted accounts	£99,428	£97,305
Investment account	£3,260	£3,119
Cash float	£50	£50
Total	**£123,668**	**£113,672**

Assets (original cost)

	2025	*2024*
Parish Centre	£150,000	£150,000
Fittings & equipment (note 2)	£19,359	£22,633
Total	**£169,359**	**£172,633**

31st December 2025

Cash funds

	2025	*2024*
CCLA investment	£3,260	£3,119
Lloyds improvement	£65,668	£70,364
Lloyds restoration	£9,672	£10,090
Coop deposit	£27,038	£14,723
Lloyds magazine	£2,638	£2,149
Coop reserve	£7,058	£6,564
Coop current	£8,274	£6,601
Float	£50	£50
Building societies	£10	£10
Total	**£123,668**	**£113,670**

Assets (original cost)

	2025	*2024*
Parish Centre	£150,000	£150,000
Fittings & equipment (note 2)	£19,359	£22,633
Total	**£169,359**	**£172,633**

31st December 2025

Receipts	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**Total funds**	
	2025	***2025***	***2025***	***2024***
Gift Aid - Planned Giving	35,123	1,200	36,323	35,406
Other Planned Giving	1,940	55	1,995	2,220
Collections at services	2,222	51	2,273	1786
All non-recurring giving/dc	2,473	12,275	14,748	36,904
Tax recovered through gift	11,089	2,625	13,714	18,001
Grants		469.25	469	12,184
Investment income	591	638	1,229	1,451
PCC fees (Net)	6,017		6,017	5,271
From trading/other activit	19078.47	4,282	23,361	19,575
Other Income resources	184.2	324.82	509	1,878
Legacies				
Total receipts	**78,718**	**21,920**	**100,639**	**134,676**

Payments	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**Total Funds**	
	2025	***2025***	***2025***	***2024***
Charity giving	3,778		3,778	4,680
Parish share	35,764		35,764	34,171
Salaries and wages	3,882		3,882	5,566
Expenses of the Clergy	621.98		622	421
Outreach	5,652	4,289	9,972	9,177
Church running costs	21,436	1,999	23,435	19,719
Church utility bills	4,687		4,687	4,546
Cost of trading	3,128		3,128	3,468
Governance cost	500		500	460
Major repairs		4,874	4,874	12,973
Total Payments	**79,448**	**11,163**	**90,642**	**95,181**
Net receipts/(payments)	**-730**	**10,758**	**9,997**	**39,495**

31st December 2025

Movement on unrestricted funds

	b/f	Credit	Debit	Interest	c/f
General fund	£15,839				£13,922
Designated reserve	£6,500	£400		£158	£7,058
	£22,339	**£400**	**£0**	**£158**	**£20,980**

Movement on restricted funds

	b/f	Credit	Debit	Interest	c/f
Churchyard upkeep	£1,255			£46	£1,301
Codicote school leavers books	£0			£0	£0
Garden of remembrance	£939			£34	£973
Minor funds	£1,050			£38	£1,088
Organ	£5,103	£659		£149	£5,911
Restoration	£6,424	£4,935	£6,346	£188	£5,201
Roof & fabric	£2,451			£90	£2,541
Improvement	£71,153	£1,147	£6,385	£541	£66,456
Parish Centre	£167			£6	£173
AV system	£0	£12,500		£0	£12,500
Magazine	£2,790	£3,724	£3,251	£21	£3,284
	£91,332	**£22,965**	**£15,982**	**£1,113**	**£99,428**

Movement on CBF deposit fund

	b/f	Annual re-valuation	c/f
CB3033488-001	£3,119	£141	£3,260
	£3,119	**£141**	**£3,260**

Movement on Maunsell-Woods Trust

	b/f	Annual re-valuation	c/f
CB3014329 CBF investment	£5,099	-£204	£4,895
CB3014700 CBF investment	£5,369	-£63	£5,306
	£10,468	**-£267**	**£10,201**

31st December 2025

Notes to the financial statements

1 The financial statements of St Giles Codicote Parochial Church Council (PCC) (charity no 1210550) have been prepared in accordance with the Church of England accounting regulations using Receipts and payments.

No members of the PCC were paid expenses but several were reimbursed for costs paid on behalf of the PCC.

2 Assets retained for church use

(Assets with an original cost under £1,000 have been removed from the list).

	Acquisition date	Original cost
Clavinova piano		£1,330
Sound equipment	over 20 years old	£9,033
Coffee maker	unreliable	£1,917
Burglar alarm		£3,843
Bollard lights		£1,616
Coffee maker	2025	£1,620
		£19,359

3 Connected charities

Friends of St Giles
The PCC are supported by the fund-raising activities of the Friends of St Giles, which has a separate charity registration 1070629.

Maunsell-Woods bequest
This trust is administered by the Incumbent and the treasurer. The principal objective is the upkeep and maintenance of the Maunsell-Woods window and grave. The investment is held as CBF Investment Fund Shares.

4 Comments on the financial statements

Our day to day income does not cover our expenses. The trading income from the Magazine subscriptions and advertising increase, and the Pre-school income from increased rent from September 2025 with extra hours for holiday clubs makes a strong contribution to our income, meaning we have only a small deficit.

In terms of income a number of generous donors have died in 2025. Despite that income from giving has held up well. Ageing donors will continue to reduce the planned giving, but will hopefully be offset by new people joining. Donors using the Parish Giving Scheme makes a huge difference to the Treasurer's workload, and the availability of the automatic inflationary increase helps to offset those rising costs.

The cash reserves are up, and reflects that we are reliant on large donations rather than regular giving to break even. It also reflects that we are embarking on

several very expensive projects - the large donations are being given for them -
- the audio visual system of around £45,000 in 2026
- the much needed redecoration of the church likely in excess of £100,000 in 2027.

Either we need to raise income, or reduce expenses.

Although utility bills are similar to 2024, a number of bills were deferred into 2026 due to the change of suppliers. Running costs are up, which includes statutory items like PAT testing, fire extinguishers, boiler servicing, cesspit emptying, rubbish collection, and new costs like legionella testing.

Salaries are down as administrator hours have been reducing, and will reduce more in 2026.

St Giles Codicote PCC examiners report 2025

The accounts have been submitted to the examiner and we are waiting for their report.

Due to two changes of treasurer caused by serious illness, the accounts were not in a good state. With help from the Financial Director of the Diocese of St Albans and an accountant, we finally resolved the issues this month (September) and submitted the accounts for examination.

The examiners report for the 2025 accounts will be submitted as soon as we have it. They have notified us that they are very busy, so we're not sure how long this will take.