

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2026

Agenda, Minutes & Reports

'Worship God, love our community, grow in faith'



Holy Trinity, and the Mission Church, Street

Wednesday 29th April, 2026 7pm in the Mission Church

Vestry Meeting 2026

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

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10th 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 Meeting held on Thursday 10th 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. 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.
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2026 -2029 and Deanery Synod representatives 2026 - 2029.
12. AOB *please let the Rector or the church office know of any items in advance.*
13. Closing Prayer.

**Minutes of Street Parish Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)
10 April 2025 in the Parish Church**

The Rector Rev'd Ana Lawrence (AL) chaired both meetings.

Present: Rev'd Ana Lawrence, Kevin Lawrence, Rev'd David Hatrey, Sister Rachel Pengelly, Martin Kennard, Angela Reeve, Edd Reeve, Pam Harmsworth, Roger Harmsworth, Elaine Howard, Diane Gray, Michael Bergner, Tim Hindle, Margaret Long, Michael Long, Julie Sinclair, Susan Ripley, Kay Savage and Andrew Savage.

Copies of both the Agenda, minutes and reports document and Annual Report and Financial Statements document were made available electronically and in hard copy on request in advance of the meetings.

Vestry Meeting 2025

1. AL opened the meeting with a reading of Psalm 27 v4 and prayer.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Frances Smith.
3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Thursday 18 April 2024. Proposed by Edd Reeve and seconded by Roger Harmsworth.
4. Matters arising. None.
5. Election of Churchwardens. Julie Sinclair was proposed by Julie Day and seconded by Kay Savage. Tim Hindle was proposed by Edd Reeve and seconded by David Yemm. Both elected as churchwardens for the Mission Church. No nominations were received for election as churchwarden for the Parish Church. AL said a group of helpers would fulfil this role. AL thanked Edd Reeve for his service as churchwarden for the past two years.
6. AOB. None. Vestry meeting closed at 7.08 pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

1. Apologies for absence. As for the Vestry meeting.
2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday 18 April 2024 and Matters arising. Minutes of the APCM were proposed by Kevin Lawrence and seconded by Tim Hindle. No matters arising.
3. Brief reflections on the life of our churches and ministry and mission across the parish. A transcript of AL's comments is in the appendix to these minutes. The Rector's report is on pages 5 to 6 of the agenda, minutes and reports document.
4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2024. Presented on page 17 of the agenda, minutes and reports document. There are 100 people on the list.
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer. Angela Reeve agreed to stand for re-election. Proposed by Diane Gray and seconded by Pam Harmsworth. Elected.
6. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2024. Presented on page 15 of the Agenda, minutes and reports document.
7. Treasurer's Report 2024. Presented on pages 4 to 10 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements document. Giving is up, largely due to increase in membership.
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner. Edward Howell Associates Wells were proposed by Martin Kennard and seconded by Susan Ripley and duly appointed.
9. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church. Presented in the Churchwardens report on page 15 of the Agenda, minutes and reports document. Roger Harmsworth noted

that the statement that builders were going to paint a wall in the Parish Church was incorrect. They were going to provide the paint and he would paint the wall.

10. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2025/2026 and Deanery Synod representatives 2025/2026. There were four nominations for the PCC: Susan Ripley, proposed by Kay Savage and seconded by Andrew Savage; Elaine Howard, proposed by Diane Gray and seconded by Michael Bergner; Michael Long; proposed by Julie Sinclair and seconded by Edd Reeve; and Caroline Fulton (absent from meeting, but who had expressed an interest to AL for re-election), proposed by Roger Harmsworth and seconded by Tim Hindle. All four were elected. There were no nominations for election to the Deanery Synod. There are now two vacancies for the PCC and one for the Deanery Synod.
11. AOB. Rachel Pengelly thanked AL for her hard work and support. Edd Reeve also thanked AL on behalf of those present for her hard work and said it had been a pleasure and privilege to serve as churchwarden.
12. Closing prayer. Meeting closed with prayer and the Grace at 7.35 pm.

Appendix to Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025.

Rector's Remarks – APCM meetings 2025

Item 3 on the agenda

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 the

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's 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. Let's continue to want to go deeper and see what God will do in our midst.'

Finally, as I say 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: licensed 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.

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 – 23rd 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 23rd 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.

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

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

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

Churchwardens Report March 2026

Mission Church Street

100 new chairs have been purchased and installed. The old chairs have been sold to a good home (Rochester Baptist church). Thanks for all those involved in the changeover

A Team has been set up to look at future projects and refurbishments for Mission church. This is going to be quite a wide-ranging project. Exciting times!

We have been looking at various options regarding parking issues at church. Parking mats are being considered but still in the discussion stage

Holy Trinity Parish Church Street.

The damp behind the Organ continues to be an issue. It is being kept under investigation. New paint and dehumidifier may provide some of the solution

There is also some considerable damp in the Porch area, possibly connected to the issue of a wall crack behind the safe. This is also being investigated. The architect has visited to have a look and offer advice. He did not raise the crack as an immediate big concern. It may come up as part of the quinquennial.

The Quinquennial has been booked for this year with architect Mark Taylor. This will be the first one since 2015 so fairly overdue!

We are still experimenting with the heating at Parish to find the most economical way forward. Lighting in Parish church has improved as a number of lamps have been replaced.

For both churches

Regular maintenance of roof tiles, gutters and downpipes has been done over the year

Routine annual checks for fire, boilers and clock have been done

The Terrier and annual mission returns have been done for both churches. We note the increase in the numbers of people coming into our churches as a blessing. The terrier is now in electronic version on the church laptop.

The wardens wish to thank all that play a part in maintaining our buildings and grounds and all that have a part in assisting the jobs of the wardens

Tim Hindle & Julie Sinclair Churchwardens

PCC report for APCM meeting 2026

The PCC met four times in 2025 with meetings held in the Mission Church. Topics for discussion included maintenance of the Parish and Mission churches, safeguarding, Eco church, church finances, charitable giving, Deanery Synod, church services and involvement of children in the church.

Some specific decisions made were to approve the purchase of new chairs for the Mission Church; rejection of a commercial proposal for control of parking at the Mission Church but agreeing to instate a parking permit system; approval to adopt the diocesan proposal for the new Benefice Share; and approval of a Bell Ringing policy for the Parish Church.

Copies of minutes are available on request to the PCC secretary.

Andrew Savage, PCC Secretary

Children and Young People Street Mission Church

Over the last year the numbers of young people attending the mission church has at least doubled.

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, when we run kids groups, we now have 2 separate groups, Adventurers for 3-8 year olds and Explorers for 9-13 year olds. We have a provisional creche as well but not many regular takers.

We regularly have at least 5 children in each group and at times it can be up to 10 in a group which is about maximum.

There are currently 7 helpers on the rota and 6 people are needed every fortnight. This does mean there is not often a week off for these kind volunteers.

We have been using material from an online resource 'Faith in kids' and have covered Nehemiah, when the church was also doing a series on this book, some lead up to Christmas sessions, some sessions on the book of James and now are looking at the last supper and communion.

An alternative Halloween party, 'Glitter and glow' was run in the Mission church. About 8 children attended.

It has been wonderful to see more families and children come into church and become a regular part of the church family.

Space is a potential issue as the Sunday groups cannot expand more than 8-10 children due to space and generated noise!

A designated youth/children's worker would be a real asset as the kind volunteers who help at present can all feel a little overwhelmed with the task at times.

Hannah Hindle, Street Mission Church

Little Stars

Little Stars has continued to run smoothly through 2025. We have a strong team that support the group by weekly volunteering and also have a number of volunteers who serve the teas, and those who step in several times a year when needed. We are very blessed.

Our numbers stay at an average of 20 children each week, which is very good. We continue to be a place in the community where carers can bring their under 5s on a Friday morning during term time.

At Easter we gave each family an Easter story book, and there were chocolate treats for the children, too! In July we presented 6 children with a children's Bible, before they started school. Also, very children who came along to that session took a helium balloon home with them.

In September we began a new term, and also celebrated Little Stars 9th Birthday!

In December during our Christmas session, my husband, Julian, did a great job of being Father Christmas, and my Dad, Roger Harmsworth was a fabulous chief elf!

We also had a morning for our Nativity Story, which Rachel led for us by reading the story of the grumpy owl to retell the Christmas story.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the team, Pam, Pat, Eleanor, Chris, Darrell, Val, Glynys, and also Sandra, Jane and Jenny who have helped when needed!

Thank you also to Ana and Rachel for their encouragement and support.

Thank you also for all your prayers for the group throughout the year.

Julie Day, leader of Little Stars Parent and toddler group at The Mission Church, Street

Connections@theMission

All were welcome to this group that met on the third Thursday of the month at 2-30pm during 2025 in the Mission Church.

We had speakers or an activity each month. It was good to welcome people from each of the SWCD churches and also others from the community.

We started the year in January with people bringing along a poem, prayer or reading to share with the group.

Throughout the year we had various interesting speakers and activities including a couple of craft activities. In December we had a Christmas message from the clergy and some of the Trinity Handbells group played Christmas music for us.

There was always tea, cake and lots of conversations.

Pam Harmsworth (Mission Church)

Cox's charity

Last year we gave out fewer grants than usual. There were applications for people wanting to use Cox's again, but the constitution of the charity does not allow for on-going support, so these were sadly declined. At Christmas grants were given to families struggling financially through our local schools.

We also had a talk from a representative from Sleek Easy Clean Ltd who are local to us. They often have appliances that have been cleaned and safety tested at a reduced cost that we could purchase for applicants. We agreed at our meeting to work with them, but so far, the need has not arisen.

Sister Rachel Pengelly

Electoral Role Report 2025

New on roll	103
Died	0
Left	0
On roll	103

2025 saw the introduction of new Electoral Rolls for the churches in the Benefice. This meant that all previous names on the roll were deleted and all church members were asked to sign a new form in order to be included in the newly created roll.

103 church members signed up in 2025, a total increase of 3 on 2024. There were, in fact, several new names. Quite a few who were previously on the electoral roll, which was compiled 6 years ago, decided not to remain.

Towards the end of 2025 I contacted (mainly by email) people who were on the church contact list but not on the electoral roll, asking them if they wished to complete an ER form this year. I pointed out that not only would they then become an official member of the church but they would be able to obtain a free pass into Wells Cathedral, should they so wish. I pointed out where the application forms could be found.

Angela Reeve, Electoral Roll Officer for the Parish and Mission Church, Street

External use of the church buildings in Street

During 2025 we continued to welcome some regular users to the Mission Church. These included Street Sings using the main church space and the kitchen and upstairs meeting rooms regularly used by U3A (5 groups) and a baby massage group (twice a week). A new baby sensory group started hiring the church in September; they use it every Monday and Tuesday morning in term time. There were also various other ad hoc bookings throughout the year.

Street Parish Church was used on for the annual Strobe Unplugged concert and a Crispin School concert. Elmhurst School visited at Easter and used the church for their Christmas Carol services.

Sonia Beaty, administrator

Trinity Handbells Report for 2025

We spent most Wednesday evenings practicing various pieces of music, and in November changing to Christmas music in preparation for our external visits. One exception to this was our annual 'Bring and Share' social evening in the Kitchen/Meeting room.

On Sunday 28th September, three of us travelled (without the Bells) to Monkton Heathfield near Taunton to enjoy the sounds of the 'South West Ensemble' in concert. This was a lovely evening.

Saturday 29th November, we had our annual visit to Glastonbury Frost Fayre, when all 7 Trinity Handbell ringers spent an enjoyable day entertaining the visitors to St John's Church, (outside), and despite the forecast, the weather was good until mid afternoon when it was 'rain stop play'!

On the following Monday 8th December, just 3 available ringers backed up the carol singing on the Handbells at Southlawns in Street.

Wednesday 10th December 3 ringers, foam, Bells, music stands, and music travelled to Crewkerne, where we played a mixture of popular tunes and carols at the 'Goldies' Christmas party, where a volunteer made up our numbers so we could ring our 8 bell music. The hall was packed with ringers and many school children, who entertained us all.

Our final Carol ringing was in the Mission Church on Thursday 18th December for the 'Connections' tea and cake afternoon.

Roger Harmsworth