



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements**

of

**The Parochial Church
Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish
of St Wilfrid Cowplain**

**Registered Charity No.
1130601**

Year ending

31 December 2025

TITLE	PAGE
Annual Report title page	1
Blank page	2
Contents page	3
Administration Information	4
Priest in Charge Report	5-6
Churchwardens Report	7-9
PCC Report	10-13
Financial Review	14-16
2024 Accounts	17-24
Independent Examiner's Report	25
Electoral Roll Report	26
Copy of Electoral Roll	27-29
Planned Giving Report	30
Safeguarding Report	31
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) report	31
Parish Upper and Lower Hall Report	32-33
Health and Safety Report	33
Fabric and Maintenance Report	34-35
AV Team Report	35-36
Worship Services	36
Welcome Team Report	37
Pastoral Care Report	37
Organist Report	37-38
Licensed Lay Minister Report	38
Prayer Opportunities at St. Wilfrid's	39
Curate Report – Rev Derek Johnston	40
Curate Report – Rev Polly Honeychurch	40-41
Ministry Team Report	41-42
Havant Deanery Synod Report	42-43
Tea and Coffee Makers Report	43
Community Coffee Cup	43
Home Groups Report	44
CMS Missionary Link Report	44
Eco Church Report	45
Bereavement Support Group Report	45-46
Anna Chaplain's Report	46
Christmas Day Lunch Report	47
Shoebox Appeal Report	47-48
Sunday Club Report	48
St. Wilfrid's Art Group (SWAG) Report	48-49
Want to Paint Report	49-50
School Report	50
Messy Church Report	50-51
Toddler Group Annual Report	51-52
TLC (Tea and Lovely Cake) Report	52

**Annual Report of
The Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St Wilfrid, Cowplain
(Registered Charity No. 1130601)
From May APCM 2025 to April APCM 2026**

Administrative information

The parish of St Wilfrid is situated in Cowplain. It is in the Deanery of Havant, the Archdeaconry of Portsdown and the Diocese of Portsmouth.

PCC correspondence: c/o The Vicarage, Padnell Road, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 8DZ

Website: www.stwilfridscowplain.co.uk

PCC members who have served from the APCM in May 2025 until this report are:

Priest in Charge	Reverend Christopher Spencer (Chair)
Curates	Reverend Derek Johnson (resigned from June 2025) Reverend Polly Honeychurch
Churchwardens	Steve Day Jan Smith (Vice Chair)
Representatives to the Deanery Synod	Catherine King Elaine Hoey (PCC Secretary / Electoral Roll Officer)
Elected members	Bob Wheeler (Until 2027) Brenda Mizen (Until 2027) Sara Bolton (Until 2026) Margo Farmer (Until 2026) Yolanda Cawdeary (Until 2026) William McGannan (Until 2026) Mark Coates (Until 2028) Sonia Passingham (Until 2028) Allan Brawn (Until 2028)
Co-opted Members	Colin Mason (Treasurer) Val Strutt (Safeguarding Officer)

Day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Priest in Charge, the Parish Administrator, Mrs Sara Bolton, Treasurer Mr Colin Mason ACMA and the many other volunteers who willingly give of their time.

The PCC thanks them all for their time and dedication.

Banking: Barclays Bank PLC, PO Box 6, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO6 3DH
Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, 272 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7HN



Priest-in-Charge (Vicar's) Report for the APCM 2026

*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.....
Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow. **Matthew 6:31-34***

It is a joy to write my third Priest in Charge's report at St. Wilfrid's. Scripture reminds us repeatedly not to worry. Anxiety robs us of present joy, yet God calls us to trust. As we look to the year ahead, I sense this invitation clearly: to move from worry to trust, to seek first His Kingdom, and to deepen our discipleship together.

Thank you for journeying with me since September 2023. I am grateful for the Ministry Team, our Churchwardens Jan and Steve, and our PCC, who faithfully discern God's will for our parish. Their wisdom, prayer, and service are a great blessing.

A year ago, we faced serious financial concerns. Projections were in the red, and uncertainly weighed heavily. Yet through your generosity and God's provision, our finances have begun to turn around. While we remain careful and prayerful, we give thanks that our needs have been met and that we are in a stronger position.

Our building continues to serve both mission and community. Toddlers, Warm Spaces, the Bereavement Group, Community Coffee Cup, Messy Church, Care home and the many more all help to proclaim the good news of Jesus. A highlight this year has been the installation of solar panels – a sign of hope and stewardship for the future.

I am deeply grateful to all who serve: staff, volunteers, those with roles and those whose work is often unseen – from administration and finance to cleaning, flowers, gardeners and hospitality. We also give thanks for Reverend Derek and Shirley Johnston our curate and Val Strutt our Parish Safeguarding Officer for their faithful service and pray for those stepping into new roles.

As we grow, the demands on key volunteers increase, and this can bring weariness. Jesus' call to "seek first His kingdom" reminds us that blessing flows first from prayer, not activity. If we trust Him fully, He will provide what we need.

St. Wilfrid's is called to be a community of all ages – a place of welcome, refreshment and encounter with the living God. We rejoice with those who join us and remember with love those we have lost. Together, we are learning to move from fear to faith – from anxious disciples to bold witnesses.

Looking ahead, my hope is that we continue to grow in prayer, confidence, and generosity. Let us lay aside fear, learn to share our faith, and rejoice in God's provision. I believe St. Wilfrid's is on an exciting journey, and I am thankful to be part of it with you. So, thank you all for being part of this amazing church, for your patience, your love, your generosity and your willingness to journey together.

Let us pray...

*Heavenly Father, we lay before You our worries about today and tomorrow. Teach us to trust Your provision and seek first Your kingdom. Help us all to live faithfully in the present, confident that Your grace is enough. Strengthen us to serve with courage and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.***

Reverend Chris Spencer

March 2026

We (Jan and Steve) were elected to the roles of Churchwarden in 2022. We were re-elected at the APCM in 2023 and then again at APCMs 2024 and 2025.

Clergy

This has been another blessed year. Priest-in-Charge (soon to be Vicar) Rev. Chris Spencer has been supported by PTO Rev Ruth Loveman and curate, Rev Polly Honeychurch, whose ordination as priest was celebrated on 28th June.

We enjoyed having the Johnstons in our midst while Rev Derek did part of his curacy here, bringing with him Shirley with all her pastoral gifts and on occasions several other members of the family, some local and some from South Africa, and we wish them every blessing in their roles in Cosham and Wymering.

Anna Chaplaincy

Elaine Davenport and Julie Brown continue in their respective roles in Anna Chaplaincy and are very much appreciated by residents and staff in local nursing homes, as well as at Age Concern.

Services

We continue with 2 Sunday Services – at 9am and 11am, each with its own loyal congregation. We are still without an organist and rely, at 9 o'clock on an iPad and the generous services of retired organist, David Wiseman; occasional Sundays a "said" service is enjoyed by those who like quiet.

The Thursday Morning Holy Communion Service, meeting in Church in warm weather months and sometimes in the Hall when it's cold, has its own congregation and lots of fellowship opportunities – usually with cake – after the service.

The music group at the 11 o'clock service ensures that we enjoy a service of worship in every sense of the word. Stephen Bolton, Lesley Baker, Mark and Sasha Coates are often joined by Chris and/or Polly.

On Sunday Club Sundays (usually twice each month), there are often more children in attendance and we are most grateful to those who lead this opportunity for children to enjoy Christian teaching at a level designed especially for them.

A number of teenagers has joined us at 11 o'clock. Perhaps we might consider their needs too, although we celebrate the fact that at 11 o'clock we enjoy ALL AGE services.

Seasons

Special seasonal events continue – of course the church year is celebrated by some wonderful and deeply moving services - but we have come to expect social and fundraising events to mark the seasons too, and we are never disappointed. We are always blessed by the Art Exhibition and a wide variety of other activities.

Special Services, Events and Courses

Our CMS Missionary Link, Alison Giblett joined us for our two services on 1st March (having been sent home from Kyiv after her documents were stolen) and we still have the opportunity to join her on Zoom on Saturday evenings.

We have enjoyed a new experience (twice) at St Wilfrid's when Café Church has been the means of celebrating the 11 o'clock service in the lower hall. With delicious refreshments and families or friendship groups gathered around small tables, to encourage communication and interactive responses to all parts of the service, there was a very positive reaction to Café Church on both occasions. We are likely to remember Zacchaeus and the Parable of the Seed through the activities on the respective days.

It is intended to increase the number of Home Groups again during 2026 – they are an excellent opportunity for fellowship, prayer and discussion – with the focus on scripture. Please let Polly know if you would like to join a group – face-to-face or by Zoom.

Our service and lunch to celebrate the installation of the Solar Panels, gave an opportunity for giving thanks to the whole church family for all that each person contributes to the life and health of our church.

Thirst Services have continued during this year – usually on Friday evenings once a month and people from other churches have joined us. An inspiring experience, month by month. For those that could not attend there is now a copy of the talk on the website

Lent Courses have been led by Hart Plain Church each year recently – we enjoy their hospitality and excellent teaching.

Polly's invitation to join her for Coffee with the Curate has recently moved from Costa to the newly opened Mad Hatterz Tea Shop in Cowplain. It's always good to stop and chat.

The Events team has had continuing success since our last report, creating events that are not only enjoyable to the community but provide a much needed boost to our church funds. During 2025 we put on some old favorites, 2 Fish & Chip quiz evenings, Concerts from Achoired Taste, our local community choir that have made St Wilfrid's their home on a Monday evening. and Dragonfly for which we also provided a buffet meal, We also tried a number of new events, a Beetle Drive, a Car Treasure Hunt during the summer and in December we held a Christmas Wreath making workshop. This was well attended and participants left with a beautiful Christmas decoration, which lasted well past 12th night.

January 2026 started with an Auction of Promises which we haven't held since 2005 and 30 promise lots were up for auction. Bidding was brisk and most lots went for above their reserve price. Due to the generosity of all involved church funds benefited by £1200.

2026 continued with Sea Shanty sing a long evening with a Fish & Chip supper. Raise the Roof Theatre Company took us back to Oxton Hall for the evening, to help them solve yet another murder mystery in that ill fated building.

Please watch the notice sheets for the other events in the coming months

People and Groups

During the course of the year a number of dearly loved members of our church have died and others have become too frail to attend; some have moved away (to Cornwall and to Somerset – too far to commute to us) and to Hayling Island.

During this year, Colin Mason continued in his role of Treasurer, and Terry Gibbs took over as our Planned Giving Officer.

Val Strutt has continued during the year as our careful and caring Safeguarding Officer and has recently tendered her resignation after more than 20 years in the role. We are indebted to her. Allan Brawn continued his hard work as Maintenance Manager, Acting Verger and Health and Safety Officer until illness prevented him from undertaking all the tasks he usually does. Derek Baker and Bob Wheeler have helped considerably, as they did when churchwarden Steve underwent a hip replacement operation. Elaine Hoey and Denise Williams are always supportive in ensuring Sunday tasks are undertaken when churchwardens are absent through accident, illness or simply taking holidays. Sara Bolton continues as our Administrator and has recently (in Allan's absence) become a Server at the Thursday Service of Holy Communion. Elaine Hoey's dual roles as Electoral Roll Officer and Secretary to the PCC ensures that she too is kept very busy and we thank her for all that she continues to do.

Our eco group has led us all in the various ways that we can work towards a healthier planet – God's wonderful creation – and we give thanks that in August 2025 our solar panels were installed. Thanks go to the amazingly generous congregation at St Wilfrid's.

Our Toddler Groups continue to be enjoyed and appreciated by adults and children, with lots of helpers and leaders (more always welcomed) led by Hazel Watson and with Chris and Polly supporting too.

Messy Church continues to be well supported by families who may or may not come to our Sunday services or services at other churches. Lesley Baker values the involvement of the whole team, especially including those who create our scrummy meals!

Community Coffee Cup at Westbrook and TLC at St Wilfrid's continue to give much pleasure to people at the weekends; Coffee Cup joined up with the Havant council Play Rangers for a number of joint play and craft activities which provided further outreach into the Westbrook community. Warm Spaces has offered hospitality after the Thursday Service during the winter months. Homemade soups and rolls have been much appreciated. Thanks especially to Val and Dave Strutt and Brenda Mizen and Margo and Martyn Farmer and their teams for looking after us all so well – and for providing welcoming outreach opportunities.

Our ever growing (slowly growing – still room for more) Church Cleaning Teams and Flower Arrangers have looked after the church wonderfully and Helen Couper and Stan Hoey, along with Allan Brawn and others have ensured that our gardens give constant pleasure.

Pastoral Care, including Home Communion has continued and so has PRAYER – a focus for the first Wednesday of each month (and every other day of the year too).

The Audio Visual team have installed the new sound system which has been operating successfully for a year and hopefully this has improved the sound quality for both the Sunday services. There is still a little more to do to complete this phase of the project. Because of the use of more multimedia types including videos during the 11am service, the team have been trialing a different display program, and the 11am congregation may have noticed a different look to the words of the songs in the last few months. The next phase of the upgrade looking at and replacing the projection output is well under way. This will give a permanent static location for the AV control desk. We are also moving forward, with help from the diocese IT team with a new look church website. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes during the last few months. The team have completed the old to new page mapping exercise and produced a number of page templates which we will populate and then after testing will go live in the next few months

Overview

God continues to strengthen and guide us throughout each year and we are most grateful.

More statistics to consider

As mentioned last year, in **February 2025**, 124 different adults and 13 children attended services at St Wilfrid's.

The most at any one service was 49 adults and 11 children (that was at the 11 o'clock service when Alison Giblett joined us)

In **February 2026**, 115 different adults and 22 children attended services at St Wilfrid's.

The most at any one service was when 42 adults and 16 children came on 8th February,

HOWEVER on 8th **March**, at 11 o'clock we were joined by 53 adults and 20 children.

If you only come to one service (as most people do) you might not have met all of your brothers and sisters in our church family.

It's good that we have our Meet the Family events. Do come, if you can.

The next one is to be lunch together after the APCM on 19th April.

Jan Smith and Steve Day, Churchwardens. March 2026

This report covers the time from APCM May 2025 to April 2026. During this time the Parochial Church Council has held six full meetings during 2025/2026 in May, July, September, November, January and March. Reverend Chris Spencer has chaired those meetings and Elaine Hoey has kindly recorded the minutes and dealt with the different correspondence.

Each PCC meeting is structured in the following way: welcome, open devotions, prayer, Apologies, conflicts of interest, minutes to approve and matters arising from those previous minutes. Next would follow confidential minutes, safeguarding report, separate items such as Christmas collections and all the sub-committee meetings. Reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod are part of the meetings as well as correspondence. Finally, the PCC cover Training opportunities, future events, announcements, AOB, dates of next meeting and each meeting closes with prayer. This format now means that meetings last for about 1 hour and ½ to 2 hours.

The various sub-Committee meetings operate in between PCC meetings that help in matters arising within the church and we reflect on doing life together in St. Wilfrid's Church. At the last APCM the PCC delegate the detail work to the various sub-committees so we currently have six in operation.

The **Standing sub-Committee** operates in between PCC meetings and sets out the PCC agenda, implements the detail of PCC decisions, takes urgent actions on certain matters and the members of the sub-committee are the Priest in Charge, Church Wardens, PCC secretary and a member of PCC.

Personnel sub-Committee operates when the church needs advice on recruitment such as our new Planned Giving Officer, grievance procedures, employment terms and conditions, law and polices, issues that emerge in staffing and training developments. This sub-Committee has also helped in shaping the role descriptions for those who carry out different roles in church.

The sub-Committees below are not exclusive rather it is designed to provide all church members an opportunity to work collaboratively so all are invited and you would be most welcome to join and if to do so then please let Reverend Chris know.

Finance and Fabric sub-Committee operates by providing advice, support and practical guidance in relation to budgets, stewardship and the financial position of St. Wilfrid's church. This committee also looks at the day-to-day operations, the fabric of the building, health and safety, planned giving report and so on.

Mission and Discipleship sub-Committee operates by ensuring that God is known and made known by all by promoting the mission of the church through the various activities and groups such as children, families, alpha, Art groups as well as through Messy Church, Coffee Community Cup, community events, schools work, toddlers and so on.

Events sub-Committee operates by providing at least ten events during the calendar year to bring people together such as meeting the family, offering hospitality, welcoming others and hosting bigger events like our Spring and Christmas fayres or murder mystery evenings.

Resources sub-Committee and **Ministry sub-Committee** have not met during the year.

Special Project sub-Committee operated by focusing the solar panels which was completed

during the year. The small team gathered every six weeks to move the project forward. The special project sub -committee is now looked at another project for the future.

The next level of the church is the many teams or groups or individuals they make up the life of the church and they fit or overlap within these different sub committees such as Hall meeting team, Ministry team, Pastoral care, Messy Church and so on. The biggest challenge throughout the year was in the discernment in various role descriptions and how these individuals work together in St. Wilfrid's church, building God's kingdom and grow in unity, love and growth we move forward together in the future.

Administrative Information

St. Wilfrid's Church is situated on Padnell Road, Cowplain. It is part of the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The registered charity number is 1130601

Governance

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules dated in 2020. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives

The PCC of St. Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building and grounds.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England, a registered charity and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC Members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Regular church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC. PCC members are required to undertake safer recruitment procedures such as DBS and confidential self-declaration forms and relevant training. Representatives of the PCC are asked to attend other relevant training events, report back to the PCC as a body and disseminate printed information where appropriate.

Sub-committees

The PCC operates six sub-Committee (Finance and Fabric sub-Committee (FFsC), Mission and Discipleship (M&D), Events, Special Projects, Standing and Personnel) which meet between full meetings of the PCC and all sub-Committees make recommendations to the PCC for approval.

Attendance at Services:

St. Wilfrid's Church attendance has stayed the same or decreased. A review of attendance during January supports this observation.

Comparing attendance at St Wilfrid's in January 2024, January 2025 and January 2026.

The total number of people who attended at least once during the month

	2024	2025	2026
Adults	*130	*147	*147
Children	*30	*25	*25

*Including the Christingle Service and Thirst

Average attendance at individual services during the month

	2024	2025	2026
--	------	------	------

9.00 Sunday	29	27	26.5
11.00 Sunday: excluding those who had already attended at 9.00 (usually 3-5 people)	36	44	43
Children	10	11	10
10.30 Thursday: including those who had already attended on Sunday	27	28	28.4
10.30 Thursday: excluding those who had already attended on Sunday	16	19	18.6

Some people, as we see here, attend more than once a week – Sundays and Thursdays.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals held in 2025

Baptisms:	11 compared with	2 in 2024
Confirmation:	0 compared with	0 in 2024
Marriages:	2 compared with	0 in 2024
Funerals in Church:	9* compared with	7* in 2024
Funerals at Crematorium:	10 compared with	15 in 2024
Funeral at Cemetery only:	1 compared with	0 in 2024
Internment of Ashes:	0 compared with	2 in 2024
Total number of Funerals	20	

** Of these funerals, 2 was held at St. Wilfrid's Cowplain (memorial service), 4 was held at St. Wilfrid's Cowplain followed by a burial, 3 was held at St. Wilfrid's Cowplain followed by crematorium*

*** Our ministers also conducted funerals on behalf of other churches in our diocese.*

Electoral Roll

At the APCM in 2025 there were 127 names on the Church Electoral Roll, compared with 155 in 2024.

Policies and Risks

The PCC has reviewed the following policies and procedures during the year 2025.

- Church Credit Card
- Parish Safeguarding policy statement
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
- Grievance
- Disciplinary
- Data protection
- Responding well to domestic abuse
- Hall Hiring
- Health and Safety
- Lift operating
- Use of social media

Alongside this at each PCC meeting the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Val Strutt) gives a written and verbal update throughout the year and references the safeguarding dashboard. There have also been ongoing changes to national and diocesan safeguarding guidelines such as Standards and will continue to be so in the future which will impact parish policies, practice and training.

Our Parish Treasurer (Colin Mason) provides a detailed budget which is prepared and agreed by the PCC each year and provides regular updates comparing the current situation to the budget at each PCC meeting.

Finally, our Health and Safety Officer (Allan Brawn) reviews and updates all health and safety issues that arise on the church premises and all groups using our premises are expected to be familiar with the health and safety policy and comply with it. Allan Brawn also reports to the

PCC about accidents that occur within his report.

Insurance: The PCC is fully insured through our Ecclesiastical Insurance Parish Plus policy.

Conclusion

We praise God that He continues to bless St Wilfrid's, so that we can bless others - locally in our community, in Havant Deanery, Portsmouth Diocese and in many places further afield. We give thanks for all that has been given and shared, for worship and witness, for prayer, fellowship and faithful service to the glory of God. We look forward to the exciting future that God has in store for us!

We are greatly indebted to every single member of our church who voluntarily gives of his or her time, practical skills, spiritual gifts and money to build up our fellowship in the Spirit, grow our discipleship in Christ, and enable us all to continue to play our part in God's mission of love to the world in Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for all you do!

**Approved by the PCC 19th March 2026
and signed on their behalf by**

C. Spencer

Rev Christopher Spencer (PCC Chairman)



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

2025 Financial Review

2025 provided stable pattern of services and other church activities, however this was not wholly reflected in the month-on-month stability of our finances.

Summary details of Unrestricted General Fund Income and Expenditure for 2025 (with comparative figures for 2024) and relevant notes of explanation are in the tables below [Note: Full details are contained in the table towards the end of this Financial Review]:

Income 2025					
Serial	Description	Amount 2025	Amount 2024	Change	Comment
1	Planned Giving	44,454	45,734	-1,280	
2	PGS	19,799	15,779	4,020	See Note 1
3	Gift Aid & GASDS	17,433	16,625	808	2025 - Reflects increased giving via PGS
4	Collection	7,140	8,412	-1,272	

5	Donations	1,623	4,123	-2,500	See Note 2 below.
6	Hall Letting	16,068	11,888	4,180	2025 – Reflects increase in Hall Users
7	Wedding/Funeral	2,213	1,212	1,001	2025 – 2 Weddings and 21 Funerals
8	Fayres	4,345	4,199	146	
9	Events	6,124	3,294	2,830	2025 – More Events
10	Other	3,755	572	3,183	Incl £2,000 Transfer between Bank Accts
11	Nett Income	122,954	111,838	11,116	
12	Transfers In	2,500	6,419	-3,919	From Other Church Funds
13	Gross Income	125,454	118,257	7,197	

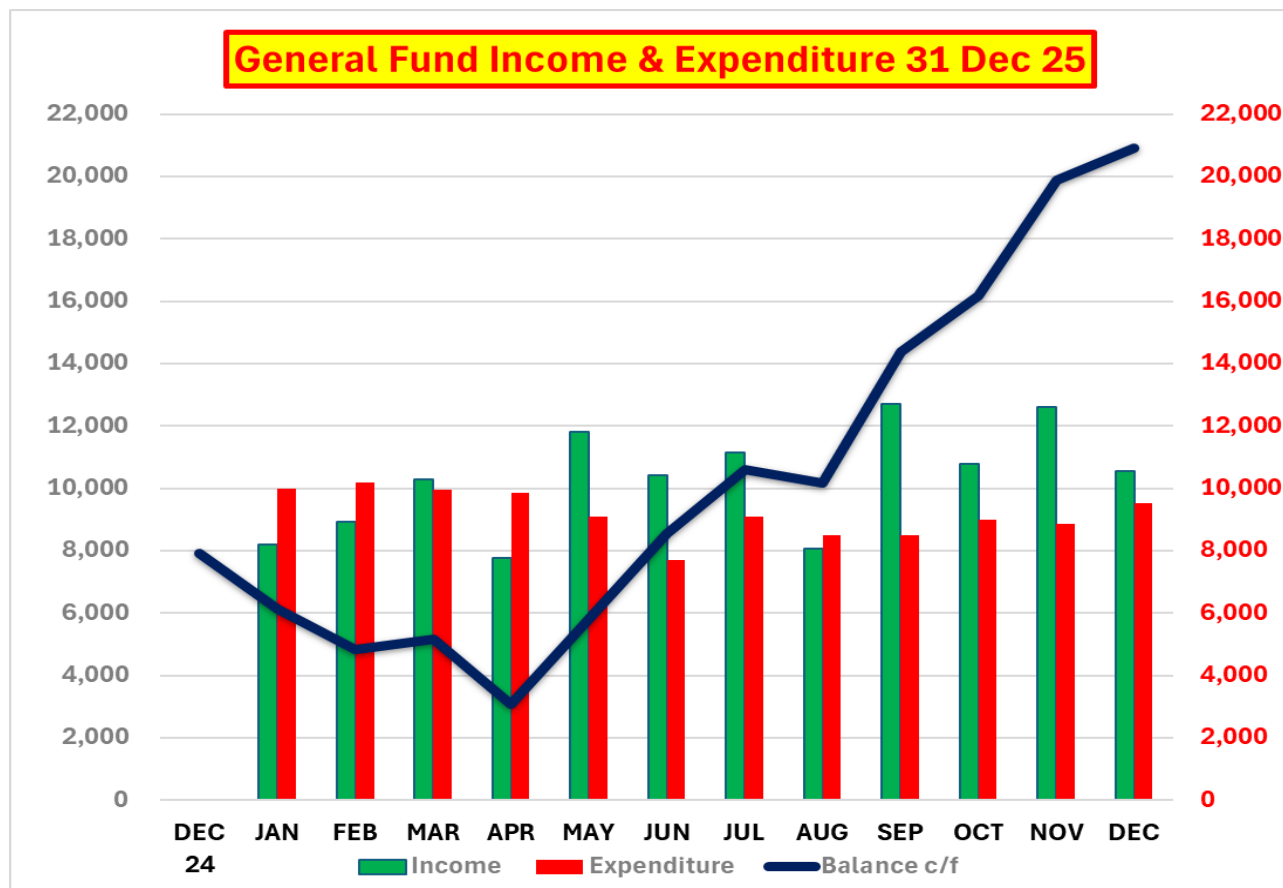
Expenditure 2025					
Serial	Description	Amount 2025	Amount 2024	Change	Comment
1	Charitable Giving	1,220	1,140	80	To CMS & Waterloooville Foodbank
2	Parish Share	76,010	86,000	-9,990	See Note 3 below
3	Clergy & Staff	7,550	6,724	826	
4	Cost of Events	2,075	929	1,146	2025 – Costs of more Events
5	Training	391	627	-236	
6	Cleaning	4,962	4,776	186	2025 – Increase in Real Living Wage
7	Gas & Electricity	6,559	7,681	-1,122	See Note 4 below
8	Water	1,442	1,025	417	2025 – Inflationary increase
9	Insurance	1,615	1,419	196	2025 – Premium increased for Solar Panels
10	CCLI	424	408	16	2025 – Increase due to inflation
11	Admin Costs	1,918	2,197	-279	
12	Maintenance	4,994	3,887	1,107	See Note 5 below
13	Running Costs	1,058	1,238	-180	
14	Other	2,250	452	1,798	Incl £2,000 Transfer between Bank Accts
15	Gross Expended	112,469	118,503	-6,034	

Notes:

1. While giving via PGS increased in 2025 this was balanced by decreases in other Planned Giving, Loose Plate Collections and Donations.
2. The overall effect was General Fund Donations reduced in 2025, but significant donations were made towards the installation of Solar Panels – See details in Eco Fund.
3. The Parish Share figure for 2025 was initially £81,904 (based on a new/revised algorithm). In May 25 it was estimated that this level was not sustainable and a representation was made to the Diocese – this resulted in a reduction to £76,000.
4. New Gas and Electricity contracts commenced 1 Oct 25 with Corona Energy. Due to an administrative error in the Corona accounting system, as of 31 Dec 25 we had not been invoiced for the cost of electricity from Oct to Dec 25.
5. The total of all Maintenance costs in 2025 was slightly lower than the agreed budget figure – careful management ensured all necessary routine maintenance and necessary repairs were completed in a timely manner at optimum cost.

The overall result for the year was a gain to the General Fund (as gross income exceeded expenditure) of £12,985 versus a loss of £246 in 2024. This improvement was due to a combination of a significantly reduced Parish Share, unanticipated/unbudgeted increased Hall Letting income, increased nett Event income and a loan/transfer from the Community Support Fund. The General Fund balance carried forward to 2026 was £20,916.

The month-on-month carrying balance fluctuated marked throughout the year as shown in the following graph – causing serious concerns to the Finance & Fabric sub-Committee and the PCC in the early months of 2025:



It is hoped that a more stable profile will be seen in 2026.

Summary details of Designated Funds Gross Income and Expenditure for 2025 was as follows [Note: Full details are contained in the table towards the end of this Financial Review]:

Serial	Fund	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 Dec 25	Comment
1	Community Coffee Cup	2,238	2,171	1,676	See Note 1
2	Community Support	-	2,048	965	See Note 2
3	Cow Trail	-	191	0	See Note 3
4	Eco Fund	13,665	21,019	627	See Note 4
5	Evangelism Fund	549	1,545	2,184	See Note 5
6	Ground Maintenance Fund	-	35	308	

7	Growth Fund	200	200	7,690	See Note 6
8	Legacy (Designated)	2,724	23,573	43,278	See Note 7
9	Messy Church	628	85	543	See Note 8
10	Carer & Toddler Groups	1,430	982	2,143	See Note 9
11	Total	21,434	51,849	59,415	

Notes:

1. Income includes £600 ASDA grant and £191 transferred-In from Cow Trail.
2. Standing Committee decision to transfer £2000 to General Fund. [Note: This transfer will be treated as short-term loan that will need be repaid.]
3. Balance transferred to the Community Coffee Cup and the Fund closed.
4. In 2025 the Eco Fund received £13,665 in donations (incl Gift Aid) towards the cost of installing Solar Panels and expended £20,729 towards the total project cost; the balance coming from the Legacy Designated Fund (See Note 7 below).
5. Income included donations totalling £507. Expenditure included £910 cost of Harrogate Conference.
6. The £200 cost of joining the Diocesan Website Development Project was matched by an anonymous donation.
7. Legacy Designated Fund is primarily used to fund specific projects. In 2025 £16,548 was spent on the installation of Solar Panels, £7,025 on Maintenance and Repairs (Lift Repairs, LED Lower Hall Lighting, Vestry Damp Repairs and a new Fire Alarm System). For accounting purposes the balance on this Fund is held (along with other funds) in a Virgin Money Deposit Account where it earns a competitive rate of interest each month.
8. Messy Church Fund came within St Wilfrid's administration 7 Jul 25.
9. Carer & Toddler Group Expenditure includes £500 transferred to the General Fund.

The nett change to the aggregate balance on all Designated Funds (after income, expenditure and inter-fund transfers are taken into account) was a decrease of £30,416 – due primarily to expenditure on the installation of the Solar Panels and maintenance from the Eco and Legacy Designated Fund plus a number of inter -Fund transfers (typically to support the General Fund in the first half of the year).

There were no material changes to Restricted Fund balances in 2025. £50 was expended from the Larteh Fund to support a church in Ghana following an appeal from the Deanery.

The aggregate balance carried forward at 31 Dec 25 on Unrestricted (the General Fund) and all Designated Funds was £80,331 of which £43,278 was retained in the Legacy Designated Fund (the figures for 31 Dec 24 were £97,762 and £64,127 respectively). Any new/further projects may need additional targeted fundraising, application for any applicable grants or be funded from the Legacy Designated Fund (subject to PCC approval).

Reserves Policy

It is a longstanding PCC policy to attempt to maintain a Reserve balance available to the Unrestricted General Fund which equates to at least three months payments on unavoidable (non-discretionary) running costs. Based on both average monthly expenditure in 2025 and the 2026 Budget this would amount to some £28,465. This balance would serve two distinct purposes:

- a. It would act as a buffer to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow (expenditure versus income) and meet any unbudgeted/emergency action where funds are not available in other Funds, eg the

Legacy Designated Fund.

- b. It would provide the essential liquidity (ie, readily available funds held in one of our bank accounts) needed to support our short-term financial viability.

In the short-term there is little potential for this target figure to be achieved – so we continue to monitor and manage our finances in line with best practices to ensure our financial stability.

The Unrestricted General Fund balance on 31 Dec 25 was £20,916, 76% of target (a marked improvement on the 28.9% at 31 Dec 24).

The overall balance of all Fund Categories at 31 Dec 25 was as follows:

Fund Category	Balance 31 Dec 25	% of Total	Comment
Unrestricted	20,916	20.3	
Designated	59,415	57.6	
Restricted	22,743	22.1	Includes £22,000 retained value of Orchard Garden
Total:	103,074		

If the £22,000 value of the Orchard Garden is excluded (because it is not a liquid asset) the %age holdings in each Fund Category would be 25.8%, 73.3% and 0.9% respectively. [Note: Restricted Funds can only be used for their legally defined purpose, Designated Funds can be used at the PCC's discretion, and there are no restrictions on the use of Unrestricted Funds so long as they meet the church's agreed strategic aims and purposes.] Therefore, the monthly management of receipts and expenditure in the General Fund are closely monitored to ensure sufficient liquidity is retained to meet all known short-term expenditure demands.

Forecast for 2026

A potential loss to the General Fund amounting to some £1,400 is projected for the end of 2026 – based on forecast further changes in utility prices and general corporate and domestic inflation factors affecting everything we purchase. This means that the overall monthly situation of receipts and payments against the General Fund needs to be closely monitored to ensure the improvement in the General Fund and the overall financial position achieved in 2025 are at least sustained. As always, we remain unendingly grateful to all who contribute to St Wilfrid's finances, both through regular giving and in supporting our various fundraising efforts.

Charitable Giving

Charitable Giving (See Table towards the end of the document for details) the end of the through the church totalled £3,441, equivalent to 2.8% of gross receipts to the General Fund : This is a decrease on previous years and remains below our target of 10%. [Note: This calculation only considers gross income to the General Fund and the monetary contributions we make. Therefore, no account has been taken of either waived or discounted Hall Rental Charges for users with charitable status or the Parish Share which directly accounts for some 60.6% of income in 2025.] Additionally, the congregation's and parishes' wider generosity should be recognised through the provision of some three hundred and sixty Christmas Gift boxes to Samaritans Purse (including those collected from other local churches and organisations – and there undoubtedly were several donated on-line) and the donation of items essential to the operation of the church.

Note: If non-discretionary expenditure, ie the Parish Share, is subtracted from gross General Fund income (reducing it to £49,454) then the percentage would be 7.0%.



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

St Wilfrid's Church Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

2025 Accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain

Explanatory Notes to the Accounts

1. The accounts are being reported on a receipts and payments basis as agreed by the trustees at a full PCC meeting on 26th November 2015. The accounts are presented in accordance with guidance in the 5th edition of "PCC accountability" which conforms to The Charities Act 2011 incorporating SORP 2015 (and as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and the Charities Amendment Act 2024).
2. Electricity expenditure for 2025 is understated by an unknown amount as the Supplier since 1 Oct 25 (Corona Energy) has yet to raise invoices for the period Oct to Dec inclusive due to an administrative issue with the account.
3. A budget for 2026 is included in the accounts. This was accepted at the PCC meeting in Jan 26. All finance projections are based on the final figures for 2025 modified by reasonable assumptions and/or known costs for 2026.
4. Financial Assets are forecast to decline in 2026: Essential repairs to the Vestry Upstand and Coving, replacement of the North Door, replacement of conventional lamps with LEDs in the Upper Hall and Stairways all from the Legacy Designated Fund. Additionally, a material spend from the Growth Fund on Phase 3 of the audio-visual system upgrade will further reduce the aggregate sum in the bank accounts and therefore our overall liquidity.
5. The liabilities (£2,137) shown in the statement are due to transactions in the "Agency Accounts" (money that passes through the church bank accounts but must not be counted as church funds as it relates to third parties) that could not be completed in the budget year. The significant items are £1,120 owed to the Diocese for 2025 Q4 Fees, £260 to both the Hants & IoW Air Ambulance and Rowans Hospice from the Christmas 25 Giving, £300 Wedding Deposit and £157 to Waterlooville Foodbank (Donations collected at the weekly "Warm Spaces").

St Wilfrids Church - 1130601
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts:					
Voluntary receipts	90,448.87	15,971.90	—	106,420.77	104,006.00
Income from church activities	10,507.52	1,100.05	—	11,607.57	7,611.13
Other trading activities	18,450.50	—	—	18,450.50	13,099.50
Investments	—	1,354.36	—	1,354.36	247.13
Other income	3,547.10	2,526.44	—	6,073.54	64,209.12
Total income	122,953.99	20,952.75	—	143,906.74	189,172.88
Payments:					
Raising funds	2,123.19	633.10	—	2,756.29	970.82
Costs of church activities	108,095.54	46,317.51	—	154,413.05	140,883.80
Other expenditure	2,250.00	1,918.23	50.00	4,218.23	61,693.98
Total expenditure	112,468.73	48,868.84	50.00	161,387.57	203,548.60
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	10,485.26	(27,916.09)	(50.00)	(17,480.83)	(14,375.72)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,500.00	481.33	—	2,981.33	10,762.59
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(2,981.33)	—	(2,981.33)	(10,762.59)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	12,985.26	(30,416.09)	(50.00)	(17,480.83)	(14,375.72)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	7,930.84	89,830.98	22,792.90	120,554.72	134,930.44
Total funds carried forward	20,916.10	59,414.89	22,742.90	103,073.89	120,554.72

13 February 2026 Page 1

St Wilfrids Church - 1130601
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2025

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets						
6430 : Land	—	—	22,000.00	—	22,000.00	22,000.00
6431 : Organ	(976.19)	1,356.19	—	—	380.00	380.00
Total	(976.19)	1,356.19	22,000.00	—	22,380.00	22,380.00
Current assets						
6501 : Barclay's Bank current account	(71,399.64)	69,326.11	7,108.18	—	5,034.65	5,856.24
6502 : Lloyd's Bank current account	90,368.24	(65,145.94)	(15,712.13)	—	9,510.17	16,168.17
6503 : CAF cash account	(5.00)	5.00	—	—	—	—
6505 : Virgin Charity deposit account	1,384.69	53,143.19	13,757.92	—	68,285.80	78,452.07
Total	20,348.29	57,328.36	5,153.97	—	82,830.62	100,476.48
Liabilities						
6601 : Loans received	(1,200.00)	(730.34)	1,930.34	—	—	—
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	2,136.73	—	2,136.73	2,301.76
Total	(1,200.00)	(730.34)	4,067.07	—	2,136.73	2,301.76
Net total assets	20,572.10	59,414.89	23,086.90	—	103,073.89	120,554.72

07 February 2026 Page 1

St Wilfrids Church - 1130601
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

<i>Note</i>	<i>From To</i>	<i>01 January 2025 31 December 2025</i>	<i>01 January 2024 31 December 2024</i>
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Receipts:			
Voluntary receipts			
Planned Giving - Bank	✓	44,269.00	45,454.00
Planned Giving - Envelopes	✓	185.00	280.00
Other planned giving (PGS)	✓	19,798.56	15,778.55
Loose plate collections	✓	7,139.85	8,412.15
Donations appeals etc	✓	1,623.46	4,122.67
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	✓	17,433.00	16,625.13
	<i>Total Voluntary receipts</i>	90,448.87	90,672.50
Income from church activities			
May Fayre	✓	1,528.50	1,488.44
Christmas Fayre	✓	2,816.51	2,711.31
Easy fundraising	✓	38.15	51.01
Income from Events	✓	6,124.36	3,294.37
	<i>Total Income from church activities</i>	10,507.52	7,545.13
Other trading activities			
Rummage sales etc	✓	170.00	—
Fees for weddings and funerals	✓	2,213.00	1,212.00
Church hall lettings - objectives	✓	16,067.50	11,887.50
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	18,450.50	13,099.50
Investments			
Bank and building society interest		—	247.13
	<i>Total Investments</i>	—	247.13
Other income			
other income	✓	3,547.10	274.22
	<i>Total Other income</i>	3,547.10	274.22
Total receipts:	✓	122,953.99	111,838.48

Payments:

Raising funds				
Costs of fetes & other events	✓	2,075.39	✓	928.82
Lilies	✓	47.80		—
<i>Total Raising funds</i>	✓	<i>2,123.19</i>	✓	<i>928.82</i>
Costs of church activities				
CMS Alison Gilbet	✓	920.00	✓	900.00
Advertising	✓	77.46	✓	138.06
Children & Youth Resources		—	✓	21.62
IT Subscriptions	✓	888.10	✓	697.80
Portsmouth Foodbank	✓	300.00	✓	240.00
Parish Share	✓	76,010.03	✓	86,000.04
Assistant clergy expenses		—	✓	954.52
Readers expenses		—	✓	12.99
Office manager	✓	5,179.20	✓	4,557.87
Working expenses of incumbent	✓	135.00	✓	182.27
Travelling expenses		1,595.84		286.01
Parsonage house expenses		85.00		83.00
Water rates - vicarage		555.12		462.98
Parish training and mission		391.22		627.15
Insurance		1,615.36		1,418.94
Performing rights license		423.86		408.30
Organ / piano tuning		945.00		540.00
Church maintenance		2,907.22		1,890.76
Church Cleaning		4,961.80		4,776.00
Lift maintenance		607.96		821.37
Administration		66.98		225.85
Sacristy supplies		472.11		533.90
Printing		434.49		142.18
Paper		108.94		—
Hospitality costs		6.75		162.53
Stationery		146.69		822.31
Postage		23.49		20.40
Data Developments		—		150.00
Electricity		3,159.66		4,163.09
Gas		3,399.07		3,517.90
Magazine expenses		67.00		—
Hall supplies		550.89		352.12
Phs supplies		35.23		351.64
Water-church/Hall		1,441.95		1,025.46
Governance costs examination/audit fee		50.00		—
Fire check		450.12		435.96
Electrical testing		84.00		199.20
<i>Total Costs of church activities</i>		<i>108,095.54</i>		<i>117,122.22</i>
Other expenditure				
Miscellaneous expenses		2,250.00		452.26
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>		<i>2,250.00</i>		<i>452.26</i>
Total payments:		112,468.73		118,503.30
Excess of Receipts: over Payments:		10,485.26		(6,664.82)
Brought forward balance		7,930.84		8,177.05
Transfers to/(from)		2,500.00		6,418.61
Total carried forward balance		20,916.10		7,930.84

St Wilfrids Church - 1130601
Fund movement by type
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund and type		Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers		Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted							
General - General fund	✔	7,930.84 ✔	122,953.99 ✔	112,468.73 ✔	2,500.00	— ✔	20,916.10
Sub-totals	✔	7,930.84 ✔	122,953.99 ✔	112,468.73 ✔	2,500.00	— ✔	20,916.10
Designated							
CCC - Community	✔	1,609.68 ✔	2,046.75 ✔	2,171.71 ✔	191.33	— ✔	1,676.05
Coffee Cup	✔	3,013.29	— ✔	47.96 ✔	(2,000.00)	— ✔	965.33
CommSupp -	✔	191.33	—	— ✔	(191.33)	—	—
Community Support	✔	7,980.82 ✔	13,665.00 ✔	20,728.63 ✔	(290.00)	— ✔	627.19
Cowtrail - Cowtrail	✔	3,180.05 ✔	548.80 ✔	1,545.07	—	— ✔	2,183.78
fund	✔	343.20	— ✔	35.00	—	— ✔	308.20
Eco - Eco Fund	✔	7,690.35 ✔	200.00 ✔	200.00	—	— ✔	7,690.35
Evangelism -	✔	64,127.28 ✔	2,434.36 ✔	23,573.32 ✔	290.00	— ✔	43,278.32
Evangelism fund	✔	— ✔	627.84 ✔	84.95	—	— ✔	542.89
GM - Ground	✔	1,694.98 ✔	1,430.00 ✔	482.20 ✔	(500.00)	— ✔	2,142.78
Maintenance	✔	89,830.98 ✔	20,952.75 ✔	48,868.84 ✔	(2,500.00)	— ✔	59,414.89
(Formerly WMGF)	✔						
Growth - Growth Fund	✔						
LegDes - Legacy	✔						
(Designated)	✔						
Messy - Messy Church	✔						
Toddler-2 - Carers &	✔						
Toddlers - 2	✔						
Sub-totals	✔	89,830.98 ✔	20,952.75 ✔	48,868.84 ✔	(2,500.00)	— ✔	59,414.89
Restricted							
Larteh - Larteh fund	✔	138.23	— ✔	50.00	—	— ✔	88.23
VDF - Vicar's	✔	300.00	—	—	—	— ✔	300.00
Discretionary fund	✔	22,354.67	—	—	—	— ✔	22,354.67
Whitbread - Whitbread	✔						
fund	✔						
Sub-totals	✔	22,792.90	— ✔	50.00	—	— ✔	22,742.90
Totals	✔	120,554.72 ✔	143,906.74 ✔	161,387.57	—	— ✔	103,073.89

07 February 2026 Page 1

Note: The Whitbread Fund Balance includes £22,000 for the purchase value of the Orchard Garden.

Charitable Giving 2025

<u>Source</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Christmas 2024 Appeal	Rowan's Hospice	296.74
Christmas 2024 Appeal	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance	296.73
Ongoing Donations	Leprosy Mission	106.98
Christingle Service	Children's Society	29.17
Event	Traidcraft Breakfast	96.50
Warm Spaces	Waterlooville Foodbank	500.00
Event	Sophie's Legacy	150.00
Larteh Fund	Koforinda Donation	50.00
Harvest Service	Waterlooville Foodbank	168.00
Remembrance Service	RBL Poppy Appeal	227.32
Donations + General Fund	Farewell Gift to Rev Johnston	250.00
Church Funds (Gen Fund)	CMS - Monthly Contribution	920.00
Church Funds (Gen Fund)	UCB	50.00
Church Funds (Gen Fund)	Waterlooville Foodbank - Monthly Contribution	300.00
Total:		3,441.44

Notes:

1. The Total figure does not take into account the following examples of the congregation's additional generosity:
 - a. 360 filled Christmas boxes to support the Samaritan's Purse appeal.
 - b. Provision of food to support Warm Spaces with all cash donations then passed through the church to Waterlooville Foodbank.
 - c. Provision of tea/coffee, milk and biscuits for Thursday and Sunday Services.
 - d. Provision of Church and Hall Cleaning Materials.
2. Additionally, Hall Rental Charges are either waived or discounted for other Registered Charities, eg the Brownies and Girl Guides.

Income and Expenditure to the General Fund (Final Budget 2026 including calculations and assumptions as approved by the PCC 22 Jan 26)

General Fund - Budget for 2026 - Final Version

	2025			2026			2025			2026	
RECEIPTS (GROSS)	25 Budget	Act to M12	+/- Budget	Basis	Budget	PAYMENTS	25 Budget	Act to M12	+/- Budget	Basis	Budget
<i>Voluntary receipts</i>											
Planned Giving/envelope scheme	43734	44454	720	= 2025 -£4000	40300	Missionary and charitable giving	1260	1,220	-40	=2025	1260
PGS	15779	19799	4020	= 2025 +2%	20000						
Gift Aid Income tax refund	16125	17433	1308	= 2025 +2%	18000						
Sub-Total	75638	81686	6048	Calc	78300	Parish share	81700	76,010	-5690	Actual	76000
Church collections	8412	7140	-1272	= 2025 Actual	7000	Clergy, organist and office manager	9000	7,550	-1450	=2025 Budget	9000
Donations and appeals	4123	1623	-2500	= 2025 Actual	2000	Cost of Raising Funds / Events	1000	2,075	1075	Estimate	2000
Other voluntary receipts				= 2025 Actual	0	Parish Training	1000	391	-609	=2025 Budget	1000
Diaries				Zero	0						
Legacy				Zero	0	Church running expenses					
HCC grant				Zero	0	Cleaners & Window Cleaner	5000	4,962	-38	= 2025 +6%	5300
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						Gas and Electricity	8640	6,559	-2081	= 2025+6%	7000
Other income	274	3547	3273	Estimate	250	Water rates	1110	1,442	332	= 2025 + 10%	1600
Easyfundraising	50	38	-12	Estimate	50	Insurance	1447	1,615	168	Actual	1691
Easter Fayre	1750	1529	-222	= 2025 Actual	1500	CCLI + RSCM	429	424	-5	= 2025 +6%	450
Christmas Fayre	3000	2817	-183	= 2025 Actual	2750	other running/admin expenses	2470	1,918	-552	= 2025+10%	2100
Income from events	2000	6124	4124	Estimate	4000						
tea/coffee, other fundraising				Zero	0						
<i>Other trading activities</i>						Church maintenance (incl Lift & Tests)	5600	4,994	-606	Agreed Budget	6100
Hall lettings	12500	16068	3568	= 2025 Actual	16000						
Fees weddings and funerals	1250	2213	963	= 2025 Actual	2000	Church/Hall running costs	1390	1,058	-332	= 2025+10%	1250
Recycling	0	170	170	Zero	0						
Investments	300		-300	Estimate	0	Miscellaneous	500	2,250	1750	Estimate	500
car park				Zero	0						
Total	109297	122954	13657	12.50%	113850	Total	120546	112469	-8077	-6.70%	115251

2026 Projected Excess of Income over Expenditure: -1401

Notes:

- All figures are based on a prudent approach that disregards extraordinary and exceptional income and expenditure. 2025 has been used as the base-year where appropriate. Following standard budgeting process estimates of income are based on a pessimistic view (tend towards understatement) whilst expenditure is similarly based on a pessimistic view (tend towards overstatement).
- 2025 Actuals EOY are as stated in the M12 25 Financial Report for the General Fund. Where NOT an appropriate assumption, prudent estimation has been employed (at no additional cost!).
- The 2026 Parish Share been confirmed - £76000.
- The Real Living Wage £12.60 ph 2025 will increase to £13.45 (per the Nov 25 Budget Statement) and has been used for salary costs (including cleaners) from 1 Apr 26.
- Utility costs are based on current information re rates and assumed consumption.
- The Maintenance Budget figure excludes items that it has been assumed will be funded from the Legacy Designated Fund.
- The Events figures for 2026 are based on based on an assumed average income from similar events in 2024-25 or monthly income of £400 for 10 months, whichever is the lower. Similarly for assumed average expenditure with a minimum monthly expenditure of £200 over the same period.

Independent Examiner's Report –

15 Loxwood Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO8 9TU

17 March 2026 The Secretary of the Parochial Church Council
St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain

Independent Examiner's Report – Year Ending 31st December 2025

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s. 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andy Forbes

Andrew Forbes
Honorary Independent Examiner

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales prior to retirement



Electoral Roll

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL CERTIFICATE

PARISH of St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain

DEANERY Havant

Electoral Roll 2026

This year's total is 128, with 60 being resident in the Parish. Five were removed, as follows;

- 4 due to bereavement
- 1 left due to husband getting a new Curacy

We gained 16 new members.

Last year	=	127
Leavers	-	5
New members	+	6

Signed **Elaine J Hoey**

Electoral Roll Officer

Date **22nd March 2026**



Title	Christian Name	Middle Name	Surname	Res/Non Res	Date Added
Mrs	Deborah		Adam	Non	23/03/2025
Ms	Betsy		Anaman	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Janet	Elizabeth	Andrews	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	David	John	Attridge	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Gillian	Mary	Attridge	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Derek	Colin	Baker	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Lesley	Patricia	Baker	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Lorraine		Barberini	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	William	John	Barberini	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Katie		Beck	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Nathan	Bruce, Kelvin	Beck	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sara		Bolton	Non	30/03/2025
Mr	Stephen		Bolton	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Allan	James	Brawn	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Susan	Patricia	Brawn	Non	23/03/2025
Miss	Clare	Louise	Bridger	Non	22/02/2026
Mrs	Hilary	Clare	Brown	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Julie		Brown	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Yolanda	Louise	Cawdeary	Res	23/03/2025
Miss	Sarah	Elizabeth	Chambers	Non	23/03/2025
Miss	Holly		Clements	Non	22/02/2026
Mrs	Jane	Marie	Coates	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Mark	Stephen	Coates	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Carol		Cork	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Helen	Ann	Couper	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Elaine		Davenport	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Joy		Day	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Stephen	Edward	Day	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Bernie		Dickson	Res	03/04/2025
Mrs	Diane		Dickson	Res	03/04/2025
Mrs	Pamela	Ann	Dilloway	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Margaret		Farmer	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Martyn	Roger	Farmer	Non	23/03/2025
Miss	Winifred	Sylvia	Flint	Non	23/03/2025

		Alice			
Mrs	Allison		Gale	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Mary		Gaunt	Res	23/03/2025
Miss	Valerie		German	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Ruth		Gibbs	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Terry		Gibbs	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sheila	May	Ginger	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Caroline		Haill	Non	23/03/2005
Mr	Simon	John Jackson	Haill	Non	23/03/2005
Mrs	Marion		Hammon	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sheila	Winifred	Hamston	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Roy	Leonard	Handley	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sabina		Harding	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Shirley	Ann	Henley	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	John		Hill	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Michael-Reece	Terence Brendan	Hill	Non	22/02/2026
Mrs	Jane	Elizabeth	Hill	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Marjorie	Irene	Hill	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sylvia	Margaret	Hoare	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Elaine	Jeanne	Hoey	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Robert	Stanley	Hoey	Non	30/03/2025
Mr	Gary	William	Huckle	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Dorothy	Mildred	Jones	Non	03/04/2025
Mrs	Ruby	Evelyn	Jordan	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Colin		Kaidby	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Angela	Sheila	Kemp	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Lisa		Kernot	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Catherine		King	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Graham	Paul	King	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Daniel	Philip	Knight	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Evelyn	Claire	Knight	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Mary		Lambert	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Brian	Elgar	Lettin	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	June	Mary	Leveratt	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Patricia	Maude	Long	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Kathleen (Babs)	Phyllis	Lunn	Non	30/03/2025
Mr	Colin	Edward	Mason	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Elizabeth (Trudy)		Mason	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Maria,	Josephine	McGannan	Res	23/03/2025

Mr	William	Michael	McGannan	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Joanne		Mead	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Niall	Antony	Mead	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Brenda		Mizen	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Charles	Douglas	Mobsby	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Mark		Moncreaff	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Teresa		Moncreaff	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Melanie		Morgan	Non	30/03/2025
Mr	Michael	Fielden	Morgan	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Gwenda J		Morris	Res	23/03/2025
	Carole		Morton-Mason	Res	23/03/2025
	Obrageli	Jennifer	Okafor	Res	22/03/2026
Mrs	Helen	Rebecca	Owen	Non	30/03/2025
Mr	Michael	James	Owen	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Sonia		Passingham	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Alan		Patrick	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Jackie		Patrick	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Douglas		Pettit	Res	30/03/2025
Mrs	Natalie		Pettit	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Alan	James	Phillips	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Anne	Lesley	Phillips	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	David		Price	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Dorothy	Margaret	Reed	Res	30/03/2025
Mrs	James	Edward	Reed	res	23/03/2023
Mrs	Anne		Reynolds	Non	30/03/2025
Mrs	Linda		Rivers	Non	03/04/2025
Mrs	Barbara		Roberts	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Sally		Rolison	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Daniel		Sandford	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Adam		Sandham	Non	22/03/2026
Mrs	lauren		Sandham	Non	22/03/2026
Mr	Anthony		Sears	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Robert	Edward	Shrimpton	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Janet		Smith	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Emily	Rose	Spencer	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	David		Strutt	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Valerie	Heather	Strutt	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Kenneth	George	Tallyn	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	David	Raymond, George	Thompson	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Jacqui		Thompson	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	Anthony		Thompson	Res	23/03/2025

Mrs	Janet	Winifred Ann	Warnecke	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Barbara		Waters	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Hazel		Watson	Res	23/03.2025
Mrs	Eileen	Susan	Weston	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Judith		Wheeler	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Barbara	Eleanor	Wheeler	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Robert	Charles	Wheeler	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Sharon	Christine	Wheeler	Res	23/03/2005
Mrs	Pamela	Margaret	White	Non	03/04/2025
Mrs	Norma		White	Res	23/03/2025
Mr	Paul		Wilkinson	Res	23/03/2025
Mrs	Susan	Mary	Wilkinson	Res	06/01/1900
Mrs	Denise	Carole	Williams	Non	23/03/2025
Mr	David	Graham	Wiseman	Non	23/03/2025
Mrs	Jeanette	Mary	Wiseman	Non	23/03/2025



Planned Giving Report 1st January to 31st December 2025

Parish Giving Scheme

Donations Received	£19,798.60
Gift Aid Received	£4,908.05
Total	£24,706.61

REGULAR PLANNED GIVING SCHEME –Including one off donations – Tax Payers

Donations Received	£56,620.64
Gift Aid Received (includes £15.53 interest)	£14,170.69

Total **£70,791.33**

REGULAR PLANNED GIVING SCHEME –Including one off donations – Non-Tax Payers

Donations Received	£4,310.00
--------------------	------------------

All Planned Giving Donations received including Gift Aid are allocated to the General fund.

= Total £99,807.94

The number of planned giving members as recorded in the database as giving during the year is 83.

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)- Donations from the weekly collection plate

Total GASDS Claimed for year ending 31st December 2025 £8,456.13¹
Total Gift Aid received £2,114.04
= Total £10,570.17

This Donation is added to the General Fund giving a Total Including Gift Aid £110,378.11 (Last Year £92,335.68) increasing by £18,042.43

Total of All Donations received	£89,185.33
Gift Aid	£21,192.78
Total	£110,378.11
Total Received for Year End 31 st December 2024	£92,335.68
Total Increase for Year End 31 st December 2025	£18,042.43



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Safeguarding Report

SAFEGUARDING REPORT APCM 2026

This report covers the time from May 2025 – April 2026.

The first thing to mention is how grateful Chris is to Val, Sara, Maria and Reverend Polly for all that they do as our parish safeguarding team and for all the hard work they do within their various roles.

We can report most people are up to date with their training and our thanks to all of you who keep up-to-date with all the safeguarding requirements. We have also updated our policies which can be found in the foyer and website. Training is vital as one of the tools we have in keeping our church safe. We hope you read the safeguarding noticeboard from time to time as it can help refresh your memory and we do also add different updates and useful information. Although we have our safeguarding team, safeguarding is everyone's business. So please continue to be vigilant.

We are very grateful to everyone who has co-operated with safer recruitment. We have also worked hard on the safeguarding dashboard which is subject to change and we continue to monitor, updating the PCC regularly.. Once again our thanks go to you all.

Val attended the safeguarding conference in September which concentrated on Trauma and has put a few of the leaflets on the safeguarding board for everyone to

¹ The total that can be reclaimed for GASDS is £8000 over the tax year. This figure is for the calendar year.

be able to access.

The PCC has been discussing the 5 National Safeguarding Standards, a copy of which is on the safeguarding noticeboard in the foyer.

At our last APCM report Val spoke about the National auditors, INEQE who are independent from the church. INEQE have now published the results of their audit for Portsmouth diocese and we were all very heartened to see that our Diocese has been praised for its work. The team were also very pleased with the response they had from people in the parish to its questionnaire. So many thanks to those of you who took the trouble to respond. We are blessed at Portsmouth Diocese in having a Bishop who takes safeguarding very seriously.

Val continues to go to safeguarding meetings either online or in person or on a webinar which discusses a range of safeguarding issues. In November the PCC updated our safeguarding policy, which is in place and follows the Diocese of Portsmouth guidelines. In November we updated our Safeguarding policy statement, as well as our ex-offender's policy and adopted the domestic abuse policy.

We can expect more changes ahead. Safeguarding never stands still and nor can it afford to do so. Indeed, the General Synod has met and will be implementing more changes with emphasis on independence in safeguarding. Indeed, it has just approved the creation of an Independent Safeguarding Authority which will have a majority independent board and its Chief Safeguarding Officer will hold protected operational powers. There will be a new Code of Practice regarding safer recruitment and people management.

Val is stepping down from the role of parish Safeguarding Officer which she has held for over 20 years and would like to thank all who have supported her in this role, including the Diocesan Team. As we seek to appoint a successor, we hope they will find the role as fulfilling as Val has done. Thank you, Val, for all you have done to keep St Wilfrid's safe.

We end this report with this prayer

Lord,

Look with favour on us your children,

We ask for your tender care,

That you uphold us as we become Christ's witnesses in our world.

Allow us to create an environment where both children and adults can flourish and minister to each other in a spirit of light, love and joy.

We remember those who have been hurt and those who are hurting so that they may know your healing source of strength.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev Chris (Safeguarding lead), Val (PSO), Rev Polly, Maria and Sara.
March 2026.



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Report

Like all charities and organisation, the parish must comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which give individuals greater rights over how their personal data is used.

Using guidance, templates, and checklists from the national Church of England Parish Resources website, our GDPR Officer, Reverend Chris, continues to ensure the parish remains compliant. Personal information is not shared without prior consent, and all required responsibilities for the role are fulfilled.

Following updated national guidance in January 2026 regarding the display of personal contact information online, we have continued to review our practices. St. Wilfrid's contacts many individuals on a legitimate interest basis, and where explicit consent is required, this is obtained and recorded appropriately.

The parish remains fully compliant with both our Data Protection Policy and Diocesan procedures. There were no reported data breaches in 2025.

Reverend Chris Spencer

March 2026



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Parish Upper and Lower Hall Report

During the term time, we have been very busy. We have welcomed several new groups over the last year and are now hosting a wide variety of groups including the girl guides, children dance and drama groups, choirs, Pilates, bridge clubs and RSPB. We still see a drop in hall users during the school breaks – although Pilates and Purbrook Bridge Club run during these breaks which provide a valuable source of income.

It has been wonderful to see our halls busy and full of people this year and with this, we have seen a growth in our income as a result. Our halls provide valuable income towards the running of the church and are grateful for those who hire our halls on both a regular and irregular basis.

During the winter months, we have hosted our Thursday Holy Communion service in

the lower hall as well as offering soup, bread and warm drinks from October through to February. Our thanks go to Brenda and Margo for organising the rotas as well as to everyone who provided soups, helped to serve and tidy afterwards and provide a warm space for those in our community.

Our Toddler Groups remain popular and well attended by the local community, providing a space for families with young children to meet and enjoy refreshments. Our thanks goes to all those who volunteer to keep our toddler groups meeting and successful.

There have been many events that we have looked forward to and enjoyed – the spring and Christmas fayres were well attended and raised a significant amount of money for the church. We have enjoyed choir concerts from both Achoired Taste and Folks in Harmony – Achoired Taste's June concert proceeds were donated to St Wilfrids which we remain grateful for. We have hosted sea shanty evenings, quizzes and a murder mystery event to name a few.

Whilst we have had a busy year with new groups joining us, existing groups using our spaces and ad hoc events, my personal thanks goes to Elaine Hoey for the work she has put into creating a legacy of hall users who see St Wilfrids as their home. Without Elaine's hard work over the past years, there would not be the bustling life we see today in our halls. Elaine has stepped away from her hall booking role in the last year and I would like to personally thank and recognise her for the work she has given the church behind the scenes for many years.

Sara Bolton



Health and Safety Report

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT COVERING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2025 - 1 APRIL 2026 PREPARED FOR APCM ON 19 APRIL 2026

The PCC reviews and approves the St Wilfrid's Health & Safety (H&S) Policy each January; a copy of the policy is on display in the Church Foyer.

During the period 1 April 2025 and 1 April 2026, I received only one Accident Report Form. This was for a helper at Toddlers Group who while taking toys out of a cupboard bumped their head on the top of the door frame; a strip of foam has been affixed to the top of the door frame.

The contents of the First Aid boxes situated in the vestry, rear of the church, kitchen, and upper hall kitchenette are checked every March to ensure the contents are in date.

An annual review of the fire risk assessments for the church and halls is conducted every March. The assessments (12 in number) are kept in the Fire Log / Risk Assessments / Test Certificates Folder.

I am not aware of any other H&S issues.

Allan BRAUN
H&S Officer

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE REPORT COVERING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2025 - 1 APRIL on 2026**Prepared for 15 April 2026 APCM**

The following improvements and maintenance have been undertaken during the period 1 April 2025 to 1 April 2026:

- Due to the ongoing problem of dampness in the Priest's Vestry G&C Property Services (Southern) Ltd removed the plaster to brickwork on the interior south facing wall and part of the west wall. The walls were then re-rendered with two coats of a lime cement render mix and then a waterproof render was applied – one scratch coat and one topcoat. This work was completed on 3 April, and the vestry was redecorated on 15 August.
- In April 2025 RGM Electrical Services Ltd replaced the lower halls existing 15 fluorescent tube light fittings with 20 LED 600mm x 600mm LED lighting panels. The Diocese grants panel awarded us a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of this work.
- On 6 June Uni-Guard Fire Protection fitted a smoke detector in the upper hall print room in preparation for the solar panel battery stowage.
- Also, in June we received our inspecting church architects Quinquennial Inspection Report.
- In July the cherry tree on the grass in front of the church was felled as it was dying of Bacterial Canker.
- On 7 August Blue Star Asbestos Ltd conducted a Management Asbestos Survey of the whole building in preparation of the installation of solar panels.
- Also, in August the upper hall carpet was professionally cleaned by Ambassador Cleaning Ltd, this was paid for by the Toddlers group.
- Between 13 August and 4 September Kembla Ltd installed solar panels on the south facing roof of the old sanctuary and the east and west roofs of the nave. Batteries and an inverter were also installed in the print room (now redesignated the Battery Room). During this work it was discovered that the

old sanctuary south and north roofs required maintenance: Both roofs were fully stripped. New breathable membranes and treated battens were fitted, eave vents and support trays for the solar panels on the south roof were fitted and a new dry ridge system installed. Both roofs were fully retiled using tiles left over from the nave roofs.

- Our Quinquennial report made a recommendation to replace the roof covering on the flat organ roof sometime during the quinquennial period. This was discussed with Kembla who agreed to undertake the work. They reboarded the roof using 18mm OSB, installed a new 3 layer felt system and new code 5 18-inch lead flashings and reinstated the coping stones.
- On 5 September Uni-Guard Fire Protection fitted a new fire alarm panel in the north entrance lobby. This followed an earlier panel fault and advice to replace the existing panel which was installed in May 1994.
- On 11 September Uni-Guard and Kembla installed a firefighting gateway between the fire alarm panel and the solar panel batteries and inverter.
- On 19 December STR Metering Ltd changed the gas meter on behalf of our gas supplier, the new meter will send automatic readings to our gas supplier.

There has been an ongoing intermittent problem with the lower hall heating since December 2025. All About Gas have attended 5 times and have:

- Checked the main boiler room pump and lower hall manifold pump impellers, it was reported that the lower hall pump was fairly weak but appeared to be functioning; the speed on both pumps was increased. It was recommended that if no improvement was seen a new pump and 22mm service valve be fitted on the manifold.
- A new pump and 22mm service valve was fitted on 9 January, and following further investigation of the whole system it was recommended a power flush be undertaken.
- The supply and return manifolds have been bled numerous times by a church member – no air was evident and the water coming out was clear.
- A power flush was completed on 21 January, and a church member again bled the supply and return manifolds on 28, 29 January and 1 February – no air evident and water coming out was clear.
- On 13 February All About Gas:
 - Bled both the supply and return manifolds.

- Checked the new 22mm service valve which was installed on 9 January and found grit deposits in the valve which was washed out.
- Closed and opened in turn the pipe supply and return valves on both manifolds which confirmed hot water was flowing.
- It was recommended:
 - Fitting a filter above the supply manifold and on the primary return pipe to the boiler. The rationale behind this is there could be grit deposits in the water from the church return pipes being pumped back to the boiler which is then recirculated and as the lower hall is the closest to the boiler these deposits are then lodged in the service valve.
- There was heating in the hall on Thursday 19 and Sunday 22 February.
- All About Gas have been asked to install a filter above the supply manifold and on the primary return pipe to the boiler. This was completed on 13 March.

A variety of other tasks from cleaning out gutters and drains to mending broken doors, replacing defective light fittings and plug sockets have been completed.

Standard Maintenance Items

In addition to the above the following standard maintenance tasks remain extant:

- The (8) lightning conductors are tested every 2½ years, their next test is planned for November 2026.
- The fire alarms, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers are in date for their respective six-and twelve-monthly checks by Uni-Guard Fire Protection Ltd; the Maintenance Manager also checks them every two months.
- The two central heating boilers and the kitchen domestic hot water boiler are serviced every September by All About Gas. A gas safety certificate is issued.
- The dishwasher and cooker are both serviced every February by Acorn Services. A gas safety certificate is issued.
- The lift is serviced every April and October by Stannah Lift Services Ltd.
- Our portable electrical items (currently numbering 93) are checked every September by UK Safety Management Ltd.

- The organ is covered by an annual extended guarantee and is serviced every March by Makin Organs Ltd (Church Organ World).
- All external ground floor windows and the old sanctuary windows are cleaned every 3-months and the upper hall windows every 12-months.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have assisted me with the maintenance of the building and environs.

Allan BRAWN
Maintenance Manager



AV Team Report 2025

Music Group Report – 2025

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150:6

It has been our privilege to once again lead the congregation in sung worship throughout the year. We continue to be blessed by God’s presence as we sing our songs of Praise and Worship.

There have been many highlights throughout the year - we have been singing songs, both new and old in our core worship services and we have especially enjoyed supporting the worshipping community at Christmas and Easter. We were able to sing Carols in Waterlooville precinct as well as welcoming Padnell Junior Schools choir to our Family Carol Service.

Our monthly Thirst worship nights continued through 2025 – a time to come together in extended Praise and worship – these are wonderful evenings full of God’s presence and a privilege to be part of.

As always, I am very grateful for the continued support of Lesley, Mark, Sacha, Chris and Polly, for the amazing gifts that God has given them and their willingness to share these with the congregation.

Stephen Bolton



Worship Services report for the APCM 2026

St. Wilfrid’s continues to hold two Sunday services at 9am and 11am, and a mid – week service on Thursdays at 10:30am. The 9am Holy Communion uses seasonal

worship booklets, sometimes accompanied by our organist or recorded hymns, while the 11am service offers informal worship, including Worship for Everyone (formerly known as All Age Worship (AAW)) and Sunday Club activities. Occasionally, we have joint services at 10am.

Our monthly Friday night service, Thirst, explores themed praise and worship. Over the year Worship for Everyone services have focused on Luke's account of Jesus' meals as well as starting to focus on the parables in Matthew and the 11am service has focused on Colossians and Isaiah. The 9am and mid-week services follow the daily lectionary.

Thanks are due to all who serve in worship at the church - from AV support, readings, intercessions, music and leading services too. It is encouraging to welcome new members and visitors to our services.

In terms of life events, we celebrate baptisms, weddings and conducted funerals, whether at the church, at the local crematoria or in our own garden of remembrance.

Reverend Chris
March 2026



Welcome Team Report

Sidesmen – Sidespeople – Welcomers
(Different names for the same teams)

The number of people available to welcome us at the 9 o'clock service has become fewer as people have moved away but nevertheless there is always a welcome.

It would be good to recruit more people.

The 11 o'clock teams are very flexible and organise themselves around the inevitable needs to swap ensuring that someone is there to greet us at the doors.

The roles of the teams include giving out whatever is needed for the service (e.g. hymn books, notice sheets, prayer diaries etc.) as well as counting the people and counting the money and tidying up after the service.

Churchwardens are there to give help and support as needed.

If you would like to be part of this important group of people, please do let us know.

A big thank you to those who help already.

Jan Smith

March 2026



Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral Care at St Wilfrid's

Just as it should be, most Pastoral Care is carried out informally – with people in the church family caring about (and for) each other. We ask each other for updates on health or family concerns that we

know about; we may telephone or visit personal friends who are from church as well as our personal friends who used to come to church before they became too frail.
There is also, however a Pastoral Care Team which meets at intervals to try to ensure that our caring is fully inclusive
– we don't want anyone to be missing out.
Please do let us know of anyone who may have been inadvertently overlooked.
Home Communion is offered for those unable to come to church, sometimes just during a time of recovery from accident or illness and sometimes over a much longer period.
We pray that Pastoral Care will continue to be shared among the church family, so that everyone will know that they are loved and cared for, not only by God, but also by their brothers and sisters here at St Wilfrid's.
Jan Smith
2026.



Organist Report

Organist Report for APCM 2026

I have been privileged to play at a number of 9am Holy Communion Services over the last year, usually once or twice per month. In those Services four hymns are included, and the Gloria, Sanctus/Benedictus and Agnus Dei are also sung; setting is by David Thorne.

My role continues to include suggesting hymns for each 9am Service. I use the RSCM publication Sunday by Sunday for guidance, in conjunction with reference to the Bible readings for each Sunday as given on the rota. I also look at the suggestions listed at the back of the hymn book. My suggestions go each month to the Ministry Team for vetting - and occasional changing.

The organ itself is generally very reliable, and is more than adequate for routine Service use. There is the occasional power failure to the subwoofer, when the plug fuse needs replacement. The subwoofer is the large chest at ground level in Church, situated near the piano and font. It is there to enhance the organ bass sounds, and the general tone gets rather "two dimensional" (as opposed to three) without it.

David Wiseman



Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Report

April 2025 – March 2026

As I reported last year, I have stepped back from leading and preaching as I feel lead more to the Anna Chaplaincy Ministry, which I love doing. (See separate report). I remain a LLM/reader (Licensed Lay Minister) with PTO (Permission to Officiate). There is often a cross over between these two ministries.

Because I'm a LLM I was able to officiate at the funeral of a lady who I encountered at The Borrow Centre. This was a privilege and the family were happy for me to fulfil their mother's wishes.

The other areas of Ministry that I'm involved in at present are, helping with Sunday Club when needed, Pastoral Care, Community Coffee Cup, Prayer Ministry, Home Communion and Anna Chaplaincy. I also helped with the Healing Services during the year.

This year, I decided not to attend the annual conference, but along with the rest of the Ministry Team, I'm attending a course at Dalesdown Retreat Centre. This year I also attended several Deanery events for LLM's. In March I'm attending a Diocesan Bishops Study Day at the Cathedral.

I thank God for all the support and encouragement I have received over the many years, that I have been a LLM (reader), at St Wilfrid's Church. This year I will have been Licensed for 23 years.

Elaine Davenport



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Prayer Opportunities at St Wilfrid's

1. The Prayer Chain

Known as a "chain" from the olden days when prayer requests were passed along by letter or telephone, from one person to another, the prayer chain is now virtually instantaneous and works primarily through email.

Anyone who would value prayer for a particular person or situation can contact Joy Day joyday1411@gmail.com (telephone 079 6319 4709) who will forward the request to those who have opted to undertake the role of prayer warrior. Please let Joy know if you would like join the pray-ers.

Those receiving prayer requests will treat any information as strictly confidential.

We have given thanks for many answers to our prayers.

2. Day of Prayer

The first Wednesday of each month is designated "a day of prayer" and there will sometimes be suggestions of prayerful activities, sometimes a prayer walk and usually a prayerful get-together in church at 7.30pm which we call "Connect in Praise", preceded by half an hour of prayer for persecuted Christians.

3. Prayer Diary

A prayer diary is provided for each calendar month inviting prayer for members of our church

family. If you notice any omissions, or have suggestions of other items to include, please do contact Jan.

4. Intercessions

Intercessions on Sundays are usually led by lay people. If you would like to join the team, please do speak to Rev Chris.

5. Prayer Ministry



Prayer ministry refers to the times when people pray for each other, often, though not necessarily, after services.

There is a team of people who have been trained to offer this ministry; please do contact a member of the clergy if you would like prayer for any matter that is concerning you.

6. Easter Experience/Thy Kingdom Come/Advent Experience

Occasional, seasonal "Prayer Stations" will appear in church, encouraging us to come and pray; we give special thanks to Rev Chris and Rev Polly for setting these up.

7. Personal Prayer

Thankfully, this is the most prolific prayer in our church. Let's keep on praying. God loves to hear us.



Curate Report Rev Polly Honeychurch

Assistant Curate report for the APCM 2026



It has been another busy year for your assistant curate. The highlight of the year has to be my priesting in Portsmouth Cathedral at the end of June. It was such a blessing to have so many of you attending the service itself and then supporting me as I presided at my first communion services the next day. It is such an honour and a privilege to be able to serve you all in this way.

I have loved being able to continue to share my passion of the Bible with you through regular sermons. In the last year we have had two new house

groups start and I am thankful for those who have stepped up to lead these groups. I have written a range of study materials for our house groups to use as they wish and most of our house groups have studied the books of Colossians, Ruth and Hebrews. In the coming months we have studies planned on Isaiah and Philippians. If you are not in a house group and would like to join one, please do come and speak to me.



Another passion of mine is prayer. Thank you to those who have joined me on the first Wednesday of the month to pray for our community as we walk together. I would love to have more of you joining me. If you can't walk and pray with me, why not do your own prayer walk and then come and join us at Pause and Pray in church at 7:30 pm?



Thank you to everyone who has come along to 'coffee with the curate'. I love drinking coffee and having time to chat. I will continue to offer regular sessions and am also always happy to meet anyone on a 1:1 basis for coffee and a chat. If you want to meet up for a coffee and a chat please ask.

It has been great to continue to work alongside Reverend Chris in school's ministry supporting the RE curriculum, leading assemblies and hosting the schools in church for services and lessons. We had over 500 children from Padnell Infant, Padnell Junior and Queens Inclosure Primary Schools join us for our advent and Easter experiences. Please pray for the sustainability of our schools' work.



There is so much more I could share with you about my time with you. I am grateful for all of

the opportunities I am being given to grow in my ministry. I have been privileged to take part in baptisms and funerals, to carry out pastoral visits, to administer home communion, to visit house groups, to host a light party and a pancake party, to be part of the Messy Church team and so much more. I can't believe how much I continue to fit in but please don't assume I am too busy and do reach out and ask for any support and help you need.

My prayers and blessings go with all of you. Please continue to hold me in your prayers.

Reverend Polly

March 2026



Ministry Team Report for the APCM 2026

*When Jesus sent people out in ministry; he sent them out in twos.
He did not expect them to minister alone.*

Mark 6:7

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He did not send them alone. It was a call to shared ministry and deep trust in God's authority and provision.

I see this same trust within our Ministry Team at St. Wilfrid's. Over the past year, we have grown together in faith, walking alongside one another with generosity, prayer, and mutual care. God continues to meet our needs – personally and corporately – often ministering to us through one another. I am deeply grateful for this team I serve alongside.

Our team has seen change again this year as we said goodbye to Reverend Derek and we thank God for his ministry among us.

Over the year we meet regularly, we have studied Luke's gospel, the Psalms and now journeying through Isaiah, while praying, planning rotas, music and supporting one another through both joys and challenges. In laughter and tears alike, we have known the Spirit's presence.

My prayer is that God will continue to guide us with wisdom as we shepherd His people, giving us strength, resilience, and daily joy as we lead St. Wilfrid's forward in His name. I close with these words, as Deuteronomy reminds us: "All these blessings will come upon you... if you obey the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 28:2)

Reverend Chris
March 2026



Havant Deanery Synod report for the APCM 2026

The June Deanery Synod met on 10th June at All Saints, Denmead, opening with prayer and worship led by the new Area Dean, Reverend Emma Racklyett and new Assistant Area Dean Reverend Jonathan Jeffery. The meeting focused on the Ghana-Portsmouth Diocesan link, encouraging parish contributions to the Ghana Fund, and on fresh expressions of church, including Bubble Church, Tea and Praise, Wild Church, and Anna Chaplaincy, alongside wider deanery updates.

The November meeting was held on 11th November at St. James Church, Emsworth, opening with prayer and a welcome from Lay Chair Kathy Gunn. The main focus was Children's, Youth and Families ministry across the deanery, with additional updates from Diocesan Synod, parish share, and parish news.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th March.

Deanery Synod representatives:

**Reverend Chris Spencer,
Reverend Derek Johnston (Until June 2025),
Reverend Polly Honeychurch,
Elaine Hoey and Catherine King**

March 2026



Community Coffee Cup

APCM 2026 Report

We have just celebrated our 12th Birthday which coincided with St Valentine's Day. Lesley and Messy Church made some little Valentine gifts for our lady visitors and these were gratefully received. It was a lovely idea and great for MC and CCC to work together, showing the church's love. Jane made some lovely cakes which were very much enjoyed. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout both from the church and the community. Councillor Antonia Harrison also supported us, together with Paul and Margaret Ludford who were part of the founders of CCC. Earlier in the year we were approached by Jacqui, ASDA Community Champion. Jacqui offered to enter us in ASDA's offer of £500 grants to community projects. We felt very blessed to have been chosen and received £600 (upped by £100) to buy toys, activities and refreshments. We cannot use to pay hall rental which is usually our biggest outlay. However, we are grateful for the Spring Fish and Chip Quiz which tops up our funds for hall rental.

Jacqui and Antonia also supported our Christmas efforts to give a Christmas party. Our regulars with a few from the Community came along and there was a lovely real message of Christmas with Carols etc.

Youth Services hold their last meeting with us in March and we will be holding another Community Coffee Litter Pick which supports the church's greening efforts and all that Lesley and her group do so faithfully.

As always, our thanks to the amazing CCC team, Dave, Yo, Steve, Elaine D, Elaine and Stan, Jane, Will, Barbara, David and Jeanette, and not forgetting the help we get in the background from Gary and Maria.

Many thanks and Blessings for all God has bestowed on us.

Val and Dave Strutt

Home Groups

Home Groups/Connect Groups/Bible Study Groups

We are delighted that the two face-to-face groups we started last year are thriving, alongside our pre-existing groups which are a mixture of online and face-to-face. All groups have been offered a range of material to study and in the past year we have looked at the books of Colossians, Ruth and Hebrews alongside material specific to the individual group. As well as studying the Bible together the groups give opportunities for prayer and fellowship.

As new people have joined church in the last year we are now in a position where we need to start up at least one new group which will meet face-to-face on Wednesday evenings. Anyone wishing to join a group should speak to Revd Polly for further information.

In the coming year groups will be able to choose to use the material we are preparing on the book of Isaiah and Philippians as well as a journey through advent. Please continue to pray for all of our groups.

Jan Smith and Revd Polly

March 2026

CMS Missionary Link Alison Giblett

We are very pleased to have been able to keep in touch with our CMS Missionary Link, Alison Giblett who lives in Kyiv in Ukraine.

St Wilfrid's Church is committed to supporting Alison financially and individual members of our church also support Alison through CMS or City Hope Church.

On Saturday evenings, Alison joins a number of representatives, by Zoom, from Churches in England who support her prayerfully and financially, as well as people linked with Alison from other countries.

Alison gives us news from her Church in Kyiv (Tabernacle of the Living God) and news of their outreach to several groups of people – their chaplains to soldiers serving on the front line and those in hospital, mission visits to widows and grieving mothers, and special visits to bring encouragement and fun to groups of children.



Lots of travelling is involved and miraculously none of the members of the church has been killed or injured despite the dangerous circumstances surrounding them.

Alison's hopes to re-establish Genesis Groups in Kyiv continue, but the work to bring God's healing to those in the grip of addiction has been on hold for a while, for lack of suitable and willing leaders – a need for our continuing prayers.

We know well that the dangers of living in Kyiv persist but Alison's commitment to serving God there is unfaltering.

Due to the fact that her documents were stolen, Alison has had an enforced trip to England, beginning in March 2026 and we were blessed to enjoy her company sooner than we might have

expected. Alison left behind freezing temperatures, power on for only an hour or so each day and ongoing heart ache for families separated from each other over the course of the four years of war – separated geographically, separated by breakdown in relationships and separated by death. It is a great blessing to Alison that every week her needs and the needs of those she cares for, can be shared with members of the congregations supporting her through CMS – she is most appreciative of our prayers.

She continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Jan Smith and Keith and Alice Atkins



CMS Missionary Link Alison Giblett

Leprosy Mission

As a church we raised £425.00 when Gabby, Area Manager for Leprosy Mission visited St Wilfrid's on the 11th January, which is a wonderful amount. I have put the thank you notices on the notice board and given the letters to Colin as Treasurer.

From April 2025 to present we have received £51.77 from the donation boxes. Sadly, I have seen a decline in donations, due to a decline in contributors.

When adding the totals together we as a church have raised £476.77 which, when divided by £24.00 (the sum it costs to cure one person from leprosy) shows we have helped cure 19 people so a very big thank you all.

Margo Farmer



St. Wilfrid's Eco- Church Report 2025



We currently don't have an eco-church team but some of the work continues thanks to enthusiasts!!

The energy footprint tool was completed.

Sonia, Derek & Lesley attended the first NZC conference at Portsmouth Cathedral.

Solar panels have been installed and are now generating.

Dave Strutt took care of the bird boxes.

A few of us took part in annual bird and butterfly counts.

Lesley completed Carbon Literacy Training with the CofE

The Messy Church team delivered Messy Green Week.

Lesley joined Eco Church prayer meetings and webinars. Recordings of webinars are available to all on the Eco Church pages of the diocesan website.

Yolanda & Lesley collected art work from Nurseries and uniformed groups and put together a Children's Gallery for Green Week that, with support from Jan, was displayed in Waterloooville Library.

Lesley organised swap events, fairtrade events, & litter picks. She continues to maintain our partnership with Havant Climate Alliance.

There was a service featuring fairtrade elements, and fairtrade meet-ups with Havant Borough. Derek & Lesley attended a fairtrade coffee morning at the Peace Centre in Havant.

Polly has been proactive in supporting us to up our game in order to live up to our silver award. With her leadership we are revisiting and working through the A Rocha questionnaire, with a view to Eco Church becoming embedded in the life and ministry of St Wilfrid, Cowplain. This is a work in progress, to be completed in 2026.

Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure



Bereavement support group

Report for APCM April 2026.

The purpose of the group is to provide a time and space for anyone who has been bereaved to come and meet with others who are experiencing similar feelings, supporting each other, through talking and listening, to work through their grief. It is open to anyone not just members of the church. Numbers vary over the months as required by the participants, usually in single figures. Those who have attended during the past year have really appreciated these meetings. Everything is **completely confidential**. Things spoken about are not discussed outside the meeting. Nor do we reveal the names of those attending. Everyone's journey through grief is different, we are not judgmental and respect where everyone is on their individual journey.

The group continues to meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month in the upper hall at 2pm. We are ready to support anyone who wishes to attend whether you are a member of the congregation or not. You do not need a special invitation, you may contact the office to say you are coming, or you can just turn up on the day.

Revd Ruth Loveman. Group leader.

Bishop Jonathan made care for older people one of his two main priorities, in his presidential address at the April 2022 meeting of our Diocesan Synod, aiming to create a network of Anna Chaplains across the diocese.

The plan is to have an Anna Chaplain in every parish, benefice and cluster in our diocese.

They are named after Anna, the widow and faithful older person who – together with Simeon – recognised the infant Jesus as the Messiah in the temple at Jerusalem.

The Anna Chaplain for St Wilfrid's is Elaine Davenport. Elaine was licensed as an Anna Chaplain in November 2022. Julie Brown supports Elaine as an Anna Friend. Anna Chaplains minister to older people in the community. These may be older people who have a faith, little faith or no faith at all.

Elaine visits the Borrow Centre (Age Concern) lunch club and also helps at their Social Afternoon. During the year Elaine has officiated at a funeral from one of the service users from Borrow Centre, the lady in question was a former member of the Tuesday Social Group and had asked Elaine to officiate before her death. The family were very grateful for the service at The Oaks Crematorium.

Elaine was also able to lead the annual Remembrance Service at The Borrow Centre, each year the number attending has increased, with many people valuing the service.

Along with Julie, Elaine also visits Nightingale Court Nursing Home, Woodlands Nursing Home and Bayith Rest Home. We take a service once a month at each of the homes and always conclude by praying for each person individually, if they want us to. The visits seem to be valued by all.

In February, Julie also attended the time of remembering for a service user at Nightingale Court. Julie was able to reflect on the faith the lady had and offered prayers.

In February, Elaine and Julie attended the Anna Chaplains Network Day at the Cathedral and Bishop Jonathan lead a service of re-commissioning at the Candlemas service in the evening.

Elaine Davenport

with Samaritans Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This was slightly down on the previous years. We received boxes from the congregation and local schools and within the wider community and we would like to thank all who contributed.

However, we found the stronger evangelical message this year did not always resonate well with some people. Therefore, the team will meet and discuss whether we need to explore other options together with taking a fresh look at Samaritans own Shoebox Appeal. We will of course pursue a consultation process with the schools and anyone who may wish to put forward any views. We still wish to have some kind of outreach and may well still be with the Samaritans but we need to look carefully at what we feel will be the best option.

Many thanks to everyone involved.
The Shoebox Team
Rev Chris, Rev Polly, Bob and Val



Sunday Club Report 2025/26

In 2025, Sunday club continued to run. usually twice each month, with sessions led, planned for and taught by Deb Adam and Lisa Kernot. As well as assisting in the sessions, Elaine Andrews led Safer Recruitment.

The session dates are planned by Chris Spencer to run alongside half of the services when there is not an all-age worship service. We usually run around 2 sessions a month, in no set pattern. We have continued to break during the Christmas, Easter and Summer breaks, and to continue to run during half term holidays.

Sara Bolton and Natalie Pettit have continued to be part of the team as an additional leader on a regular basis, and has assisted in sessions in both planning and delivering Sunday club sessions alongside Lisa and Deb.

In addition to our usual sessions, we have also assisted in running two 'Takeover services' this year where the children have been involved and assisted in different roles within the church, usually on the 5th Sundays in months with 5 Sundays.

We have had on average 8 children attending each session, with some having as many as 10-12 children.

In addition to this, we also have three 'Sunday club buddies' who are young people of a senior school age who assist with the youngest members of the team during our Sunday club sessions. These young people are always working with the leaders and assistants during the sessions and are never left alone with other children.

Lisa Kernot

APCM REPORT YEAR END 2025

I am happy to report that St Wilfrid's Art Group continues to thrive. Our numbers dropped in 2024 but following a recruitment drive after our AGM in 2025, we have now recruited 4 new lovely members to the Group.

Following her resignation as SWAG Secretary in 2024, Val Strutt volunteered to organise our Visiting Artists and in 2025 we had three very different workshops or demonstrations.



In March, Roger Dellar, gave us a demonstration of portrait painting, for which Rev. Chris gamely agreed to be the subject! Fantasy artist Sharon Hurst came along in May and the Group enjoyed painting 'Magic Mushrooms'! Finally, in November we had Hilary Frame who taught us more about painting people in landscapes and the ever elusive 'vanishing point'! Three very diverse styles and artists but each one hugely enjoyable and informative.

Our small Committee of Pete Withers (Chair), Brenda Boyer (Membership Secretary), Grace Willcox (Treasurer) and Ruth Loveman (Asst. Treasurer) continue to keep things in order. Our Accounts are audited annually by the eagle-eyed Norma and our thanks go to Norma for her hard work. Norma does not charge for her work on the accounts but we make a donation each year to the Charities of Norma's choosing.

In October, in conjunction with the Want to Paint Group, we held our most successful Art Exhibition to date, raising £1,020.61. With a small addition from SWAG funds, we were able to donate £525 each to our two chosen Charities, St Wilfrid's Church and the Rowans Hospice.

The Art Exhibition is hard work for a small Committee and we are re-thinking how we may organise things differently this year. That said, however, the weekend itself is always fun and in 2025 we had our most successful year ever! Our artists sold 26 pictures (double the previous year's total) and this added £147.75 to the Charity pot! The Exhibition also provides an opportunity for SWAG to join forces with Want to Paint who often come up with new and interesting ideas for the weekend. This year we exhibited artwork in uniform 8x8 frames and whilst they didn't sell as well as we had hoped they provided a focal point and a conversation piece. New ideas are always worth trying!

SWAG continues to be a happy, social and talented bunch! We all look forward to our Friday afternoons of painting, chatting and tea and cake!!

Grace Willcox- Treasurer – St Wilfrid's Art Group

This year was great for the group.



Everyone has worked hard both indoors and in the great outdoors.

We've really knuckled down to the basics of perspective and drawing figures in the landscape—without some grasp of which, land-scapes can look very strange.

One very wet morning in June, we set off for the Weald and Downland Museum. After lunch in the café, the sun came out- just as the forecast had predicted- and everyone wandered away to sketch some of the old, rescued buildings site.

At the end of July, we took ourselves to beautiful Bosham for more lunch and sketching; car sharing's a great way to socialise!

Another Van Gogh acrylic workshop was a good exercise in stepping away from very small water colours. Though having said that, everyone has their very particular way of working and it's good to see personal styles developing.

We seem to average 16 or 17 members which is small enough for me to help where helps needed and everyone enjoys getting to know one another- people have mentioned friendliness, sharing and kindness. They enjoy chatting around the tea pot and cake too. 😊

My thanks of course go to our busy committee and SWAG for their support during Exhibition times. Lorraine and I have been so thankful that Graham Foyle has been happy to continue as our independent financial adviser even from down in Somerset!

Remember---never let your brushes dry!

Sonia P

It has been a joy to host school events at church as well, including Easter Experience and, new this year Advent Experience welcoming nearly 500 children over three weeks to explore the Christmas story. We also continue to lead Harvest services and deliver assemblies in schools, rooted in Scripture and prayer.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside Reverend Polly in supporting RE lessons and the wider schools' ministry.

We remain committed to praying regularly for our schools and look forward to building deeper partnerships, helping children and families grow in their understanding of faith in Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for children, staff, parents, carers, and volunteers – for peace, joy, hope, and opportunities for new faith to grow.

Reverend Chris and Reverend Polly
March 2026



Messy Church



Christ Centred, Creative & All Age, a Celebration with Hospitality

St Wilfrid Cowplain with Hart Plain 2025

At Messy Church we are blessed to have such a strong and gifted team who are passionate about what we do. We continue to demonstrate a love for Jesus and are driven by our desire to share our faith with the families through actions and words.

We are playing our part in Eco Church and are committed to making sustainable choices in Messy Church, especially in developing an appreciation of the world that God created.

Our monthly services are based on BRF's publication 'Get Messy', which provides plans that can be used as they are or tweaked to suit the needs of our Messy Church families. It also creates a feeling of being linked to Messy Churches studying and worshipping worldwide.

If you would like to know more about Cowplain Messy Church please speak to a Church Warden who can signpost you to a member of the team, or look at the BRF website for a general view of what Messy is all about.

<https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/what-messy-church/>

Messy Church Team

St Wilfrid's Toddler group run during term time, twice a week in the Upper Hall, on Wednesday and Friday mornings. We welcome all ages from new-born babies to pre-school children.

Our aim is to provide a welcoming, safe and social environment for the children, parents/grandparents or carers giving them the opportunity to meet each other, play with their children and to have fun whilst mixing with others.

The sessions could not run without our team of amazing Church volunteers who set up and then pack away this fantastic play space each session, interact and engage with the children and their respective adults that gives an amazing insight into our beautiful church. The Friday sessions also offer a weekly craft which is loved by both the children and their adults.

These morning sessions are very popular, and we see it as a valuable opportunity to build and grow our links with young families and our local community.

We use our St Wilfrid's Toddlers Facebook group to interact and promote church events. As a result, we see some families attending Messy Church, special events and Church on a Sunday and this is an area we seek to grow.

We always endeavour to send a message of God's love and link in with the Major Christian festivals, Easter and Christmas. We encourage worship and prayer through our story and music time.



Summer Term 2025 – Busy summer of play. Lots of our regulars moved up to school. The team celebrated with a party and bibles were given to our school age leavers.

All the toys were sorted and deep cleaned ready for the new academic year.

The toddler funds paid for deep cleaning the upper hall carpets, kindly organised by Alan on our behalf.

Autumn Term 2025 – After a delayed return due to unavailable volunteers at the start of term, both Wednesday and Friday sessions settled back in October. Wednesday sessions being run temporarily by Rev Chris and Rev Polly alternately, supported by the Wednesday team. Generally, a quieter session, but attended by several regular families and childminders.

Friday sessions returned slightly busier and have continued to grow steadily in numbers.

The run up to Christmas was enjoyed by all with Christmas themed craft offered and the final session on the year being given free to the children and their adults to celebrate.

Spring Term 2026 - A cold and wet start back after Christmas, again numbers staying steady.

The toddler accounts are looking healthy and the team will be discussing in the near future where we can reinvest some of our funds back to the sessions and church. Perhaps with some more maintenance of the upper hall. As this is where we are located.

We are still desperately in need of a volunteer to lead the Wednesday sessions. We will be reviewing at Easter the viability of Wednesday sessions continuing without this role. It is likely that the Wednesday sessions will have to close unless we can find someone to take this on. This will be a great shame to lose as really does benefit both the community and the church.

If this is something you feel you can help with or if you would generally like to volunteer for a session, please do speak to me, Chris or Polly. We are always looking to grow the team.

We thank God for the building, for those on the toddler team who give up their time to help and for all those coming along to the sessions, that they may not only enjoy their time with us but sense something of God's love for them

Much Thanks to all the Toddlers Team!



Christmas Day Lunch 2025

Christmas Day Lunch 2025

Every year we wonder

- * Will anyone wish to come to St Wilfrid's for their Christmas Day Lunch?
- * If they do, will there be enough people to prepare and serve the meal and look after our guests?

And this year, for the first time, there were too few people able, willing AND available and so, very reluctantly, we had to decide that there would be no lunch at St Wilfrid's on Christmas Day 2025.

There were a number of disappointed people and we were saddened, with them, by our necessary decision.

Let's see what will happen in 2026.

Jan Smith – coordinator.



TLC (Tea and Lovely Cake) 2025/26

Tea and Lovely Cake runs on alternate Sunday afternoons throughout the whole year.

We like to open our doors to all who may be feeling in need of the company of friends. Our maximum number is about thirty.

All cakes are homemade by Sarah Canham and Sonia Passingham and any left over are taken home by group members - we also have fruit as a healthy alternative. Sarah starts the afternoon with a quiz and games and prizes are arranged by Brenda.

Our thanks to Marion, Judith and Barbara for their huge help and the kind people who set out tables and help clear away.

Brenda Mizen



Warm Spaces

Warm Spaces runs on Thursday mornings during the months of November through to the end of February.

This year has been a rather dull and wet spell when our friends have been happy to come in, meet together and enjoy bettered rolls and a choice of three home made soups, tea and usually cake!

We generally have about sixteen people in our group.

Brenda Mizen