

# **ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2026**

## **Agenda, Minutes & Reports**



**Holy Trinity, Walton**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 7pm in the Church**

### **Vestry Meeting 2026**

*This part of the evening can be attended by anyone on the electoral roll or resident in the Parish of Walton.*

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025
4. Matters arising.
5. Election of Churchwardens.
6. AOB.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026**

*This part of the evening may be attended by members of the electoral roll for the parish.*

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025
3. Matters arising
4. Brief reflections on the life of our churches and ministry and mission across the parish
5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2025.
6. Re-election of Electoral Roll Officer.
7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2025.
8. Treasurer's Report 2025.
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church.

Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2026 - 2029 and Deanery Synod representatives  
2026 - 2029.

11. AOB *please let the Rector or the church office know of any items in advance.*
12. Closing Prayer.

**Walton Holy Trinity APCM**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**7.00pm held in church.**

**Present:** Rev Ana Lawrence, Rev David Hatrey, Sister Rachel Pengally, Pauline Hatrey, Andy Savage, Edgar Frampton, Hilda Grint, Jeff and Carol Brewer, Sonia Beaty, Sandra Gristock, Wendy Devenish, Elizabeth Selway, Philip and Jackie Daniells, Pat and Jane Doyle, Brenda Stradling, Jenny Ponsillo.

**Vestry Meeting 2025**

- 1. Welcome:** Rev Ana Lawrence opened the meeting reading Psalm 27 v 4. followed by a prayer.
- 2. Apologies:** Gill Attwell, Yvonne Guerin.
- 3. Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024:** These were individually read. With an amendment to the agenda, item 3 should read Annual Vestry Meeting. Acceptance was proposed by Sonia Beaty, seconded by Jeff Brewer. All in favour.
- 4. Matters Arising:** No matters arising.
- 5. Election of Church Warden:** Standing, Sandra Gristock. Proposed by Andy Savage, seconded Wendy Devenish. Thanks were extended to Sandra Gristock for all her hard work and to Andy Savage and Elizabeth Selway, who supported her. If necessary an assistant church warden could be co – opted later in the year.
- 6. AOB:** None.

**Meeting Closed 7.07pm.**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025**

- 1. Apologies:** Gill Attwell, Yvonne Guerin.
- 2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held on Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024:** The minutes were individually read. Acceptance Proposed by Elizabeth Selway, Seconded Sandra Gristock, All agreed. Thanks were extended to Wendy Devenish.
- 3. Matters Arising:** No matters Arising.
- 4. Brief reflections on the life of our churches and ministry and mission across the parish:**

I have written a 'reflective' report on the life, ministry and witness of our wider benefice which is on pages 5 – 6 of the agenda, minutes and reports document under ' Rector's Annual Report 2024'.

Much of what I shared there looks back over the past year at what has happened, both the good and encouraging as well as the more challenging aspects of our church life.

As a benefice, we are primarily here to share God's love in our respective communities. This should be at the heart of all we do and are as Christians.

Therefore, as I said in my written report: My heart and prayer is that our mission statement ' worship God, love our communities, grow in faith' continues to underpin all that we are and do within the life of the benefice of Street ,Walton and Compton Dundon.'

Also, in my report, I reflected on the numerical growth we have experienced taking the benefice as a whole. This is of course exciting, and yet growth brings new and different opportunities and challenges. In order to minister to our growing congregations and beyond we are going to need more resources in terms of people to step into a whole range of ministry areas.

To give one example of the reality of what is needed. Recruiting church wardens has not always proved easy as this role can be perceived as too busy and demanding for many. In response, going forward, we are

looking to develop this role as more collaborative, involving working within a wider team, particularly in the churches where we don't currently have wardens or not the full quota.

Beyond the role of warden, there are countless opportunities to serve in and beyond the life of our churches. For example, with growing numbers of young people, we need more leaders and across our churches, I want to release people to welcome, lead prayers, do bible readings, serve refreshments etc. Often in church life, the bulk of the work is done by relatively few, but I'd love to see everyone involved. We are a church family that works best when everyone is helping to share the load and ease burdens so that we don't risk the few burning out. 'The Harvest is indeed plentiful but the labourers are few.'

Alongside our ministry day by day and Sunday by Sunday, there is a lot else going on in SWCD Churches, including bell project and reordering projects in St Andrew's and Walton respectively. These are great examples of where church members are using their gifts and talents in the service of God's Kingdom. We've talked a great deal about finances, some would say too much, but this is also part of our ministry. Whether by regular giving, fundraising or other activities, how we give to the life of our churches forms a part of who we are and how we reach out beyond ourselves. There has been some fantastic progress and answers to prayer in this area but we can't be complacent.

Because it's really important, I want to quote what I wrote in my report; 'I also sense a growing depth in faith with church family seeking to 'go deeper' in their faith journeys, Two well attended weekly prayer meetings, growing midweek house groups, Celebrate@6 services are just some examples of this. Lets continue to want to go deeper and see what God will do in our midst.'

Finally, as I said in my report, we're not done yet! Let's dream big, let's pray big, let's be a people who are ambitious, not for ourselves, not for our churches but for God. We serve a God who we believe can do great things. Are you up for exciting times ahead?

I can't conclude these comments without offering public thanks, again this is in the report in more detail, but can I here extend my thanks to our Parish Safeguarding Officers, Sonia, our benefice administrator, our wardens, our Treasurers and the PCC. A huge 'thank you' to all those who lead and preach at our Sunday and Midweek services: licenced Readers, Lay Worship Assistants, intercessors, welcomers, and readers. I want also to thank my clergy colleagues, Sister Rachel Pengelly & Rev'd David Hatrey for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together. Rev Ana asked if there were any questions. There were not.

**5. Electoral Roll Officers Report:** Sonia Beaty reported that three members had been added bringing the total to 33. Thanks extended to Sonia.

**6. Re-election of Electoral Roll Officer:** Sonia Beaty is willing to stand again. Proposed by Pauline Hatrey and seconded by Carol Brewer. All in favour.

**7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2024:** See attachment, the reports we're individually read. An amendment was necessary on page 12, Walton is a VC school, not VA. All approved.

**8. Treasurers Report 2024:** The audited accounts had already been approved by the PCC at their last meeting and we now present these to the APCM. Once again audited by Edward Howells after being prepared by Sonia Beaty. Sonia then took questions from the floor, regarding a legacy the church received, Phil Daniels asked about sum in restoration fund, Sonia reported £ 403. Brenda Stradling asked if the coffee morning money went into the restoration fund. At a previous PCC meeting it was agreed to use that income, to cover day to day running costs, but this could change. All questions were successfully addressed by Sonia Beaty.

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Edward Howells, who has previously provided this service, was happy to continue for another year, proposed by Sonia Beaty, seconded by Jeff Brewer. All in favour.

**10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:** The floor was asked if there were any

comments, none were proposed.

Election of PCC Members 2025/2026 and Deanery Synod Representatives: There is a full quota at the moment. Co – option can be added later if needed. Thanks was extended to all those involved.

**11. AOB:** Philip Daniells asked if, each month, a list of who was taking the service could be displayed in the church. After some consideration, Rev Ana Lawrence replied, that this had never happened since she became vicar and to the best of her knowledge hadn't happened before, very often rotas were changed, at the last minute, due to unforeseen circumstances, she noted his comment but for the moment this would not be possible.

**12. Closing Prayer.** The Grace was said by all.

Meeting closed 8.30pm.

### **RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BENEFICE 2025**

Reflecting back on the past year, it continues to be a privilege to be your Rector and to be serving in the benefice of Street, Walton and Compton Dundon. Whilst there is much that each of our 3 parishes holds in common, there is also much that makes our parishes unique, distinctive and with their own particular 'flavour'. I have the joy of being part of all 3 and love to embrace the variety and the richness of our church family as we seek to worship, love and grow in our respective church communities.

It's also been good to meet together as one benefice, whether at our quarterly joint benefice services, discipleship courses, house groups, or social activities and other events.

We have continued to see, overall, sustained growth across the benefice which has been an encouragement in a national climate that tends to speak of church decline. Within that, we have welcomed new people to our congregations as well as saying farewell to others who have relocated during the year.

Our children's and young people's ministry has thrived and the inauguration of a fortnightly youth space based at the Mission Church has been a blessing to those who attend and indeed those who help and lead.

Other highlights of the year include the Alpha Course with around 12 guests, followed by the Bible Course attracting around 25 attendees.

The completion of the bell project and the celebration service at St Andrew's Compton Dundon was a memorable occasion attended by many and it was good to welcome Bishop Michael as he dedicated the new set of bells in the wonderfully created new ringing chamber.

Our weekly house groups have grown with now 4 groups meeting on different weekday evenings.

All of our parishes have continued to wrestle with church finances as costs rise and church members face the reality of an ongoing cost of living crisis. Whilst we have done much to build a sense of church family across the benefice, there also remains much more that could be done to encourage more of us to worship together, socialise together and share our Christian journey.

From time to time, I remind church family of our benefice mission statement:

'At SWCD Churches we are a church family who aims to: worship God, love our communities, grow in faith'

and within these 3 distinctive areas of the mission statement, these are some of the things that come to mind:

### Worship God

This is central to who we are and all that we do and we continue to offer a variety of worship styles and experiences across our churches. The growth of the worship band at the Mission Church, more people involved in reading, praying etc at St Andrew's and Walton and the development of a distinct vibrant worshipping community at our early morning parish church service are just some of the highlights. As a benefice, we are extremely unusual in having a Sunday service in every church each week, an evening service and a well-attended weekly mid-week service.

I hope this demonstrates our commitment to the centrality of worship.

### Love our communities

Each of our parishes operates in different contexts and how they seek to love their communities will therefore look different. There is some great work going on whether it's through coffee mornings offering food and hospitality or addressing practical need through the Cox's Charity, but there is always more that we can do.

### Grow in faith

Growing numbers of house groups, a well-attended bible course and engagement with the bible through teaching on Sundays and mid-week are just some of the ways we are seeking to go deeper in our faith. A group went to New Wine whilst others engaged with Thy Kingdom Come and the Thrive initiative. We are all life-long Christian learners and this journey will continue.

We are a busy benefice, you only have to read a copy of Lifeline to see how busy we are. With growth and busyness come new pressures. These may be great problems to have but they are issues we need to tackle if we're not simply to exhaust our key people. I have begun a conversation about what we need to do to continue to grow and thrive and expect to hear more in due course.

Thinking about our church family, as well as welcoming new members, we have also bade some sad farewells as we mourned the deaths of amongst others Bill Ingham (Compton Dundon), Roger Forsey (Street), Marion Hicks (Street), Liz Selway (Walton). These faithful Christians will leave a huge gap.

I am grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officers (Steve King, Pauline Hatrey and Jenny Martin) who undertake an administrative role to ensure that all are both kept safe and up to date with ongoing training requirements. Thanks go to Sonia, our benefice administrator, who works tirelessly, flexibly, and often well beyond her contracted hours.

I want to pay tribute to our wardens, Edd Reeve (Street until April 2025) Tim Hindle and Julie Sinclair (Street, supported by our Street Caretakers, Roger and Pam Harmsworth), Gill Williams (Compton Dundon until April 2025) Pat King (Compton Dundon), Sandra Gristock (Walton), our Treasurers, Sonia Beaty (Street and Walton), Julie Gordon (Compton Dundon) and the PCCs. A huge 'thank you' to all those who lead and preach at our Sunday and Midweek Services: licenced Readers, Lay Worship Assistants, intercessors, welcomers, and readers. I want to also thank my clergy colleagues, Sister Rachel Pengelly & Rev'd David Hatrey for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together. I'm particularly grateful to all those who covered to allow me to have extended leave in January / February 2025.

And yes, I know that in writing this last paragraph, inevitably I will have missed someone. I believe that we are all called to serve and so however and wherever you serve, thank you.

Ana Lawrence, Rector

## **2025 APCM REPORTS**

### **BENEFICE REPORTS**

#### **Safeguarding Report**

##### **PSO Meetings:**

The PSOs for Street, Walton & Compton Dundon met regularly this year, continuing our ethos of mutual support and information sharing relative to DBS checks, Dashboards and Safeguarding Hubs. In early 2025 we were very happy to welcome Pauline Hatrey to the group to take on the PSO role at Walton, but sad to see Sandra leave the group after many years of dedication to the role.

##### **Parish Safeguarding Hubs & Dashboard:**

Compton Dundon accomplished Level 3 on its Safeguarding Dashboard, giving full access to the Parish Hub software. We now welcome the fact that access to the Hub is open to *all* Parishes regardless of the level that they are operating at on the Dashboard. Steve had planned to trial the 'HR' aspect of the hub that looks at staffing, recruitment and certification in order to report back to Pauline and Jenny, but time pressures have not resulted in much data being uploaded to the software. This notwithstanding, the group has worked very hard to populate an up to date spreadsheet of roles, training, and DBS checks ready to upload, this being essential in order to streamline future data entry. We are particularly cognisant of the very complex role taken on by Jenny, who oversees the PSO role in two churches, one of which has had an influx of worshippers who are willing to undertake various volunteer roles.

##### **Training:**

We have striven to ensure that all levels of safeguarding training that is required for specific roles are up to date and documented. We have tried to introduce face to face training led by the Diocese, but lack of staffing at Flourish House has led us to arrange for in-house delivery. So our thanks to David Hatrey for carrying out training in order to deliver Basic and Foundation levels to Benefice participants.

##### **Safeguarding Focus Service – 23<sup>rd</sup> March:**

As the Safeguarding focus service forecast for December 2024 was postponed by Walton and Street parishes due to a clash with a large Baptism Service, this was rescheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. The Focus Service looked at safeguarding in general but also touched on the INEQE Audit and the need for CofE Safeguarding reform. As a result of this audit, Safeguarding software such as Hubs and Dashboards have been influenced by an independent board of employees outside of the CofE. More robust evidence of events, actions and protocols are now required to complete these safeguarding tools.

Pauline Hatrey, Jenny Martin, Steve King, Parish Safeguarding Officers.

#### **Prayer Support Group – Our work in 2025**

Tucked away on the inside back cover of Life are the contact details for the Prayer Support Group.

We are a small group of people from across the Benefice who have committed to prayerfully stand alongside you and those dear to you when you/they need prayer.

Our overarching rule is that of confidentiality. First, what we pray for within the Group stays in the Group. This is to respect that some situations where prayer is desperately needed have a sensitivity which is felt should not be shared in a public forum such as “Lifeline”. Secondly, we expect those who request prayer to have a direct link to the person/s or situation at the heart of the request. During 2025 there have been a couple of requests for prayer where that direct link was not apparent and therefore were not adopted as this may have led to a breach of confidentiality.

During 2025: -

- We welcomed two new members to the Group,
- We received more prayer requests than had been received in 2024.
- We have seen prayers answered

For all this we give thanks.

We would love to see an increase in both the numbers of requests for prayer we receive and in the number of prayerful people who are prepared to commit to pray as part of the Group.

Please get in touch if you would like the Group to be with you in prayer or if you would like to be part of the Group praying for others.

We would love to hear from you – with all blessings Jeff Brewer (Walton Church)

[jeffbrewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffbrewer@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Coffee, Chat and snacks**

We have had a very busy year! Our group is growing in number, and we have welcomed new people through our doors. We are continuing to reach out to more people and making the warm space known to a wider community. We are now also advertising the Warm Space in St. John’s Glastonbury as well as local GP surgeries and communal spaces. Currently, we are serving on average 19 people per session. We have had some amazing meals served and some wonderful events at Christmas and Easter for example. We were lucky to receive a grant from the Parish Council for Festive food of £200 that made for a wonderful celebration of Christmas with Carols and festive food for those who would perhaps be alone. We have received an anonymous gift of £1000 for this mission. We have seen friendships flourish and people flourish. We are always looking for more volunteers to step forwards. We have welcomed several new volunteers. There will be a re-set next winter to a simpler menu. We move now into the warmer months and return to snacks and drinks and a change to summer timings.

Sister Rachel Pengelly

## **House Group Benefice Report**

During 2025 there were 4 house groups meeting across the Benefice:

- The **Explore@Monday** (Steve King, Compton Dundon) evening group which meets at the Mission Church on Monday evenings (the group has 8 members)
- **The Walton group** (Sonia Beaty, Walton) which meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings during school term times (the group has 9 members).
- **The Wednesday evening group** (Kay Savage, Mission Church, Vanessa Adams, Walton or David Hatrey) which meets at the Mission Church on Wednesday evenings (this group normally has between 8 and 12 members attending)
- **The Morning Group** which met at the Mission Church on Thursday mornings.

### **Group Participation and Activities:**

All house groups welcome participants from any of the churches within the Benefice, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone is encouraged to join in the discussion. These groups serve as a space for members to spend time together, strengthening their social connections and sense of community. Alongside socialising, members are able to engage in thoughtful study and discussion of various themes relating to their Christian faith and dedicate time to praying together.

During the year, all groups came together to focus on shared study topics, which aligned with the sermon series being delivered at church, such as the book of Nehemiah, topics from the Psalms, and themes surrounding Communion. Outside these times, each group had the flexibility to select their own subject matter or book of the Bible to explore, allowing for a varied and enriching approach to study and discussion.

Steve King, on behalf of the house group leaders and co-ordinators

## **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2025, in different parishes across the Deanery.

Discussion has centred around a range of issues:

### **Pastoral Reorganisation**

Throughout the year, there are ongoing conversations and meetings around the transfer of Middlezoy and Othery parishes (currently part of the MOMSS benefice) to a new benefice within the Sedgemoor deanery and Taunton Archdeaconry. Meanwhile, the remainder of the MOMSS benefice (Moorlinch, Stawell with Sutton Mallet & Greinton) will be moving to the Polden Wheel to create a new and enlarged benefice. This process is complex, protracted and needs the support and prayers from across the deanery.

### **Deanery Mission Plan**

The missional focus shifted to 'tell' (telling the good news of Jesus) and we had presentations from Rev'd Rich Tweedy (Vicar of Polden Wheel) who was the deanery champion for 'tell' and Cheryl Govier (Diocese Board of Education) on how we can better 'tell' within our schools and colleges.

### **Parish Share**

The new methodology of the parish share, agreed at Diocesan synod was discussed.

**Thrive** – please see separate report

### **Finance**

Sonia Beaty is our deanery treasurer and has kept our finances on track during the year.

### **Personnel**

We welcomed Reverend Alice Watson as the new vicar of Glastonbury St John's and St Ben's with Meare. Ana Lawrence continues as our Area Dean, with Jane Durham continuing as Assistant Area Dean.

There are still vacancies for Deanery Synod members in our Benefice, and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in being part of the team.

Pat King, Sandra Gristock, Hilda Grint

### **Charitable Giving**

During 2025, SWCD Churches continued its tradition of supporting a range of local, national and international charity partners as recommended by church members and selected by our PCC's. In addition to the ongoing support we also held a number of fund raising events such as a Macmillan coffee morning in Walton and collections at special services such as for the Royal British Legion in Compton Dundon.

In total, over the year, our three parishes gave over £8,000 to these organisations, a result of which we can be very proud in the context of the significant financial challenges we face as a church family.

Most of our charities had a designated 'champion' for the chosen charities. News from the charities was shared in Life magazine, prayer requests were included in Sunday intercessions and we also welcomed Anni Makoni, supported by Walton to an evening event and a representative from the YMCA foyer project in Street, one of St Andrews' supported charities, to a fundraising event in the church. We would love to do more to encourage church members to engage with the charities that we support financially.

Across the benefice, we agreed longer term support for Mfuwe, our partner parish in Zambia. We were able to fund the completion of the priest's house there and agree new projects we could support going forward, as well as exchanging news, prayer requests and pictures of parish life via WhatsApp/.

Kevin Lawrence

### **Discipleship Courses**

It has been encouraging to host and run two discipleship courses as we have sought to 'grow in faith'. The first of these was the Alpha Course which ran in the summer months, finishing in mid-September. We had around 12 participants who came to explore the basics of the Christian faith. The evening began with a meal, a relaxed time of food, fellowship and getting to know one another. This was followed by the Alpha video presentation which tackled a different theme for each session, such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'How does God guide us?' and 'How can I have faith?' After the video, there was a time of discussion in small groups where guests were able to share openly and in a safe non-judgemental space.

In mid-September, we hosted the 'Bible Course' – an 8-week journey through the bible with superb video presentations from the Bible Society and stimulating questions in discussion groups alongside delicious desserts. We hosted around 25 participants a number of whom joined from the Alpha Course.

It has been good to welcome people from both within the church and outside (with little or no faith background) to both of these courses. A big thanks to all those who led discussion groups, prepared and served meals and who brought desserts each week.

Ana Lawrence

### **The Hub**

A youth group was set up last May attracting young people from school years 6 and upwards from our growing numbers of young people coming on a Sunday morning to the Mission Church. The group came up with the name 'the Hub' which meets for an hour on alternate Monday evenings. The hub enjoys a variety of games and activities. In the Summer months going outside for badminton where the shuttle cocks variously end up in the Rectory Garden or the Mission Church Roof! In the colder months, the young people have decorated cakes, played indoor badminton, table tennis and pool and also card and board games. The evening begins with food: pizza, or toast and hot chocolate, or hot dogs, or pancakes. There is also a God-slot during the evening as we seek to grow in faith. Big thanks to all the wonderful young people who come along and to the team who set-up and lead.

Ana Lawrence (on behalf of the hub team – Tim and Hannah Hindle, Jackie & Richard Houlden, Ana Lawrence)

### **School engagement**

**Walton VC Primary School:** during the year we have taken whole school collective worship on a number of occasions and continue to support the school through our two foundation governors, Vanessa Adams and Rev David Hatrey. Children continue to perform at the Walton Coffee morning on occasions, Messy Church runs 5 times a year and those who attend are mainly from Walton School. As well as regular school services in the church at Festivals, the tradition of the popular annual Christingle continues.

**Elmhurst Junior School:** As well as through RE support, well-being support for pupils and staff and leading a traditional school Remembrance service, Rev Ana Lawrence also continues to be involved as a community governor. The school come to Holy Trinity, Street for the annual Christmas carol services and for the Experience Easter, hosted by a team from church retelling the Easter story with the children engaging in an interactive way.

Ana Lawrence

### **Brookside Academy and Compton Dundon.**

Over the past year it has been a joy engaging with our local schools. We have had lively assemblies at Harvest and Christmas and talks about the liturgical calendar. Compton School enjoyed a living Harvest festival with real farm animals to learn about. They will be following the life of 'Belle' the calf as she grows.

The children in Brookside Academy have benefitted from us supporting RE sessions with subjects such as 'Why did Jesus have to die?' and 'Forgiveness' as well as seasonal assemblies and teaching.

Compton Dundon children enjoy coming up to the Church for the sessions and engaging with a living, breathing Church following its life through the calendar. They boys are also helping at CAMEO giving the team support with taking orders etc and giving them life and employability skills in the future.

In February 2025 I enjoyed a weeklong school placement at Walton School looking at how a Church of England School is distinct from a non-church school; how they worship and how faith and Christian values underpin the life of the school. I also gave a couple of talks, one on Ash Wednesday and another about faith and science for their science week.

Sister Rachel Pengelly

### **Open the Book Annual Report 2025**

We have enjoyed another successful year sharing the Bible stories in the Primary and Junior schools in Street and Walton. We are a dedicated team of nine volunteers who give our time to this important children's outreach and mission.

All the materials are produced by the Bible Society. We use the Lion Storyteller Bible as well as Open the Book Storyteller Stories. Everything is scripted for us, so it is easy to deliver to the Primary school children. We always feel really uplifted when we have been into the schools.

We share the Bible stories in Walton, Elmhurst, Hindhayes and Brookside Schools either weekly or fortnightly depending on the school. Our storytelling sessions are met with real enthusiasm from the school communities, children and adults alike. The children so enjoy dressing up and acting out the story as well as singing the action songs. The school communities are always very pleased to see us and are very welcoming. We feel it is a real honour to be able to share the Bible stories with the children, who probably would not hear them otherwise. As a team we support each other well with prayer, care and love.

Pauline Hatrey, Open the Book leader Street, Walton and Compton Dundon

### **Thrive**

Thrive is a two-year deanery wide course devised by CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) aiming to encourage multi-parish benefices to grow well and 'thrive' within the context of more than one church in a benefice.

Locally the course has been run for the benefices in the Glastonbury deanery, led by Rev'd Jane Durham and Caroline Bruce (parish support from the Diocese of Bath & Wells). With three sessions over three mornings during the year, the focus has been prayer, our 'stories' and our leaders respectively. The sessions were delivered with presentations and group discussions and between each of the three sessions, the 'Thrive' group from our benefice discussed ideas that were raised and begun to introduce one or two ideas to enable our benefice to thrive as well as sharing best practice from our churches. The Thrive team comprises Sandra Gristock, Andy Savage (from Walton), Pat King (Compton Dundon), Tim Hindle & Julie Sinclair (Street) & Ana Lawrence & Rachel Pengelly.

Ana Lawrence

### **Bereavement Café**

The Bereavement Café has been serving the local community and surrounding areas for four years now. The Bereavement team under the leadership of David Hatrey continues to meet on the first Sunday of each month at the Mission Church in Street, where we welcome all of those that have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Hospitality is an important part of what we do, with each person being warmly welcomed with the offer of tea/coffee, and homemade cake on their arrival. Cakes are lovingly baked and served by volunteers, Glynis and Val. This helps to create a warm and safe environment for people to express and their emotions and feelings.

We use a variety of resources, including emotions cards that are designed to help those experiencing grief to talk openly about their feelings and the journey that they find themselves on.

Each session concludes with a reading which is often in the form of a poem. This is a time for the group to pause and reflect. An invitation is extended to the group to light a candle in the memory of their loved one(s).

We have a duty of care to the group, so at end of the session David checks in with the facilitators to establish if there were any safeguarding concerns.

Unfortunately, a member of the team had to step aside towards the end of last year, leaving the team short of facilitators. If there is someone within the church community that feel they have a calling to serve and would like to know more about the Bereavement Café, then we would welcome a conversation with them.

Kevin Wall, member of the Bereavement café team

### **Eco Church**

At the beginning of the year the Eco Church group committed to working towards a Gold Award. This aim was endorsed by all three PCCs in March. Suzie Williams and Helen Thomas left the group. We are grateful for their support during their time with the group and wish them well in their new homes.

Activities in each of the Eco Church survey categories have continued:

Worship and Teaching - preaching, prayers and hymns help to reflect care for Creation

Buildings and Energy - working towards net zero, Energy Footprint Tool completed for 2024, as energy contracts came up for renewal 'green' tariffs are chosen, heating and reordering plans reflect the need to be energy efficient

Land and Nature - managing churchyards for wildlife

Lifestyle - articles related to Eco Church in Life magazine, relevant reminders of e.g. Carbon Fast for Lent in Lifeline

Community and Global Engagement - members of SWCD congregations actively supporting Street Repair Café

Thank you to the Group members, Trish Cox, Sandra Gristock and Andy Savage for their continued assistance and to all who continue to demonstrate that as Christians we care for the environment that we and others live in.

Susan Ripley

### **Book Group Report**

With 10 members we continued to meet every other month. We chose books to read that raised interesting and varied discussion topics from a variety of genres. The books we read in 2025 were:

The Windsor Knot by S J Bennett

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce

The Spire by William Golding

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

The House at Riverton by Kate Morton

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome.

Susan Ripley

### **Stewardship**

Money is one of those things that nobody really likes talking about in our culture, but Jesus had plenty to say on the subject and so we too, have not shied away from being open both about the financial pressures that we face as a church family and some of the Biblical teaching about giving and stewardship.

You will find full details of the 2025 financial position for your parish elsewhere in this report. During the year we have tried to keep these issues before the congregation through, for example, articles in 'Life' magazine. During the year we also promoted the 'Parish Giving' scheme and other ways of regular giving, as well as 'Easyfundraising,' an online portal that makes free donations when shoppers purchase online. To date, however, take up of these schemes remains more limited than we might like. Contactless giving machines in three of our churches are increasingly used, despite ongoing technical difficulties! We also agreed, at our PCC's, a cash handling policy to ensure those handling money on behalf of the church are fully protected.

We also, again, sent thank you letters to everyone in the church family for their financial support, but will review how much this is appreciated and its value going forward.

Finances across the benefice remain under pressure, particularly with ongoing cost increases and a rising Parish Share. However, the figures show that, for 2025 at least, each parish is financially solvent, with many signs of encouragement.

Kevin Lawrence

### **Communications**

As a people who are called to share good news, we continue to work hard at communicating both internally, to the church family, and externally to the local communities whom we are called to love.

Online, our Facebook presence continues to grow with over 310 followers, the majority not regular worshippers with us, at the end of the year and some posts getting over 1,000 views. We have also launched an Instagram account, reflecting changing trends in online platform usage. Our website attracts around 3,000 'hits' per month. We would love to see more church members who use social media following our accounts and liking and sharing our posts as this will raise our profile further.

'Life.' Lifeline' and our church notice boards continue to be regular and valued sources of information and news from across the benefice. We have also set up a 'Google diary' where all church events and bookings are recorded, which replaces a paper diary system and can be accessed by those who need to know without the need to contact or visit the church office.

Three particular issues we have faced:

1. Developing consistent use of our logo and links to our web site on posters and publicity produced by church family members.
2. Internal communication of planned events and activities. Put simply, I can't communicate about events I am not told about.

3. Our current systems involve considerable duplication, which takes extra time. We are looking at ways we can improve this through the use of more modern technology.

Kevin Lawrence

## **PARISH REPORTS**

### **Church Wardens Fabric Report**

Another year has unbelievably passed us by. It has been busier than ever and everyone has stepped up to share the load and make it so successful. We felt the loss of dearest Liz Selway keenly last year. She was involved in every aspect of our church life and a huge support in church tasks as a group or individually. She will always be talked about and missed, not least as we try to compensate for her jammy dodgers.

As always our thanks must go to Ana for her leadership and for enabling all our churches to continue with a weekly service. This is such a blessing to us all. Our wonderful team of Ana, David, Rachel and our lay readers and worship assistants enable us to continue to grow as a benefice with groups and social activities. Thank you to each of you.

As a church family we have grown together in keeping Holy Trinity, Walton, thriving and supporting each other. The moving of furniture for events and services, cleaning, washing up and a myriad of other activities always see volunteers coming forward and as a team we survive and care for each other.

After a Health and Safety audit with David, we have implemented a safety lock on the door where any chemical cleaning liquid is kept, a Chancel fire escape, fire exit signs and curtain repairs. The north door has been lifted and re-cemented which helps with locking and unlocking. Enormous thanks go to Andy who acts straight away when jobs need doing indoors and outdoors. 5 of us completed a first aid course with Tim Hindle and many of us completed safeguarding courses with David and Pauline Hatrey.

Thank you all for your support, care, prayers and encouragement.

Sandra Gristock Church Warden & Andy Savage, Assistant Warden

### **Electoral Roll Report**

During 2025 4 people were added to the Electoral Roll and 1 passed away, giving a final number at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 of 36.

Sonia Beaty, Electoral Roll Officer

### **PCC Report 2025**

This year has been another busy year at Holy Trinity, Walton. However, the sad news this year was the loss of our dear friend Elizabeth Selway. She is so missed by the whole church family and we are grateful for the many years of support she gave whilst worshipping and being a member of the PCC.

Again, the main concern has been the church building. The restoration and reordering fund are growing but in the main it will be the church roof where it all starts. Many events have been held which have been very well attended with proceeds going to both general funds and the restoration and reordering work. The village has been very supportive for which we are grateful.

Andy and his team have continued to make small repairs and sorted out the church door which made the entrance a lot easier.

Outreach to the village and school:

The Thursday coffee morning is still a regular event and continues to grow in popularity. The new banner has proved to be an asset and encourages people passing by to come in, particularly new people to the village. The school continues to visit on some coffee mornings and entertain us with their singing which everyone finds most enjoyable. We have had quizzes, cream teas for VE day and at other times of the year. A new church group 'Walton Friends' meet on two Fridays a month and whilst enjoying tea, coffee and cake create items that we can sell towards the church building. They also helped with our pebble painting of angels at Christmas. The pebbles were hidden for people/children to find on their walks around the village. Always very popular.

Messy church continues to bring some of the children into church for our twice termly sessions. These range from Messy Easter, Messy Harvest and Messy Christmas as well as outdoor messy church goes wild! This being publicised on the church Facebook site, word of mouth, our banner and flyers onto the school newsletter reaped its reward with good attendance.

Open the Book has a regular team visiting Walton Church of England Primary School. The children and staff greet us with great enthusiasm to listen to the Bible stories and act out the stories. This is in partnership with the Baptist Church in Street. The team feel very privileged to be able to share these wonderful stories with the children.

Our Christmas celebrations, particularly the Crib service was very well attended and was almost standing room only! It proves very popular each year. The school Christingle service took place in the church, and we provided the Christingle kits for each child to make their own Christingle. Our curate Revd Sister Rachel Pengelly even dressed up as a Christingle for her talk! Amazing!

School governors are very active, and we are grateful to Vanessa Adams and David Hatrey for supporting the school in this way and providing a valuable church- school link. David became Chair of Governors, and the school had a new Headteacher after Easter 2025.

Our new Parish Safeguarding Officer Pauline Hatrey stepped into the role after Sandra Gristock retired after many, many years. With modern technology the role can be challenging.

I would like to thank the Rector, PCC and church members for their support as I took over the role of PCC secretary from the long-standing Wendy Devenish.

Pauline Hatrey, PCC secretary

### **Friends of Walton**

We met as a group to formulate plans for the coming year bearing in mind we are fundraising for the upkeep of our church and for the restoration and reordering. The plans were as following:

27th February - quiz evening. (Church funds)

11th April - Songs of the Sea. Village Hall (restoration fund)

2nd May. - village consultation day. 10.00am to 3.00pm.

9th May. Cream tea ( church funds)

27th - 28th June. Flower festival this has been amended to a table to sale on the 27th due to lack of expertise. (Church funds)

18th July - Bake off in church in memory of Liz Selway. ( restoration)

2nd October - Harvest Supper. Village hall. (Church funds)

A busy year but we would welcome new ideas and others to come forward to lead these ideas.

Thank you all for your support and hard work.

Sandra Gristock

### **Reordering report**

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July we had a very successful meeting with the members of the DAC (*Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches*) regarding our plans for the restoration and reordering of Holy Trinity. The members of the committee gave plenty of good advice and guidance which we are in the process of following up on.

Andy Savage

### **Walton Friends**

2025 saw the inauguration of the Walton Friends group – bringing together local residents for connection, community and even some crafts, all hosted in Walton Church.

The group has been a fantastic success at bringing people together, and we'd like to thank our wonderful members for already helping to raise over £500 from donations and sales of homemade gifts in 2025 alone, with more raised since! This money will be going to the reordering and restoration fund for Walton Church, particularly to help repair the roof. We've also been able to raise a further £140.50 across 2025 to help with general costs for the church.

We've been able to foster a close-knit group of local people who routinely join our meetings. From conversations and support to craft and creativity, every meeting brings together people who might otherwise struggle to socialise. What has been most uplifting about our sessions is how, once we bring new people into the church, they quickly start to become invested in the building, the history and its longevity. Not only does it help build funds, it helps develop rapport, engagement and investment in the church and its community, encouraging new members to join our church, or support in other ways; outreach is important to sustain and grow our community!

Please feel free to join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month from 2pm in Walton Church – all are welcome and we'd love to see you there!

Gill Attwell.