



The Parish of Digswell

Annual report 2025



Registered Charity Number: 1216284

Approved by the PCC on 23rd February 2026

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Trustees' Report

by Lee Pocha (PCC Secretary)

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The primary object of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. According to the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the PCC shall co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC has overall responsibility for the financial affairs of the Parish and for the maintenance and insurance of the church buildings, for health and safety in church and churchyard, and for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

The Mission Statement agreed by the PCC is:

"The heart of your community. We welcome everyone. We care for everyone. We share God's love."

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. When setting our objectives and preparing our activities for the year the PCC have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through, worship and prayer, provision of pastoral care for people living in the Parish and missionary and outreach work.

According to our Mission Action Plan, our vision is to be a sacred presence in the local community that is relevant to people's lives and needs. Our main objectives and priorities for the future can be summarised as follows:

- Planning for the future, to ensure proper structures are in place
- Developing the facilities at Christ the King Hub to allow it to be a strong and useable presence in the community
- Creating a dementia friendly church, making faith and worship accessible to the whole community
- Further developing a children's ministry team, strengthening our missionary and outreach work
- Focusing on environmental issues and how the Parish can be more sustainable and eco friendly

The reports in this document provide a summary of the key activities and achievements of the Parish for 2025, in fulfilment of our priorities and objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

Current members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020. PCC members who have served from 23rd March 2025 (the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting) until the date of this report (unless other stated) are:

Ex Officio:

Rector: Fr. Rob Marshall

Associate Priest: Selina Evans

Churchwardens: Michael Barron and Tracy Tann

Doug Turner (*Deanery Synod*)

Michael Irish (*Deanery Synod*)

Heather Yuill (*Electoral Roll officer and Deanery Synod*)

Elected:

Secretary: Lee Pocha

Treasurer: Alistair Munro

Mandy Clements

Geoffrey de Villiers

Karen Byer

Nick Johnson

Lucy Gravatt

Tobi Sowemimo

Co-opted

Reader: Rose Lloyd

Regular attendees

Pamela Turner (*Parish Safeguarding Officer*)

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. In Digswell Parish, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), the Associate Priest, the two Churchwardens, the Reader, the Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the Church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Members may be co-opted onto the PCC to serve certain roles, at the discretion of the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

There were 6 PCC meetings held in 2025, in February, March, April, July, September and December. Meetings were held both in person and virtually on Zoom.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 was held on 23rd March 2025. It was held in St John's Church.

The Standing Committee met 5 times during 2025. The Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of, and serve the PCC, as directed. The members of the standing committee in 2025 appointed by the PCC, were Fr Rob Marshall, Tracy Tann, Michael Barron, Alistair Munro and Lee Pocha.

The PCC is free to appoint other committees to carry out various branches of church work in the Parish in order to fulfil its objectives. Members of committees appointed by the PCC may include persons who are not members of the PCC. The PCC, immediately after the last annual meeting, approved the establishment of the following committees:

- *Finance Committee.* This committee consists of Doug Turner (Chair), the two Churchwardens, the 2 local treasurers and the Parish treasurer. The committee monitors the finances of the Parish as a whole and advises the PCC on financial matters.
- *Complaints Committee.* This committee consists of the Rector, the two Churchwardens, the Parish Treasurer and the PCC Secretary. This committee will deal with any complaints submitted to the Parish.
- *St John's Church Committee:* The committee consists of the following members: Rector/Curate (ex officio), Mandy Clements (Secretary), Michael Barron, Tracy Tann, Heather Yuill, Eddie Washington (Treasurer), Lucy Gravatt and Annabel Deegan. The committee is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of St John's Church as well as its finances and the building.
- *Christ the King Hub Working Group:* The committee consists of the following members: Rector/Curate (ex officio), Nicola Janke (Treasurer), Michael Irish, Colleen Moore, Rose Lloyd, Geoffrey de Villiers, Karen Byer, Michael Barron, Tracy Tann, Mary Barron (Secretary), Bola Sowemimo. The committee is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of Christ the King Hub as well as its finances and the building.

Each of the committees meet around 4-5 times per year and are ultimately responsible to the PCC. They report back to the PCC regularly, with minutes of their discussions and decisions being received by the PCC and discussed as necessary.

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the church.

Lee Pocha carries out the roll of PCC Secretary and Alistair Munro, Parish Treasurer. Both were elected by the PCC at the meeting immediately following the 2025 Annual Parochial Council Meeting.

Pamela Turner holds the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer and attends each PCC meeting to give the PCC regular updates on the current situation in the Parish. Pamela is stepping down from this role in January 2026 and Heather Yuill will be taking over this position in the interim.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The PCC is a corporate body (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and, for the most part of the year, a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC is governed by two pieces of legislation, called Measures. These are:

- The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. This defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".
- The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

Due to reaching the required financial threshold, the Parish was required this year to complete the process to formally register as a charity with the Charity Commission. This process was completed in December 2025 and the details are below:

- *Charity Name:* The Parochial Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Digswell in the Diocese of St Albans (also known as 'the Parish or Digswell or 'Digswell Parish')
- *Registered Charity Number:* 1216284

- *Principal Office*: St John the Evangelist, Monks Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7NK

The PCC accepts the House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance, both policies and practice, and it publishes and regularly reviews its Safeguarding Policy. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parish of Digswell is part of the Diocese of St Albans and serves Haldens, Sherrardspark, Knightsfield and Digswell Village and has two church buildings:

- St John the Evangelist, Monks Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7NK
- Christ the King Hub, 75 Haldens, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1DD

The correspondence address for the Parish is St John the Evangelist, Monks Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7NK.

PCC Treasurer Report

by Ally Munro

Overview – Parish Bank Accounts

Church/Parish Account	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Surplus on year
Digswell PCC Account	£8,134.94	£6,720.87	-£1,414.07
St John's Church	£75,779.59	£78,706.72	£2,927.13
Christ the King Church	£20,179.53	£10,617.58	-£9,561.95
TOTAL	£104,094.06	£96,045.17	-£8,048.89

As was the case in 2024, the parish has met all its financial obligations for the year. While our provisions have dropped for the year, this can be clearly attributed to the building work that took place at Christ the King and also our having not reclaimed Gift Aid for 2024 during the year, as a result of our requirement to confirm the change in charitable status before making any claim. The healthy state of our finances will be reflected in the first quarter figures in subsequent PCC reports. As previously stated, this is all down to the active stewardship of our congregations, communities and friends, both financially and the voluntary activities that are given.

Financial Obligations for Digswell PCC

The primary financial obligation of Digswell PCC is to pay the Parish Share which is confirmed annually by the Diocese of St Albans. The 2025 figure of £49,883 resulted in a monthly contribution of £4,156.92.

Expenditure rose 6.5% from £115,525 to £122,963, but this was largely due to the building work at Christ the King and church running costs and utility bills went down from £38,163.05 in 2024 to £29,059.71 in 2025 a reduction of almost 25%.

Principal Funding Sources

The finances of Digswell PCC comprise individual Church Accounts held for St John's and Christ the King Churches, together with a central PCC Account. The PCC Account is funded via a monthly contribution from the aforementioned churches and Parish Share contributions are made from the central PCC Account. During 2025, DVC continued to pay a sum of one sixth of the PCC Budget and this amounted to £9,997,20. Funding for the churches is provided from scheduled and ad hoc giving from our congregations, rental income from the hiring of Church Halls and a proactive fund-raising model which continues to thrive with the continued efforts of the social committee and individual church volunteers in the Parish.

Our annual Christmas Market was, once again a great success, and together with the regular and stewardship contributions from our congregations and communities, we were able to maintain our material reserves and self-sufficient status.

Material Reserves and Future Considerations

Once again, Digswell PCC has been able to make 100% of its financial contributions, pay all expenditure and make provision for future expenditure. The PCC Finance Committee met in January 2026 to discuss the need for a formal policy on church provisions and will formalise this during 2026 to develop a policy on the level of reserves needed and their investment.

In addition, the Financial Committee continued the analysis program, begun in 2023 to look to centralise the finances of the Parish into a single account, where possible. This will simplify the current reporting of finances to the Diocese each year by removing the need to consolidate all account income and expenditure into a single financial report. No plan has yet been finalised, but efforts will continue in 2026

Independent Examination and Reporting

We propose to continue our relationship with Chris Pomroy of Pomroy Associates for the management of our 2025 accounts which are already consolidated and ready for independent examination.

Charitable Status Changes

We have now registered as a Charity in accordance with our breaching of the £100,000 receipts threshold. A further implication of this is the need to submit an annual return to the Charities Commission, 10 months after the end of the PCC Financial Year – thus, 31st October 2026.

Parish Activities

by The Revd Canon Dr Rob Marshall



2025 proved to be a rewarding year in terms of engaging with mission across the parish in a variety of ways. Amongst the headlines was the refurbishment of the Rosedale Room at Christ the King Hub which has greatly improved the facilities there. This was spearheaded by our Associate Priest, The Revd Selina Evans along with Michael Barron and Eddie Washington.

Lee Pocha (PCC Secretary) and Ally Munro (Treasurer) worked throughout the year on ensuring our charitable status was officially registered after reaching a financial threshold.

The Mission agreement with the Methodist Church which manifests itself locally in the working together collaboratively with Digswell Village Church continued to flourish. There are numerous crossover points between the two denominations locally including members of the Parish Extended Ministry Group taking services at DVC and times of shared Bible study throughout the year.

The Parish has a 0.8 Rector in post and a self-supporting Associate Priest and it also benefits hugely from the ministry of two retired priests and the services of a Reader. We are fortunate also in enjoying the contributions of 4 excellent Lay Leaders of Worship although Dr John Stewart announced he was taking up new employment in Ireland and we were sorry to say *au revoir* to him at Christmas 2025. We hope to see him on frequent visits.



The Parochial Church Council takes its responsibilities extremely seriously and is fortunate to have an exemplary Standing Committee (Michael Barron and Tracy Tann as churchwardens; Ally Munro, Treasurer and vice chair; Lee Pocha, Secretary). All business is conducted diligently and prayerfully. The PCC appoints several sub committees to oversee its work and we are grateful for the members of each of these for their valuable work and time. You will see elsewhere in this Report how the finances and fabric are always key to their discussions, along with safeguarding which, in recent years, has assumed a greater degree of

prominence. Training and awareness in safeguarding including safer recruitment of volunteers is key.

Worship is of course a core feature of the life of Digswell Parish. There is a well-established pattern of in-person and online services each week covering every day of the week. These include Eucharists on Sundays (St John's) and Tuesdays (Christ the King Hub) as well as special occasions throughout the liturgical year. There is also a weekly audio service (Soundcloud) a twice-weekly service of Compline (Tuesdays and Thursdays via Soundcloud) as well as Morning Prayer held via Zoom (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays). There is a regular Healing Service on the first Saturday of the month at St John's. Since January 2025, the House on the Rock hold their choir practise, prayer meeting and services at Christ the King Hub every week and it has been a pleasure to welcome them.

Reflecting the national trend, the number of funerals coming in from local funeral directors diminished further and there were very few pastoral contacts for weddings in 2025. However, we once again enjoyed officiating at a good number of baptisms as well as presenting confirmation candidates of various ages at two venues during the year.

Once again a wide number of community events were organised by ourselves and others. The annual Christmas Market has become a major opportunity to bring the community together and this year raised a similar amount to previous years. In the summer, Christ the King Hub hosted a great summer breakfast when many in the community joined together to celebrate the start of the holiday period. Various music societies and orchestras use St John's as a venue to produce a wide range of high-quality music events, and we are proud to work with the Cowper Arms in Digswell to provide Parish Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday every year. Twice a year the Parish organises cream teas in both the church and the Rectory.



St John's is also used by a variety of lessees providing valuable income and, once again, the constant upkeep of the fabric and facilities is a priority. Coffee Pot on Friday mornings has become a key meeting place for the wider community and it is cherished by those who meet at the weekly cafe for conversation, meeting others and fellowship. A monthly Parish book club meets there too.

Christ the King Hub also has a wide number of groups and organisations using the building including the House on the Rock and the Nursery and this generates welcome income.

Fundraising and rental income play a crucial role in the financial sustainability of the Parish as an ongoing concern but the generosity through Stewardship of a faithful number of people must be stressed here along with a contribution from Digswell Village Church each year towards the cost of the services the Parish takes.

One of the key aspects of Parish life is our work with our local schools. This is reflected in many ways including regular visits, assemblies, services, lesson support and the provision of governors to three

of our schools. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers are other times when we engage especially with our school communities.

Our Church of England school continued to flourish under the direction of Mr Arnie Worton Geer who continued to work collaboratively with staff and the governors to provide an excellent atmosphere for learning and thriving underpinned by a Christian ethos.

As the role of the Established Church in the nation continues to change and evolve so the Parish adapts and assesses how best to use its resources to meet its priorities. We are grateful to all for their support.

From the Rector:

2025 has been another special year. We have also seen a good year in terms of stewardship and the involvement of some new families and young people.

I would like to add my personal thanks to my fellow clergy, the Extended Ministry Group and all officers of the Parish for the tremendous contribution each of them makes to the life of our unique Parish.

We have been without a Bishop of St Albans this year following the retirement of Bishop Alan Smith but the Diocese has functioned well and we have also had a happy and good atmosphere in the local deanery.

With vacancies coming up in both Hatfield Hyde and St Francis in the town centre there have been opportunities to work towards greater collaborative in WGC, along with DVC and the wider Welwyn Garden City churches.

It has been a year of blessings and challenges as always.

Schools' Report

by The Revd Canon Dr Rob Marshall

Schools with Parish involvement: Monks Walk, Knightsfield, Waterside, Homerswood, Harwood Hill and St John's CofE

It has been another great year working with many of the local schools alongside our Church of England School.

Our work is broadly in these areas

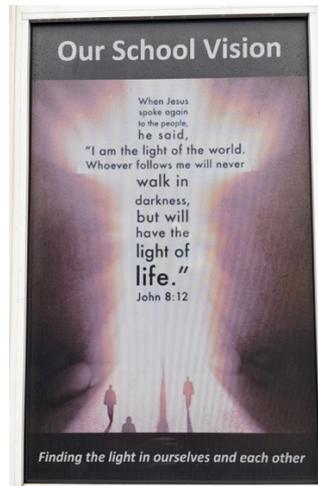
- building relationships with staff parents and pupils throughout the year.
- offering ways in which we can fulfil the curriculum requirements in terms of RE and other disciplines including history by welcoming classes to church
- doing assemblies when asked
- offering a space for celebrations for Christmas, Easter, Harvest and leavers including services and other events
- having pupils support Parish events such as our Christmas market
- being available at times or pastoral need when asked
- some parishioners offer their services as trustees and governors

We once again organised a community breakfast each year for newly qualified teachers at Monks Walk.

Our thanks are extended to all our local schools for their willingness to work with us.

St John's CofE School Governors' Report

by Lee Pocha (Foundation Governor)



The strong and valued partnership between the school and the Parish continues to flourish. Fr Rob and Selina lead the school in collective worship each Tuesday morning, and pupils regularly attend St John's Church and the Christ the King Hub throughout the year for a variety of joyful and meaningful celebration services. The school proudly embraces its role as a Church school, cherishing the deep connections these links foster with the wider community. Christian values lie at the heart of the school's strategic vision, and we celebrate the enthusiastic involvement of our pupils in church events across the year.

Fr Rob has worked closely with the school to develop comprehensive policies covering Religious Education, Collective Worship, and Spirituality. This collaborative effort ensures that the school's approach to faith and spiritual development is rooted in shared Christian values while remaining inclusive and engaging for all pupils. These policies provide a clear framework for delivering high-quality Religious Education, promoting thoughtful reflection, and encouraging meaningful engagement with Christian beliefs and practices. It also sets out how Collective Worship is planned and led, ensuring that pupils have regular opportunities to explore faith, celebrate important events, and develop their own spiritual understanding.

Fr Rob and Selina regularly support the school through Collective Worship and shared acts of prayer, providing opportunities for pupils to engage with Christian teaching in an accessible way. These times of worship are valued by both the school and the church and help to strengthen the spiritual life of the whole community.

Throughout the year, pupils and staff from St John's are welcomed into church for services and celebrations, enriching our worship with their enthusiasm and joyful participation. The Parish is proud to support the school at key moments in the church year, including Christmas, Easter and end of term services and these shared occasions serve as a visible reminder of our calling to work together in faith, service and fellowship.

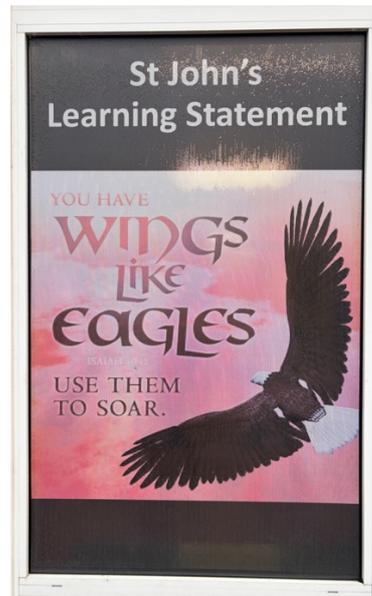
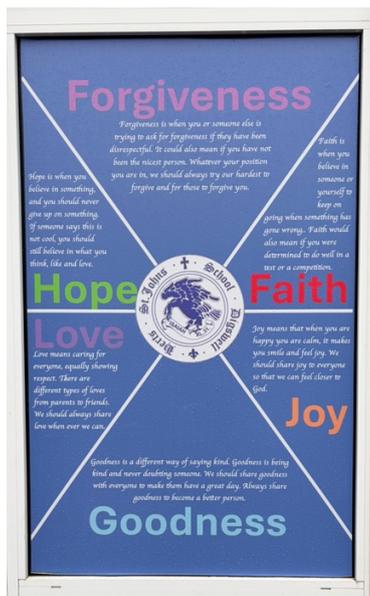
We are grateful for the commitment of school leaders, staff and families who continue to nurture this partnership, and we look forward to building on these strong foundations in the coming year as we grow together as a Christian community.

A group of children from the school, representing each year group, attended the Remembrance service at Harmer Green Lane on Sunday 9th November. It was a lovely service after which each year group laid a wreath in front of the memorial which had been made by all the children in their class.



The Coffee Pot at St Johns is often used by the 'Friends' to hold their meetings and is open for refreshments for parents and carers whenever the school is there for a service/event.

Mr Worton-Geer is now in his second year and is continuing to make a very positive impact on the school. Forest school is well embedded as part of the curriculum for the whole school and the school is now part of the OPAL scheme which encourages learning through outdoor play. Both of these initiatives have resulted in a great deal of time and effort being put into developing the outdoor areas and resources for the pupils making St Johns a very fun and nurturing place to learn.



Safeguarding Report

by Pamela Turner (Parish Safeguarding Officer in 2025)



The Parish is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and to supporting those who have been victims of abuse, as well as those who may present a risk to others. **The PCC has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.** Safeguarding is an agenda item at PCC meetings, the St Johns Committee meeting and the CtK Working Group meetings. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) advises the PCC on all necessary amendments to safeguarding protocols.

Policies – The PCC publicises “Promoting a Safer Church” (Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy) and the Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse on Parish noticeboards. PSO uses the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that all documentation is kept current and circulated regularly.

Parish Safeguarding Mandatory Requirements - The Parish is working at 99% compliance with all mandatory requirements. The figure fluctuates gently when new policies or items are introduced or are due for renewal, until they are approved/reapproved – this is quite normal and to be expected.

National Safeguarding Standards – These are published on the Parish noticeboards and compliance with the standards is measured separately on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The PCC has examined key areas like culture, personal safety and wellbeing and identified areas for consideration further in 2026.

DBS certification - DBS checks are fully up to date.

Safeguarding training - All members of the PCC, Ministry team and all Church Officers (regular volunteers) undertake the appropriate safeguarding training. Many thanks to the 30 plus people who have completed or renewed the training for their roles.

Safeguarding Information – Safeguarding contact information is available on our noticeboards and on the Parish pages of 'A Church near You'

Insurance - There is adequate insurance cover for all activities involving children or adults undertaken in the name of the Parish.

Parish Safeguarding Risk Assessments - Parish Safeguarding Risk Assessments have been renewed as required and shared with activity leaders for onward communication.

Safer Recruitment and People Management Hub – the Parish uses the Hub to record and update role descriptions and people specifications for all roles with a safeguarding element and most other regular volunteer roles in the Parish. All DBS' and training are recorded here which makes management of training and DBS renewals so much easier as automatic reminders are sent to the PSO.

Parish Safeguarding HUB Service Level Agreement (SLA) – the Parish signed up to a national Service Level Agreement with Clearly Simpler Ltd who operate the Safeguarding Hub. This has the endorsement of the St Albans Diocese.

Activities on Parish Premises – the PCC has oversight of all activities run in the name of the Parish and keeps records of all non- Church activities. Hiring agreements include the necessary Safeguarding Addendums.

Safeguarding cases - there have been no notifiable Safeguarding cases opened with the Diocesan Safeguarding team in 2025.

Data Protection – all safeguarding data is stored securely. The Parish Data Protection Policy has been updated to reflect changes following the adoption of the Parish Safeguarding Hub.

Archdeacon's Visitation 2025 - this focussed heavily of how the Parish complied with mandatory safeguarding requirements for Parishes. The Archdeacon's representative was pleased with the achievements of the Parish.

Personnel Change – Pamela Turner is stepping back from the PSO role from end Dec 25. The Parish is grateful to Heather Yuill for taking on the PSO responsibilities temporarily. Briefings have been taking place over the Autumn to ensure a smooth transition.

Electoral Roll Report

by Heather Yuill

This year the Parish revised its Electoral roll. The numbers below show the changes due to this revision:

2025	90
2026	93

The completed return forms are displayed in both churches.

Deanery Synod Report

During 2025 the Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod met three times: in **March, June and October**. Each meeting included worship, fellowship, and discussion of matters affecting churches across the deanery.

A range of **guest speakers** contributed during the year. These included a presentation from *Single Friendly Churches*, encouraging churches to think about how welcoming and inclusive they are for single people; a talk reflecting on mission in the early church; and a speaker from *Resolve*, highlighting opportunities for fundraising and community engagement.

There were several **clergy changes and pastoral updates** shared across the year, including ordinations, new appointments, departures, and support for churches during vacancies and maternity leave. These updates helped parishes stay informed and pray for one another.

The Synod received updates on **Deanery and Diocesan matters**, including work on a proposed **Deanery Sunday**, the diocesan focus on **Growing Younger and More Diverse**, and progress with the **Alban Way Project** for young people aged 16–35.

Important **diocesan and national issues** were also discussed, such as the process for appointing a new Bishop of St Albans, Parish Share and parish finances, and matters arising from General Synod.

Safeguarding remains a key priority. Parishes were reminded to keep safeguarding as a regular PCC agenda item, follow safer recruitment guidance, and ensure good data protection practice.

Overall, Deanery Synod continues to provide a helpful forum for sharing information, supporting parishes, and encouraging collaboration across the deanery.

Building and Fabric Report

by Michael Barron (Churchwarden)



This section outlines the key maintenance activities and observations relating to the fabric of St. John's Church, Digswell and Christ the King Hub for the year 2025.

St John's Church

General Maintenance

Throughout 2025, routine maintenance was carried out to ensure the ongoing upkeep of the church grounds and facilities. The grass surrounding the church was regularly cut to maintain a tidy appearance and prevent overgrowth. Blocked drains were identified and cleared, ensuring effective water drainage and reducing the risk of water damage. Additionally, the roof valleys were cleared of debris, helping to prevent blockages and potential leaks.

Annex Area

The Annex area received particular attention during the year. The space was redecorated, enhancing its appearance and making it more welcoming for visitors and congregants. The carpet in the annex underwent cleaning on two occasions to maintain hygiene and comfort. However, due to the high volume of foot traffic in and out of the area, the current carpet has now reached the end of its practical life and requires replacement with a more durable option.

Sound System

The church's sound system was identified as an area requiring significant attention during the year. In particular, both outport boxes have sustained damage to several of their ports. As a result, substantial work will be needed to repair or restore these components to ensure the sound system remains fully functional and reliable for services and events.

Seating Improvements

During the course of the year, the church experienced an impressive level of footfall, reflecting its popularity and active engagement with both the local community and visitors. This increased usage placed additional strain on the existing seating, particularly the wooden chairs, some of which became unsafe for continued use. In response to this issue, the hazardous wooden chairs were removed and

replaced with robust stacking metal chairs featuring padded seats. This upgrade has not only addressed safety concerns but also enhanced comfort for congregants and guests attending services and events.

Notice Board Replacement

During the year, the large wooden notice board situated at the front of the church sustained significant damage. The extent of the deterioration has rendered it unfit for its intended purpose, as it can no longer adequately display notices or withstand the elements. Recognising the importance of clear and visible communication for both congregants and visitors, arrangements have been made to replace the damaged notice board. The replacement will be a like-for-like model, ensuring that the style and character of the church's frontage are preserved. This work is scheduled to take place during the spring, restoring the notice board to its full functionality and maintaining the welcoming appearance of the church entrance.

Electrical Safety Improvements

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the church's facilities, trunking and skirting were constructed and installed along the walls throughout the building. This work was specifically undertaken to safely enclose the mains electrical cables leading to the server area. By fitting this trunking and skirting, the church has ensured that electrical wiring is neatly concealed, protecting it from accidental damage and reducing potential safety hazards. The completed installation has contributed to both the safety and the overall aesthetic of the interior, maintaining a tidy and visually appealing environment for all who use the space.

Christ the King Hub, Haldens

General Maintenance Summary

Throughout the year, a comprehensive programme of general maintenance was undertaken at Christ the King Hub. Key activities included regular grass cutting to ensure the grounds remained tidy and presentable at all times. In addition, rainwater gullies were routinely cleaned to prevent blockages and maintain effective drainage across the site. The windows were also cleaned periodically, contributing to both the aesthetic appeal and upkeep of the building.

Lighting and Security Improvements

During the course of the year, all existing light fittings throughout Christ the King Hub were replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs. This upgrade not only improves the quality and consistency of lighting within the building, but also supports ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption and lower running costs.

In addition to the lighting improvements, a replacement lock was installed on the Church's main entrance door. This measure was undertaken to enhance the overall security of the premises, ensuring that building users and visitors benefit from a safe environment at all times.

Key Refurbishment Tasks, Rosedale Room

The initial priority for the refurbishment was to ensure that running water could be supplied to the Rosedale Room. To achieve this, a local company from St. Albans was engaged to examine the existing drainage arrangements and assess the feasibility of installing a new underground drainage system. Although this presented a significant challenge, it was determined to be achievable.

Another major aspect of the project involved creating a direct connection between the Church and the Rosedale Room. This required cutting through the partition wall to form a 5ft opening, half-hour

fire doors and new frames fitted. The new doorway would facilitate easy movement between the church and the Rosedale Room whenever the facilities are in use.

New floor units and worktops were purchased, including a double drainer sink unit with hot and cold water taps. Additionally, the refurbishment would involve installing a new oven and fridge, as well as a new electrical ring main to support these upgrades.

To further improve accessibility and storage, a doorway was created between the Narthex and the storeroom. This provided easier access and increase available storage space for the facility.

Entrance and Hall Refurbishment

As part of the ongoing improvement works at Christ the King Hub, the front entrance doors leading into the hallway were replaced with new, sturdier double doors and a matching frame. This upgrade was undertaken to enhance both the security and durability of the main point of entry to the premises, ensuring a safer and more welcoming environment for all users. In addition to these structural improvements, the church hall itself underwent a full redecoration. The newly decorated hall now offers a brighter and more inviting space that is better suited for hosting various activities and gatherings.