



The Parish of St Mary's Long Ditton

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

17th May 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 17 May 2026
AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting held on 18 May 2025
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Report on changes in Electoral Roll since last year's Annual Meeting and a report on the numbers entered on that Roll
6. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish generally
7. The presentation to the Parochial Church Council of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025, which have been independently examined
8. Report on Stewardship
9. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
10. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
11. Report on the proceedings of Churches Together in the Dittons
12. Report on Safeguarding
13. Report regarding Music
14. Report regarding Children's Activities
15. Report regarding Community Engagement
16. Report regarding Eco Church
17. Report regarding Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School
18. Appointment of Tellers
19. Election of Parochial Church Council Member
20. Appointment of an independent examiner
21. Election of Emly Deanery Synod representatives
22. Rector's Remarks
23. Any Other Business
24. Closing Prayers

ST MARY'S CHURCH, LONG DITTON

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

18 May 2025

MINUTES

22 adults were present

1. Opening Prayers

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Topp, Judith Topp, Sie Scott, Katharine Lankey, Julia Watts, Diana Jemmett, Ann Leeson and Alison Baverstock.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 May and 30 June 2024 were accepted as a true record of the meetings and unanimously **approved** by those present.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll report presented by Lucy McMullan, the Electoral Roll Officer, was accepted. It was noted that in accordance with Church Representation Rules a new Electoral Roll had been prepared. The number of the new Roll was 131, an increase of 13 from the previous year. Whilst 23 names had been removed from the Roll (including four deaths), 36 new names had been added which was very positive. Of the 131, 58 lived within the parish and 73 without; 80 were female and 51 male. Lucy was thanked for preparing the new Electoral Roll and for the report to the APCM.

6. Annual Report of the PCC

The report on the proceedings of the PCC over the past year, presented by the Hon PCC Secretary, Penny Fussell, was noted. The key concerns of the past year had been church finances and the funding of projects; future planning, development and mission, the refurbishment of the Community Hall; working with and in support of the local parish community.

7. Financial Statement

The Rector advised that the financial statements of the year ended 31 December 2023 had yet to be independently examined. A Special PCM therefore would be held in due course to examine and agree the accounts.

8. Stewardship

The Rector advised that the Stewardship Report would be presented to the Special PCM.

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The report by the Churchwardens was accepted and Robert Hancock and Joanne Hall were thanked for their work and care of the church, churchyard and Community Hall. Maintenance and repair work had been undertaken. Particular thanks were expressed to

the Community Hall Committee, led by Ann Leeson, for their efforts to improve the facilities of the Hall and its play area; and to Don Anderson, Paul Fagan and Peter Topp's gardening party for their invaluable work in keeping the churchyard neat and well presented.

10. Deanery Synod

The report presented by Chris Howard (St Mary's Deanery Synod representative) on the proceedings of the Emly Deanery Synod was noted.

11. Churches Together in the Dittons

The report by Cathy Doyle, CTD representative, on the proceedings of the CTD was noted.

12. Safeguarding

A report presented by Liz Smith, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), was noted and Liz was thanked for all her efforts in ensuring St Mary's was a safe place for all.

13. Music

A report, presented by Julia Bowyer, Choir Director, was noted. The meeting warmly thanked Julia, Robert Woolley (the organist) and all members of the choir for their excellence in leading the worship at St Mary's.

14. Children's Activities

A report, presented by Christine Satkunanayagam was noted. Whilst activities continued through Sunday Club, Junior Choir, Babes 'n' Tots and Pizza Night, and were enjoyed by participant, it remained the case that additional volunteers would be welcome to help share the responsibility and time in leading and helping run the activities.

15. Community Engagement

A report by Diana Jemmett, a Pastoral Assistant, on community engagement was noted. It was agreed that St Mary's managed a flourishing list of activities both members of the church congregation and the wide parish.

16. Eco Church

A report by Fay Tiplady, St Mary's Eco Champion, was noted. Owing to the care and efforts of several individuals and groups, the churchyard continued as a haven for birds, animals and people.

17. Long Ditton St Mary's Church of England Junior School

A report by Sarah Martin, Headteacher, was noted. Particular note was made of the 'Outstanding' grade in the Ofsted report, the 150th anniversary of the school and the creation of the hard federation with Long Ditton Infants School.

18. Appointment of Tellers

No tellers were appointed.

19. Election of Parochial Church Council members

The Chairman advised that four nominations had been received for election to the PCC:

- (i) Robert Hancock, proposed by John Howe and seconded by Felix Deer;
- (ii) Joanne Hall, proposed by Felix Deer and seconded by John Howe;
- (iii) Colin Powell, proposed by Peter Topp and seconded by Joanne Hall;

(iv) Penelope Fussell, proposed by Joanne Hall and seconded by Jill Rogers.

The four nominees were duly unanimously elected.

20. Appointment of an independent examiner

It was unanimously agreed that Martin Perrin be re-appointed as the independent examiner.

21. Election of Deanery Synod Members

On the proposal of Joanne Hall, seconded by Cathy Doyle, it was unanimously agreed to elect Chris Howard as the Deanery Synod representative of St Mary's Church.

22. Rector's Remarks

The Rector commented that it was easy to take for granted the voluntary work of people especially when they had been doing so for many years. This was the case with Tessa Vallings who for many years had been responsible for the beautiful flower arrangements that always were present in church for weekly services, festivals and weddings. However, Tessa had decided to step down from the role and as a token of gratitude to her dedication and service over the years, the Rector presented her with a small gift. The Rector was delighted to advise that Timothy Rennie had agreed to take on the role for which he was warmly thanked. The Rector expressed his thanks to all those who gave their time and skills in the breadth and variety of church activities commenting that it was timely to both look back to reflect and give thanks and also to look ahead and the challenge of sharing the church's faith in the community of the parish of Long Ditton.

23. Any Other Business

On behalf of the APCM, Robert Hancock thanked the Rector for his guidance, spiritual and temporal; his love and care to all was much appreciated and long may it last.

24. Closing Prayers

The Rector closed the meeting with prayers.

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Chairman

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The last revision of the Electoral Roll took place in April 2025 when there were 131 names on the Roll.

At this revision there were no new additions, but three names were removed due to the deaths of Sue Rider, Audrey Whistlecroft and Peter Davies. During the year several regular worshippers moved away and the revision of the Electoral Roll next year will reflect this.

As of 3 May 2026, the number on the Roll is 128, of which 56 are living within the parish and 72 live outside the parish boundary. Our Electoral Roll comprises of 78 females and 50 males.

Being on the Electoral Roll gives you the opportunity to take a greater part in church life and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Lucy McMullan
Electoral Roll Officer



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LONG DITTON SURREY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH LONG DITTON

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION
NUMBER: 1128898

The Parish Office
St Mary's Community Hall
Church Road
Long Ditton
Surrey KT6 5HH
www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk

REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vision: Following Christ, Serving You

The Vision of St Mary's Church means that we prioritise:

- (i) helping those around us discover faith in Jesus Christ;
- (ii) developing and strengthening our links in the community;
- (iii) engaging a new generation with the good news of the Gospel; and
- (iv) deepening our discipleship and spirituality.

A ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The general functions of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of St Mary's are set out in the Parochial Church Council Measure and The Church Representation Rules. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC works in co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Additionally, the PCC is required to consider and discuss matters concerning the Church of England or any other matter of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church. The Charities Act also enjoins all charities to demonstrate that their aims are for the public benefit. Accordingly, the PCC has had regard, where relevant, to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission in carrying out its activities, as described below.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of St Mary's Church building (which is Grade 2 listed) and situated in a conservation area at the junction of Church Road, Rectory Lane and Woodstock Lane North (OS grid reference TQ173659). The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission Number 1128898. The correspondence address for St Mary's Church is: The Rectory, 5 Church Meadow, Long Ditton, Surrey KT6 5EP or The Parish Office, St Mary's Community Hall, Church Road, Long Ditton Surrey KT6 5HH.

PCC Membership:

Members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or co-opted by the PCC during the year. The following served as members of the PCC during the year and to the date of this report:

Incumbent	The Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam	Ex officio
Associate Priest	The Revd Professor Alison Baverstock	Ex officio
Churchwardens	Robert Hancock	(until May 2025)
	Joanne Hall	(until May 2025)
	John Howe	(From May 2025)
	Felix Deer	(From May 2025)
Treasurer	Sarah Carvalho - Treasurer	
Honorary Secretary	Penny Fussell – Honorary Secretary	Co-opted Member of PCC
Deanery Synod Representative	Chris Howard	Ex officio

Other members of the Council	Ann Leeson	(to 18 May 2025)	
	Sarah Spence	(to 18 May 2025)	
	Catherine Smith	(to 18 May 2025)	
	William Gallimore	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Edward Howard	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	John Olding	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Anne Rumbelow	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Martin Skellern	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Elizabeth Smith	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Linda Turner	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Michael Turner	(from 12 May 2024)	Retires 2027
	Felix Deer	(from 18 May 2025)	Retires 2028
	John Howe	(from 18 May 2025)	Retires 2028
	Colin Powell	(from 18 May 2025)	Retires 2028

PCC Advisers

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, Barclays Business Centre, 6 Clarence Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1NY
Buildings	The PCC currently employs John Bailey as its architect
Independent Examiner	Mr Martin Perrin MA, FCA, Chartered FCSI

Sub-Committees

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees which meet at agreed times during the year and then report to the PCC:

- (i) ***Standing Committee.*** This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee elected by the PCC for the year comprises the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- (ii) ***Community Hall.*** This committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of St Mary's Community Hall for use by the parish and local community. The committee works to maintain proper budgetary control whilst ensuring external funding requirements are met and health and safety matters comply with current legislation. Appropriate licensing laws and insurance cover is maintained.
- (iii) ***Social Team.*** This team aims to co-ordinate a regular programme of social events and to provide support for any special or fund-raising events.

Churchyard, buildings, health and safety

The Rector and Churchwardens continue to liaise with Elmbridge Borough Council to ensure the grounds are kept safe and presentable. Rob's Garden Services are employed to undertake 'gardening' tasks particularly in the Garden of Rest. The Rector and Churchwardens are also responsible for oversight of the maintenance and development of the buildings and churchyard structures (old mortuary, Garden of Rest walls, stone tablets etc.), as well as any relevant legislation relating to the building, staff, and visitors' and volunteers' health and safety. They are supported in these responsibilities by several volunteers from the church community.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

General Data Protection Regulation

The PCC, to the best of its knowledge, considers that all reasonable steps have, and continue to be taken to comply with the GDPR that came into effect in May 2018.

B REVIEW OF PCC PROCEEDINGS OVER THE PAST YEAR

The following report is provided by the Hon Secretary

The PCC met on six occasions during the past year. The following is a summary of the areas of business and discussion.

The Environment and Sustainability

The PCC welcomes the support of Elmbridge Borough Council, pupils of Surbiton High School and members of the congregation in the care of the churchyard and Garden of Rest. It cannot be under estimated how important these spaces are for St Mary's, the parish at large, for visitors and as spaces for nature.

Flowers and foliage also have long been an essential means to enhance worship within the church. The PCC unanimously agreed to implement a resolution from the Sustainable Church Flowers movement regarding floral decorations within the church to encourage respect for nature asking that locally grown flowers and foliage be used, grown without the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides, and not displayed with floral foam (a pollutant and non-compostable). Championed by Timothy Rennie, the organiser of the floral displays, the adoption of this policy has been a great success. The PCC is extremely grateful to Timbo and all those who create floral displays for their support of the policy and whose dedication and skill provide such beautiful displays throughout the year and in particular for the key church festivals.

Maintenance

Maintaining the church buildings is an important consideration for the PCC; maintaining buildings most of which are almost 150 years old and listed, to ensure they are safe and sound, fit for purpose, but without extravagant or needless expenditure.

There are a number of ongoing issues not least of all the problem of water ingress on the roofs about the two side aisles of the church and the frequent blocking of drains from the Community Hall. Repairs and interim measures for both seem to be resolving the issues but longer-term repairs are being investigated. Each, if found necessary, will require substantial planning and expenditure.

Similarly, the PCC is mindful that, in due course, consideration will need to be given to the replacement of the church boiler. Whilst presently it is in a good condition its life expectancy is 5-10 years. The Diocesan ambition that all churches become net zero in carbon emissions will require the PCC to consider alternatives to a gas boiler. Therefore, the PCC anticipates a major project in 5-10 years which will need careful planning and significant expenditure.

Cracks in the walls of the church, the Community Hall and the mortuary are being monitored. The advice of the Diocesan architect is being sought but it would appear that the cracks are stable with no immediate danger. However, the worst case scenario is that the church building will need to be underpinned where the cracks are situated which, again, will be a significant project.

Ongoing small projects continue apace such as the redecoration of the internal north wall to the church building which resulted in the delightful find in the chancel of a small section of the original Victorian wall painting. This has been preserved as a beautiful reminder of what the interior of the church looked like before it was damaged by enemy action in the Second World War. The broadband and IT facilities for the office both have been upgraded ensuring the needs of the church and users of the Community Hall are met, that services can be appropriately live streamed, that the vital admin support for the church can be fulfilled.

Being expedient and cost effective in expenditure is of paramount importance to the PCC at these times of restricted income. The PCC applauds the efforts of the Churchwardens to minimize unnecessary expenditure whilst maintaining standards of health and safety, and of essential maintenance. This has been evident with their efforts with Elmbridge Borough Council to ensure the tarmac paths around the church and Community Hall, which are laid by the Council, are free of trip hazards; sourcing the optimal scheme for the purchase of gas and electricity; and determining the most appropriate programme for the tuning and maintenance of the organ, recognising the important balance of rationalising expenditure whilst maintaining St Mary's high musical standards.

The PCC has much appreciated all the planning and efforts of the Community Hall team in maintaining the Community Hall ensuring that it remains in a good condition for users, mitigating the need for expenditure on contractors and carefully creating specifications for projects for which external funding often is sourced.

The PCC is hugely grateful to the Churchwardens and all the volunteers who so generously give their time and expertise in working to maintain the church, Community Hall and churchyard. Their efforts are invaluable.

Money

Money, and the imperative need to increase income, preoccupies most meetings of the PCC. The PCC continues in its efforts to persuade all those who do give, where relevant, to do so in such a manner that the church is able to recover tax. This straight forward act ensures the church receives important additional monies. The PCC also has sought to encourage people to remember St Mary's in their Wills providing information on the writing of legacies and codicils to all those on the electoral roll.

With the knowledge of potential future major building projects, the PCC is working with the Churchwardens and Hon Treasurer to create and develop a budget and forward plans to give focus and clarity to stewardship and on potential fundraising programmes.

Such management and planning also will enable non-essential projects to be properly considered such as the refurbishment of the church bells to bring them back into use calling people to worship. The PCC tasked a working party to look into the viability and costs of the bells' refurbishment. Initial estimates indicate that the project will be in the region of £32,000 to £38,000 plus VAT. Whilst charitable trusts had been identified to whom applications for grants could be made and a few individuals already had expressed their wish to financially support the project, the PCC agreed that the project should not be progressed until St Mary's was on a firmer financial footing, it being a desirable not essential project and with lower priority than other potential projects such as those detailed above.

The PCC is thankful to Chris Howard who has been the Parish Stewardship Promoter for a number of years and who has decided to step down from this position. Chris has tirelessly worked to raise the profile of St Mary's financial needs within the congregation and wider parish.

Church activities

The PCC remains committed to increasing the church's income and is grateful to the regular events which are key to this. Of course, events and activities are vital for fellowship and friendship whether fundraising or not. The BookBox, Friday Club and other regular one-offs such as the Burns Night Supper, are wonderful and important activities. The PCC always is delighted to consider new ideas. It has been pleased to support the new Walk and Talk monthly walk initiated by Churchwarden Felix Deer.

Parish Share

One of the greatest elements of St Mary's financial outgoings is the annual payment towards the Parish Share, a figure determined by and paid to the Diocese of Guildford. For a long time there has been a lack of clarity as to what the Parish Share contribution is for causing some disquiet and concern as to where such a significant amount of money each year went. The PCC has appreciated the Churchwardens in engaging with the Diocese to get a better understanding on this subject. The PCC now understands the underlying principles of Parish Share and of its four elements:

- (i) the direct cost of the employment of an incumbent including National Insurance and pension
- (ii) the cost of housing an incumbent, calculated at the average cost of maintaining and managing the Diocesan housing stock, plus Council Tax and Water Rates
- (iii) a contribution towards the cost of training future incumbents
- (iv) an apportionment of Shared Costs of the Diocese determined by congregation size and the relative affluence of the parish which contributes towards Diocesan statutory and regulatory obligations (finance, payroll, safeguarding, Director of Education, HR) and to other services that support parish mission and ministry (e.g. training, Parish Needs Process).

The PCC welcomed the information on Parish Share, this important and significant annual financial outgoing.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a vital aspect of the good governance of St Mary's and the wider church. The PCC reviewed its Action Plan procedures and is confident that all necessary DBS checks and safeguarding training are in place. It noted the updates that the Church of England made to its policies.

The PCC received notice that the DBS checking organisation Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) had been subject to a significant data breach. APCS carried out DBS checks on behalf of the National Church institutions, 17 Dioceses and the PCCs in those Dioceses which included St Mary's. PCC were given assurance through the Diocese of the procedures that had been put in place to mitigate the impact of the breach and to support those affected, including seven from St Marys.

Outreach, Fellowship and Faith

Faith, worship and fellowship of course remain central to the focus of the PCC who annually review the Parish Needs seeking to provide for the congregation and wider community. It has been heartened that weekly service attendance numbers have been slowly increasing and at the wonderful number of people attending the festival services. The PCC greatly values St Mary's worship continuing in the Anglican choral tradition. It also recognises that it is important that St Mary's should continue to seek to encourage diversity, evolving to meet the needs and the wishes of the congregation and parish.

The *Lychgate* magazine is an important tool for outreach and Janet Burton is warmly thanked for overseeing its production. The thanks of the PCC too go to Edward Howard for finding a new printer whose costs are less than the previous printer without undermining the quality of the magazine; and to the Hon Treasurer for getting payments from advertisers in hand. Both mean that the *Lychgate* near enough breaks even.

The PCC values its position and role within the parish supporting parish events, such as Long Ditton Lights Up. It is especially proud of its relationship with Long Ditton's schools and its important responsibility to appoint Foundation Governors to the Long Ditton Federation Governing Body. The PCC firmly believes that the importance and impact of providing worship and Christian teaching at the schools cannot be under estimated. However, it is acknowledged that more could be done to better connect better with pupils' parents.

Financial review 2025

The PCC was in receipt of legacy monies totalling £33,000, a residual amount from the significant legacy received in 2024. As a result, the PCC was able to pay its Parish Share in full for the second year in a row.

Giving by parishioners remained broadly in-line with the previous year and at the same level over the last four years, however rising operational costs necessitate further funding. We received a grant from the National Lottery of £5,000 for the fence.

There was a significant increase in funeral fees this year from £2,000 to £10,000, however this is not a prediction for future income.

In terms of operating expenses, the printing costs in relation to the Parish magazine – the *Lychgate* - have reduced from £8,000 to £4,000 nearing breakeven for the *Lychgate*, but still running at a loss.

New memorial tablets were purchased for £10,000 in 2025 (2024: nil), due to the previous tablets reaching capacity. This is a one-off cost, offset by inscription fees received.

All other operating expenses were broadly in-line with prior year.

Our requested Parish Share in 2025 amounted to over £95,000 which, thanks again to legacy monies, was paid in full.

The surplus in the year across Unrestricted funds (general and designated) was £33,000 (2024: £53,000), leading to an Unrestricted funds balance of £177,000 (2024: £144,000).

Overall, a surplus of income over expenditure was reported of £18,500 (2024: £54,000). Without the residual legacy of £33,000, the deficit would have been £14,000. In 2024, the legacy received also resulted in a surplus. As these are one off items, we would otherwise be operating at a loss which is not sustainable, and as such, we must look at obtaining additional income.

Reserves policy:

It is the policy of the PCC to have available in Unrestricted funds at any one-time, sufficient cash to be able to meet its working capital requirements. The Undesignated General Fund now stands at £148,000 which is adequate for the PCC's immediate working capital requirement as they stand.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The members of the PCC, who are the Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, regulations and accounting standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the members of the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the PCC are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will not continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 May 2026



Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam
Rector

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments							
Voluntary income	2	153,666	-	5,101	-	158,767	264,314
Activities for generating funds	2	18,585	-	1,350	-	19,935	16,030
Church activities	2	32,844	-	-	-	32,844	23,681
Income from investments	2	8	-	279	-	287	988
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-	436
Total Income		205,103	-	6,730	-	211,833	305,449
Expenditure							
Raising funds		(1,466)	-	-	-	(1,466)	(1,610)
Church activities	3	(168,813)	(1,700)	(12,937)	(8,000)	(191,450)	(250,493)
Total Expenditure		(170,279)	(1,700)	(12,937)	(8,000)	(192,916)	(252,103)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources							
		34,824	(1,700)	(6,207)	(8,000)	18,917	53,346
Net gains on investments		-	-	(402)	-	(402)	225
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		34,824	(1,700)	(6,609)	(8,000)	18,515	53,571
Total Funds brought forward							
		113,538	29,969	23,189	263,885	430,581	377,010
Total Funds carried forward							
		148,362	28,269	16,580	255,885	449,096	430,581

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these Financial Statements.
The comparative figures for prior year are set out in note 11.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Balance sheet at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible assets	6(a)	-	-	-	255,885	255,885	263,885
Investments	6(b)	-	-	9,656	-	9,656	10,058
		-	-	9,656	255,885	265,541	273,943
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	7	21,381	-	-	-	21,381	21,479
Cash at bank and in hand		162,123	28,269	6,924	-	197,316	167,324
		183,504	28,269	6,924	-	218,697	188,803
Liabilities							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(35,142)	-	-	-	(35,142)	(32,165)
Net current assets		148,362	28,269	6,924	-	183,555	156,638
Net Assets		148,362	28,269	16,580	255,885	449,096	430,581
Parish Funds:							
General	10	148,362	-	-	-	148,362	113,538
Designated		-	28,269	-	-	28,269	29,969
Total unrestricted		148,362	28,269	-	-	176,631	143,507
Restricted		-	-	16,580	-	16,580	23,189
Endowment		-	-	-	255,885	255,885	263,885
Net Assets		148,362	28,269	16,580	255,885	449,096	430,581

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these Financial Statements.

The comparative figures for prior year are set out in Note 12.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 May 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam
Rector



Sarah Carvalho
Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year

ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

(1) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as updated), the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The PCC continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements, given adequate resources to continue in operational existence.

(2) Incoming Resources

Recognition of income and endowments falls to be included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- The PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources;
- The inflow of the economic benefit becomes probable; and
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are included in the SOFA when any pre-conditions preventing their use by the PCC have been met. For collections and planned giving this is when the funds are received.

Gift aid and other tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the cash donations to which they relate.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Statutory Parochial fees are receivable on weddings, funerals and other events, and that part of the fees due to the PCC are included in these accounts. The PCC also collects and pay over fees due to the Diocese of Guildford.

Dividends are accounted for when received. The impact of account upon receipt rather than ex-date is not considered material.

Investment gains and losses include any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

(3) Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

(4) Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are either expensed as incurred if the cost thereof is less than £2,500; if the initial cost exceeds the sum, they are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life. In any event, such items are normally included in the inventory of the Church.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

These are capitalised at cost if they have an economic life of more than one year and cost at least £2,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual value over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

- Land: not depreciated;
- Buildings: 50 years;
- Fixtures and fittings: 20 years;
- Plant and machinery: 3 years.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange, or whose value derives from them, are valued at mid-market value at the year end.

(5) Funds

Unrestricted Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Within this, funds may be designated by the PCC for a particular purpose albeit remaining unrestricted.

Restricted Funds

These funds are income funds that must be expended on restricted purposes; details of the funds held and the restricted purposes for which they were given are shown in the notes to these financial statements.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend the capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Details of the respective restrictions are shown in the notes to these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

2. Incoming resources

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Voluntary Income						
Planned giving	81,674	-	-	-	81,674	79,049
Collections	9,261	-	-	-	9,261	12,564
Donations	6,815	-	-	-	6,815	7,340
Tax recoverable	21,702	-	-	-	21,702	20,589
Legacies	33,333	-	-	-	33,333	113,333
Grants	881	-	5,101	-	5,982	31,439
	153,666	-	5,101	-	158,767	264,314
Activities for generating funds						
Parish magazine advertising	4,325	-	-	-	4,325	3,565
Other funds raised	9,994	-	1,350	-	11,344	7,252
Quiz, Concerts and Lunches	4,266	-	-	-	4,266	5,213
	18,585	-	1,350	-	19,935	16,030
Income from Church activities						
Wedding fees	2,130	-	-	-	2,130	717
Funeral fees	9,950	-	-	-	9,950	2,138
Garden of Rest memorials	2,732	-	-	-	2,732	4,301
Church hall lettings	18,032	-	-	-	18,032	16,525
	32,844	-	-	-	32,844	23,681
Income from investments						
Dividends and interest	8	-	279	-	287	988
	8	-	279	-	287	988
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	436
Total incoming resources	205,103	-	6,730	-	211,833	305,449

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year

ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

3. Resources expended

	Note	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Diocesan parish share							
Diocesan parish share		95,437	-	-	-	95,437	134,387
Grants							
Parish Schools		-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Activities							
Printing of Parish Magazine		4,393	-	-	-	4,393	8,244
Memorial tablet costs		10,298	-	-	-	10,298	554
Parish Training and Mission		136	-	-	-	136	247
Organists, choir and music	4	7,683	-	-	-	7,683	7,579
		22,510	-	-	-	22,510	16,624
Maintenance of Church and Churchyard							
General Maintenance		5,596	1,700	633	-	7,929	22,919
Graveyard Maintenance		50	-	-	-	50	288
		5,646	1,700	633	-	7,979	23,207
Community Hall							
Hall maintenance and refurbishment		3,326	-	11,949		15,275	32,462
Hall running costs		2,343	-	-	-	2,343	1,768
Depreciation		-	-	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
		5,669	-	11,949	8,000	25,618	42,230
Running costs and overheads							
Locums		602	-	-	-	602	504
Office Salaries	4	8,424	-	-	-	8,424	8,424
Gas, water and electricity		12,779	-	-	-	12,779	13,167
Insurance		5,341	-	-	-	5,341	4,924
Photocopier		472	-	-	-	472	783
Parish telephones		777	-	-	-	777	911
Other overheads		11,156	-	355	-	11,511	5,332
		39,551	-	355	-	39,906	34,045
Total resources expended							
		168,813	1,700	12,937	8,000	191,450	250,493

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

4. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries (within organists, choir and music)	6,000	6,000
Salaries (within running costs and overheads)	8,424	8,424
Social Security costs	-	-
Other pension costs	-	-
	<u>14,424</u>	<u>14,424</u>

Average number of employees in the year	2	2
---	---	---

No trustee (PCC member) received any remuneration or received any other employment benefits during the year or prior year. Clergy are not included in the staff costs above as they are office holders not employed by the PCC.

5. Payments to PCC members

During the year 4 (2024: 8) trustees received expenses to the value, in total, of £2,165 (2024: £3,760) in respect of Church and Church Hall repairs, travel and other costs incurred or funds disbursed on behalf of the PCC.

6. Fixed assets

(a) Tangible - Freehold Land and Buildings

	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	399,885
Additions	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>399,885</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025	136,000
Charge for the year	8,000
At 31 December 2025	<u>144,000</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2025	<u>255,885</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>263,885</u>

The tangible fixed assets comprise the Community Hall situated alongside the Church. This comprises the entirety of the Jubilee Project Fund/D&K Memorial Fund.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

6 Fixed assets (continued)

(b) Investments

	£
Market value at 1 January 2025	10,058
Net gain/(devaluation)	(402)
Market value at 31 December 2025	9,656

The investments of the PCC are held in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund, and are attributed to the Graveyard Maintenance Fund

7. Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
	-	
Tax recoverable re 2025	<u>21,381</u>	<u>21,479</u>
Income tax recoverable	21,381	21,479
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	21,381	21,479

8. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals for utilities	938	2,035
Parish Share	27,923	26,872
Other creditors and accruals	6,281	3,258
	35,142	32,165

The requested Parish Share was £95,437, (2024: £94,387). As in 2024, the PCC was able to pay this in full. The total shortfall not accrued for in respect of prior years remains at £42,147 (2024: £42,147). The PCC has made no resolution to pay down this unaccrued shortfall in the foreseeable future, and thus that shortfall has not been recognised as a creditor.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year

ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

9. Purposes of Restricted and Endowment funds

Name of fund	Purpose
<i>(a) Restricted funds</i>	
100 Club 23	Maintenance of community hall
Babes & Tots fund	Support of Babes and Tots group
Cassocks fund	This has been merged with the Ouseley Music fund to become the Choir & Music fund
Choir & Music funds	Provision of choir robes, and choral and organ scholarships
Fabric Maintenance fund	Maintenance of church fabric
Garden of Rest fund	Maintenance and enhancement of the Garden of Rest
Graveyard Maintenance fund	Maintenance of fabric, graves and churchyard
Kitchen / Fence fund	Maintenance and repair of the kitchen/associated fence
Organ fund	Maintenance and repair of the organ
Ouseley Music Trust	This has been merged with the Cassocks fund to become the Choir & Music fund
Shed fund	Provision of a new shed
<i>(b) Endowment Funds</i>	
Jubilee Project Fund/D&K Memorial Fund	Building of new church hall

10. Summary of Fund Movements

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gains £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	113,538	205,103	(170,279)	-	-	148,362
Designated	29,969	-	(1,700)	-	-	28,269
	143,507	205,103	(171,979)	-	-	176,631
Restricted Funds						
100 Club 23	-	1,350	(570)	-	-	780
Babes & Tots	548	-	-	-	-	548
Cassocks	1,053	-	-	-	(1,053)	-
Choir & Music funds	-	-	-	-	4,423	4,423
Fabric Maintenance	633	-	(633)	-	-	-
Garden of Rest	1,438	-	-	-	-	1,438
Graveyard Maintenance	6,423	279	-	(402)	-	6,300
Kitchen / Fence	6,778	5,101	(11,734)	-	-	145
Organ	2,503	-	-	-	-	2,503
Ouseley Music Trust	3,370	-	-	-	(3,370)	-
Shed	443	-	-	-	-	443
	23,189	6,730	(12,937)	(402)	-	16,580

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

Note 10 Summary of funds movement (*continued*)

	Balance at 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gains	Transfers between Funds	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Funds						
Jubilee Project						
/D&K Memorial	263,885	-	(8,000)	-	-	255,885
	263,885	-	(8,000)	-	-	255,885

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary income	2	228,129	-	36,185	-	264,314
Activities for generating funds	2	13,653	-	2,377	-	16,030
Church activities	2	23,681	-	-	-	23,681
Income from investments	2	715	-	273	-	988
Insurance claims		436	-	-	-	436
Total Income		266,614	-	38,835	-	305,449
Expenditure						
Raising funds		(1,610)	-	-	-	(1,610)
Church activities	3	(199,244)	(13,035)	(30,214)	(8,000)	(250,493)
Total Expenditure		(200,854)	(13,035)	(30,214)	(8,000)	(252,103)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		65,760	(13,035)	8,621	(8,000)	53,346
Net gains on investments		-	-	225	-	225
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		65,760	(13,035)	8,846	(8,000)	53,571
Total Funds brought forward		47,778	43,004	14,343	271,885	377,010
Total Funds carried forward		113,538	29,969	23,189	263,885	430,581

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 December 2025 *continued*

12. Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	6(a)	-	-	-	263,885	263,885
Investments	6(b)	-	-	10,058	-	10,058
		-	-	10,058	263,885	273,943
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	7	21,479	-	-	-	21,479
Cash at bank and in hand		124,224	29,969	13,131	-	167,324
		145,703	29,969	13,131	-	188,803
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(32,165)	-	-	-	(32,165)
Net current assets		113,538	29,969	13,131	-	156,638
Net Assets		113,538	29,969	23,189	263,885	430,581
Parish Funds:						
General	10	113,538	-	-	-	113,538
Designated		-	29,969	-	-	29,969
Total unrestricted		113,538	29,969	-	-	143,507
Restricted		-	-	23,189	-	23,189
Endowment		-	-	-	263,885	263,885
		113,538	29,969	23,189	263,885	430,581

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Long Ditton Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Martin Perrin FCA, CHARTERED FCSI
39 Station Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0PA
7 May 2026

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Donations to the PCC are made through the following channels:

1. planned regular giving via Standing Order with or without Gift Aid
2. one-off giving via the blue envelopes in church with Gift Aid
3. the collection plate – falls under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)
4. the Dona contactless payment machines with or without Gift Aid and GASDS
5. one off donations with or without Gift Aid.

1. Regular Givers:

Total Donations:	£74,976 (£72,135)
Number of regular givers:	112 (103)
Total with Gift Aid:	£64,515 (£64,426)
Number of regular givers with Gift Aid:	81 (78)
Gift Aid:	£16,316 (£16,106)
CAF & Payroll giving:	£4,460 (4) (£1,860 (3))

New givers:	10 (12)
Ceased:	7(4) in the year

During the year, 8 increased their giving and 2 decreased it.

2. One-off Giving via envelopes:

The value of one off giving via the blue gift aid envelopes was fairly static overall but adjusting for weddings and funerals, which fell by £1k, the regular services increased by £1.3k, possibly reflecting the fall in open plate collections of £1k.

In 2025, 408 envelopes were donated by 177 givers compared with 338 by 116 the year before.

Total Donations:	£6,689 (2024: £6,454)
Gave once:	129 £1,614- (74 £1,108)
Between 2 and 10:	40 £2,006 (34 £2821)
10 or more:	8 £3,068 (8 £2,525)

3. Open Plate Collections:

£3,298 (£5,008)

Overall, open plate collections fell by £1.7k, whilst some £700 can be attributed to weddings and funerals, the fall in regular services was £1k. (25%)

4. Contactless card donations

£2,700 of contactless donations and an addition £725 from Give a Little were gift aided.

Under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, we can claim for up to £8,000 of donations without a completed gift aid form. In our case this is from the collection plate and contactless payment machine

5. Other:

We received £6,500 in donations in the year, £4,000 of which were gift aided.

With continued gratitude to all those who give so very generously.

Sarah Carvalho
Honorary Stewardship Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS REPORT

1. Maintenance work to keep the buildings well maintained continued throughout the year. Contractors visited to inspect the roof and vestry fire alarm, the hall alarm, the boilers in church and hall, portable electrical appliances and the fire extinguishers. The organ and hall piano have been tuned, and the organ blower and humidifier serviced. The gutters are cleared regularly.
2. A new system of initiating works, using an order form available in the office, has been introduced and is now in active use.
3. Leaks in the roof and from the gutters have been a problem during the year. Repairs have been effected, including the replacement of broken tiles and the repair of hoppers and box guttering, the clearance of downpipes and the fitting of a waterproof membrane, and there is currently no dripping into the church, but churchwardens have been reviewing the need for more fundamental repair and investigating the cost of it. This work is continuing at the time of writing.
4. The internal wall in the north aisle, the vestry and choir have been repainted. In the course of this work a wall painting was discovered on the north wall of the choir: this will be covered by a sheet of glass, to preserve and make a feature of it.
5. In June a piece of masonry from the cornice fell into the choir. The cornice has been inspected and found not to present a continued hazard but a long-term repair has not yet been effected pending diocesan advice.
6. There are cracks in the wall of the church, the hall and the mortuary which have been inspected by a structural engineer who did not consider them a serious problem, but measuring devices have been inserted in the church and hall to monitor for further movement, of which so far none has been detected.
7. The main drain from the community hall has been a recurrent problem, blocking and overflowing when the weather is wet. Initial advice from a contractor was that the drain under the hall as well as under the outside path should be repaired, at a cost of some £5000, but following a visit by Thames Water, whose responsibility the final section of the drain is, and the repair of a broken half drain on our "own" territory, we believe that a major repair may not be required. We are maintaining regular inspections.
8. As to the churchyard: the cutting of grass, pollarding of trees and removal of leaves is the responsibility of Elmbridge Council. A party of garden volunteers has continued its good work. Squires Nursery generously donated a considerable number of plants which Paul Fagan and Don Anderson have planted, principally under the west wall of the church. Paul took up with the Council shortcomings in their contractors' sweeping of leaves and parking of vehicles, and these remonstrations have been effective: Council officials have been helpful.
9. A party from Surbiton High School paid their annual visit to the churchyard in June to weed graves, cut hedges, paint benches and plant flowers.

10. In May, Peter Topp and the outgoing and incoming churchwardens conducted the annual test of the stability of gravestones. No safety issues were discovered, but one small cross had fallen and has been recemented in place.
11. Churchwardens, Bob Hancock and Joanne Hall conducted the annual Church inventory. The result was satisfactory, with the exception that a digital camera, purchased in 2017, could not be found. There was also a shortfall in the number of fire extinguishers but it is just possible that there may be confusion between what belongs to the church (where there are six) and what belongs to the hall (where there are three). The number of hymnbooks has slightly increased since last year. Added to the inventory this year are two “sum up” machines for card payments, plus (though the items are not new) an album of news reports and photographs, a small tin box and a UV detector.
12. Metal items within the church were checked to have “smart water” markings, in conformity with insurance requirements.
13. A new high-speed fibre broadband link and a new connection between church and hall have been installed, principally to improve the streaming of services, which had been performing erratically. A new PC and laptop for the church office have been ordered.
14. The Hall Committee, led by Ann Leeson, has been active in continuing to improve the facilities in the Hall, including planning a new AV system, and internal repainting, both supported by considerable voluntary effort. Paul and Don have repaired dripping guttering on the east side of the hall, though water damage on the ramp underneath has yet to be repaired.
15. May we, at the end of our first year as churchwardens, pay tribute to all the volunteers who keep St Mary’s going: and particularly thank our predecessors Bob and Joanne for remaining so active after they had nominally stood down, and the Clerk of Works Paul Fagan and Don Anderson for so tirelessly keeping the buildings up and the grounds down.

John Howe and Felix Deer
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The March Deanery Synod meeting at Holy Trinity Claygate saw Revd Stuart Saddler lead a great session on 'being a Christian Monday to Saturday' highlighting that wherever God places us Monday to Saturday, whether this is in the workplace or at the school gate or in that hectic time erroneously called retirement, God is passionate about what we do here and the people we spend so much time with.

Our June Synod meeting was at St Christopher's Hinchley Wood with the guest speaker being Beth Collingridge from Single Friendly Church Network. St Mary's is proud to be part of this network and our church has featured several times in their social media campaigns.

In October our Deanery Synod met at St Mary's East Molesey when there were several short presentations from parishes highlighting one or two things that they would like to celebrate. Our own Associate Priest, Revd Prof Alison Baverstock spoke passionately about our BookBox events and there was real interest in our initiative given the number of follow-up questions that were asked!

Chris Howard
Deanery Synod representative

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE DITTONS (CTD) REPORT

Churches Together in the Dittons consists of clergy and lay representatives from the following churches in the Ditton area:

All Saints' (C of E) - Weston Green;
Christopher's (C of E) - Hinchley Wood;
St Nicholas (C of E) - Thames Ditton;
Our Lady of Lourdes (Roman Catholic) - Hampton Way;
St Marys (C of E) - Long Ditton

The group usually meets 4/5 times a year to plan the various ecumenical activities and services.

During 2025 we were able to join again together in fellowship for:

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** and a **joint service** held at Our Lady of Lourdes with the Revd Carole Bourne preaching – which may well have been the first time a woman has preached at that church!
- **Good Friday** - several churches joined together at Giggs Hill Green for an outdoor service of Witness and hot cross buns!
- **Prayer Tent and Plant crèche** at the Annual Dittons Scout Fair on Giggs Hill Green.
- **St Luke's Tide Healing Service** at All Saints Weston Green at which our Rector Kuhan preached.

CTD continues to strive to show to the wider community that we are all committed in embracing our similarities rather than being concerned with the differences. This is done by celebrating and worshipping together and you are very welcome to join us at any service or event.

THE CT PRAYER- Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His Will. May Your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to Your World, for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to Your Kingdom. Amen.

Cathy Doyle
CTD representative

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

“The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.”

Promoting a Safer Church - The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy

In February 2025, the Church of England General Synod approved new safeguarding codes of practice that represent a fundamental shift in compliance, moving from a "due regard" duty to a stricter "duty to comply" with mandatory requirements. This change, following recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), makes safeguarding procedures mandatory rather than optional. The Synod passed new codes of practice, specifically "Managing" and "Reporting" Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations. These replace the 2017 House of Bishops' Practice Guidance.

The Parish Dashboard, an online tool to assist each parish to maintain a record of all safeguarding issues has also been extended this year to include a Safeguarding Hub. Tools within the Hub can be switched on in three stages: Stage 1 DBS and Training Records; Stage 2 Role Descriptions and Person Specifications; and Stage 3 Safer Recruitment and People Management. We are making good progress with Stage 1.

If anyone has any questions about safeguarding, or is made aware of any specific concerns please contact me or the Rector. Anybody who would like to give information or make disclosures about church-related abuse is asked to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Vicki Boxall, or any member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team by e-mailing safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk or telephoning 01483 790379 Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. If you believe a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm, please contact the police on 999.

Thank you to everyone involved in activities for adults and children for your hard work and for your commitment to the safeguarding, nurture and care of everyone in our community. Of course, safeguarding goes beyond a DBS check or attending training, and it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that St Mary's is a safe place for all.

Liz Smith
Parish Safeguarding Officer

MUSIC REPORT

The Church choir continued to enjoy leading the worship at St Mary's, with Julia Bowyer as Music Director, organist Robert Woolley and help from choristers and choir members with various duties. Particular thanks to Ped for registers, chorister pay and sorting weddings and funerals, David for guest conducting, Christina for managing wardrobe and Daniel for librarian duties.

We welcomed several new junior and adult singers throughout the year.

We enjoyed continuing the important tradition of choral evensongs, including a special *Pedfest* evensong with extra friends marking over 50 years of Ped's choral singing. We sang a range of anthems during morning services, baptisms and weddings and organised various social events throughout the year.

The Christmas services were a wonderful way to end the year after much hard work and dedication, including a lovely carol composed by our very own chorister Daniel. The choir raised over £1,300 for Shooting Star through carol singing at Surbiton station and the Plough and Harrow pub, and from the contribution of quiz content by Ped and Kate for a corporate event.

Our junior choristers grew in confidence and achieved various levels of the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life awards – congratulations to them all.

Julia Bowyer
Choir Director

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES REPORT

Sunday Club continues to run twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. The sessions are pitched at those aged 4-7, with younger children allowed to attend if a parent accompanies them. Huge thank you to Julia Watts who prepares the material for each session with great care, always finding activities which the children will enjoy. Our aim is to teach the younger children about the love of God through songs, stories and activities and in addition for the older children to reflect and connect the bible teachings to their daily life.

We do have children's provision for those aged 7 and over via the Junior Choir, and then for those aged 10 and over at the monthly Pizza Night sessions at the Rectory. Most of the young people do not come to Sunday services but appreciate the opportunity to explore aspects of faith in a fun and safe environment.

On Easter Eve it was a joy to be at Guildford Cathedral for the Confirmations of six of our Pizza Night youth group - Alexis, Ania, Derik, Ruth, Peach and Tom - by the Bishop of Guildford. Special thanks to Chris Howard and Tashi Lassalle who started Pizza Night many years ago and kept it going faithfully during the pandemic.

One of our Church Development Plan priorities is to try and offer Sunday Club every week. This can only happen if we have more people volunteering to help. Please pray and consider if you could join the rota. The more people who can join the less onerous the role will be.

Please continue to pray that we might guide the next generation in discipleship and for more young people to come to church to know God's love.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

St Mary's organises a range of activities to support and engage with the community of Long Ditton. We publish the **Lychgate magazine** every other month and deliver it to all the households in the Parish. The Lychgate includes articles about community and church activities and is funded by advertising from local businesses.

Babes and Tots sessions on a Friday morning during term-time provide a mixture of soft play, dressing up, puzzles, craft, and, of course, the outside area is a great attraction. After juice/water and biscuits for the little ones and tea, 'real' coffee and biscuits for the grown-ups – we clear away and enjoy 25 minutes of singing action songs, and enjoying musical instruments. We use the opportunities to spread the Christian message by singing a grace before refreshments, giving an Easter gift and Christmas book and inform and invite families to events and services throughout the year.

Friendship Lunches are held on the first Friday of the month. We welcome diners from all parts of the Parish and have the capacity to welcome more so, if you know of anyone who may care to join us as a diner or helper, please let us know. This is a welcome opportunity for people to meet and share fellowship over a hot lunch. As always, grateful thanks must be extended to our very loyal, ever cheerful and extremely hard-working team of meal planners, cooks, shoppers, drivers, helpers and washers up.

BookBox events – masterminded by our amazing Associate Priest Alison Baverstock, we have built a solid programme of monthly community events centred around shared-reading. We advertise these events on our website, within our newsletters – and within wider local and regional media, which seem ready to share stories about what is going on. Our January BookBox is a Burns Night Supper with a live piper and poetry reading. Huge thanks as ever to our talented social team for providing refreshments at all the BookBox events.

Film Fridays – held in the Community Hall every month. A chance for members of the community to gather to watch a film and chat afterwards over tea and cake. Many thanks to Joanne Hall for co-ordinating and Don Anderson for tech support.

Parish Quiz – we have experimented with having two quizzes a year in Long Ditton Village Hall on the basis of BYO picnic. This has worked really well and thanks as ever to our quizmaster Ped, Don for AV support and our amazing social team.

Pet Service – in September we had a very successful Pet Blessing Service with worship led by our wonderful choir. This now seems to be an established event locally and it is always a joy to see the variety of pets represented – either in the flesh or with photos for those too shy to attend!

Long Ditton Lights Up! Was on a Friday this year at Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School in conjunction with their Christmas Shopping Evening. As ever, we provided the Hamper for the Raffle. Many thanks to Alison for being there the whole evening to sell tickets and hand out attractive postcards with information on the Christmas services which are always very well received.

Diana Jemmett
Pastoral Assistant

ECO CHURCH REPORT

We continue to mark Creation tide in September/October each year. Our hymns throughout the year celebrate God's creation and our intercessions regularly includes prayers for environmental issues.

Our churchyard is a haven for birds and animals with bird and hedgehog boxes and a bug hotel. Every Spring uncovers a full and glorious blanket of daffodils, crocuses, bluebells and other planting which helps maintain biodiversity. Of particular note is the return of wild cowslips to the churchyard.

Again this year, students from Surbiton High School came and volunteered their time spending time cleaning graves and clearing away fallen twigs and branches.

In September we said goodbye to Peter and Judith Topp as they moved out of the area. They have been instrumental in organising regular churchyard tidy-up mornings and we will miss their enthusiasm and dedication to keeping our churchyard looking beautiful.

Special thanks to Paul Fagan and Don Anderson for their continued hard work and care in looking after our churchyard – it really is noticeable that our churchyard is a well-loved space.

Our Bible garden plot is maintained by 1st Long Ditton Guides and associated Rainbows, Brownies and Rangers units planting to attract a greater variety of insects and wildlife.

Our Babes and Tots leaders and Church Stewards maintain a biodiverse productive area next to the church and Bridal lawn, and we look forward to roses, sunflowers and a wide range of insect and bee friendly planting.

Our churchyard continues to be well used with benches around the church often occupied with those seeking rest and contemplation.

Fay Tiplady
Eco Champion

LONG DITTON ST MARY'S JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

At Long Ditton St Mary's Church of England Junior School, we are proud to be the faith school serving the local community. The children enjoy our link with St Mary's and have visited the church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year as well as to enrich their RE learning and share project work with the local community.

Every week during term time Dr Kuhan leads Collective Worship for our school and once a term we have the usual parish Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion at the school and we are always delighted to see members of the St Mary's congregation present for these occasions to reflect our shared worshipping life.

This year in September, we introduced a beginning of year service at St Mary's Church for teachers and staff from the Long Ditton Federation schools. This was a valued opportunity to come together and reflect at the start of the academic year and to receive a special blessing and commission from Dr Kuhan.

A highlight of the year was having our Year 6 World War Two project outcome celebration at St Mary's Church with a special service led by Dr Kuhan on Armistice Day. Parents and carers commented very positively on being able to have this event in the local parish Church.

Sarah Martin
Headteacher



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