



## Annual Reports of Organisations for the Year 2025

To be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Team Rector and Vicar of All Saints	Fr Anthony Searle
Associate Priest	Revd. Jackie Lock
Pioneer Priest	Revd Azita Jabbari (started May 2025)
Curate	Revd Joshua Harris (started July 2025)
Licensed Lay Ministers	Derek Lancaster Maureen Lampard
Trainee Licenced Lay Minister	Michelle Neudecker
Children & Families Minister	Robyn Connelly
Churchwarden	Andrew Buchanan
Deputy Honorary Churchwarden	Edgar Samuel
Acting Director of Music	Philip Wayne
Parish Administrator	Elizabeth (Thistle) Martin
Church Operations:	Sharon Gausman (from April 2025)
PCC Secretary	Jacqui Brearley
Electoral Roll Officer	Sue Lord

### **Shared Leadership Team**

Mission & Evangelism	Derek Lancaster
Children, Youth & Families	Robyn Connelly
Pastoral	Jackie Lock & Elaine Dagnall
Worship & Liturgy	Derek Lancaster
Stewardship & Finance	John Lord
Education & Discipleship	Derek Lancaster
Buildings & Fabric	Edgar Samuel
Communication	Derek Lancaster

## All Saints 2025 Report

The All Saints Church community are a wonderful and dedicated collection of people who gather before God each week to abide in heaven's love and grace and share this with all they encounter throughout High Wycombe; it a joy to be part of this family and serve them in their ministry. This report is but a small snapshot of their work throughout 2025.

### Weekly events.

Every week is begun with encountering God in the presence of Jesus at the Eucharist, with a few dedicated meetings for the Book of Common Prayer communion before the larger gathering of the church community at the Parish Eucharist service. Every Sunday evening is held in prayer, most in Evensong, choral at the start of each month, with the occasional *Led by the Spirit* Eucharist drawing a different community together in contemporary worship. Each week, services from various Christian communities are held by Maureen Lampard (LLM) at Hughenden Garden Village, a local retirement community.

Each day of the week, the Mustard Seed Café is open to welcome visitors and regulars alike through our doors, run by a diverse and dedicated group of volunteers. On Mondays a glorious Lunchtime Concert draws in a full church to hear together the gift of music and Monday evenings see the Bell ringers practising their talents and the majestic sound is heard throughout the valley. For the beginning of 2025, a *Connections* Support Drop-in and NHS advice service regularly met clients in the church but closed their involvement in March. Every Tuesday evening those who are homeless, the vulnerably housed, and some others come together to share a meal at the Mustard Seed Club, with volunteers from across the wider community. On Thursday evenings, the choir practises under the auspices of our Music Director and our Organist. The week is almost closed by Small Saints meeting together on Fridays for play and worship. Barring Lent, the flower ladies decorate the church with some amazing arrangements while our excellent cleaner keeps the place sparkling.

### Monthly and irregular events

The Repair Café meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in church to reuse and recycle that which might otherwise be thrown away. The Drawing Together group meets monthly to be creative and produce art around a table of conversation and friendship. A Men's Group meets on occasion to draw together and talk over some food and drink. A Craft Group comes into church on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays to create individual or group projects, and hold friendship together. YouShape, a discipleship group for 18-30s in collaboration with St Andrews, began in September and Soul Mates, a walking and social group, in October. To celebrate Black history month, there was an informative display in church which attracted much interest and a school visit. Each month, services were held in Shelburne Lodge, Little Oaks, and Royal Star and Garter care homes.

## Events through the year

2025 saw 12 baptisms, 5 confirmations, 2 weddings, 2 wedding blessings, 2 memorials, and 20 funerals celebrated at or through All Saints. We also held 22 differing services, from memorials to Harvest Festivals and Carol Services, and 11 concerts from some very talented groups. And 5 schools and other

organisations arranged to visit and tour the church building. Especially joyful was the attendance at Easter (284) and at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols (270), not including those online.

### January-February

As the year began and we celebrated Epiphany together with the *blessing of the chalk*, sending everyone home to mark their lintels with 20+C+M+B+25 to bless the year in the darkest of months. Towards the end of January, wedding couples for the year met together in preparation for their big days. The PCC worked on an audit of our church, which was begun in November 2024, exploring our relationships with God, ourselves, our neighbours (near and far) and our world to discover where our mission as a community might be in the near future.

February began with the (Deputy) Churchwardens' thank you to the many volunteers who serve the parish, enabling the mission of the church.

### March-April

March began with a wonderful celebration of welcome to +Dave Bull, the new Bishop of Buckingham, with people gathering from across the Archdeaconry, appropriately on St David's Day. Our new Operations Coordinator, Sharon Gausman, was appointed in March. Fr Anthony beat Robyn Connelly (the Children and Families Minister) at a Pancake Race at the Church of England School (cheating was alleged) on Shrove Tuesday. Lent Groups, led by Michelle Neudecker and Fr Anthony, started reading and discussing the novel *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin. Lent also included prayer walks, lunches, and the Creation Care team produced a Lent booklet, *Living Hope*, to help people reflect and act on the mission to safeguard creation. Theology talks were given and discussed on the Christian Mystics and the *Via Negative*.

April began with Daniel Connelly building a new Easter Garden to be decorated by the children of the parish on Maundy Thursday. At Passiontide, the reredos and statues were covered as we faded the church further in Lent. Palm Sunday began traditionally outside with the waving of the palms under the Guild Hall and the Passion from Luke was sung in a setting by Ludovico da Viadana (1560-1627). Holy Week had a series of meditations on the senses, sight, sound and smell; leading us into the foot and hand washing of Maundy Thursday. Good Friday meditations were based on *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with appropriate musical intervals before the choir sang the Passion from John's gospel in the Last Hour. Easter awoke to the fire outside the West door and Derek Lancaster sang the *Exsultet* before we settled down to breakfast.

During the Vestry Meeting before the APCM, Andy Buchanan was voted in and welcomed as our Churchwarden.

## May-June

In May we celebrated with the joy-filled licensing and installation of Rev. Azita Jabbari at St Francis, Terriers, as she joined the ministry teams there and at All Saints. A VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service was held on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

June's highlights included a Pentecost Picnic in the museum gardens.

## July-August

July began with the Spirit-filled Ordination of Fr Joshua Harris at Christchurch, Oxford, and his official arrival at All Saints as our curate. A service to remember VE/VJ Days was held at the Burma Memorial, Micklefield on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

A Pride Service was celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> August with members of the LGBTQIA+ community gathering in the church to hear again that they are loved by God. The church had a stall at Pride and cakes were given out and the whole community marched together. Fr Anthony talked on the 'Terror Texts' and on God's love for all.

## September-October

At the start of September, the PCC and a few interested others met in church for a Vision Day, using the results of the audit which began in November to start plans for our vision and mission into the future. We used the serious play of Lego to visualise our church community and create a Vision Grid to enable our planning and action.

<b>Mission</b>	To offer an inclusive welcome, supporting our community to draw closer to God.		
<b>Vision</b>	To be like a Spirit-filled garden embracing God's creation and all people, as we grow in the Gospel.		
<b>Promises</b>	<b>Learning Promise</b> Growing our faith	<b>Green Promise</b> Nurturing our environment.	
	<b>Inclusion Promise</b> Offering acceptance and hospitality to all	<b>Justice Promise</b> Taking action to stand with the oppressed and disadvantaged.	
<b>Spirit</b>	A heart for Jesus that listens to the Spirit who guides, inspires and empowers us to fulfil our promises.		
<b>Values</b>	ComPASSIONate † Discipling	Proclaiming Inclusive	Serving Justice-seeking

Sadly, Fr Anthony's mother died in September after suffering a stroke in March and Rev Jackie Lock expertly took up the reins, aided by the Ministry Team, while Fr Anthony took the time needed.

A Battle of Britain service was held outside around the memorial on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. A quiz night on 19<sup>th</sup> September drew us together in some social laughter and on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, the ministry

team welcomed the march for the Prophet's Birthday as the Muslim community came past the church and Laurence Smy spoke on behalf of All Saints. September also saw Michelle Neudecker begin her course as our trainee LLM, continuing her journey of vocation and service.

In October, two groups met to work through the Bible Society's *Bible Course*.

### **November-December**

The Civic Remembrance was held at All Saints on 9<sup>th</sup> November with a packed church, and Remembrance Services also held at BNU and Royal Star and Garter on 11th November. On the 15<sup>th</sup>

November, the town's Christmas Lights were switched on and we invited people into church to write their Christmas prayers and for children to build their own Christingles.

November is also a month of remembering those who have died at our All Souls service on 1<sup>st</sup> November, to bring them to heart and mind, and hold them and those who grieve before God in prayer.

At the service of Christ the King, some more of our young people were admitted to communion and November closed with the glorious Advent Carols on the 30<sup>th</sup>; marking the beginning of the new liturgical year.

The Christmas Fayre was held 6<sup>th</sup> December with a church packed with craft stalls, live music, carol singing, and hand-bell ringing. The Christmas Tree Festival trees came into church on 17<sup>th</sup> December and were decorated within an inch of their foliage, and we celebrated with a marvellous Sparkle Evening on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Eve drew us into the tenderness of the Crib service as we gathered in the round around the crib and children dressed as characters from the Nativity story processed around the church with (electric) candles. We welcomed the Christ-child once more into our lives with a solemn and beautiful Midnight Mass and a more lively Christmas morning Eucharist, complete with the opening of presents during the sermon by Fr Josh.

### **Thanks**

A huge thank you goes out to all the wonderful staff and volunteers who make all this possible. Particular thanks must go to Andy Buchanan who stepped up to be our churchwarden, to Mark Johnson who left us in February, and to Thistle Martin who has worked so hard throughout. All this is, as always, only possible by the dedication of the church who look to the mission of Jesus, to offer an inclusive welcome and support our community to draw closer to God. Well done to all and thank you.

**Fr Anthony Searle**  
**Team Rector and Vicar at All Saints**

## **Mission & Evangelism**

### **Introduction**

The Church of England describes five 'marks' of mission as:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The following reports highlight some of the All Saints activities where we are striving to demonstrate these beliefs.

## **Arts and Spirituality**

### **All Saints Gallery**

This year we have just displayed work produced in our monthly Drawing Together sessions as last year, it proved difficult to get work from schools on a regular basis. If anyone has a connection with a local school and could facilitate this I would be very grateful.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

The eleventh tree festival was a great success and after the torrential rain on the first day, a wonderful way of welcoming visitors into the church and providing local charities and schools with the opportunity to showcase their work to the community. We already have a number of new groups wanting to be involved this year.

### **Drawing Together**

Joc Lucas and I have been running this monthly art group for over 2 years now and have a group of people who come regularly. We have explored a number of different techniques for producing art, including a couple of sessions on collage and a series of sessions focusing on watercolour techniques. We have just started a series on printing which was great fun, if a little messy. The aim of the sessions is not necessarily to produce finished pieces, but to provide time for participants, some new to church, to engage with each other in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere while discovering new ways of drawing and improving concentration and observational skills. Sessions have been fun as well as instructive.

## **Forward planning**

Drawing Together sessions will continue during term time, usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Last year was rather a tricky year and I did not manage to arrange any art days. Joc and I are

hoping to extend some of the work done in our sessions to a longer session, possibly at a weekend. These include:

- Printing - Mono printing, tetra pack printing, gel printing. Possibly using the paper we made last year to create cards and pictures, Cyanotype printing.
- Model making - clay, papier-mâché.

*Thistle Martin*

## **Bellringers**

The year started with the continuing saga of the tower steps. Further remedial work was carried out on a couple of occasions in January and February. The end result isn't what we were hoping for but we will have to live with what we now have.

We continue to practise on Monday evenings and ring regularly for Sunday morning and some evening services. We also rang for two weddings, a blessing and the Mayor Making Ceremony. Our numbers are growing with the arrival of a family of two ready-made adult ringers and their daughter, and of two new recruits. This should enable us to ring more of our bells more frequently and to advance our "method" ringing.

We ring quarter peals (about 50 minutes of continuous ringing) for special occasions and on some Sundays after Evensong so that the evening congregation get to hear the bells. Special events marked included the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, in memory of Kathleen Peatey and a half muffled quarter peal was rung on Remembrance Sunday.

Our annual dinner took place in April at the Olive Tree in the High Street. Our annual ringing outing in July was to Milton and East Ilsley in Berkshire, followed by a well-earned pub lunch. One of the joys of bell ringing is to visit other churches and to ring on different bells, and it is very good practice for our less experienced members.

We also take part in striking competitions to challenge ourselves to ring the best we can against other teams. We represented the East Berks and South Bucks Branch in the Oxford Diocesan Guild 6-bell competition held at Cuddesdon, taking 4<sup>th</sup> place, and our "B" band qualified for the final of a local knock-out competition and collected the runners up trophy. Several members of our band rang for the Branch in the Guild 8-bell competition at Benson (where they came 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the Guild 10-bell competition at Long Crendon (which they won). The 10-bell band will represent the Guild in a national competition at Tewkesbury Abbey in May.

The clock continues to be problematic. The hands on the west face remain disconnected and the mains switch tripped on numerous occasions during the year. Whilst we are able to restart the clock we cannot adjust the chimes so they have remained disconnected for much of the year.

The other problem we had during the year was with the flag. A flag was raised for Wycombe Pride but it wrapped itself round the flagpole and when we came to lower it the top toggle slipped and the flag remained hanging on one corner for several weeks. Thankfully Fr Anthony, with expert help, managed to release it with a fishing pole in time to raise the Union Flag for Remembrance.

*Patricia Newton*

## **Buildings & Fabric**

The Fabric Committee continues to hold meetings and conducts internal and external inspections to identify and troubleshoot broken or damaged parts of the building and its contents.

### **Internal**

There is no new major maintenance work currently undertaken inside AS, although the Shelbourne Monument came under discussion for a clean-up. No relevant company have emerged from which to get an estimate. There is a suggestion that hot soapy water applied with a sponge may improve its current condition. We are loath to even attempt this course of action without professional advice.

A call went out for volunteers to carry out a Spring clean-up. The response was very good, and that was successfully undertaken a few weeks ago.

The blown chandelier bulbs were partly replaced. The task was incomplete as we ran out of bulbs but we have recently acquired a fresh supply so that can be ticked off.

### **External**

The acquisition of the gate for the North entrance to the church yard is proving to be invaluable. As there is no more parking on the gravestones, fresh grass has grown to cover the churned-up areas caused by the unauthorised parking.

It is now roof cleaning season, which is the next project to be undertaken, and an in-house inspection is required to assess the size of that task.

### **3 Castle Place**

The reported leaking roof has now been satisfactorily repaired.

If you would like to volunteer to join the Fabric Committee especially if you have a special interest or expertise in this area, please contact me.

*Edgar Samuel*  
*Deputy Honorary Churchwarden*

## **Children, Youth, and Families Ministry**

This year has continued to see encouraging engagement in our ministry with children and families at All Saints. Through worship opportunities, partnerships with local schools, and creative community outreach, we have been able to connect with a wide range of children and families both within the congregation and across the town.

### **Worship within All Saints Services**

Ark and Small Saints remain an important part of church life. Ark meets fortnightly during Sunday services, while Small Saints gathers weekly on Fridays. Both groups provide a welcoming and creative space where children can explore Bible stories, prayer, and teaching through crafts, storytelling, and discussion.

Children's participation within church services has been especially valued throughout the year. At Pentecost, a group of children confidently led the poetic Pentecost reading, which was warmly received by the congregation. Seasonal services such as Harvest, Easter, and the Crib Service at Christmas have also included meaningful contributions from children and young people, reminding the congregation that they are an important part of our worshipping community.

During Holy Week, families helped create an Easter Garden within the church, offering a reflective and creative way to engage with the Easter story. Easter Sunday was also a joyful occasion, with close to fifty children taking part in the Easter egg hunt following the service.

Later in the year, seven children prepared for admission to Holy Communion alongside their parents using the *I Belong* course. The children were admitted to Communion during the Feast of Christ the King, marking an important milestone in their faith journey.

### **School and Educational Engagement**

Our partnerships with local schools remain central to this ministry. At the High Wycombe Church of England School, the year began with a whole-school blessing with holy water, accompanied by an assembly explaining the significance of the tradition. Regular clergy and minister led collective worship has continued throughout the year, alongside events such as a Pancake Day race and voluntary Ash Wednesday ashing for the school community.

A significant development for myself this year is being invited to lead Godly Play sessions within the school. These sessions allow children to explore Bible stories through storytelling, reflection, and creativity in a calm and engaging environment, and has been fundamental in cementing the positive relationships that I have been able to build with the children and the staff over the past few years.

School visits to the church have also continued to support the RE curriculum. For example, Year 4 pupils from the HW Church of England visited to explore the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist, asking thoughtful questions and lighting candles. Seasonal services, including Harvest and Advent carol services, have also brought many pupils and families into the church building.

## **Community Outreach and Collaborative Efforts**

Community engagement has remained an important part of the ministry. During the summer holidays we hosted “Terrific Tuesdays,” a series of free arts and crafts sessions for local families run in collaboration with Refresh the Marketplace and Buckinghamshire New University. These sessions offered accessible activities during the school holidays and were well attended by local families.

Lighthouse High Wycombe was once again a highlight of the summer, with strong participation from volunteers and children connected with All Saints. The church also welcomed groups such as the 16th HW All Saints Scout Group, who visited as part of their faith badge programme.

During Advent, our Christingle celebrations took on a more missional approach linked to the town’s Christmas Lights Switch On. Through a Christingle trail, in-church blessings, and take-home Christingle packs, around one hundred people engaged with the event, many of whom were not regular members of the congregation.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the dedication of volunteers, the support of families, and the strong partnerships with schools and community organisations that make this ministry possible. Looking ahead, we hope to continue building on these relationships and creating opportunities for children, young people, and their families to feel welcomed and valued within the life of All Saints.

***Robyn Connelly***  
***Children’s and Families Minister***

## **Communications**

Our principal means of communication for the congregation continues to be the weekly Parish News, with the website reaching a wider audience. Lis Burns continues to keep the latter regularly updated and is always happy to receive any updates that help us promote our activities. Alongside these, the usual posters and cards were produced at Easter, and for Advent and Christmas including the Christmas Tree Festival. Our facebook page, [facebook.com/allsaintshw](https://facebook.com/allsaintshw), also has regular posts about our activities, and this year Joc Lucas has added Instagram for some of the Creation Care items – this latter could be used more widely.

In Autumn, Joc Lucas designed a series of excellent new welcome posters for our entrance lobby mounted in new display stands. More recently, this is being extended to the external signage with the purchase of new pavement boards. The new-look style developed for these is intended to emphasise

our aspiration for a fully inclusive welcome, echoing the work in progress across the congregation towards a revised vision.

***Derek Lancaster,  
LLM***

Website: [allsaintshighwycombe.org](http://allsaintshighwycombe.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/AllSaintsHW](https://facebook.com/AllSaintsHW)

YouTube: [Youtube.com/@allsaintshw](https://Youtube.com/@allsaintshw)

X: [x.com/AllSaintsHW](https://x.com/AllSaintsHW)

Instagram: [instagram.com/allsaintshw](https://instagram.com/allsaintshw)

## **Craft Group**

The Craft Group continues to meet every few weeks on a Sunday afternoon in church. Our aim remains to learn new skills, engage in Craft based community projects, raise funds for charity and all whilst enjoying each other's company.

Our ever popular 2025 Easter crafts raised £72.50 for church funds.

Our next project involved making a very special wheelchair lap quilt for Pam Salinas's daughter in law, Anne, who had contracted the severest form of Guillain - Barré Syndrome in 2015. It was a

predominantly yellow quilt, Anne's favourite colour. It was finished and handed over in August, just in time for her 25th wedding anniversary.

In November, our handmade felt poppies, both red and purple, raised £327.42 for the Royal British Legion's annual appeal, bringing our total raised, since 2018, for this important charity to £2,329.42

Stir Up Sunday this year involved stirring a basic flapjack recipe. Weighed bags of the mixture were then taken home by members of the congregation to have chocolate/nuts/dried fruit/spices etc., added, before baking and selling on the Christmas Craft Fayre cake stall.

The Christmas Craft Fayre was a wonderful event once again. Last year's successful Hamper Raffle was repeated and improved upon. Our newest volunteer offered to personally approach a variety of local companies and shops, which yielded fantastic results. The donated, high-class goods/vouchers were added to the hampers making them very luxurious indeed. The Craft Fayre raised a total of £2946.09, 13% up on last year, the increase largely due to Hamper Raffle ticket sales. An enormous thank you goes to all the very many (60 +) volunteers from the church community who helped in so many different ways to ensure the success of this annual, community event.

Since Christmas the Craft Group have only met 3 times due to the church afternoon slot being unavailable for us to book. As a result, we have had no Easter Craft to sell and our numbers have declined by half, leaving a core of 6 or 7, half of whom belong to other churches. The Altar Frontal's progress has suffered as a direct result.

The Craft Group welcomes new members at any time. The cost is £1 per session and an occasional baked cake for tea, but no long-term commitment is required. Come and see.....there is ALWAYS tea and cake! Total monies raised this year- £3346.01

***Helen Cousins***

## **Creation Care**

We are working towards bronze status using A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme, which has been set up to equip churches in England and Wales to care for creation, by working on the following 5 areas:

### **Worship and Teaching**

- A booklet and activities for Lent were created again for 2026 and given out, and an explanation was given during notices each week that offered a Creation theme to follow Lent.
- Caring for the environment and God's creation is being included in sermons and prayers more regularly.
- Music - Hymn choices are being included with Creation themes more regularly
- Look into more ways of worship that meet outdoors e.g. Forest Church, Muddy Church, Messy Church Goes Wild, prayer walks, contemplative liturgy.
- Look into ways of improving resources, like local/seasonal flowers, foam-free arrangements, non-fossil fuel wax candles and organic wine.
- In 2025 we drew up a policy, which has been adopted by All Saints PCC, to ensure creation care is taken into account in all our decisions about the church, with oversight by the creation care team.

### **Buildings and Energy:**

- Currently, our carbon footprint is 65 tonnes CO2 per year, which sits within the highest category of the Eco church survey.
- We want to develop a Climate Resilience Action Plan (e.g., heat/cold/flooding)
- We carried out a preliminary exploration of how we can move to net-zero energy usage, including a boiler replacement project, and possible funding options. Now handed over to the fabric committee to progress and look into the feasibility study.

### **Land and nature:**

- We intend to develop a plan to manage our land for nature and climate resilience, building on the environmental study Gareth did, and regularly review the impact. One example is to create an environment in the Churchyard that supports wildlife species under threat (there's a list available on the A Rocha website), e.g., Swifts, bullfinch, Moths, etc. We will identify 3 T25 species we can support and the actions we can take with planting.
- Ensure any plans for the churchyard outside of the Creation Care group, include consideration and support for the protection of the species we can help.
- Encourage the congregation to identify wildlife present and report online (we have a baseline in the eco survey that was done)
- Churchyard improvements led by Andy Buchanan and Derek Lancaster - The CCTV is in place, and with the lockable gate and parking permits, assistance of Bucks council, Bidco, Chiltern
-

Rangers, Community Service, Police and more frequent patrols, it seems to be working in reducing the antisocial behaviour.

- The Creation Care group distributed seeds in 2024 for the congregation to grow, with a view to new planting in 2025. A small plot has been created and although larger planting schemes are in the process of being considered for the whole churchyard, we hope to extend the small patch of wildflowers more this year and every year with further plant donations and seeds running up to and during the Big Green Week in June.

### **Community and global engagement:**

- Develop a plan for wider action on the climate crisis and justice by:
  - Engaging with housing/transport/air and water quality/ use of plastic/food production campaigns locally, nationally and globally. E.g. Locally, could be more and better pavements to encourage walking, improved local transport, more cycling lanes and routes, open up the river in Wycombe or Support rural farms and farming issues.
  - Selecting an environmental charity to support as a church to get behind. We want to see what other team churches are engaged in, anything in the Wycombe team area we can support and consult with the congregation. E.g. Chiltern Society, Wycombe Society,

Rewild the Church - The movement for the Church of England to protect 30% of UK land for nature by 2030 by asking our local Synod to sign the Revd Canon Val Plumb Private Members' Motion to bring this debate to the main General Synod meeting in July. More information can be found here:

<https://www.operationnoah.org/general-synod-environmental-round-up-february-2026/>

- In September 2025 during Creationside, we put up a display on our Creation Care achievements, plans and eco church survey progress. We want to create a plan to engage with more people about the group; we would like more voices and enthusiasts who wish to protect and be involved in God's creation.
- In December 2025, we ran a Fairtrade stall at Craft Fayre and raised £211.00 for the organisation.
- In January 2026 we encouraged the congregation to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch for the RSPB.

### **Lifestyle**

- Plan to research into green and ethical firms for banking/pensions, Ai and social media platforms and seek out areas we can make a difference through our lifestyle choices.

*Jocelyn Lucas*

## **Flowers**

Our flower team have been hard at work again this year maintaining the lovely flower arrangements every week in church. New flower arrangers would be very welcome to join us, we are always willing to help new people, even if you are a complete novice. We also would appreciate regular help with watering to keep everything looking fresh, extra general help is much needed at Easter and Harvest. If you have a large garden with foliage that we could use, especially for special occasions I will be very glad to do a little pruning!

We are continuing to have a pedestal of flowers in memory of loved ones, let us know when you would like to contribute a special arrangement.

We are very grateful to members of the congregation who occasionally contribute towards the cost of flowers which continue to add to the beauty of our church.

*Janet Pearson*

## **Liturgy and Music**

Regular services continued in their usual pattern – the Team Rector’s report sets out the highlights. Overall, attendance is up for many services – the Lord is adding to our number!

The choir has continued to sing under the expert direction of Philip Wayne and Oliver Roberts every Sunday morning, and a monthly Choral Evensong as well as other key holy days and quality continues

to be high. We continue to benefit from a number of regular extra singers at Choral services, and we now have some new singers on Sunday mornings. We always welcome more singers, so if you’re interested, please speak to the Director of Music. The choir has been accompanied on the Allen digital organ, which provides very good support as we continue to look to restore the Willis organ.

The Thursday Eucharist continues to be popular – a said service in contemporary language, with a short sermon and the opportunity for social time afterwards in the Mustard Seed Café. The other weekday Morning Prayer and Eucharists are sparsely attended, but they sustain a pattern of regular prayer each week in our building. The services are said, and short, so easy to attend if you’re able to come at 0900. Morning Prayer on Tuesdays is also livestreamed to our facebook page.

Our livestreaming of all main services was extended to both Facebook and YouTube, with the latter being much easier for people to access. This takes considerable preparation, and thanks are due to Barry Titchen for all he has done to enable this. A small team of operators is now in place, and it’s especially good to see young people serving in this way. We also provide livestreaming for funerals in church where requested.

Beyond the Church itself, we have a regular ministry offering services in care homes - The Royal star and Garter, Little Oaks, and Shelburne Lodge. We also continue to coordinate weekly services at Hughenden Garden Village as part of the ecumenical Christian Fellowship there.

The regular Led by the Spirit Eucharists also continued – these are our contemporary catholic charismatic services inspired by On Fire Mission. They combine traditional liturgy with contemporary music led by a band which has grown in numbers and produces an excellent sound under the direction of Sacha Tomkins. This service is designed to attract people from a wider area than our other services and is advertised at diocesan and deanery level, as well as more widely via On Fire Mission. The service is always followed by delicious refreshments produced under the leadership of Dawn Segrue, and this offers a great opportunity for fellowship.

Thank you to all who offer their time and skills to make our liturgy and music a worthwhile offering of worship to God.

***Derek Lancaster***  
***LLM***

## **Lunch Time Recitals**

I continue to be proud of my association with the series of Monday lunch time concerts here at All Saints'; a fine piece of teamwork in the Church that provides a focus for members of the local community to be uplifted by contact with both the Church and with some of the finest of the classical music repertoire, performed to very high standards.

I remain extremely grateful to the previous Church Wardens, Lis and Jenni, Thistle in the Church Office, the Clergy, the Monday Welcomers and the Church Activities Team for all the support they have given and continue to give to me in keeping the concerts running smoothly.

The concerts continue to run weekly, roughly in phase with school term times, except for during the season of Advent, a very busy one for the Church. This gives us about 34 concerts per year: 12 between September and November, 12 between January and late March or early April [depending on the timing of Holy Week and Easter], and 10 between April and July.

Musicians continue to write in regularly to us asking to arrange first concerts here, and many have become regular returners, to the delight of our audiences. The result of this is that, without any credit to me, the schedule of concerts is now fully booked up until the middle of 2027!

Moreover, I've been very pleased to find an increase in the number of players and singers whom I now call my 'list of reservists', willing to be called upon at short notice to 'stand in' for those compelled to cancel.

Thus, the necessity remains largely avoided for me to impose my own vocal and bassoon recitals on our audiences for the sake of avoiding complete cancellation of a concert; but on the few occasions when this has happened, I've been extremely grateful to Avril Thompson from our choir for her piano accompaniment.

Audiences have also continued to grow in size, sometimes now reaching figures in excess of 80, even usually now exceeding 60.

I hope that some of the profits from the concerts might also go towards the cost of work that we all know needs to be done to the church organ: many of our Monday audiences like to hear organ recitals, and a well-functioning organ would help to attract players.

In addition, I understand that the level of profit has now become so high that there is a substantial surplus, which I gather has already helped to finance a couple of other, important church projects in our community.

For the future, therefore, my plan remains to try to give higher priority to making space in the concert schedules for more school groups, occasional organ recitals, more singers and more instruments instead of or in addition to the piano.

*Julian Brockless,*

## **Mustard Club**

We continue to operate each Tuesday evening, guests are allowed in at 6.30 (earlier if it is cold and they are waiting outside) and they generally leave just after 8.30 onwards. Increasingly more stay on to help with clearing away. Sadly we miss Rosie and the Mormons who had to return to Utah in November. I think she misses us as much if not more! Last night some of the group that replaced them came with a pudding and bags of goodies for our guests so we hope it will develop into another long-term relationship. We provide a two-course meal, social time and games are on hand if they choose to play; mainly draughts, chess and cards.

Chris, who with me, started the Mustard Club many years ago when we realised that after the night shelter there was very little on offer to people who found themselves homeless or in vulnerable situations, has had a challenging year health wise and after months of absence has started to return and help with the checking in. Everyone is so pleased to see her! Fran had taken over her role meanwhile for which we are grateful. We struggle with finding cooks while the night shelter is on. Maz Hussein continues to do the first Tuesday each month and produce the Christmas dinner. He invited our guests to attend an event to celebrate Ramadan involving the whole community in the Eden Centre a few weeks ago but sadly didn't realise that several of our guests were banned from the Eden so we won't make that mistake again. Shanti always produces a meal on the second Tuesday. Neither of them charge for ingredients. We organise a rota for the remaining days. Rita from the congregation volunteers on alternate weeks as a result of Father Anthony's appeal. Recently Josh and Father Anthony have been coming on alternate evenings and the guests love this! ...they are so approachable and friendly and more importantly very hands-on. We have really appreciated the time Finn has given us, particularly as he is so young and he is hardworking, helping with the washing-up and monitors outside for us as guests come in or go out for a smoke and above all is friendly and approachable. Sadly for us, he will soon be preparing for exams and we will really miss him but wish him well. We will continue to see him in the choir. Rosemary has returned from New Zealand I am glad to say as we have missed her cooking. Jacqui too has come back after administering to her aunt. Katherine continues to be an invaluable help!

The guests are generally appreciative and cause no problems but occasionally incidents do occur and are dealt with appropriately. We have recently reintroduced a meeting of volunteers just before the guests come in. This is mainly to catch up with them and their feelings. We are in the process of updating the guidelines to place on the guest tables to make explicit what is expected of them.

Members of the public occasionally pop their heads around the door and ask if they can come in and pray or to look around. We may allow them to come in for the former if we can supervise it safely but never the latter.

It continues to be a joy serving people in this way and we hope to be able to continue to do so for many years to come. Please contact me if you have any calling to join us, we would love to have you.

*Sheila Doig*

## **Mustard seed café**

We are grateful to all the people who work in the cafe. This is a centre point for the church to which a lot of people rely on coming and having a friendly chat or a kind word. It is a lifeline for people, and our cafe staff are always there with a friendly smile and a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. We are lucky to have a regular team who come and work in the cafe on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, Talkback who have been visiting us for a number of years have had to stop coming. This is a great shame as they were very popular and worked hard and enjoyed their time here. We are always looking for volunteers if anyone would like to get involved they can contact myself.

*Sharon Gausman*  
*Church operations coordinator*

## **Oakley Hall**

The Oakley Hall trust is a trust separate from the PCC under which the PCC is the managing trustee. It has the benefit of a lease of the Oakley Hall (“the OH lease”) for 250 years from 1973 at a rent of £1 (plus insurance). The trusts terms include the use of the Oakley Hall as a church hall, parish rooms, and for any religious, charitable, or educational object, but with the proviso that should the premises be required for the accommodation of a unit of the Church Lads Brigade then provision should be made for them.

The Church has its offices in the building and five parking places which are granted with the lease. The church seldom uses the building except for Ark and the occasional meetings. We provide office facilities for the charity Wycombe Homeless Connection, and the Night Shelter currently rent Office 3. The two halls are used by All Stars preschool, the church *House of Refreshing Ministries*, Rainbows and Brownies, and Castle Street Dance Studios (CSDS). We also provide facilities for other

organisations when requested, for all of which we make a charge. The lack of a lift makes access to the Upper Hall difficult for some potential groups.

In October this year we lost Addiction Family Support as a tenant for Office 1 as most of their work has moved online. The office is currently empty, awaiting a decision from the committee to explore the possibility of commercial rental moving forward. In preparation for this, Phil Hynard kindly undertook to measure all the rooms to update the available plans. The committee is very grateful to him for taking the time to do this. There have been a couple of charities interested in renting Office 1.

The committee members have used their regular meetings to discuss long-term and short-term plans for maintenance, decoration and health and safety. To accommodate CSDS in the upstairs hall, it was agreed to install new hard flooring in the upstairs hall. Next on the list is the refurbishment of the downstairs toilets, and a long-term plan to replace the boilers.

*Eddie Samuel*  
*Oakley Hall Management Committee*

## **Parochial Church Council**

Regular meetings of the PCC took place in January, April (following the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual parochial church meeting) May, July, September and November. They were held in person in church and, with the exception of the April meeting, were preceded, a fortnight before, with a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meeting of the Standing Committee. PCC meetings are all held during the evening, beginning and ending in prayer and the September meeting traditionally begins with a PCC Eucharist.

The PCC comprises ex officio members of the clergy and the Church warden. There were an additional three members who attended as Deanery Synod representatives and thirteen other laity members; two of whom were co-opted. PCC members are elected to serve for three year from the APCM but in 2025, one of the laity members and one of the Deanery synod members stood down in May and November respectively for personal reasons.

The PCC members are charitable trustees, responsible for the financial affairs, maintenance of assets and promoting the Church mission, in particular relating to pastoral, social and ecumenical matters. There were many important projects discussed in 2025 including:

- Safeguarding matters at All Saints and more widely in the Church of England.
- The review of legal policies such as health and safety, working practices, employee matters.
- The PCC took part in a detailed Audit of All Saints, exploring relationships with God, ourselves, near and far neighbours to discover the future community mission.
- Structural matters and development proposals for Sound, Light and Space (SLS), Churchyard projects and Creation Care. Financial matters relating to this work.
- Local, National and International Charities supported by All Saints.
- Church operations, activities and the organisation of special services and events for all.

- Reports were given by the Deanery and Diocesan synod representatives and discussed to direct the church mission.
- Ensuring that All Saints continues to grow as an inclusive welcoming church.

The PCC above all represent the interests of the congregation in these important matters. Please come forward if you would like to find out more and participate in the work of the PCC.

*Jacqui Brearley*  
*PCC Secretary*

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is about rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep, offering appropriate support and celebrations. A great deal of the pastoral care that goes on at All Saints is done very quietly and unobtrusively as friends and family care for one another. However, there are specific ministries within the area of pastoral care that All Saints provides. These are:

**Pastoral Visits:** These are offered to any in the All Saints' community who may no longer be able to come to church or who are unable to keep in regular contact with All Saints whether on a short-term or on a more long-term basis.

In order to assist the Ministry Team in this important ministry, work began in Spring 2025 to set up a new Pastoral Visiting Team led by Elaine Dagnall. A role description and risk assessment were approved by the PCC in July 2025. A number of potential pastoral visitors were identified and invited to a coffee morning on 22 November 2025 to talk through the role. This was followed by an in-house training session, developed and delivered by the Revd Margot Suter from St Mary's Beaconsfield, on 24 January 2026. The new Pastoral Visitors also undertook online safeguarding training. The team was commissioned for service during the morning service on Sunday 8 March 2026. The Ministry Team also offers Holy Communion at home.

**Welcoming:** The church welcomers play a key role in pastoral care more generally as they present a friendly face and listen to visitors (both regular and occasional), responding to their needs, sometimes praying with them, or signposting them to organisations that are able to provide particular care and support.

**The Prayer Guild:** This meets monthly. Members have undertaken to pray regularly for a large number of people and situations, including many with long term illness and their families who care for them. This is a hidden but invaluable ministry.

**House-groups:** We currently have one house-group that meets on a regular basis for Bible study and prayer. The house-group members also provide pastoral care for each other. It is hoped that more house-groups will be established in the future. However, All Saints has a number of groups attached to it that offer informal care and support to their members.

**Baptisms:** In 2025 there were 13 baptisms, mostly children, in the course of the year. It is a joy to welcome new families as well as members of the congregation for baptism. We like to offer support on the day to the family, and would welcome more volunteers to be with them. It is an enjoyable ministry. Please talk to Jackie if this is something which you would like to be involved with – during the service or in other ways.

**Care homes:** Monthly services of Holy Communion take place in three homes within the parish: Little Oaks Care Home, Royal Star and Garter, and Shelburne Lodge. This ministry is now being shared among members of the Ministry Team. We are grateful to those who come to help with the singing and keyboard accompaniment, reading and assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion. Once again, we led the Remembrance Day Service at the Royal Star and Garter on 11 November 2025.

**Looking forward:** It is hoped that in 2026 we will develop a new Pastoral Care Scheme to articulate better, and give greater awareness of, our responsibility to care for each other through Christ-like love and to outline the support provided by All Saints.

*The Revd Jackie Lock  
Associate Priest  
Elaine Dagnall  
Pastoral Visiting Co-ordinator*

## **Safeguarding**

The All Saints safeguarding team, consisting of myself, Fr Anthony, Rev Jackie Lock, and Fr Josh Harris meet on a monthly basis to discuss new and current cases, and to work to ensure that the Parish

Dashboard is kept up to date as much as possible. All documents of a sensitive nature that are stored electronically are password protected, and all hard copy documents are stored under lock and key in a secure cabinet within the Parish Office.

The updated All Saints Safeguarding Policy is available to view on the noticeboard at the entrance to the church, in the entrance to the Oakley Hall, and in the church office; along with ways to contact various support networks should someone find themselves in need of support/need to make a disclosure.

Posters with contact details of myself and diocesan safeguarding leads are available in all the toilet cubicles so that information can be taken down in a private setting should it be required. Posters that alert people to the signs of domestic violence and/or what to do if domestic violence is suspected, is also available in all the toilet cubicles.

All members of the various teams within All Saints who deal with vulnerable adults and/or children are expected to complete Basic and often, Foundation safeguarding training modules available on the Oxford Diocese website – for more details as to who should complete what can be found at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> along with answers to frequently asked questions.

Some members of teams are subject to Enhanced DBS checks as long as they meet rather stringent criteria. We used ThirtyOneEight for our DBS checks during 2025.

Safeguarding remains a vital item on each PCC agenda, with regular discussions on related matters. The PCC has also adopted regular discussion of fictional case studies to ensure that everyone knows and can adopt best practice regarding matters of a safeguarding nature.

***Robyn Connelly***  
***Interim Parish Safeguarding Officer***

## ***Servers & Communion Assistants***

The serving team has continued to support the majority of the services during the last 12 months, the weekly Sunday services at 8am and 10am, evening services as required and additional services such as Ash Wednesday, Holy week and Ascension Day.

Since the start of this year we have welcomed two more younger member of the congregation into the serving team. The team of people who assist during the Sunday services and other special services comprises the following roles:

*8:00am Servers: Assist the Celebrant, take a Chalice,*  
*10:00am Servers: Assist either by carrying the Cross or by carrying a candle,*  
*Communion Assistants: Serve at Eucharist and other services by taking the chalices to distribute the wine at communion.*

Many thanks to all those who assist on a regular basis and for their dedication in this service for the Church. Training is available for all the different roles if anyone would like to join the existing team and new members would be very welcome, so if you are interested or would like further information please speak to us in Church or email [adtm@btinternet.com](mailto:adtm@btinternet.com).

***David and Alison Adamson***

## **Sidespeople**

Our Sidespeople greet us as we arrive at church and assist with the smooth running of services every Sunday, during the week and at special services throughout the year. We hand out service sheets, take and count the collection, help with queries, guide people at communion and assist with tidying up afterwards. I would like to offer a huge thankyou to our regular team of 19 sidespeople who help out about once a month, and to others who support as needed. It is a real privilege and joy to greet people at our services, and a great way to get to know and be known by the congregation!

I would like to extend our thanks to Tom and Ann Morter and Diana Hadley, who retired from sides duty at the end of 2025. I'm pleased that several new recruits have stepped forward in 2026, and I

would love to expand our team further. We warmly welcome anyone of any age to join us – no previous experience necessary, and full training will be given. Why not join us for a trial session?

*Sue Lord (Coordinator)*

## **Space, Light and Sound Project (SLSP)**

The current focus is to try and establish where we may be able access funding.

Fr Anthony & I met with Hector Sants in early February who was helpful in giving us his thoughts on our project document – the takeaways were:

- The existing report was very thorough but too long.
- We would need to raise at least 30% of the proposed sum ourselves.
- There are several sympathetic Christian focused organisations that may agree to invest smaller sums (circa £30k-£50k).
- We should prepare for a long haul and in his experience, it'll need someone working constantly on this to guarantee funding success.

It was agreed to approach the National Lottery first and a lengthy expression of interest was submitted at the end of January. Sadly, our application was declined and their reasons were:

- The project did not address their investment principles sufficiently enough for this level of funding. If considering a new expression of interest, we will need to address each of the Investment Principles more directly.
- The scope of the project and associated costs were unclear.
- The project did not seem to be structured according to their processes, timescales and requirements. This would include a two-stage application structure: Development phase and Delivery phase.

Fr Anthony and I have planned a follow up meeting to discuss their initial decision and I believe it is a paperwork issue rather than a project viability problem. We need to put forward the exact documents to best match their (current but sometimes changing) investment principles. All Saints can re-apply in 3 months.

English Heritage (now re branded as Historic England) do not offer funding to churches unless they have been declined by the National Lottery, so we'll have to wait and see. My proposal moving forward is for me to take lead ownership of both this project and matters such as events and anything that raises additional monies for ASHW.

*Andy Buchanan*  
**Churchwarden**

## Stewardship & Finance

This group manages & monitors our finances, encourages planned giving & supports each other. During 2025, the members were: John Lord, Barry Titchen, Lis Burns, Chris Lamb (Quarter 1), Jean Johnson & also (from April), Phil Hynard, Sue Lord & Sharon Gausman. Fr Anthony Searle is ex-officio on the team.

**2025:** The financial details are in the separate Trustees Report & Financial Statements, but here are some highlights:

Income from planned giving & fundraising were up, but 1-off donations, appeals & legacies were down on 2024. Expenditure was up from inflation, house maintenance & particularly a jump in utilities, following the end of a very good 3-year fixed-price deal. Church maintenance was down - implying a greater need to spend in 2026!

In normal budgetary terms, regular income was £265,805, against expenditure of £272,248, resulting in a deficit of £6,443. We also planned to increase the Mission & Ministry fund, for the new ministries of Fr Josh & Revd. Azita (Shared with St. Francis), who joined us in 2025. This was mainly met by £14,737 transferred from general funds (& £4,000 this February, from a gradual accumulation in the Café funds).

There were also unbudgeted 1-off grants of £3,255, reducing the accounts deficit to £3,188. Together with revaluation gains (tied up in property & a restricted endowment), the formal accounts show a surplus of £5,877.

**Planned Giving:** We are extremely grateful to the 99 households who have committed to giving regularly. This is our main income & what enables “Church” to happen. Please join if you can.

Many also make several 1-off donations. For all of the ways each of you contributes time, care, skills and money, once again **thank you for your generosity.**

Gift Aided standing orders were £90,329, an increase of £5,098 on 2024. Non gift aided Standing Orders were £12,419, an increase of £1,024, whilst The Envelope Scheme donations were £4,380, a decrease of £180. So, even with other reductions, this gave a really encouraging overall increase of 5.9% in Planned Giving.

Irregular giving, via Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes amounted to £3,314. Gift Aid donations for specific funds came to £24,823 & the total tax reclaimed for the year was £33,149. Only £2,000 is claimable without Gift Aid (GA) information, which was met after only 6 months. So, if you pay tax, please ensure that even small & card donations are made using a GA envelope, as this adds 25% to your gift, at no extra cost to you. **Complete the envelope**, add “Card” & the value.

**All Saints Gift Day** saw many generous responses: 16 households made single gifts totalling £5,532 (including GA). 6 joined Planned Giving & 26 increased. Although some donors have had to reduce or stop regular giving, this still amounts to a potential net increase of £9,670 a year. (With another £450 committed so far in 2026).

Other social & fundraising events, including the Quiz, Hymns with Pimms, evening & Lunchtime Concerts, Christmas Craft Fayre, Christmas Tree Festival & Sparkle, raised a net total of £11,154. These were great community activities, as well as providing vital funds, so extra thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make these events happen.

**2026:** As the Parish Share has increased by £25,275 from 2026, we expect to run deficits for the next 3 years, drawing on the accumulation in the Mission & Ministry fund. Although we hope to continue receiving an extremely generous donation towards Robyn's Children & Families ministry, this has previously been topped up by rent from 3 Castle Place. As that ended in May 2025 (for Josh to have a home), more funding for children, families & youth will need to come from regular giving.

It is hoped that the congregation will continue to grow & start or increase their regular giving over the next few years; to sustain these ministries, safeguard our work & build up our part of God's mission for the future.

Please contact us if you would like to help or discuss your contribution – many options are available.

**Finance Team:** As I stand down as Treasurer, I want to record my immense gratitude to the whole team, for their work, dedication & guidance throughout the year: Chris managed our Gift Aid for over

5 years, which Sue has taken over, Barry is passing much over to Phil & Jean to Sharon. Lis has provided oversight, guidance & backup. Also, thanks to Fr Anthony, the SLT & PCC for their awareness & support. I will continue to provide training & support to the team, but **the Treasurer vacancy urgently needs to be filled.**

*John Lord*  
*Acting honorary treasurer*

## Welcomers

We are grateful to all the people who welcome people into the church every day. This allows us to open every morning throughout the week to visitors. Their knowledge of the church is something that allows visitors to know more about All Saints and its history and what we have available for them to join in with if they so wish. We have a regular team who welcome on a regular basis. We are always looking for welcomers and if anyone would like to do this, please contact me.

*Sharon Gausman*  
*Church operations coordinator*

## **Wycombe Pride**

Wycombe Pride has become a regular feature in All Saints' calendar. It took place on Saturday, 23 August 2025 and is an annual community event which celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community. Wycombe Pride 2025 was fairly well attended with 35 local organisations taking part and advertising their services through stalls based in Paul's Row outside the Eden Centre (double the number than in 2024). However, the fact of it taking place during the bank holiday weekend prevented a number of people from taking part and especially reduced the involvement of students from Bucks New University, for example.

ASHW sees involvement in Wycombe Pride as a way to demonstrate God's inclusive love for all. We started the day with a Pride Service in church at 11.00. It was jointly led by ASHW and St Francis, Terriers. This attracted a number of attendees and was much appreciated. The Church and café were open for the rest of the afternoon. The Church provided a quiet space from the bustle outside.

ASHW also hosted a stall in Paul's Row. As well as giving out leaflets about ASHW and Inclusive Church, there was a prayer tree and, as in previous years, we gave out free cupcakes donated by members of the congregation. The cupcakes have proved popular in previous years and serve as a way of engaging with people. However, other organisations have now started using this tactic, so a re-think might be needed for 2026! The presence of clergy and other members of All Saints at the stall showed a visible face of All Saints (and the Church in general) to the local community. The opportunity also to network with other local organisations cannot be underestimated.

Members of ASHW took part in the Pride March around High Wycombe town centre and Fr. Anthony was one of the main speakers afterwards. He delivered an encouraging and heartfelt speech which was well received.

It took a great effort to make ASHW's involvement happen! A HUGE thank you must be given to everyone who contributed: setting up and putting down the stall, putting up the flags on the 2 flagpoles, developing and leading the Pride service (especially Oliver Roberts and Sacha Tomkins for

their musical input), making and giving out cupcakes, welcoming people at the stall and in church, serving people in the café, taking part in the march and helping things run smoothly behind the scenes. (Thank you to Thistle Martin in the AS Office for all her help and Derek Lancaster for sorting out online communications). I am grateful too for the support and contribution from St. Francis, Terriers. It was

a great example of teamwork and a good way of making ASHW both visible and welcoming, not just to the LGBTQIA+ community but to High Wycombe people as a whole.

This year the event will be taking place on 13 June 2026. June is also national Pride Month which will help with marketing the event. It should also help with better availability of people to take part, and Bucks New University are playing a major part in organising the event!

***Elaine Dagnall***

## **YouShape**

Since September I have been taking part in the Wycombe YouShape Group. This is a Diocesan initiative for 18-30s and is focused on providing a year for people in that age group to journey together and think more deeply about discipleship. The Wycombe hub is run in collaboration between our parish and St Andrews. There have been two members from All Saints congregation taking part and it has been a joy to support them through the programme. Both seem to have enjoyed the year so far which has included so far monthly meetings, a residential, and a quiet day. There is a pilgrimage scheduled for the end of May. It has also been good getting to mix with other young Christians across Wycombe and the wider Diocese. It has been hard to regularly get together due to the busy and transient nature of the lives of people in the age bracket but when we have met it has been fruitful. It is due to run again starting in September although currently I am not sure what my or All Saints' involvement is meant to be for that.

*Fr. Joshua Harris*

## **18-30s Group**

My desire to start a wider 18-30s group grew out of a recognition of the limitations of the YouShape programme. I wanted to create a group that was more unique to All Saints and allowed people to join at any time. We had an initial first meeting in January with three keen members of the congregation who shared ideas and what they would like to see in such a group. We had a second meeting in February at a time that might work better for people although this was less well attended. Whilst there are more 18-30s coming to our church than many might think, they often disappear quickly after services, and all of them are incredibly busy.

At the time of writing, it is currently on pause for Lent while I try to figure out what might work best for the next stage of the group. But I have a keep hope that it will be able to provide a safe and flourishing space for young adults in our congregation.

*Fr. Joshua Harris*