Parish of Harpenden
Parishioners' Meeting and APCM

Wednesday 20 May 2026

at

All Saints' Church at 7.45pm







Agenda for Parishioner's Meeting followed by APCM
Wednesday 20 May 2026
All Saints Church, 7.45pm

CONNECT, BELONG, SHARE, GROW
Our mission is to build connections, encourage belonging, and share an appealing faith that grows a vibrant Christian community at every stage of life.
We are an inclusive church, called to be caring, loving and welcoming to all.

7.45pm Meeting of Parishioners to elect Parish Wardens

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Election of Parish Wardens
   Re-elect Andrew Marsh proposed by Tim Halstead and seconded by Vicky Platt
   and Tamsen Wallis proposed by Catherine Argyle and seconded by Katharine Pearse

8.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of APCM held on 19 May 2025

3. Election of Representatives to the PCC to fill the following vacancies:
   St Mary's: *(one vacancy)*
   St Nicholas: (*five vacancies)*
   All Saints: (*two vacancies)*

4. Election of Representatives to Deanery Synod
   (Three vacancies)
   a. Ann Halstead proposed by Tamsen Wallis and seconded by Michelle McCulloch
   b. Jenny Goulding

5. To receive:
   (a) Annual Finance Report and
   (b) To approve Jahangir Alam as Independent Examiner

5. To receive reports on:
   (a) The Deanery Synod
   (b) Parochial Church Council
   (c) Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
   (d) Electoral Roll
   (e) Safeguarding

6. Any other matter of parochial or general church interest:
   (a) Reports from District Churches on highlights of 2025
   (b) Rector's remarks
   (c) Open discussion/questions on any other matter of parochial or general interest

Notes:
1 Nominations for Church Warden, and PCC vacancies may be made on the evening.

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Parish of Harpenden

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and MINUTES of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING for the PARISH OF HARPENDEN held on MONDAY 19 MAY 2025 at 7.45pm at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH and by ZOOM

The meeting was opened with a reading and a prayer.

The Rector explained that those following the meetings on ZOOM were able to observe proceedings and able to vote.

MINUTES of the MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to elect CHURCH WARDENS

Churchwardens elected:

1) **Tamsen Wallis** (St Nicholas')
   Proposed by Tim Halstead
   Seconded by Vicky Platt

No abstentions or against.

2) **Andrew Marsh** (St Nicholas')
   Proposed by Thomas Anthony
   Seconded by Tamsen Wallis

No abstentions or against.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING for the PARISH of HARPENDEN

Chair:
The Rector – Revd Patrick Moriarty

Present:
Chris Powell, Katharine Pearse, Andrew Marsh, Scholastica Brimley, Tim Halstead, Tamsen Wallis, Brenda Elliott, Sally Hickman, Brenda Marshall, Rachael Threlfall, Nick Threlfall, Rosemary McNamara, Liz Nichols, Loretta Ramswell, Jack Hopgood, Jenny Clark, Nick Goulding, Ann Bisbrown-Lee, David Bisbrown-Lee, Judith Card, Elizabeth Card, Sue Alexander, Revd Sally Goodson, Sue Inglis, Ruth Stannard, Nina Featherstone, Kevin Featherstone, Alec Innes, Vicky Platt, Fred Pointon, Janet Pointon, Revd James Brown, Pauline Gilbert, Tony Gilbert, Julie Aldridge, Alan Stranders, Pamela Woodford-Smith, Ian Woodford-Smith, Nicky Fletcher, Sara Harvey

Via Zoom
Michelle McCulloch
Tina Karema

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mike Swain, Ro Marriott, Anne McDougall, Keith Davenport, Marion Donaldson, Kirsteen Say, Fiona Gaskell, Theresa Malcolm, Jackie Agg, Neil Hewitt, Hilary Pask, Anne-Marie Kramer, Marie Price, Kate Nisbett, Ann Halstead, Jenny Goulding

2. CONFIRMATION of the MINUTES OF APCM HELD ON 20 MAY 2024

Confirmed and no matters arising.

3. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PCC

St Mary's:	One vacancy
St Nicholas':	Five vacancies
All Saints':	One vacancy

No nominations received to fill the vacancies as outlined. Thanks were expressed to Tony Gilbert, Anne MacDougall and Anne-Marie Kramer who were all stepping down from the PCC.

4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

Presented by Andrew Marsh (AM) on behalf of Jackie Agg (JA), PCC Treasurer

APCM report - Treasurer

I apologise for not being able to be here in person this evening to give my report.

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 were circulated with the papers for this meeting. The slides are a summary of the key points.

	2024 Unrestricted funds	2024 Designated funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Donations and legacies	410,643	16,849	19,542	447,034
Charitable activities	160,798	1,077	10,345	172,220
Interest	20,824	-	-	20,824
	592,265	17,926	29,887	640,078
Expenditure:	(539,408)	(5,128)	(35,169)	(579,705)
Net surplus/(deficit)	52,857	12,798	(5,282)	60,373
Transfers	96	1,360	(1,456)	-
Net movement in funds	**52,953**	**14,158**	**(6,738)**	**60,373**

You may recall that in 2023, following our successful giving appeal, increases to our hall rental rates and high interest rates, we made a surplus on our day-to-day expenditure for the first time in many years. I'm delighted to report that this trend has continued into 2024 as we made a surplus of just under £53,000 for the year.

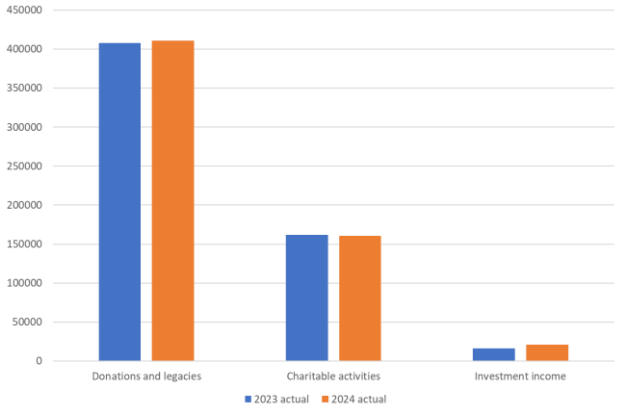
We analyse our income and expenditure between unrestricted funds (our day-to-day expenditure), designated funds and restricted funds – these are columns 1, 2 and 3 respectively in the table.

As a reminder:

- Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for a specific purpose, either because the donor imposed a restriction or because we said we were raising money for a particular purpose. For example, money left in a legacy specifically for the upkeep of All Saints', or monies donated for specific charities we are supporting.
- Designated funds have been set aside for a particular purpose – for example a legacy left for St Nicholas' Church where there is no specification as to how the money should be spent.

It is our unrestricted funds; to cover our day-to-day expenditure that I'd like to focus on to start with.

Slide 2 – Unrestricted income



This slide shows our unrestricted income in 2023 (in blue) and 2024 (in orange). The overall numbers for 2024 are very similar to 2023, however our planned giving was down on 2023. This was offset by an increase in legacy receipts.

While our income for 2024 continued to be strong, we cannot be complacent. We know that some of our larger donors in our planned giving scheme are no longer with us, and we started to see the impact of this during 2024. We also expect our interest income to reduce in 2025 and onwards – in part due to us having plans to spend the money (more on this later) and also due to decreasing interest rates.

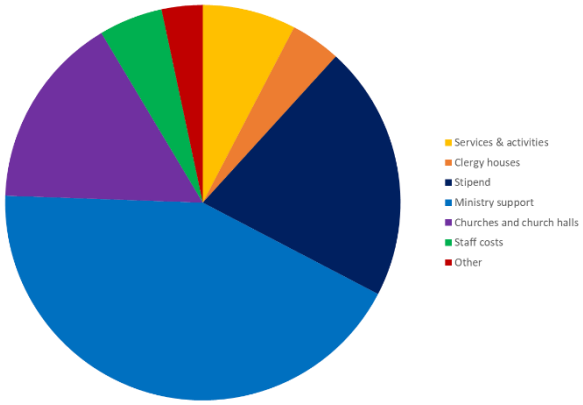
Slide 3 – 2024 expenditure

Our expenditure on unrestricted funds in 2024 was very similar to that of 2023.

If you compare each expenditure line with the prior year there are a few ups and downs. The Rector vacancy gave us a small reduction in our stipend costs, and we spent less on our clergy houses in 2024. Offsetting this was a moderate increase in costs, largely due to inflation.

Our energy costs were a little lower than in 2023, although perhaps not by as much as you would expect, given that the boiler at St Nicholas' was condemned in July 2024.

This slide shows the breakdown of our expenditure.



The Diocesan Parish Share (the two blue areas in the chart) remains our most significant expenditure – our contribution for 2024 was £338k or 62% of our expenditure. The parish share is our contribution to the Diocese, to support the work of the Diocese. It is in two parts – a stipend contribution and a ministry support contribution.

Slide 3 – Designated and restricted funds

	2024 Unrestricted funds	2024 Designated funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
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Designated funds

Turning to the second column, our designated funds income is made up of a variety of donations for specific churches, including money from the Childwick Trust, coffee money at All Saints and St Nicholas and money for all three District Churches from the annual Bike 'n' Hike event.

Expenditure from designated funds includes repairs and maintenance on our church buildings and donations to charities from our various events.

At the end of 2024, our designated funds stand at £242,000.

Restricted funds

Our restricted income includes collections for our previous rector and curate plus monies raised for charity - for example, for Jeel al Amal by St Mary's and the income from Cornelia's coffee shop.

Expenditure from restricted funds includes some repairs and maintenance on our church buildings plus donations to charities.

At the end of 2024, our restricted funds stand at £106,000.

Looking forward to 2025, we are expecting to complete a number of substantial projects including the repairs to the memorial garden at St Nicholas' (now in progress) and a new heating solution at St Nicholas'. All Saints' are also exploring new heating solutions and there are a few smaller projects at St Mary's in the pipeline. As a result we expect that a significant amount of our designated and restricted funds will be used over the next year to fund these. This is not a bad thing; we have been holding these reserves in anticipation of such expenditure.

Charitable giving

Our charitable giving needs to be looked at in total across unrestricted, designated and restricted funds.

During 2024 we gave just over £13,000 to charity – some of this was from social events held, for example the St Mary's Fete, the St Nicholas Christmas Fayre and social events at All Saints' too. Other monies were raised by Cornelia's Coffee Shop and from specific collections at services. A detailed list of the donations was circulated with the papers for this meeting.

As a parish we support a wide range of charities – some local, some with a UK wide focus and others with an international focus. In addition to the £13,000 that went through our accounts we also support a number of charities where the money does not go through our books. For example, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, British Humanitarian Aid, local foodbanks and Azalea.

Summary

In summary while the financial results for 2024 are very pleasing, we can't be complacent for 2025 and onwards.

We are reliant on donations from our congregations and the income from renting out our church halls. Inflation is still quite high, energy costs are still high, our church buildings need maintaining and we have several large projects that we hope to complete in 2025 - so we should not expect our costs to decrease.

We are very grateful to everyone who supports us through their giving. Please continue, if you are able to, to give through planned giving as this allows us to plan and budget effectively as a parish. We use the Parish Giving Scheme which makes it very easy for individuals to set up giving with payment by direct debit. It also makes reclaiming Gift Aid (where appropriate) very efficient.

We continue to be a busy and active parish with lots of activities taking place including our fellowship groups, our work with local schools and regular visits to retirement and residential homes. There is lots of detail in our Trustees' report, I encourage you to read it if you haven't already. We are delighted to welcome Patrick as our new Rector and look forward to working with him and as he helps us shape our mission and ministry across the Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who served on our Finance Committee during 2024 for their continued hard work and support.

Jackie Agg

May 2025

The Report having been presented; questions were invited, but none were forthcoming. AM wished to formally record the considerable debt of gratitude that we owe JA in her role as Parish Treasurer, due to the extreme diligence and all her hard work for which we are extremely grateful.

(a) Proposed that we duly approve the Annual Finance Report – passed unanimously.

(b) To approve Brendan Philip Chambers of Fusion Accountancy as Independent Financial Examiner – approved unanimously

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON:

(a) The Deanery Synod
(b) Parochial Church Council
(c) Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
(d) Electoral Roll
(e) Safeguarding
(f) Chalice Assistants

(c) Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

AM updated those present on the progress made since the report was written regarding the heating at St Nicholas'. A further expert's report had been commissioned which had been paid for by the National Church with the recommendation being that we use a hybrid system with a smaller gas boiler supported by a heat pump. A PCC approved faculty application had been sent to the Diocese last Friday 16 May 2025. It is still very much envisaged that a new heating system will be in place for winter 2025. As the capital sum involved is so large, it felt appropriate to bring the APCM up to speed on current state of play.

(d) Electoral Roll

The numbers on the Electoral Roll have fallen from 601 to 424 following on from the six yearly revision which had just taken place. This is likely to be a similar scenario across the country as often when the Electoral Roll is completely revised, there is a drop off in membership. This will have an impact upon the figure for the Parish Share; however, it is not the sole contributing factor, also taken into account is the usual Sunday

attendance averaged over 3 years, and the Electoral Roll figures, also averaged over 3 years. A question from the floor asked whether the fact that the roll had been undertaken broadly online this year would have had an impact on the figures and whether because there was less of a personal touch, had this contributed to the fall in numbers. SH answered that whilst initially all were encouraged to join online, there was a second wave after the initial responses had been received, which involved delivering Electoral Roll forms to those who had been on the list before to their home addresses; there were also reminder emails sent to those who had been on the list before encouraging them to re-join. Paper copies of the Electoral Roll form were also available in each church and were accepted by the ER Officer and their details input onto the database. Another observation was that there had been a significant number of those previously on the Electoral Roll who had either passed away or moved away from the area during the last year. Thanks were expressed to Ro Marriott for all the work that she had undertaken as ER Officer over the years.

(e) Safeguarding Report

The Rector observed that whilst it hadn't been a very good year from a Church of England perspective on the safeguarding front, locally we are very well served by the Parish Safeguarding Officer Michelle McCulloch. Thanks were expressed for all who had undertaken the necessary training over the last year.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PAROCHIAL OR GENERAL CHURCH INTEREST:

(a) Reports from District Churches on highlights of 2024

The reports distributed ahead of the meeting highlighted the extensive work and activities of our three churches.

(b) Rector's remarks

Having only joined the parish as Rector in March 2025, my contribution to this report for 2024 is mostly to give thanks and to marvel. The welcome I have received to the parish has been fulsome – to me and to the whole family, whose physical move into the Rectory should be in early August.

I have been delighted and impressed to find such a wealth of committed and capable people, and systems that work so well (apart perhaps from the heating at St Nicholas'…) and we feel really blessed to be in such a parish.

I give grateful thanks for that, for the legacy which Dennis has left, and the hard work of so many during the vacancy…and then I go on to marvel at the contents of this report. Its range and variety is testament to the energy that permeates the congregation and the community. I have experienced many of them at first hand but, speaking only two months into the position, there are activities and people that I have not yet been able to visit: that is a joy to come in the months ahead.

A few people to mention by name:

- Sally Goodson – especially for leadership during vacancy
- James Brown
- Nick Goulding & Mark Rodel
- Cath Rindl in her absence but who provided me with a very helpful handover

- The District Wardens and the teams who make each of our churches function and thrive
- Readers and LLWs – visible and invisible work
- Pastoral Care Team

- Sara and Pauline – including Sara as PCC Secretary plus Mike Swain as minute taker
- Jackie Agg – my very first face to face contact with the parish
- Michelle McCulloch – Safeguarding
- Ro Marriott - Electoral Roll Officer (standing down)

And a shout-out to the spouses of all these people…who often absorb a fair amount of angst and provide invaluable sounding boards too.

Finally, to thanks the Parish Wardens – Tim (in his absence); Andrew (ongoing) and esp….
Kevin: he has been thanked at PCC but as a whole parish we should record his exceptional contribution over many decades and in various different roles. I am particularly grateful for his steady leadership and encouragement during the appointment process (which was still 2024), and in 2025 for his welcome during my induction, and his guidance and wisdom through the heating issues that are still ongoing.

For all the evident energy, variety, expertise and devotion, I know that this is not a complacent community. There are laurels that we could rest on, but instead I sense a desire to reflect continually on our mission, and to find fresh ways to meet the world's deep hunger with our deep gladness. In the months ahead we will do that through a considered process – to refresh our sense of purpose and the source of our deep gladness, and our understanding of the community we serve and the nature of its deep hunger.

Serving God and our community in the name and in the footsteps of Jesus Christ is a daunting responsibility. I could not wish to share it with a more wonderful community, and I look forward to all the challenges and possibilities ahead.

(c) Open Discussion

AM offered his thanks to the Rector who after two short months in the Parish had offered both energy and enthusiasm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm with a prayer and The Grace

Signed: _____

Date: _____

2025 REPORTS

WHEATHAMPSTEAD DEANERY SYNOD 2025

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2025

Two meetings were held during the year.

On 27 February, welcoming members to St. Mary's, Redbourn, Revd Rachel gave an update of what was happening at the church. Subjects included the new Garden of Rest soon to be completed. St Mary's had also just received a Silver Eco award from A Rocha.

Claire Banham then gave an inspiring presentation concerning working with children and young people. The work was like planting seeds, though we might not see them germinating we still need to plant. There was an emphasis on giving young people a sense of belonging in the church as well as listening to what they have to say. It was also important to connect with families 'on the fringe.'

On 17 July, Hilary Hollick welcomed members to St Helen's, Wheathampstead. With the departure of Richard and Claire Banham, the church was faced with an interregnum. They were using the opportunity to reach out to the whole community. A reward from reaching out to young people, was a recent baptism of four teenagers.

There followed the commissioning of Philip Nalparis as Deanery Eco-champion. Philip had been inspired by a long-time interest in ecology and climate change and making connection of these issues with his faith. He was keen to offer support to churches in the deanery on their journey to a greater environmental consciousness.

Andrew Brown of Diocesan Board of Finance then gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining graphically how the parish share was used to support the clergy and their ministry in the diocese.

In the autumn Jim and Sue May stepped down as Deanery Lay Chair and Secretary respectively. With gratitude for all they have contributed to the deanery. John Davie would kindly be standing to fill the role of Lay Chair.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025/6

PCC OFFICERS

Andrew Marsh and Tamsen Wallis (from May 2025) were elected Parish Wardens

Sara Harvey was co-opted as PCC Secretary

Jackie Agg was appointed Parish Treasurer

Kate Nesbitt was appointed Electoral Roll Officer

Michelle McCulloch was co-opted as Parish Safeguarding Officer

APPROVAL OF FOUNDATION GOVERNOR FOR ST NICHOLAS' VA SCHOOL

Mary-Jean Pritchard

Barbara Rodel

PARISH POLICIES

The following Parish policies were reviewed:-

<u>February 2026</u>

The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy

The Parish of Harpenden's Safeguarding Policy

Parish of Harpenden: Best practice guidelines for working with both children and young people and also vulnerable adults

Diocesan Statement on Domestic Abuse
Ex-Offenders Recruitment Policy
Volunteer management
April 2026
Homeless help policy
Lone working policy
Delegation by the PCC members: Reporting of serious incidents to the Charity Commission – safeguarding and other incidents

The following new policy was formally approved:-
April 2026
Engaging external speakers at charity events and services policy and procedures

MISSION

Parish Vision Day held in October to discuss way forward; Vision to exist at Parish level with MAPs to remain at District level.
St Mary's held a Big Sing event bringing different congregations together, achieving a MAP aim of people telling their stories about their faith and roles they have held at St Mary's.
St Nicholas' held a season of experimentation to consider they layout in church and also considering the question 'Why do we do that?' A Nicene Creed course was held in July 2025.
Joint initiative with St John's Church, Harpenden – Pints of View – where informal discussions take place monthly in a local pub led by local clergy on a wide variety of topics, proving to be popular.
Adult confirmation sessions taking place during April/May 2026

DISTRICT NEWS

All Saints' 60th anniversary celebrations took place in June 2025.
The art installation 'Watersheds' was hosted at All Saints' from 11-26 April 2026
All Saints' Heating System – ongoing discussions regarding heating system with a hope to have moved some way towards a replacement system by winter 2026.
New noticeboard in place at St Mary's
Heating system at St Nicholas' replaced with gas boiler and two heat pumps.
Appointment of new architect for St Mary's and St Nicholas' - Claire Butterworth of Clague LLP.

Sara Harvey, PCC Secretary

CHARITY GIVING for the PARISH of HARPENDEN

As a Parish we continue to connect and reach out to others through charitable giving. During 2025 we have supported:

	£	£
Cornelia's Coffee Shop:		
Open Door (St Albans)	1,000	
St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge	1,000	
Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care	1,000	
Mercy Ships	1,000	
Mind in Mid Herts (from 1 April 2026 part of Hertfordshire Mind Network)	1,000	
DEC Myanmar Earthquake	1,500	
DEC Middle East	1,500	
		8,000
Parish:		
The 2:67 Project	500	
STEP	500	
The Haven	500	
British Humanitarian Aid	300	
		1,800
Donations made in accordance with a legacy request:		
Tearfund	850	
Christian Aid	850	
USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel)	800	
		2,500
Parish-wide service collections:		
Diocesan Ordination Fund – service collection from Rector's installation		1,115
Bishop's Harvest Appeal[1]		293
Operation Noah – from Christmas services collections		950
All Saints':		
Harpenden Money Advice Centre		1,519
St Mary's events/activities:		
Jeel al Amal – fete, quizzes, coffee and other activities		2,000
St Nicholas events/activities:		
The Ollie Foundation – Christmas Fayre		1,200
		£19,377

In addition, we gave to these charities from special collections/events in our churches:

The Children's Society (Christingle Services, Cornelia's charity Saturday)
UNICEF (United Nations Association Harpenden and Churches Together in Harpenden service)
Herts Young Homeless (Cornelia's charity Saturday)
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust (Bike 'n' Hike)
British Humanitarian Aid
Harpenden Money Advice Centre
Feed Foodbank (regular foodbank collections)
King's Pantry Foodbank (regular foodbank collections)
Azalea (regular toiletries collections)

[1] The Diocese now asks for donations to be made direct rather than via parish collections; the amount donated direct by members of our congregations is not known.

MEETING DATES – 2026/7

Standing Committee	PCC meetings
3 June 2026	17 June 2026 - St Mary's
9 September 2026	23 September 2026 - St Nicholas'
11 November 2026	25 November 2026 - All Saints'
3 February 2027	24 February 2027 - St Nicholas'
14 April 2027	28 April 2027 - St Mary's
APCM:	19 May 2027 - All Saints'

Sara Harvey, PCC Secretary

REPORT OF THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES OF THE PARISH

(under Section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991)

Archdeacons' Inspections took place last year as follows:-

St Mary's: 29 July

St Nicholas': 19 August

All Saints': 17 September

All Saints' Church

- Handrails were fitted by the front steps of the church.
- A light was installed in the car park to provide better lighting for car park users.
- Some of the emergency lights and sockets inside the church and hall were replaced.
- The five yearly electrical testing inspection was carried out and, as a result, remedial works completed.
- Repairs were made to the lightning conductor.
- Line markings at the front of the church were repainted.
- The quinquennial inspection was completed in September: we are working through actions recommended in the report.
- The door at the back of the hall into the car park was repaired.

- A limb from a willow tree was removed, and the magnolia tree at the front of the church cut back.
- The anti-leaf insert to the gutter was repaired.
- Plans continue to be progressed to replace the heating system in both the church and the hall.

St Mary's Church

All regular maintenance has been carried out i.e. boiler and heater servicing, sliding doors servicing, roof maintenance, car park maintenance, all fire safety services etc.

In addition, our Parish Health and Safety Officer (thank you to Simon Brown) carried out a full Fire Risk Assessment, and we will be undertaking the action plan approved by DCC in the near future.

A few essentials have been replaced/repaired:

- AV systems upgraded
- Replacement lapel microphone
- Roof by nursery assessed and repaired
- Backdoor notice board repaired
- Upgrade to the Lightening Conductor completed
- Batteries replaced in smoke detectors in the hall
- New switch for wall heater
- New church sign at the front of church
- Toilet repair

There have also been a few additions:

- Swift Box sited as per Archdeacon's Letter
- Gas boiler certificate obtained
- Carbon monoxide monitor added to the hall
- Bolt added to electrical cupboard

St Nicholas' Church

- A new heating system was installed for the main body of the church, by replacing the condemned gas boiler with a new hybrid system comprising a new gas boiler (in the boiler room) and two air-source heat pumps (on the west side of the office extension) and continuing to use the existing distribution system.
    - Crumbled stone coping was repaired in the remembrance garden, and additional space for memorial plaques was created using the office extension.
- The mullions around the Rothamsted window in the North aisle were cracked and the stone repaired.
- The council increased the height of the kerb at the bottom of Kirkwick Avenue to hold back some water during torrential rain. We continue to discuss with the council further measures to protect the bell tower from flooding.
- 46 ineffective (too quiet) Dolce organ pipes were replaced with 46 Gamba pipes to improve the blend with the other stops.

- The hall back doors were replaced so that they can securely close and act effectively as fire exit doors.
- An evergreen tree was removed in Cornelia's garden as its roots were lifting paving slabs beside the hall causing a trip hazard and potentially damaging sewers.
- The fridge, freezer and coffee machine were replaced in Cornelias as they were all showing signs of failing.
- The water mains piping into the hall was replaced following a leak.

Andrew Marsh and Tamsen Wallis
Parish Wardens
(and on behalf of the district wardens in each Church, to whom we record our thanks).

Parish of Harpenden Electoral Roll

Report for APCM 20 May 2026

Our total for 2026 is 432

There are 8 new members to the ER this year – 2 for All Saints, and 6 for St Nicholas'

The details are as follows:

Church	**April 2026**	**April 2025**
All Saints'	73	71
St Mary's	90	90
St Nicholas'	269	263
Total	**432**	**424**

I would ask the APCM to approve the revised Electoral Roll for 2026.
Kate Nesbitt
Parish Electoral Roll Officer

SAFEGUARDING

The parish has many volunteers working in various roles across the parish, all of whom provide valuable support and service in the busy life of the parish.

The PCC has adopted the Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement of the Church of England. The Policy Statement promotes a safer safeguarding environment and culture. In practice, the parish follows Safer Recruitment guidance (including carrying out DBS checks) where relevant to parish roles and has in place relevant risk assessments, the Code of Safer Working Practice and Best Practice Guidelines for working with Young People and Vulnerable Adults, as provided by the Diocese. The parish has committed to respond appropriately and proportionately, in accordance with the Policy Statement and guidance, to any safeguarding allegations and to work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and / or relevant statutory agencies when necessary. The Policy Statement is reviewed regularly and promoted in our churches (look for the blue posters and guidelines which provide relevant contact details. Please take time to read them).

The Church of England runs an online Safeguarding training programme for parish volunteers. Safeguarding officers undertake additional training. Training is compulsory for many parish volunteer roles. Our volunteers at church have been asked to complete training where they are obliged to do so. This includes PCC and DCC members. The parish safeguarding team respectfully requests that all relevant volunteers complete training as soon as possible when asked to do so.

Thank you to all our volunteers who offer their time and skills in support of our parish community and help us in our Diocesan and parish commitment to safeguard all God's people.

Michelle McCulloch Parish Safeguarding Officer April 2026

DISTRICT WARDENS REPORTS

All Saints'

2025 marked All Saints' 60th anniversary, celebrated as a landmark year for the church.

Electoral Roll numbers fell, but the broader worshipping community stayed broadly consistent; Easter attendance was especially strong, with Easter Sunday up 50% on 2024 and good turnout for the sunrise service.

A regular monthly pattern of services continues, with more individuals getting involved in and leading worship.

Special services and outreach events remain popular, including Beer and Carols and Fire Pit Carols, plus prayer walks using Batford Springs Nature Reserve.

Ongoing community and pastoral activities include Busy Bunnies, Knit and Knatter, Tea, Cake and Chat, and visits to Willow Court and Lea Springs, as well as strong links with local schools supported by James.

The Jubilee barbecue (June) and other social events (e.g., Maundy Thursday supper, All Saints' Day lunch) were well attended.

The building continues to be well used by local groups and charities, with particular mention of the Harpenden Child Contact Centre and Harpenden Money Advice Centre (both founded at All Saints').

The church benefits from rental income from car park spaces leased to a local solicitors' firm.

The Land Management Plan remains a focus: apple trees planted in 2024 are developing well, and the Repair Fair was again successful and well attended.

Minor building repairs were completed; following the quinquennial inspection (September), actions are being worked through.

Options for an improved, and lower carbon heating system continue to be investigated for both the church and the hall, although progress is slower than hoped for. The project will require significant expenditure - fundraising has begun (including a quiz in early 2026).

Personal note: James and Lan welcomed their daughter in December; thanks are given to those who supported services over Christmas during the start of James's parental leave.

We thank everyone who has helped over the past year, contributing without fanfare to our multi-faceted Church life.

Ben Fairhead and Sue Alexander, District Wardens

St Mary's

2025 has once again been a busy year for this very special church community. When people come here, they feel the warm welcome, the kindness and friendship, and the hospitality we offer.

Our new Mission Action Plan from 2025 has three themes: Developing Discipleship and Spirituality, Belonging to a strong church community, Serving our community. A series of sermons on discipleship, and table talk conversations at our bring and share lunches, were held to encourage us to share our faith journeys. New volunteers have joined our rotas and social groups. Our Big Sing Service in May brought the congregations from our four services together. Attendance at our services increased in 2025.

Social events have thrived, including our Tuesday Afternoon Group and a Little Lunch Club, both important outreach to members of our community. A quiz was held in March and bring & share lunches in March and September.

Our outreach activities have continued including our much-appreciated visits to Homedell House for a monthly service of communion and three Songs of Praise services followed by tea. We continue to support the local food bank. A very successful Annual Fete was held in July, rebranded as St Mary's Village Show.

St Mary's Eco Church project has continued as a major focus of our Mission Action Plan, building on the Eco Church Silver award (June 2023) with ongoing recycling, surveys, and habitat projects.

The Christmas Choir, led by Jenny Goulding, enhanced our carol service to a full church. Carols Around the Fire Pit was held in December, and the Christingle service took place in January; both were well attended.

Our wonderful building requires considerable care and maintenance, and we are so lucky to have many people (too many to name) who volunteer tirelessly to carry out work and roles both inside and outside the church. We acknowledge wholeheartedly the work they do. Thank you all.

Nina Featherstone and Jacqueline Clayton, District Wardens

St Nicholas

2025 was a positive and eventful year for St Nicholas, shaped in particular by the institution, induction and installation of Revd Patrick Moriarty in March, led by the Bishop of Hertford and the Archdeacon of St Albans. The service was followed by a parish celebration.

Worship and congregational life developed through the year. At Easter, services were well attended and the Easter Garden returned, with an eye-catching display helped by St Nicholas School children, who decorated 150 crosses.

During April the 8am Holy Communion Service moved back into church. Morning Praise continued to hold many of their services in the hall, as many were enjoying the informality and sense of community that services in the hall facilitated. Monthly communion resumed (with permission from the Archdeacon for this to take place in the hall).

The programme of monthly Saturday morning informal talks continued and proved very popular, covering subjects including flower arranging, churchyard wildlife, monuments and vaults, the church organ, the rector's story, the Victorian parish magazine, and Judaism for Anglicans.

Anne-Marie Kramer's ordination as Deacon was marked with a celebration afternoon tea and special evensong service, following the well-attended service in St Albans cathedral.

Community and fundraising events included quizzes, and a tower abseil that raised £11,600 for Spotlight on Africa. The St Nicholas Festival in December ran in a revised format (with Patrick in costume as St Nicholas), offering a Christingle competition, café, stalls, crafts and music across the church site. Just over £2,300 was raised, split between The Ollie Foundation and the parish.

Cornelia's Café continued to open three mornings a week plus Wednesday afternoons, raising over £8,000 for charity. Two very successful collections for British Humanitarian Aid were held.

A well-attended UNA service in October marked the UN's 80th anniversary and included an address by Sir George Norton.

Advent and Christmas were particularly strong. Weekly Compline services were well attended. Soup and Carols on Friday lunchtimes was enjoyed by many, as was Harpenden Concert Band playing carols in the Cornelia's garden during Advent. Attendance at Christmas services was high - over 275 at Christingle, over 250 at Nine Lessons and Carols, and over 650 across the two crib services, with Midnight Mass and Christmas Day also well attended.

The year ended with early steps on a project to improve the visibility and welcome of the church site (noticeboards, opening more frequently, and improving sightlines from the road).

A major theme of the year was buildings and fabric, dominated by the replacement of the heating system after the boiler was condemned in 2024. The lack of heating and resulting humidity affected comfort, the organ (sticking sliders, tuning instability), and church fabric (including damp effects). The faculty process required detailed comparison of heating options in line with the Church of England's net zero guidance. The process was unclear, required considerable energy consultant time and stretched volunteer goodwill to its limit. Eventually, the energy audit recommended a hybrid gas boiler/air source heat pump solution, supplemented by targeted electric heaters if needed. The gas boiler was commissioned in early November 2025, and the heat pumps were installed in December once planning permission was received. The system has had some teething issues due to its complexity but is intended to maintain the church at 12–15°C, with additional heaters to be reviewed after winter 2026/27.

Alongside heating, a range of maintenance and improvement projects were completed, including:

- repair and extension of the Remembrance Garden (with new coping and additional plaque space),
- stone repairs around the Rothamsted window (funded by the John Lawes Trust),
- ongoing work with the council on flood-mitigation near the bell tower,
- organ pipe replacements (46 ineffective Dolce pipes replaced with 46 Gamba ones),
- replacement of water mains pipes into the hall following a leak.

St Nicholas continues to provide fellowship, uniting us in shared worship and a compelling range of activities centred around our love of God and our support for each other. This could not happen without the dedication of so many people working as a team – thank you to everyone involved.

Vicky Platt and Rachael Threlfall, District Wardens