

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners and**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Wednesday 30th April 2025, 7pm**

**at St John’s Church, Rownhams**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

# 1. Welcome and prayer

Revd Graeme Dixon welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a short time of open prayer. There were 42 people in church.

# 2. Election of Churchwardens

* John Sofrin was proposed by Ann Laird, seconded by Sue Logan and his appointment was unanimously agreed.
* Ann Laird was proposed by Sharon Wills, seconded by Denise Pennells and her appointment was unanimously agreed.
* Peter Myerscough-Jackopson was proposed by Christine Owen, seconded by Linda Purkess and his appointment was unanimously agreed.

# 3. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 7.20pm.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)**

# 1. Apologies for absence

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Kevan Abernethy
* Steve Beak
* Gill McKay
* Randell McKay
 | * Regina Nalliannan
* Fiona Skidmore
* Peter Skidmore
* Katrina Stout
 | * Crawford White
* Pat Wills
* Angela Wright
 |

# 2. Minutes of previous APCM held on 29th April 2024

## 2.1 Agree Minutes for accuracy

The Minutes of the previous APCM were approved; proposed by John Pennells, seconded by Sarah Beak and unanimously agreed.

**2.2 Matters arising from the Minutes** – none.

 **3. Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners on 8th December 2024**

 **2.1 Agree Minutes for accuracy** The Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners were approved; proposed by Denise Pennells,
 seconded by Linda Purkess and unanimously agreed.

 **2.2 Matters arising from the Minutes** – none.

# 4. Electoral Roll

Sue Muldowney stated that this was the year when the Electoral Roll had been fully refreshed. Everyone in our two churches had been given the opportunity to fill in a form. There are now currently 120 people on the electoral roll; 77 less than at April 2024. Of the 120 people on the roll:

* 117 declared that they are members of the Church of England
* 83 are resident in the parish, with 37 (31%) non-residents.

 Sue is waiting for guidance from Jayne Tarry, at the Diocese, on how to add additional names to the
 Electoral Roll on an ad hoc basis.

The meeting stood as Sue read out the list of those who had died since the APCM in 2024:

Colin Jones Margaret Bigglestone (Peggy) Audrey Newport Bernard Butcher Liz Jones

**5. Reports**

Reports had been circulated prior to this meeting. Please see report Appendix at the end of these Minutes.

# 6. Vicar’s report

Rev Graeme Dixon gave his report on the year 2024. Please see report Appendix at the end of these Minutes.

# 7. Questions on reports

**7.1 Qu. Is there a breakdown of the Restricted Funds on page 11 of the Financial Report?**

Linda Purkess confirmed this is shown on page 19, Note 7b.

**7.2 Qu. What is the best way to input thoughts and ideas regarding the AAW service?**

Graeme suggested that any thoughts on any of the services should be emailed to him and copied to the Churchwardens. All our services are open to evolution, but ultimately any decisions are made by the PCC.

 **7.3** David Thompson thanked everyone for their comprehensive reports, which has helped to inform all
 that is being done.

# 8. Finance and FundingGraeme stated that we have a number of strategic and operational elements, going forward, and asked for thoughts on financing these:

* St John’s - pews to chairs; lowering pew platform; kitchen, storage; heating; audio and visual; toilets and vestry.
* St John’s Church Hall – new/refurbishment
* St Boniface – internal decoration; steeple repairs; implementation of the Quinquennial Report recommendations.

# Linda Purkess clarified that we have the on-going everyday expenses, eg salaries; building running costs; office costs, and then there are the separate projects which will need to be funded. Successful application for grants is easier for community based projects rather than just church based. If we can enthuse people on a particular project they are more likely to contribute. We need a coherent plan first and then work out how to achieve it.

John Sofrin stated that it would be helpful to have a list of local contractors and suppliers. Linda confirmed that for the work at St Boniface we need to go via the Architect for the specialists needed. We already have an electrician we use regularly, and can access different sources of suppliers through Parish Buying.

The Diocese should also be able to give us funding advice. Ann Laird should also be able to advise us as she has some experience as Chair of SCRATCH. Ann stated that we may need to make a decision whether to apply for Lottery funding. Linda stated that in the past small pockets of money have come from Parish Councillors, Veolia and Government funding for the roof at St Boniface.

Peter M-J questioned whether we talk enough in our services about finances; being on the electoral roll and giving, or do we need more encouragement?

Graeme confirmed that stewardship and generosity is preached, and becomes more intentional towards the ‘giving day’ in May. All these issues are encompassed in our discipleship journeys.

Clive Jones asked if there was money regularly put aside for on-going maintenance of our church buildings? Linda confirmed that this was currently not the case but something to think about. Clive stressed that the sound system should be a priority for this year, as we struggle in most of our services. Currently we are running a system using a borrowed amplifier!

Ann suggested that, with so much to do, we need to sit down and make a list of the priorities; what steps we need to take and who is going to do what. When there is a plan the money comes in! Graeme stated that God equips His people. We need to trust and not be anxious.

It was suggested that if the new Church Hall is to be part of ‘loving our community’ we should include people from the community in the Feasibility Study Group. Graeme confirmed that he has asked Phil Bundy to join the group. Phil may be helpful with funding advice.

Sarah Beak suggested there needs to be a Fund Raising Committee, as there are many fun and novel ways to raise money, eg an auction of ‘people volunteering their skills’ - Sarah offered to be part of such a group. The website and Facebook should also be used. Sarah Phelps suggested that our two schools could be involved. Graeme stated that there is already a Social Committee but it has been a struggle to recruit members. He suggested that the Social Committee could be combined with a Fund Raising Committee. Volunteers are needed to form a team.

It was stressed that the most important thing is that everything must be **soaked in prayer**. Dorothy Stratford is starting up new prayer meetings twice a month, to which all are welcome. Dorothy was thanked for becoming the Prayer Champion for our churches.

# 9. Adoption of independent examiner

Elizabeth Arnold was adopted as our independent examiner for the coming year. This was proposed by Lynn Black, seconded by Ann Laird and unanimously agreed.

# 10. Election of the PCC

**10.1 Standing down:**

* Clive Jones; Fiona Skidmore

**10.2 Ending their three-year term:**

* None

**10.3 Standing for election to PCC:**

* Katrina Stout

Election was proposed by Sharon Wills, seconded by Marion Swinerd and unanimously agreed.

**11.4 For information, those whose term will end at the APCM in 2026:**

* Simon Harris

**PCC members for 2025 are:**

Kevan Abernathy Ann Laird

Sarah Beak Randell McKay John Sofrin

Lynn Black Sue Muldowney Katrina Stout

Ewan Brown Peter Myerscough-Jackopson Crawford White

Graeme Dixon Christine Owen Angela Wright

Glennis Gould John Pennells

Simon Harris Sarah Phelps

Angela Jones Linda Purkess

Simon Harris was elected as Deputy Churchwarden, proposed by Sarah Beak, seconded by Peter
 Myerscough-Jackopson and unanimously agreed.

Crawford White was elected as Deanery Synod representative, proposed by Denise Pennells,
 seconded by Ann Laird and unanimously agreed.

**9. Any other business**

 **9.1** There was a time of laying on of hands and open prayer for Graeme and Ewan.

 **9.2 Pews to Chairs at St John’s** Graeme informed that the Chancellor had clarified his decision that the replacement chairs should be all
 timber. Graeme stated that the new chairs would be a capital investment. However, all timber chairs are
 expensive; only stack 20 chairs high and we could only fit 4 chairs to a row, thereby losing 28 seats,
 compared to the pews. We need to submit a suggested chair to the Chancellor by next Tuesday (6 May)
 for his approval. Graeme will ask for permission to have wooden laminate chairs with metal frames,
 which would allow us 5 chairs per row (and be cheaper). These chairs would also stack 25 chairs high on
 a dolly, as storage will be a challenge.

 There was a selection of 5 wooden laminate chairs, with metal frames, for all those attending the APCM
 to try, and indicate their preference regarding comfort. These ranged from £90 - £250 per chair. The
 majority vote was for the Durham chair at £155 each.

# 10. Closing prayer

Ann Laird closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.



# APCM REPORTS APPENDIX

**2024 VICAR’S REPORT FOR APCM APRIL 2025**

Good evening everyone,
As we gather for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you for your continued prayers, service, and support over the past year. It has been another year of change, growth, and faithful commitment to our calling as the body of Christ in this community. I am constantly amazed by the ways God is at work among us—through quiet acts of care, joyful worship, and bold new steps into mission.

I would like to reflect briefly on key developments over the past year and look ahead with hope and vision.

**New Life Among the Young: Ignite and Young Adults Group**One of the most exciting signs of new life has been the launch of *Ignite*, our new children’s group for 4-7 year-olds. It has been a joy to witness the energy, questions, and laughter of our youngest members. The name Ignite truly captures its spirit: sparking a real and lasting love for Jesus.

Children’s ministry is about planting seeds of faith, helping children know they are loved and part of God’s family. I am deeply grateful to the leaders and volunteers whose dedication makes this possible.

Alongside Ignite, we’ve started a Young Adults group. Please pray for this group as they continue to strengthen their walk with God and one another.

**Deepening Discipleship: New Home Groups**Two new home groups launched this year, creating precious midweek spaces for deeper connection. Home groups are more than Bible study—they are places of belonging, prayer, and spiritual growth. I am thankful for those who have stepped up to lead and those who have joined. If you aren’t part of one yet, I encourage you to consider it—you might find it a rich source of encouragement and community.

**Worship and Services: Exploring New Rhythms**Our services have continued to evolve. *Immerse*, a creative and reflective service, has given us new ways to encounter God. Our *Together Service* (formerly All Age Worship) has created joyful spaces where all generations worship together as one family.

Holy Communion remains central to our rhythm, grounding us in Christ’s presence and grace. Meanwhile, the Contemporary Service at St Johns is developing slowly but surely. We recognise the need for more accessible worship styles, especially for newcomers and returnees. Thank you for your patience and prayers as we shape this service for the future.

**Safeguarding: At the Heart of All We Do**A special thanks to Sue and the safeguarding team. Safeguarding is much more than policy; it’s a culture of care, dignity, and trust. Their tireless work ensures that everyone—especially the most vulnerable—finds safety and respect in our church. This is sacred work, and it is deeply appreciated.

**St John’s and St Boniface: Buildings with Open Doors**We were thrilled to receive permission to remove the pews at St John’s—a significant step towards creating a more flexible, welcoming, and creative space for worship, hospitality, and community events. On top of this we have begun exploring how to develop our church hall at St Johns.

At St Boniface, preparations are underway for internal decoration and steeple restoration—important acts of stewardship that honour both our heritage and future mission. Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, prayers, and resources to these projects.

Buildings speak powerfully: a church open to change, diversity, and life tells a story of God’s welcome.

**The Men’s Shed: Building More Than Just Woodwork**Our growing relationship with the *Men’s Shed* at St Boniface, has been an unexpected blessing. This group offers more than practical skills—it offers friendship, purpose, and a safe space for men to find community and care. It’s been wonderful to see them integrated into church life, including serving coffees after services.

Mission often looks like relationship, not just programmes. Simple acts of connection and kindness are seeds of the Kingdom.

**Vision and Values: No One Left Behind**At the heart of all these developments is our vision: **Loving Jesus, loving one another, loving our community**. Through our GROW course, we’ve been exploring how this becomes not just words, but lived values—shaping decisions, ministries, and daily life.

One core principle emerging is: building community where **no one is left behind**. This is both hope and challenge. We want everyone—young and old, new and seasoned, confident and struggling—to find a place of belonging, service, and purpose here.

We are asking important questions: Are we truly inclusive? Are we making space for everyone’s gifts? Are we reaching out to the forgotten? These are Gospel questions that must stay at our heart.

**Looking Ahead with Hope**Where next?
We remain a church in transition: discerning, learning, and growing. But we are moving forward steadily, with faith and trust in God’s leading.

In the year ahead, I believe God is calling us to deepen our discipleship through prayer, widen our welcome, and step out more boldly in mission. That may involve developing our contemporary service, growing our work with children and youth, strengthening outreach, and continuing to build partnerships like the Men’s Shed. It may also mean creating space for deeper prayer, spiritual renewal, and healing.

I invite you not just to watch this journey but to be part of it—to bring your prayers, your gifts, your ideas, your presence. Christ has called us together for such a time as this.

Thank you for your faithfulness, courage, and grace over the past year. Let us keep walking together, trusting that the One who began this good work among us will surely carry it to completion.

With love in Christ,
**Graeme**
Vicar

**Church Wardens Report for year ending 31st Dec 2024**

# St Boniface Church Nursling

Last year was a busy time for us all and look forward this year to improving the fabric of our church.

We wish to commence redecoration of parts of the interior of the church walls in 2025, now the walls have dried out, and will endeavour to find a contractor who is able to do this for us. Considerable plaster and re pointing will be necessary for some external and interior walls which will require contractors who specialise in church repairs. This was reported in the Quinquennial inspection as recommended by Fiona Hudd in October 2024.

We also will need to keep a watchful eye on the steeple cedar tiles, as we may need to do expensive repairs at some stage in the future.

I will be recommending a full check on all the Electric circuits as soon as possible, as the last full inspection was in 2017, and Peter Drew has so far attended to various failures to some heating and lighting issues.

The boundary hedges are growing well and will be pruned to size in the spring by the Friday gang. This will allow the hedge to thicken up and provide screening between the car park and the west area of the church and graveyard.

Thanks to Mike, Kevin, Paul, Les and Brian (Men’s Shed) for offering to look after the regular attendance to the graveyard areas. This keeps the church grounds in great condition.

The probation payback team continue their once a month 3 hours community service at St Boniface, and we appreciate the benefit this is to us each 3rd Saturday of the month. Our special thanks to Debbie the probation co-ordinator, who oversees her client’s health and safety, with the tasks identified for them to carry out. My thanks are extended to Ray and Philip Hack for assisting me in this event.

It is a blessing that we have a team of ladies who spend many hours preparing the church for our services. Angela, Christine and Avis and now Anne are recognised by the entire congregation for their flower displays, but this is only one of their very important contributions.

We extend our thanks to Tony Wingett, Pat Wootten, Christine Owen, Claire Thompson, Sharon Wills and Linda Klein in leading and/or preaching in our Sunday services, we are so blessed as a result. It is right also to thank Jim S. Smith for his continued support with our services. We also now welcome Lynn Black to the team.

The Men’s Shed volunteers continually make significant improvements to the Church Hall. We thank Graham Gowman and his team for their continued enthusiasm in developing this worthy cause; this project provides an important communal benefit for its members.

We are thankful for the attendance of many from Grove Place to our services, with some new faces, which are a pleasure to see. I must again thank Bettina Wilson for managing the rotas for bible readings and intercession, also to Sandi who is a special artist who contributes to the production of the monthly Twin Spires Magazine cover.

Many thanks to Linda our Treasurer, Christine our new Secretary and Abbie our Parish Administrator, for all they do to ensure a smooth administration of the church affairs. Thanks also to Steph for her role as cleaner for both churches.

And I would like to extend my special thanks to Graeme our vicar, for his support to me in my role, and also for his continued enthusiasm for the development of both of our churches.

**John Sofrin**

**Church Warden for St Boniface Church**

 **2024 Churchwarden’s Report, St John’s Church**

I am not sure I am qualified to write the Churchwarden’s report as 2024 was a different year for the role of Churchwarden. After the wonderful leadership of John Holden, and then Randell McKay, we found ourselves without a Churchwarden at the last APCM. There are several sides to the role of Churchwarden, the practical overseeing of tasks in the church, and the Christian leadership perspective. We felt the role might appear large for one person to take on, so a change in structure might help it to be more manageable.

I was honoured to be accepted into the role of Churchwarden at the 2024 APCM and after a very helpful handover from Randell, we set about breaking down the role and setting up the Barnabas Group to take on some of the tasks. My thanks to Ann Laird, Simon Harris, Peter Myerscough-Jackopson, John Pennells, Ruth Myerscough-Jackopson, Crawford White and David Hammond for joining Barnabas with such enthusiasm and energy.

Our first meeting was on 28th May, when we started to break down the required tasks for people to volunteer for and have progressed from there. I started my ordination training in September, and we are asked not to hold specific roles whilst we are training. The Barnabas Group was working well to each individuals’ strengths and when Ann and Peter offered to become Churchwardens last October, I resigned as Churchwarden. I am therefore writing this having been in post for a short period of time last year.

We have welcomed several new families into St John’s over 2024, which is a wonderful blessing. We have continued in our outreach to the local area with activities aimed at the community; monthly Lego Church, Carers and Tots sessions on Mondays and the Friday Friends group. We have also held larger events such as the Light Party that was again very popular with church families and the wider community.

Our Social Committee has organised some great events such as the Murder Mystery evening, Twinspires’ Talent Show and Carols Round the Fire. These are always well received, and our thanks go to the team for their efforts.

Following a significant amount of work by Randell and Graeme, we have recently heard that permissions have been given to replace the pews with chairs. There are some conditions attached which will be addressed, particularly around the choice of chair, but even if we have to compromise on our choice of chair, the important thing is that we will be able to use the church more flexibly. Thank you so much Randell for your perseverance with this important project.

**Terrier (inventory)**
During 2024 nothing was added or removed from the inventory of St John’s.

**Thank You**
A huge thank you to all our volunteers who help run our services, offer administrative support, maintain the buildings and churchyard and get involved with organising social events. Without you, we would not be the church that we are. Giving some time can be fun and rewarding so if you aren’t involved yet, please do consider whether you might be able to serve in some small way.

Please support Peter and Ann and keep them in your prayers as they navigate their roles as our new Churchwardens.

**Lynn Black**

**2024 CHILDREN’S, YOUTH and FAMILIES REPORT**

**Introduction**

We are so incredibly grateful for all the amazing work happening in the children’s, families, and youth ministry at Twinspires Churches. Over the past months, we have been blessed with a growing team of dedicated volunteers whose passion and commitment have made a real difference in the lives of young people and families in our community. Without their time, energy, and heart for this ministry, none of this would be possible—so a huge thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve!

As a church, we are committed to reaching into the community and making a real impact in the lives of families and young people. We truly believe we are stepping into the vision God has placed on our hearts—creating a welcoming, faith-filled environment where children and youth feel valued, supported, and encouraged in their journey with God. The momentum we are building is something to celebrate, and we look forward to what’s ahead as we continue to serve, love, and share the good news of Jesus with the next generation.

**Tots – A Thriving Outreach Ministry**

One of the biggest blessings in our children’s and families’ ministry has been the ongoing success of our Tots Group. As one of our key outreach initiatives, it has been incredible to see so many families coming along each week, making it one of the most well-attended groups we run. This group provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with parents, carers, and little ones in our community, offering a warm and welcoming space where they can feel at home. Through real, meaningful conversations, we’ve been able to build strong relationships, support families, and gently introduce them to other church events, such as Lego Church and our All-Age Worship services.

It’s been so encouraging to hear how grateful the parents and carers are for this group. Many have expressed their appreciation for having a place where their children can play, learn, and grow, while they themselves find friendship and support in a relaxed and caring environment. The bonds we’ve developed with these families have been truly special, and we are so thankful for the impact this group is having.

Each week, we offer a variety of fun activities, including crafts, games, and refreshments. The children also enjoy a dedicated snack time, followed by an engaging and age-appropriate Bible story and a lively time of singing songs together. These moments not only create a sense of joy and belonging but also gently introduce young children to God’s love in a way they can understand.

Tots Group continues to be a vital part of our vision for reaching the community, and we are excited to see how it will continue to grow and bless families in the months ahead.

**More – Building Relationships & Exploring Faith**

Our More group, which meets on Monday nights, has been an exciting and evolving part of our youth ministry. Each week, we welcome around four young people aged 16+, most of whom do not come from a Christian background.

Over time, this group has naturally developed into more of a drop-in space, where young people feel comfortable to come, buy tuck, play games, and socialise in a relaxed and friendly environment.

What makes this group so special is the relational depth it has created. The young people who attend truly appreciate having a safe space where they can be themselves, build friendships, and feel supported. They have been incredibly open and honest with us about the challenges they face, sharing about relationships, personal struggles, and even their thoughts on faith. It’s a privilege to walk alongside them in these conversations, offering a listening ear and gentle guidance.

Each session, after time to socialise, we introduce a short discussion on biblical principles, helping them to explore faith in a way that feels relevant and accessible. Recently, we completed a series on mental health, which has been particularly meaningful for this group. We explored stories of mental health struggles in the Bible, reflecting on what we can learn from them and how they apply to our lives today. Given the pressures and challenges young people face, this was an incredibly valuable series, and it was encouraging to see them engage with the discussions.

More Group continues to be a vital part of our youth ministry, offering young people a space where they feel heard, valued, and supported. We’re excited to see how this group continues to grow and develop as we build on these relationships and create opportunities for deeper conversations about life and faith.

**Schools Work – Engaging Young Minds in Faith**

Our schools' work continues to be a vital part of our outreach, allowing us to connect with children in both Rownhams and Nursling Primary Schools on a weekly basis. Through a mix of assemblies and Christian Union groups, I have the privilege of sharing the message of Jesus in a way that is engaging, relevant, and accessible to young minds.

In our assemblies, I focus on making faith come alive through interactive discussions and storytelling. I believe that engaging young people in conversation helps them connect with the themes I explore, making the content both meaningful and relatable. One of the highlights of our assemblies is the acting out of Bible stories, which adds an element of fun and creativity, ensuring that the messages stick with the children long after they leave. Seeing their enthusiasm and participation each week is truly rewarding!

In our Christian Union groups, I take this engagement even further. These sessions provide a smaller, more personal space where children can ask questions, explore faith, and think about how Bible stories apply to their own lives. I use games, drama, and group discussions to make these sessions dynamic and exciting, helping the children not only hear but experience the message of the Gospel in a way that feels relevant to them.

The response from both schools has been incredibly positive, and it’s a joy to see so many children engaging with faith in a fresh and meaningful way. I am so grateful for the opportunity to build relationships with these young people, encourage them in their journey, and plant seeds of faith that I pray will continue to grow in their lives.

**Mountbatten School Christian Union – Connecting Faith Across Schools**

Another exciting part of our schools' work is the Christian Union at Mountbatten School, which we run in partnership with Romsey Abbey. It has been such a privilege to be part of this group each week, continuing to build on the relationships formed in the local primary schools while also connecting with new young people in the wider community. This transition from primary to secondary school is a key moment in a young person’s life, and it’s amazing to be able to walk alongside them in their faith journey during this time.

Each week, we create a welcoming and relaxed space where students can come to chat, explore biblical ideas, and enjoy time together. The sessions always involve good discussions, plenty of Uno, and, of course, snacks! It’s been wonderful to see how open and engaged the young people are, asking questions, sharing their thoughts, and forming friendships within the group.

Working alongside Romsey Abbey in this ministry has been a real blessing. Partnering together has strengthened our ability to reach more young people and provide a consistent, supportive space where faith can be explored in a fun and informal way. We’re so encouraged by how this group is growing and look forward to seeing how God continues to work through it in the months ahead!

**Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit**

Our theme for the day was "Fruits of the Spirit," a powerful and practical topic for our young people to explore together. I led the morning session, focusing on what the Fruits of the Spirit are, why they are important, and how we can cultivate them in our lives. Later in the day, Rosie, the youth worker from Romsey Abbey, led a brilliant session on how we can actively use these gifts in our daily lives, making the discussions deeply relevant and applicable to the young people.

Throughout both sessions, it was encouraging to see how engaged the youth were—asking questions, sharing their thoughts, and reflecting on how they can live out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in their everyday interactions.

**Adventure and Bonding**

Of course, no youth day away would be complete without some exciting activities! In the morning, our young people had the chance to take part in either mountain biking or rock climbing, both of which challenged them to step outside their comfort zones and support one another. In the afternoon, we all came together for kayaking, which was filled with plenty of laughter, splashing, and teamwork as we navigated the water together.

Beyond the structured activities, there was also plenty of time for free play and sports, allowing the two youth groups to bond in a relaxed setting. Whether it was kicking a football around, chatting over lunch, or sharing snacks, it was clear that friendships were forming and strengthening throughout the day.

 **Looking Ahead**

Despite it being just a single day this year, the Youth Day Away at Avon Tyrrell was a huge success, and it was so encouraging to see our 20 young people grow in faith and friendship. Even more exciting is the fact that preparations are already underway for a full weekend away later this year! We can’t wait to see how this retreat continues to grow and impact the young people from both of our churches.

A big thank you to everyone who made this day possible, from the leaders who planned and ran sessions to the young people who came with such enthusiasm and energy. We look forward to what’s next!

**Introducing Ignite – Our Newest Youth Group for Ages 4-7!**

We are so excited to have launched Ignite, our brand-new youth group for children aged 4 to 7 years old! This new addition means that we now have groups running for children and young people from newborn all the way up to 18, allowing us to support their faith journey from the very start and continue walking alongside them as they grow. It’s amazing to see how God is working through our children’s ministry, and we’re so grateful for the opportunity to help shape young lives through fun, fellowship, and faith.

**A Fun & Engaging Introduction to Church**

Ignite has been designed as a welcoming and engaging space to introduce younger children to church in a way that is fun, interactive, and age-appropriate. Each session begins with lots of free time, where the children can settle in, play, and connect with one another, before moving into a time of games, activities, and crafts. This allows them to experience church as a place of joy and community, creating positive early experiences of faith that we pray will stay with them as they grow.

**Exploring Big Themes in a Fun Way**

Throughout the year, we will be exploring different biblical themes, helping the children understand the core truths of the Christian faith in a way that makes sense to them. At the moment, we are focusing on a different theme each week—we start by watching a short video, which helps introduce the topic in an engaging way, before moving into a group discussion where we talk about what it means in our own lives. It’s been amazing to see how even at such a young age, the children are engaging with faith and asking great questions!

**A Growing Community**

We are already seeing Ignite grow, with around 10 young people attending each week, and new faces continuing to join us. It’s been so encouraging to see the enthusiasm of both the children and their families, and we are excited to see how this group develops in the coming months.

Ignite is more than just a group—it’s the start of a faith journey, and we love having the opportunity to walk alongside these young children as they take their first steps in exploring who Jesus is. We can’t wait to see where this journey leads, and we are so thankful for everyone who has helped make this group a reality!

**Net – A Place for Fun, Faith, and Leadership**

Our Net Youth Group is a thriving and exciting space for young people aged 7 to 12, though we’re also blessed to have older children up to 14 joining us. Each week, we create an engaging and active environment, packed with games, crafts, and activities, making full use of our outdoor space, which has been vital in helping the young people burn off energy and build friendships.

With an average of 15 young people attending weekly—and some weeks reaching nearly 20—Net is a growing and lively community where young people feel welcomed, valued, and excited to return each week.

**Exploring Faith Together**

A key part of each session is our short talk midway through the evening, where we explore a biblical theme together. Just like our Ignite group, we are currently focusing on the life of Jesus, specifically looking at a different point of Holy Week each week.

These discussions help the young people think about what these events mean for us today, making faith real and relevant in their everyday lives.

**Developing Young Leaders**

One of the most exciting aspects of Net is how it has become a space for developing young leaders—something we are really passionate about within the church. For those who have aged out of the group, we are creating opportunities for them to step into leadership roles, helping them grow in responsibility and confidence while still remaining part of the group.

These young leaders take on extra responsibilities, such as helping run games, supporting younger members, and assisting with activities. One particularly successful initiative has been the gold card system, a positive reinforcement approach to encourage good behaviour. Rather than using negative reinforcement, we wanted church to be seen as a place of encouragement and positivity, so we introduced a system where young people are rewarded for positive behaviour, kindness, and engagement. Our young leaders play a key role in this, as they are the ones who choose the recipient of the gold card each week, helping them develop leadership skills in a meaningful way.

**Volunteering and Growth**

We have also been thrilled to support a young person as they complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award by volunteering with us. This has been a great opportunity to mentor and build them up, helping them develop key life and leadership skills while contributing positively to the group.

**A Space for Growth**

The Net Youth Group is more than just a place to have fun—it’s a space where young people can grow in faith, build friendships, and develop as leaders. It’s so exciting to see how the group continues to evolve, and we are so grateful for all the young people, leaders, and volunteers who make this possible.

We can’t wait to see what the future holds for Net and how God will continue to work in the lives of these amazing young people!

**Sunday Club – Growing in Faith Together**

Our Sunday Club is a fantastic space for young people aged 3 to 12 to explore faith in an engaging and age-appropriate way during our Sunday morning services. Most weeks, the children leave the main service and head to the community centre, where they dive into Bible stories, play games, and take part in creative activities.

**A Journey Through the Lectionary**

Each week, Sunday Club follows the lectionary, ensuring that the young people are exploring the same key themes as the rest of the church in a way that is relevant and accessible to them. This helps them feel connected to the wider church family while also allowing them to engage with Scripture at their own level.

**A Space for Fun and Sharing**

Numbers vary from week to week, with anywhere between 3 and 7 young people attending, but no matter the size of the group, the children always love coming together. The sessions begin with a time to share news from their week, helping to build a sense of community and care for one another. From there, we read the Bible, play games, and do crafts and activities that bring the stories to life.

**A Big Thank You!**

We are so grateful for everyone who makes Sunday Club possible, and especially to Andy Ball for his dedication and leadership. The young people love heading out each week, and it’s a joy to see them engaging with their faith, building friendships, and growing in their understanding of God.

Thank you to all the children, parents, and volunteers who support Sunday Club each week—we look forward to many more exciting sessions ahead!

**Ichthians – Taking Sunday Morning Faith to a Deeper Level**

Our Ichthians group is a space for our older young people aged 11 to 18 to go deeper in their faith on Sunday mornings. We’ve seen exciting growth in this group recently, with more young people moving up from Sunday Club, meaning we now have around 7 attending each week.

**A Time for Community and Study**

Each Sunday morning, our young people come together for breakfast and fellowship, creating a relaxed and welcoming environment where they can connect, share, and encourage one another. After this time of community, we dive into a deeper Bible study, exploring themes and passages that challenge and inspire them.

At the moment, we are journeying through the book of Judges, unpacking its stories, lessons, and relevance to our lives today. The young people are engaging so well with these studies, asking big questions and thinking deeply about how faith impacts their daily lives.

**A Call for More Leaders**

We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated leaders who make this group happen each week. However, we are low on volunteers and would greatly appreciate any extra help. If you have a heart for discipling young people, enjoy discussing faith, and would like to support this fantastic group, please do get in touch—we would love to have you on board!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Ichthians—it is amazing to see this group grow, and we look forward to all that God has in store for them.

**Lego Church: A Monthly Family Tradition of Faith and Creativity**

Every third Sunday of the month, families gather for a unique and engaging experience at Lego Church, where faith and creativity come together to tell Bible stories through the power of Lego bricks. This monthly event invites families to build different Bible stories using Lego pieces, turning each session into a fun and meaningful activity that everyone can enjoy.

At the beginning of each session, participants are given a list of Lego items to prepare. These items are the building blocks needed to recreate a particular Bible story. Families work together at tables to gather and build the necessary pieces, ensuring that they are ready to bring their creations to life during the group session.

When the families come together, they share their Lego creations and retell the Bible story based on what they have built. It’s a wonderful way to explore the story in a hands-on, interactive way, sparking creativity and dialogue. Each family’s unique interpretation of the story adds to the richness of the experience, making it a truly collaborative and shared effort.

Following the Lego-building and storytelling, the group takes part in a time of worship, singing songs that resonate with the message of the Bible story. This moment of worship creates a sense of connection and reflection, further deepening the understanding of the lesson.

The session concludes with a short reflection on the story’s meaning, encouraging families to think about how the story applies to their lives.

Throughout the session, snacks and drinks are provided, creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone. Lego Church is more than just a chance to build with bricks—it’s an opportunity for families to connect, learn, and have fun together in a supportive and welcoming environment. It’s a special time for the whole family, where creativity meets faith in a way that makes learning about the Bible both memorable and enjoyable.

**Conclusion**

As we conclude this year's youth work report, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we’ve shared together. This year has been a time of growth, connection, and transformation for both our youth and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to create a positive and supportive environment. Through engaging activities, meaningful discussions, and unforgettable moments, we have witnessed the impact of our collective efforts in shaping the lives of the young people in our community.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and passion of our volunteers, families, and supporters. Your involvement has been crucial in making our programs a success, and we are incredibly grateful for all the time, energy, and love you have poured into this work.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue building on the foundation we have laid this year. We remain committed to fostering a space where faith, friendship, and personal growth can flourish, and we are eager to see what the future holds for our youth groups. Together, we will continue to inspire, support, and equip the next generation, ensuring that they are ready to face the challenges ahead with confidence, hope, and love.

Thank you once again for being part of this incredible journey. Your dedication makes all the difference, and we are truly blessed to have you as part of our youth work community.

**Ewan Brown**

**2024 CRECHE REPORT**

Creche continued to be supervised through 2024 on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, with a small team of volunteers who on a rota basis ensured both parents/carers and young children (under 3) are welcomed to this space and shown the toys and other resources available. However, now located in the South Transept (righthand side of the dais) the Creche is now an integral part of the Sunday morning services at St John’s. Feedback from parents/carers continues to be positive as this change allows them to be fully involved in the service, therefore from the start of 2025 it was decided Creche would be a parent-led activity available at every 10am service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have volunteered leading and helping with Creche, with special thanks to Denise Pennells who served in this role for 25 years.

**Sue Muldowney**

**2024 COFFEE BREAK REPORT**

Coffee Break continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

In August 2024 we celebrated Violet’s 100th birthday; a wonderful achievement. Vi has been a constant with us almost from the outset 10 years ago, another milestone of last year.

We meet in the Community Centre and there’s always a buzz of lively conversation as old and new friends meet together over coffee and cake. None of this would happen, of course, without our volunteer; drivers; welcomers; who bake, make coffee and teas, and the other 101 things that make everything work.

We were blessed to have received a grant from the Parish Council, (our thanks to Phil Bundy) some of which has helped us to replace equipment this year.

A huge thank you to the Coffee Break Team once more. Another 10 years??

**Glennis Gould**

**2024 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Following the 2024 APCM, our elected Deanery Synod representatives are:

Sarah Beak, Simon Harris and Crawford White. Sarah and Crawford attended one meeting. There were no items to report to the PCC.

**Christine Owen**

**PCC Secretary**

**2024 ECO GROUP REPORT**

Claire Thompson has been working hard offsetting the gas via Climate Stewards Offset – Climate Stewards and submitting the carbon footprint of both churches.

Claire held a Tearfund quiz last October which was well attended and seems to have grown year on year.

Claire also champions fairtrade products, manning Fairtrade stalls at both churches during Fairtrade Fortnight.

David Hammond has kindly volunteered to work alongside the Churchwardens looking at the sustainability and future of the fabric of both church buildings.

Last June Claire hosted our now annual ‘Churches Count on Nature’. In December Graeme invited the entire congregation to organise stalls for a Christmas Fayre both in church itself and the hall. Sophie had a stall with eco present making ideas and homemade Christmas wrapping paper. This event was well attended and received by the community.

The Monthly Litter Picks have seen an enormous increase in number of volunteer pickers. Good conversations have been had and it is a great opportunity to talk about our faith!

Just starting up – with money from the Diocese, St John’s has been given books about climate change. Volunteers have kindly come forward and are going into both church Primary schools reading these books to the children.

We continuously inspire the congregation by providing weekly eco tips on the newssheet; the church Facebook and articles in the Twinspires Magazine each month.

Other future events planned are a talk from Tearfund at St John’s to talk to us about the projects they are involved in this area. We pray that this will inspire many more people to get involved.

Churches Count on Nature is hopefully taking place on 8th June on the Glebe after the morning service.

Looking towards the summer, this August 3rd Ewan will lead a forest church service outside on the Glebe. Our Diocesan Environmental Officer Sam Scott will be attending this service. We intend to have an open meeting straight after the service to talk to Sam and discuss environmental issues. This is a bit earlier than the Church of England’s calendar of Creationtide, but thinking about creation is not just for consideration from 1st September to the 4th October!

**Sophie Ross**

**ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – 30th April 2025**

This year, being the sixth of the electoral roll cycle, saw a complete refresh of the roll, with everybody being invited to reapply.

There are currently 120 people on the electoral roll – the number on roll has decreased by 77 from April 2024.

Of the 120 people on the roll:

* 117 declare that they are members of the Church of England
* 83 are resident in the parish, with 37 non-residents, so 31% are non-resident in the parish. In April 2024 the percentage was 28%.

Would those in church stand as we remember those from our church family who have died since April 2024:

* Colin Jones
* Margaret Bigglestone (Peggy)
* Audrey Newport
* Bernard Butcher
* Liz Jones

Please remember that if you are not on the electoral roll then you may not vote at this meeting.

**Sue Muldowney**

**Electoral Roll Officer**

### **2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW**

We ended the year in a better financial position than we were in at the beginning of the year.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed financially during the year. The long list of activities you have read about would not be possible without your generosity.

* Total incoming resources for 2024 were £206,336 compared to £232,475 in the previous year
* Total outgoing resources were £172,669 (2023 - £174,902)
* The result for the year was net incoming resources of £33,667 (2023 – net incoming resources of £57,573) giving net assets of £245,225 on 31 December 2024 (£211,558 on 31 December 2023)

The reduction in income reflected lower amounts received from legacies and one-off donations, but this was partially offset by a 5% increase in planned giving compared to the previous year, for which we are grateful. We had a successful Giving Day in May 2024 to help support our youth and outreach ministry.

We continue to see more donations being made through online methods, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme or other giving schemes where donations arrive inclusive of any gift aid recoverable. This reduces the administration at a local level considerably. The shift to those who use the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) means that this has become the preferred way of giving for many.

Two very generous legacies were received during the year for the benefit of St Boniface Church, which will be used to fund building maintenance and improvement projects.

Expenditure included:

* £89,251 (2023 - £96,759) on Common Mission Fund (Parish Share)
* £17,931 (2023 - £17,807) on church running and maintenance
* £33,146 (2023 - £30,852) on youth and other outreach work
* £ 3,793 (2023 - £3,688) on missionary and charitable giving

The rental income received from St John’s Church Hall did not cover its running costs. This is mainly because we have not been able to find a regular replacement tenant for weekday daytime bookings following the closure of the Pre-School at the end of 2022.

Following a review by the Diocese of its budget, our Common Mission Fund commitment for 2025 is £90,568, compared to £89,251 in 2024.

I would like to thank all those who assist me in my work as treasurer. I am grateful to John Sofrin who banks the money each week for St Boniface, Hilda Ward who is treasurer of St John’s Flower Fund, Arnold Rust who helps with the processing of Gift Aid and to Biz Arnold for carrying out the independent examination of the financial statements. I would also like to acknowledge the help of Abbie and the volunteers in the office who provide additional ‘behind the scenes’ support.

**Linda Purkess**

**Treasurer**

**2024 FRIDAY FRIENDS REPORT**Pastoral Team Members - Revd. Graeme Dixon, Alison Collins, Sharon Wills, Christine Owen, Glennis Gould and Jenny Cleaver.

Friday Friends was formed back in January 2024, when as a Church, we felt that there was a real need to support bereaved people. Some families may have no prior association with St John’s or St. Boniface but are invariably pleased and thankful to be supported during a very difficult time.

The group is organised by the Pastoral team, and we meet every alternative month in the Church Hall to encourage those who are grieving, to come along for an ‘Afternoon Tea’ in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for understanding and friendship. The bereavement team are there to listen and to support them on their journey, wherever they are.

As we reflect over the past year, the team have been greatly encouraged in seeing how God has been at work. Cherishing the memories of a loved one and allowing people to reflect on the happy times they shared together, has helped many people on their journey, to find strength and enabled them move forward.

Over the months, friendships have developed within the group and people have been blessed by coming along. On average, between fifteen to twenty people from the community attend the sessions.

The Pastoral team meet prior to each event for planning, preparation and prayer. Looking ahead, we are willing to pray with and for people, who would like to have a home visit to feel pastorally cared for.
 **Alison Collins
 on behalf of the Pastoral Team

2024 HOME GROUPS REPORT**

There have been six home-based groups meeting during the year (plus CONNECT via Zoom, and a Bible study group at Grove Place). One group has disbanded due to lack of numbers, and another has expanded over two evenings to fit everyone in. Most meet on mid-week evenings and two have morning meetings (one for mums and pre-school children), either weekly or fortnightly.

The focus of each group can be slightly different - Bible study with or without a study guide; Bible mapping; videos on a particular topic etc. The group is also a source of support for each other, and includes time for sharing and prayer.

Each group has a leader, or a facilitator who shares the leading of the sessions with other members of the group.

During the year, one home group delivered a complete Sunday morning service, and two of the group leaders attended a Diocesan Discipleship training day.

In 2024 the home group leaders have met together several times. This has been very helpful in providing support to each other, and a sharing of ideas and insights.

**Dorothy Stratford**

 **2024 NURSLING PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

This past year has been my first as a Foundation Governor at Nursling Primary School, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. This role has allowed me to actively support the school in promoting its Christian ethos while also providing encouragement and guidance to staff and students alike. Over the past year, our school has undergone both a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and an OFSTED inspection. We are delighted that both inspections went well, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our school community.

A key part of my role has been engaging with students through weekly assemblies and Christian Union meetings. These gatherings provide an opportunity to explore faith, share biblical stories, and encourage discussions about Christian values in a way that is relevant and meaningful to the children. It has been inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the students as they engage with these sessions, deepening their understanding of faith and its role in their lives.

Beyond these sessions, we have also worked hard to promote the different church services within the school community. By maintaining a strong connection between the school and the local church, we ensure that families are aware of the various opportunities for worship and engagement beyond the classroom. Strengthening this link has been invaluable in fostering a sense of belonging and shared faith.

This past year has also presented challenges, and as a Foundation Governor, I have been committed to supporting the staff through difficult times. Whether through pastoral care, words of encouragement, or practical support, it has been essential to stand alongside our dedicated educators and ensure they feel valued and uplifted in their roles.

Looking ahead, we are working to shape the school’s vision around the story of the boy with five loaves and two fish. This powerful biblical account of generosity, faith, and community perfectly aligns with our school's values of love, hope, and courage.

Our goal is to embed these values into every aspect of school life, ensuring that students not only receive an excellent education but also grow into individuals who embody these principles in their daily lives.

I feel privileged to be part of such a committed and faith-driven school community. As we continue to grow and develop, I look forward to seeing how our shared vision and values will inspire and guide the next generation of students at Nursling Primary School.

**Ewan Brown**

**Foundation Governor**

**2024 St BONIFACE FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT**This year has been another joyful and positive one for our team of three who decorate St Boniface Church each week with beautiful flowers.  We rely entirely on donations from our congregation but we supplement, when we can, by raiding our own gardens!

Following on from a wedding last year, we had another wedding in August.   We get a lot of pleasure in creating beautiful displays for the couple getting married and being a part of their celebrations. Choosing a different theme for the special services held in honour of Mothering Sunday, Easter, St Boniface Day, Sea Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas is another challenge which keeps us busy.

It goes without saying there have been a number of funerals and memorial services which have been commemorated accordingly with appropriate floral displays.

We are extremely grateful for all donations we receive in order to give continuing pleasure to all who visit our beautiful church.
 **Angela Wright Avis Wood Christine Cheetham**

**2024 St.  JOHN’S FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT**
We have had no income from Weddings during 2024, and at the present time none booked for this year.  We would like to say a big thank you for the generous donations received from Church throughout the year. In order to cut costs, we are using artificial flowers alongside fresh ones.

Finally thank you to all the arrangers for supplying all the greenery from their gardens or their neighbours’ gardens, also thanks to many of you who do not claim for fresh flowers.

**Hilda Ward, Treasurer**

**2024 SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

The Parish of Nursling and Rownhams is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment for all, including children and adults who may be at risk of abuse and neglect. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in activities in our two churches is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the parish community and over this last year I am pleased to report we have continued to meet this commitment.

We continue to access the Winchester Diocese Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which helps both the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and the PCC to track and monitor key safeguarding activities. Through the dashboard we regularly download an action plan so we can clearly see what needs to be done to meet our safeguarding responsibilities. This process continues to be very helpful for us to ensure the; necessary policies in place are updated timely; risk assessments for activities are updated annually; role descriptions for our volunteer and paid roles are in place. We still have some more work to do to finalise safer recruitment processes and to tighten up on our monitoring of church related social media accounts.

All DBS checks continue to be processed on a 3-year cycle in line with National guidance. Over the past 12 months, 22 DBS checks were processed and 14 people completed safeguarding training at the required level for their role.

All current regular activities and risk assessments are in place and reviewed annually. In addition, we have job descriptions for most volunteer roles. All these documents are in SharePoint and can be accessed by the office. I encourage anyone who has not received a role description or risk assessment to ask the office or me for a copy.

For anyone working with children or adults at risk and for all in leadership roles in our churches, the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, published by the National Church, is an essential resource. A link to the most up to date version can be found on the safeguarding page of our website along with Parish and Diocesan safeguarding contact details.

**Sue Muldowney, Parish Safeguarding Officer**