



United Parish of  
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

# Annual Report 2025

  
ST LEONARD'S  
OAKLEY



  
ST LAWRENCE  
WOOTTON

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## Rector's Report

If I were to summarise all my thoughts and feelings into one word as we approach this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, it would be **ANTICIPATION**.

Looking back, 2025 focused on renewing our vision, reframing our values, reorienting our priorities, restructuring our ministries, recruiting new leadership, and above all responding to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit – our advocate, comforter, and guide. In other words, last year was both a time of significant change and preparation for new things yet to come.

At last year's APCM we set out our **vision** (living the love of Jesus at the heart of our community) and core **values** (becoming a people of encounter, depth, compassion, generosity & belonging).

As the church grows and opportunities for mission expand, our task has been to reimagine a new way of approaching ministry which will equip us to keep pace with the ever-increasing rate of change.



## (1) Ministry Areas

Following last year's APCM, the PCC launched a strategic plan to restructure our core church ministries into seven interconnected areas: *worship, discipleship, fellowship, prayer, pastoral care, community engagement, and children & youth*. Each of these is led by a ministry area coordinator and is developing its own team. The aim of the coordinator roles is to:

- provide broad oversight ('sight' over) each ministry area;
- work with the Rector and the PCC to shape the vision and strategy for their ministry area;
- represent the 'public face' of their ministry area within the wider church;
- establish intentional relationships of encouragement, prayer and support for their leaders, volunteers, and teams;
- serve as a first point of contact for pastoral concerns within their area, signposting to the pastoral or clergy team as needed;
- support the welcome of newcomers and encourage people to get stuck into the life of the church;
- help facilitate the safer recruitment of new volunteers within their area in collaboration with the parish safeguarding team;
- encourage forward planning and effective communication between church leadership and their ministry area and promote creative collaboration wherever ministry areas overlap.

A significant task of this year has been mapping out the content, shape, and calendar rhythm of each new ministry area. A second was the recruitment of the coordinators. I am very pleased to report that we now have six of seven in post:

**Worship:** Ben Kautzer (with Chris Greenhalgh)

**Discipleship:** Jeanne Johnson (with Erika Conti)

**Fellowship:** TBC

**Prayer:** Ceri Deosun (with Derrick & Heather Norton and Harry Slinger)

**Pastoral:** Katey Butler

**Community:** Penny Brown

**Children & Youth:** Sochi Ezeanowai (with Alfie Wells)

## (2) Strategic Vision

As the shape of each ministry area has come into greater focus, so has the strategic vision and missional priorities:

- **Worship:** growing and equipping teams (preaching, service leading, music, welcome), celebrating and cultivating the distinctiveness of each congregation, launching termly nights of worship, promoting 'life event' services within the community (esp. christenings, baptisms, confirmations, and weddings);
- **Discipleship:** expanding the number, diversity and accessibility of Connect Groups, establishing a sustainable rhythm of seasonal open-access discipleship events (Lent course, Summer Nights film sessions, annual Advent Gallery), exploring creative new expressions of Alpha, encouraging a robust offering of short courses across the year (e.g. The Bible Course, The Prayer Course, Sanctuary, The Way), creating new opportunities for going deeper into Scripture, developing an annual series of public facing 'forum talks' on faith and the big topics of our time;
- **Fellowship:** expanding newcomers welcome, rebuilding robust men's and women's ministries within the church, establishing termly rhythms of social events and gatherings, launching an annual church BIG Weekend Away;
- **Prayer:** developing robust prayer ministry teams within each congregation (esp. the 8:00 and WSL), establishing a rhythm for quiet day retreats and/or mini-pilgrimage walks, relaunching the parish-wide ecumenical Prayer Clusters project;
- **Pastoral:** developing and equipping pastoral visiting and home communion teams, consolidating our ministry presence at Oak Lodge and Dashwood Manor, expanding Holiday@Home, creating a new community-facing bereavement service in May for anyone who has experienced the loss of a child, expanding Kintsugi Hope's outreach amongst men;
- **Community:** cultivating strategic community partnerships through the Oakley Wellbeing Forum, broadening our 'pastoral outreach' through partnership with the Social Prescriber team at Watership Down Health, hosting 'neighbourhood welcome' events for new housing areas and 'loving your neighbour' events for neglected areas within the parish;
- **Children & Youth:** through the 'Growing Faith' grant awarded to us by the Church of England ... recruiting a new children & families worker, connecting all our disparate contacts with children and young families into single unified children's ministry, consolidating new projects like 'Who Let the Dads Out' and 'The Welcome Club', building stronger Christian links with St Leonard's Pre-School, re-establishing bridges between village uniform groups and Sunday Fun Days, at the centre of it all launching a brand new worshipping community specifically for young families (involving the participation of parents and the active voice of children).





### (3) Infrastructure

Just as we have needed to restructure our ministry areas to keep up with our growing church, so we have also needed to update and improve the systems, structures, and infrastructure that underlies it all.

In that regard, 2025 was a year defined by tackling a range of more behind-the-scenes challenges: **Human Resources** (new dashboard system and employee contracts), **Communication** (parish-wide rebranding project and the launch of our new church website), **Digital Infrastructure** (rollout of ChurchSuite), **Safeguarding** (transitioning a large single role into a series of manageable tasks held within a team), **Finance** (renegotiating Centre contracts, securing VAT reimbursement, gaining grant funding for capital projects), **AV** (reviewing sound equipment requirements in both churches), **Buildings & Maintenance** (major roof repair at St Leonard's and range of actions in the St Leonard's Centre), **Church For Our Time** (progressing the St Leonard's building project to planning permission negotiations; completing water access improvements at Wootton St Lawrence and launching proposals for the reordering of St Lawrence).

All of this work was part of a process of consolidation and rescaling for the growing size and complexity of church life.

### (4) Recruitment

Whilst the first half of 2025 focused on mapping ministry areas, improving infrastructure, and discerning strategic priorities, the second half of the year required a fairly dramatic shift toward the recruitment of staff and volunteers.

Back in September 2024, the church staff team was at its peak with Rector, Associate Minister, two Curates, Youth Worker, Pastoral Coordinator, Evergreen Advocate, two Churchwardens, and two Administrators. By September 2025, our team had been reduced by four (Associate Minister, one Curate, Evergreen Advocate, and one Churchwarden). In addition, our Pre-School Manager, Pre-School Administrator, Parish Safeguarding Officer, and a member of the PCC announced their retirement from their roles. When Penny was appointed as our new Evergreen Pastoral Coordinator in December 2025, the Office Administrator post was added to the list of key roles needing to be filled.

Needless to say, this amounted to a whole lot of change all at once!

With a much-reduced team, we put our heads down and did our best to keep the momentum going until we could begin to close the gap.

Derek Felton took up the vacancy on PCC. As a former Churchwarden, he has brilliantly supported Mark Peryer whilst Helen Miller has stepped back from her responsibilities due to personal family circumstance. Alfie Wells joined Sochi's CAS team as our first MES Intern. Samantha Reeves was given a fixed-term contract to support the rollout of ChurchSuite across the parish.

In the last few weeks, we have successfully appointed a new Parish Administrator and a new Pre-School Administrator. We have strong candidates standing for PCC, Parish Safeguarding Officer, and Churchwarden. After Easter, we will begin the recruitment process for our new children & families worker.



This brings me back around to my one big word: **ANTICIPATION**. As we stand on the threshold of a new season, I cannot wait to see what the Lord will bring. So much work and thought and preparation has gone into the last year. As each of these big roles gets filled, as each of our ministry areas comes into greater focus, as our underlying infrastructure begins to function properly, we will be increasingly ready to lean into the new adventures that are opening out before us.

This is my prayer ...

- that 2026 will be the year in which we experience such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that none of us are left the same.
- that 2026 will be the year in which the Lord is adding to our number daily those who are encountering Jesus Christ for themselves;
- that 2026 will be the year that our work with children and young families unifies under a single banner and steps boldly into uncharted territory;
- that 2026 will be the year that our Evergreen ministry moves from strength to strength, flourishing under Penny's leadership;
- that 2026 will be the year that Christians of every kind reunite once again in faithful prayer over every street, every institution, every house, and corner of our parish;
- that 2026 will be the year in which many big roles in church turn into teams and that these teams release the gifts and potential of the whole people of God;
- that 2026 will be the year that Church For Our Time breaks through bureaucratic barriers to become a living breathing reality for St Leonard's and Wootton St Lawrence;
- that 2026 will be a year of healing and reconciliation, hope and freedom, gathering and scattering, loving, and proclaiming ... all in the mighty name of Jesus.

We pray with hope-filled **anticipation** that this will be a year of significance for our church. With renewed faith and longing we are bold to pray ... *Come, Holy Spirit ... Thy Kingdom come even here in this place as it is in heaven ... May your grace overwhelm us and set us free. Amen.*





Before I conclude my report, I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have given so much to support the mission and ministry of our church.

First and foremost, I want to thank our Churchwardens, Helen Miller, and Mark Peryer. After six years of faithful service, Helen is finishing her term of office this year. I am so grateful for all that Helen has given in service of our church, and Jo and I are especially thankful for all the ways that Helen has supported us as a family.

This summer we bid a fond farewell to Ed and Sarah Haycock and their girls and released them to lead a new church planting project on the Townsend estate in Bournemouth. Though Ed's time with us was brief, his impact was significant. Thank you, Ed!

I also want to say a special thank you to Teresa Bates. For seven years, Teresa has served as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. She has been there for our church through thick and thin. We owe Teresa a debt of gratitude for the time, energy, wisdom, and care she has committed to her role.

Caroline Edwards has invested years and years supporting the children and young families of our church and our community through Sunday School, Pippins, Scouts, School Governance, and above all St Leonard's Pre-School. As Caroline prepares to retire from her responsibilities this year, I wanted to thank her for her faithful service, her leadership, and her passion to see young people flourish.

My role would be impossible without the brilliant team at my side. I want to thank our amazing staff team: Ceri, Sochi, Katey, and Alfie; our office team: Penny and Victoria; our ministry area coordinators and team leaders: Chris & Naomi, Marilyn & Rodney, Erika, Jeanne, Tom, Derrick & Heather, and Harry; our treasurer Simon and his finance team; our pre-school manager Caroline and her staff; the members of the PCC; our Church For Our Time champions: Mark, Derek, and the Friends of Wootton St Lawrence.

Yours in Christ,  
Ben



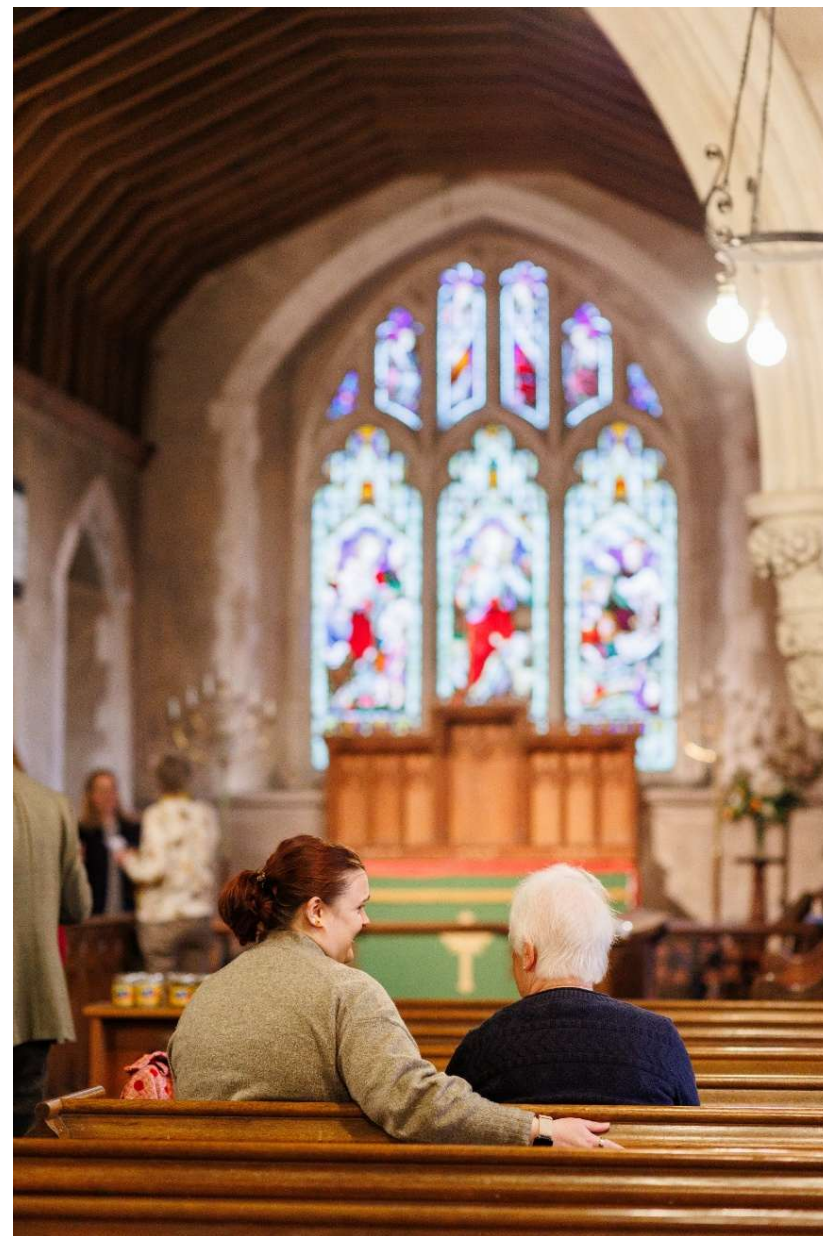
## Curate's Report – Ceri Deosun

I can't believe another year has gone by already, meaning I am more than halfway through my time in Oakley and Wootton. There have been many exciting things in the last year but also a number of challenges, and I thank you all for your support through everything. It is such a blessing to be part of such a loving community.

We are seeing wonderful things happening in some of the ministries I have been involved with. Prayer Space in our Junior School is going from strength to strength with an influx of new volunteers, and Naomi Sworder and I have had a big sort out of all the resources to set us up for the future. Hymns of Hope in Oak Lodge has grown from six residents when Anna and I started it in Autumn 2024 to now regularly having 25-30 residents coming along to sing classic hymns. We are building connections between the school and the care home too, something that we hope will continue and grow in the future.

The MAG committee was overwhelmed with worthy charities to support, and we are planning to raise more awareness of these amazing organisations in the coming months. With short courses, the new book club, the usual hatch, match and dispatch services to plan (baptisms, weddings and funerals), and the never-ending PhD, my diary can feel very full at times, so Lent this year has been a wonderful reset, of making time for reflection and creativity.

With curacy sign off approaching and the prospect of looking for my own parish on the horizon, I am thinking seriously about legacy. I would love to be sure that the ministries I am involved with will continue to grow and flourish without me here, so I am starting to have conversations with people about making that happen. I am keen to 'leave well', knowing that I have made a difference but that it will be lasting. If this is my last APCM with you all, I want you to know that I am so immensely grateful for all the love and care you have shown over the last three years, and for all the opportunities you have given me and friendships we have built here.





# Parochial Church Council Report

## Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyard at St Lawrence's is the only one open for burials.

One of the main themes over the last year has been change and the composition of the PCC has reflected this theme. We said goodbye to our Assistant Curate Ed Haycock and his family in July. Erika Conti resigned in July and Helen Miller stepped back as Church Warden in September. However, at the same time, the PCC has been joined by Sam Reeves who is ex-officio as the Deanery Synod Secretary, whilst Derrick Norton and Derek Felton were co-opted onto the PCC.

The PCC has spent much time over the last few years considering how we manage the changes associated with church growth. A momentum is now building towards having a core staff team to support the key ministries of the church. One example of this was the appointment of our first Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) intern, Alfie Wells, who has been working alongside Sochi since September, but has also got involved with other aspects of ministry as the opportunity has arisen. In December, we appointed Penny Brown as Evergreen Pastoral Co-Ordinator, and we are looking forward to her taking up that position.

The start of 2026 has seen a focus on the recruitment of a new Church Administrator, to replace Penny, and a new Pre-School Manager as Caroline Edwards is retiring. Both of these roles are significant to the church as well as to the wider community. Cathy Clewer took on the post of Pre-School Chair and has been working with Caroline and Derek Felton to effect a smooth transition for the Pre-School.

As PCC meetings are typically focussed on business and decision making, we hold

an annual away day to spend some time on bigger picture discussion. This year we got together at the end of January to talk about how we should nurture the 5 values of the church and to start to tackle some 'knotty questions.' One outcome was the recognition that in these times we cannot necessarily expect individuals to take on significant responsibilities alone, and that we need to find ways to distribute responsibilities across teams.

Safeguarding has a dedicated agenda item at each PCC meeting and this year we have spent time reviewing safeguarding standards and values at alternate meetings. Teresa Bates will be retiring as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at this year's APCM and we have been preparing for that by considering how we spread the load across a team consisting of a PSO and two, or more, administrators to look after DBS certification, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruiting.

Another change that was introduced during the year was the timing of the later Sunday morning service at St Leonards from 10:00 am to 10:30 am and to change the ordering of services to allow Communion to be taken somewhere in the Parish every Sunday. The buffer between services allows more time for post-service clergy presence; has enabled prayer before the 10:30 services; and has allowed time for short meetings such as Baptism preparation and 'This is us' to be held at this time. We thank everyone for accepting the change gracefully.

An important topic that has been discussed by the PCC at some length is that of prioritising outreach and ministry to families and children. Ben and Sochi led a successful application for a 'Growing Faith Learning Hub' grant which we plan to use to seed fund a Children and Families worker. One of the objectives for this post is to launch a new family orientated worshipping community that meets at a different time than Sunday morning.

## Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of

the PCC in 2025 consisted of the Rector, Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 82%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team, which includes clergy, church wardens, the church administrator, and the lead for Pastoral Care, meets once every two weeks to support short-term decision making.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

## **Safeguarding**

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

## **Administrative information**

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the

Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,  
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

## **PCC members at 31/12/25**

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister Sue Colman; Curate: Rev'd Ceri Deosun

Treasurer: Simon Constantine; PCC Secretary: Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Mark Peryer

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Mark Peryer, Sam Reeves

Elected PCC members:

- Annie Wilson (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2027), Serena Worthington (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2027)
- Teresa Bates (2<sup>nd</sup> term ends 2026), Kate Goucher (2<sup>nd</sup> term ends 2026), Claire Bowers (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2026), Barbara Robson (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2026)
- Selina Craig (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2028), Tom Favell (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2028), Richard Edwards (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2028)

Co-Opted PCC members:

- Derrick Norton, Derek Felton

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## Financial Review

The Church Accounts are presented primarily with two categories of Unrestricted and Restricted Funds. Unrestricted funds represent the day-to-day operations of the two churches and centres and include St Leonard’s Pre-School, which operates out of St Leonard’s Centre. Restricted funds are those designated for specific activities with the youth and older people and for building improvements.

The Church and Centres together showed a total surplus for the year of £17,364 (2024: £3,306) and the Pre-School a surplus of £24,992 (2024: £19,840); both are included in Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds increased by £3,768. The most significant income for the Church and Centres at 71% of total income is gifts, primarily from our worshipping community. These were 3% lower than in 2024. However, income from the hire of our buildings and from interest earned on our cash deposits held up well and overall costs were well covered for the year.

On the expenditure side, underlying costs increased by 3% when adjusting for the significant £25,000 estimated costs on roof repairs at St Leonard’s Church that were accrued in the 2024 accounts. Our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund increased by 13% and we met this in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing at 44% of total costs and pays for our local ministers as well as contributing to some central Church of England costs. Other costs were controlled well, which resulted in the overall modest 3% increase in the year. We gave £12,000 to 18 other charities through Mission Action Giving.

St Leonard’s Pre-School once again generated a significant surplus in the year following the increase in weekly hours offered in 2024.

The financial systems and controls were reviewed during the year, having been redesigned in 2021. They continue to provide an efficient and effective framework within which both the monthly management and annual statutory accounts are prepared on a timely and accurate basis. The PCC continues to have full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School, Youth, Evergreens and church building projects, where significant funds are involved.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

### Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

Unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2025 were £202,108 (2024: £162,487), which represents approximately nine months of normal expenditure.

*Simon Constantine, Treasurer*



## Safeguarding

This parochial church council adopts the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

### Over this past year:

We use the Parish Dashboard, an audit tool that we regularly update to ensure that the mandatory responsibilities of the parish are complied with. This tool also has assisted the PCC to review safeguarding standards, encouraging additional good practice in promoting a healthy and safe culture.

There is now some new software provided – the Safeguarding Hub, will make the record keeping of DBS, training and recruitment more straightforward.

We continue to recruit new volunteers to roles in the church. We are committed to the CofE safer recruitment process to ensure that everyone in a leadership or volunteer role has the support and checking they need. This includes obtaining references, DBS checks where appropriate, having clear role descriptions and safeguarding training. Thank you to all those who give up their time to volunteer and complete the training to ensure we are keeping people safe.

There have been some safeguarding concerns raised this year. Where appropriate we have referred to the Diocesan safeguarding team who are able to give some valuable advice. Thanks are due to our volunteers/leaders who highlight and report concerns and the leaders who have shown great care in dealing with situations, delivering safe and appropriate support.

### Moving forward:

I have been in the role of PSO since 2019, and in that time the role has expanded. The time has come for me to step back and I would like to thank all those that have supported me in the role.

To maintain high standards and to not overload any one volunteer, a team is needed to share the workload. A new team is coming together and I wish them your support in promoting our church as a safe and supportive place for all.

I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers of our groups for the work they do. Without their commitment to provide safe spaces, policies and procedures alone would be ineffective.

*Teresa Bates (PSO)*





## Church Wardens

I would like to start this year's report by paying tribute to my fellow Church Warden Helen Miller whose term ends at this year's APCM. When I started working alongside Helen, I quickly realised that we complemented each other and although we approached life in different ways, we shared a common passion and commitment to serve and further the kingdom of God in Oakley and Wootton. Helen would see things that I remained blind to, get a feeling that something was amiss that I was too numb to pick up and have a vision that I would have to run fast to catch up with. I am also aware of some, but by no means all, of the unseen ways the hand of Helen was in action.

As you are probably aware, Helen stepped down from her role in September to support her family whilst her husband, Andy, went through intense treatment for cancer. That was the right thing to do, and it is wonderful to see Andy recovered and restored to health again.

In the Autumn, Derek Felton offered to come back to the PCC and to take on the responsibility for HR and I immediately accepted as it was becoming clear that we were going to go through a period of intense recruitment for the staff team and the pre-school. Derek's expertise has proved to be extremely useful, and I would like to think that we have laid some good foundations for the future with the appointments that have been made.

You can read elsewhere about the progress made on building projects over the last year. In addition to the headline projects, there is a constant stream of minor projects and for these I rely on the support of Rowland and Harry Tilley to address them in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Nether the less, I am also grateful to every one of you who has rolled up your sleeves; got stuck in to start new initiatives; helped bring projects into land; or have joined in to keep existing things going. I appreciate your support and look forward to the challenges that we will face together in the coming year.

*Mark Peryer*



## Church Administrator

It's been another busy year in the office.

The office continues to be the engine room of the Parish and the Centre is always busy with groups and activities. We have welcomed three new regular hirers this year, with another starting in April. The current hirers keep us busy and it's great to see the Centre being such a valued community space within Oakley.

Vic has reorganised all the archives so that we can have a rolling cycle of shredding each year, and lots of paperwork has left the office as a result.

The Welcome Sheet production has risen in numbers as we welcome more people not formally connected to the church. We email out over 300 each Friday to anyone on our mailing list, so it's helpful if you only take a hard copy at the end of the service, once we know that newcomers have one to take away.

The Office can only function with the help of you all. Rotas need filling, volunteers are needed for everything we do, refreshments are crucial, and the flowers, brass cleaning, tables and chairs etc don't get done without the quiet support of those who give their time behind the scenes.

The quietest of these is Graeme, without whom there would be no colourful Welcome Sheet, no service posters, and all the other countless things he provides each year from a life-sized Jane Austen, to fliers for groups and the Evergreen names and menus. Did you know that he always adds a joke (loose term here!) in the Welcome Sheet in one of the upright margins?! His cheery personality, crazy humour and faithfulness to Friday mornings always brightens up the week, coupled with our alternating purchase of Danish pastries, which are usually accompanied by debates over Tesla and American politics!

Vic holds some of the purse strings and pays bills (boo!) and expenses (hooray!) as well as dealing with all the bookings, keeping an eye out for clashes etc. She is also a handy size when it comes to sorting through the eave cupboards!

This will be my last report as Administrator. It's been a real delight to see Vic flourish in her role. It's been lovely to work alongside 'Techno Gran' Joan Smith, Linda Wain, and the team of office cover staff across this time.



Looking back to the job I took on a decade ago, it's unrecognisable. The Centre usage, links to community organisations, increased services - especially at Wootton, Lockdown and Church@Home, modern furniture, getting rid of 4 overflowing filing cabinets, the 'Hamsters', and of course the arrival of the Kautzers! I could go on....

I've been privileged to serve the Parish in this role and to develop it according to my own skills and interests. As I step away I just know that you will be amazingly supportive of Sam, as she adapts the role to her strengths too, and leads the Office into its next chapter.

With a nod to the Friday email, whatever your plans are for the year ahead, stay safe.

*Penny Brown*

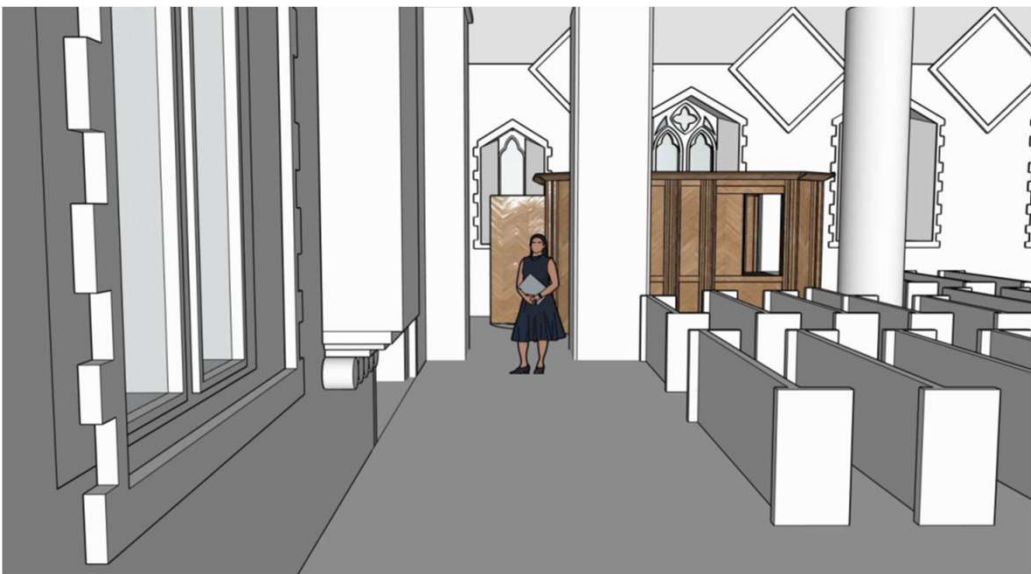


## Building Projects

### Church For Our Time – St Leonards

We submitted a planning application for the St Leonards Church for our time project in April last year. In July, we held a meeting with English Heritage, The Victorian Society and The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to discuss their objections to our application. The outcome of the meeting, was that they accepted that our proposal for an extension was necessary, but they expressed opinions about the extension roof detail. We have gone through several rounds of responding to comments and objections from council officers and we believe we have made progress. We were pleased to have some supportive comments from the Conservation Officer late last year. We have recently been asked by the case officer to post a new planning notice and to confirm details of our plans, so it feels like the end is in sight.

*Derek Felton, Mark Peryer*



**Preliminary model view of toilet and kitchen pod at St Lawrence's Church**

### Church For Our Time – Wootton St Lawrence

Over the last year a water supply has been laid to St Lawrence's church and is currently terminated in a stand-pipe by the west door. We are extremely grateful to the Wootton and Ramsdell Parish council who paid for the work to be done and to Peter Lowndes and Gile Curtis who managed the project. We also installed a temporary path across the churchyard which allows interim access to toilets in the Barn nursery through a temporary gap in the fence and hedge on the north side of the churchyard.

In parallel with these developments, we started work with an architect who has developed a pod concept for locating toilet and kitchen facilities within a church in a sensitive manner. The general idea is that the sound proofed pod has a woodwork wrapper that can be adapted to blend in with its surroundings and look like a piece of church furniture. At its November meeting the PCC gave the go-ahead to engage Mark Penfold as project architect with a brief to provide a pod installation at Wootton. Since then, he has worked with the project team to produce some preliminary plans that were shared in a public meeting in February this year.

The proposal is that the pod will house a disabled toilet and a kitchenette and that it will be located to western end of the north aisle of the church, taking advantage of visual screening by the northern arcade. The pew seating in the north and south aisles will be removed, to allow the facilities to be used for community events in the church building.

We believe that most of the funds for completing the project are in place, but this will be confirmed once we have finalised the plans. All being well and provided there are no surprises we hope to complete the project within a year or so at which point the water supply will have been brought into the church and we will be able to roll up the temporary path.

*Teresa Bates, Mark Peryer*



## St Leonard's Chancel Roof

Last year we completed a project to refurbish the Chancel roof at St Leonards. As far as we can determine, the southern side of the roof had not had any attention since it was first built in 1870 and there was no roof felt under the tiles that were kept in place using wooden pegs. We had known for at least ten years that something had to be done, but when the ceiling underneath started to show signs of water ingress it could be put off no longer.

We started the necessary approval process early in the year, but because a Myotis Bat was discovered between the door to the basement and its frame during the ecological survey for the C4OT project planning application, we had to involve the Bat Conservation Trust and Natural England to develop a Bat roost mitigation strategy in case there were bats roosting in the void between the tiled roof and the suspended ceiling in the Chancel. This delayed the start of the project until mid-September by which time last years extended dry weather was on its way out. The roof repair was finished in early November and if you look carefully you will notice a 'bat tile' on each side of the roof, these will allow bats access to the roof space.



The project was funded from PCC reserves, but we were fortunate to win a small works grant from the Diocese and to get one of the last Listed Places of Worship scheme VAT refunds, saving around £4,000 for future work.



*Mark Peryer*



## Wootton St Lawrence

Worship at St Lawrence has remained steady throughout the year with a consistent congregation of around 30 people attending each service. We were delighted to celebrate two baptisms recently and approximately 120 people joined us for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

### Wootton Fundraising Events

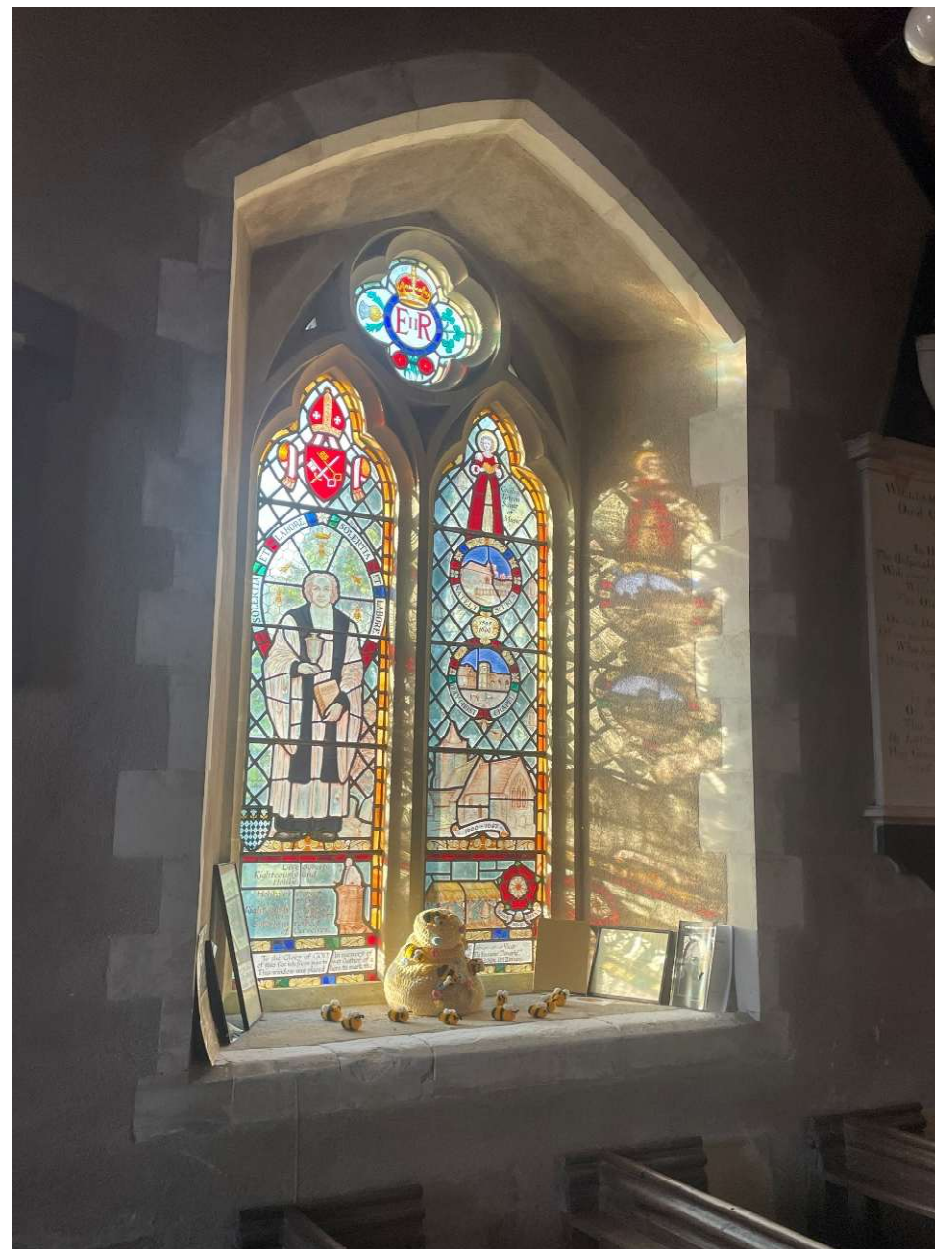
Last year The Friends of St Lawrence (FOSL) held a musical evening, raising £756 towards the 'Church For Our Time' project.

The Wootton St Lawrence Residents' Committee organised a Fete & Dog Show, raising £1,581. Of this, £1,000 was donated to C4OT with the remaining £581 retained in the Residents' Fund for ongoing village expenses.

The Big Sing, a fun musical and social event took place just before Christmas. Over 50 people attended and donations of approximately £150 were given towards the project.

Looking ahead, FOSL are organising a Bridge Tea on 15th April at Malshangar Social Club with proceeds going towards the improvement project. We will also be planning further musical evenings.

*Serena Worthington*





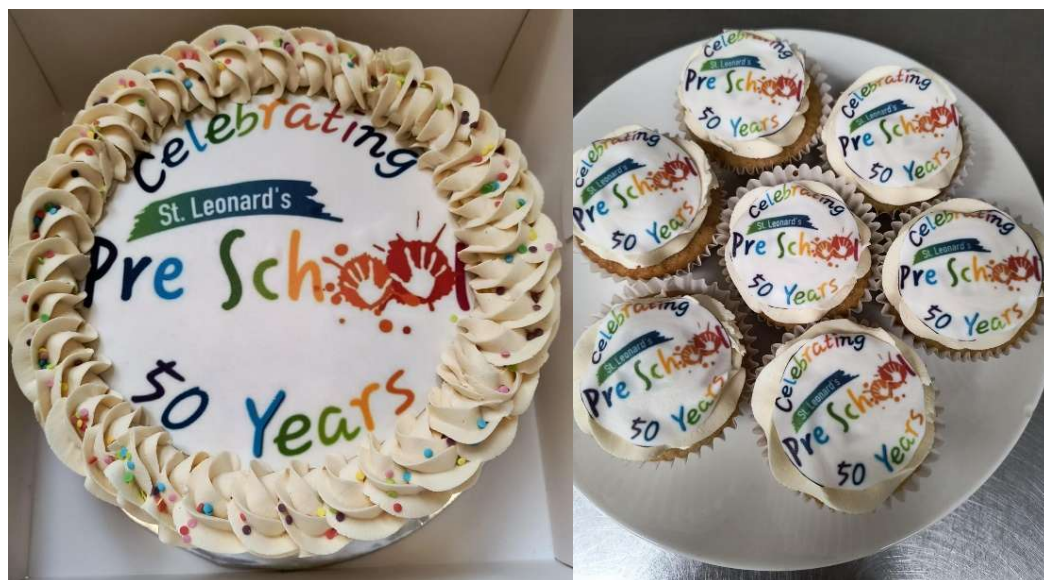
## St Leonard's Pre-School

A big thank you to everyone who has prayed for the preschool or supported it in any way this year. It is greatly appreciated and has a significant impact on the preschool and staff.

It has been a busy year with lots of families attending the preschool. For the first time ever in the summer term, we had four families with two children attending the setting at the same time.

We have been supported by parents and grandparents coming into the preschool to help with cooking weeks and to talk about their jobs to the children. We had a parent who works for BP and works on the oil rigs, a parent who works for the library service, a parent who is a science teacher and a parent who does voice overs for adverts and animations.

In early summer Sheila Compton, who has been the chair of the management committee, stepped down after 10 years of supporting the preschool. Sheila has been such a valued friend of the preschool and will be greatly missed.



Cathy Clewer has taken over as the new chair of the management committee.

The preschool was 50 years old in September 2025! We had a celebration to mark the occasion. It was very well attended, with past staff coming along including one member of staff who was there when it opened fifty years ago! We had families who had attended the preschool, families who currently attend and families who are planning to attend in the future. A member of staff made a cake, other staff made food for children and adults, there was face painting, craft activities, a range of toys inside and outside for all to enjoy.

There was also a display of photos to look through!

In July we had our Leaver's Concert in church with solos, songs, acting and playing instruments. We also had our Sports Day with lots of races and an ice lolly at the end! In October, we had a Harvest Celebration in the church, and in December we had the Nativity in the church. All the events were very well supported by our parents.

In December we had a sponsored week with activities for the children to take part in. With gift aid we raised a record £1800 for new resources!

*Caroline Edwards, Manager*

# MINISTRY AREAS

In 2025, the PCC undertook the significant task of restructuring our core church teams into seven mission and ministry areas: **Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Prayer, Pastoral Care, Community Engagement, and CAS** (children & youth).



This process began with a mapping exercise to locate groups, gatherings, events and activities under these seven headings. The next stage involved identifying leaders to stand as ‘ministry area coordinators’. Six of the seven roles have now been filled. Ministry coordinators will work closely with the Rector to provide strategic and pastoral oversight for their area, as well as help encourage, equip, and safer-recruit volunteers.

## (1) Worship

The Worship ministry area is overseen by our Rector Ben Kautzer with the close support of our Curate Ceri Deosun, and our lead worship pastors Chris & Naomi Greenhalgh. It focuses primarily on acts of worship (e.g. Sunday & midweek services, seasonal & special services, and Life Events), music, and the various other teams the support our services (e.g. leading, preaching, all-age, readers, prayers, welcome, AV).

### Services

We continue to offer three distinct Sunday morning congregations: 9am at Wootton St Lawrence, 8:00 and 10:30 at St Leonard’s. We have seen significant growth in all three congregations. The 9:00 is a more reflective service, and its congregation represents a wonderful mix of folk from Wootton St Lawrence and Oakley. The 8:00 Communion has grown to over 30 members and has nearly pushed post-service breakfast in the Centre to its capacity! The 10:30 continues to welcome newcomers on a weekly basis of all ages and walks of life. An additional midweek service meets twice a month at St Leonard’s.

Our all-age services (Café Church and Sunday Funday) continue to be popular. In 2025, we added a second Christingle service for younger children and their families. This worked well and created a bit more capacity to welcome more guests to main Christingle service with Y5 from Oakley Junior School. We are making the best use we can of the St Leonard’s Centre, but long for the moment when we will be able to offer all of our all-age services within a freshly reordered St Leonard’s.

### Life Events

**Christenings** – It was a great joy to celebrate the baptism of 9 children in 2024. The christening team hosted several ‘come and see’ preparation events. Our midweek toddler groups – Quackers, New Life, and Pippins – remain popular spaces for building relationship, as have our termly Sunday Fun Days. In September, we held our third annual “Celebration of Christening” all-age service for all the children who had their baptism the previous year.



**Adult Baptism and Confirmation** – In 2025, five adults were baptised in our church, including a special service on Christmas Day. Three more reaffirmed their baptismal vows. At a stunning service at Winchester Cathedral, James Willis and Ashleigh Jones become the first people to be Confirmed by our new Bishop of Basingstoke.

**Marriage** – Seven couples celebrated their wedding at St Leonard and Wootton St Lawrence in 2025. In preparation for their big day, we hosted our second Marriage Course at St Leonard's.

**Bereavement** – Last year, the OWW ministry team conducted around twenty seven funerals, thanksgivings, and interment of ashes services. These services took place at St Leonard's, St John's Garden of Remembrance, Wootton St Lawrence, and Basingstoke Crematorium. Most of our funeral ministry focuses on pastoral care and support to families connected to the wider village community. In Loving Memory, Remembrance Day, and our Blue Christmas bereavement services continue to grow and are highly valued by members of the church and community alike. In September, we offered The Bereavement Journey – a seven week course for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. This was the sixth time of running the course within the parish. Through the growth of informal support groups (like Men2Mow and Ladies Who Lunch), the Christmas hamper project, and the wonderful work of the pastoral care team, a strong network of ongoing pastoral support is available through our church.

## Preaching

We are blessed with a truly remarkable team of preachers in our parish. Each have their own style and approach, and yet everyone is working together to help our church family grow deeper in our faith, engage more intentionally with the scriptures, and live more faithfully the love of Jesus in our lives.

In 2025, we welcomed several new members to the team, including Penny Brown, Hannah Wade, CJ Lazaridis, and Heather Norton – bringing our combined team to about 12-13 people. This year the preaching team led us through numerous inspiring sermon series, including 'Valleys', 'Encounters in the Gospel of Mark', 'Rest // Sabbath', 'Indescribable', 'Have a *Mary* Christmas', and 'The Beatitudes'.







Every year the diocese of Winchester offers a special program called the **Bishop's Commission to Preach** (BCP). The PCP is one-year training programme in the art, theology, spirituality and practice of preaching. It is a fantastic training opportunity. Those who complete the BCP will have opportunities to preach more frequently and in a diverse range of settings. If you're interested in learning a bit more about BCP program or about the ministry of preaching within our church, please do contact Ben.

*Ben Kautzer*

## Music

This past year has been a season of growth for our worship life, driven by a greater call for worship provision. We have intentionally moved beyond our traditional comfort zones to explore musical experimentation, integrating a wider variety of genres, instruments, and liturgical styles, including the introduction of many songs written by our own worship team members. From contemporary arrangements of classic hymns to the introduction of more diverse global worship songs, these changes have brought a new energy to our Sunday gatherings.

Our primary goal this year was to ensure that every member of the congregation feels seen and included in our worship experience. We have worked hard to:

- Vary the pace and "volume" of our services to accommodate different sensory needs.
- Incorporate diverse musical styles that resonate across different generations.
- Ensure that our song selections reflect a broad and inclusive theology.
- Work with the PA and streaming teams to ensure better musical balance within the Church building and the online streaming service.
- Embedded musical toning to try delivering variety within the musical sets.

By focusing on these areas, we have seen a deeper level of engagement from the pews, with many noting that the "spirit of the room" feels more welcoming than ever.





The Well remains a standout success. This additional offering continues to be a popular space for both our musicians and the wider congregation to gather in a more informal, reflective setting. It has become a vital "laboratory" for our musical experimentation, allowing us to try new things in a safe, intimate atmosphere that fosters genuine spiritual connection.

While we celebrate the creative strides we have made, we must also be honest about the challenges ahead. Our dedicated worship team is currently significantly depleted compared with the same period 12 months previous. To sustain the quality and variety of our worship at the current cadence, we are in urgent need of new voices and hands.

We are calling on our Church community for help. Whether you are a vocalist who enjoys singing in a group, or an instrumentalist—no matter your instrument or skill level—we would love to welcome you, and we’re a friendly bunch! You don’t need to be a professional; you simply need a heart for worship and a willingness to serve. If you feel a nudge to contribute to our musical life, please reach out to any of the worship team. Your contribution could be the key to keeping our "joyful noise" going at its current pace, for the year to come.

*Tim Saunders and Ian Pryce*

**(2) Discipleship**

The Discipleship ministry area is overseen by Jeanne Johnson. It focuses primarily on Connect Groups and short courses (Alpha, Faith & Belonging, Study & Equip, Family Life, and Seasonal — Advent, Lent, Summer Nights). But it also involves open-access discipleship gatherings (like Going Deeper, Fellowship Walks, and the St Leonard’s Book club) and one-off events (such as special talks, pilgrimage walks and quiet day retreats).

The focus over the last year has been to continue with the development and support of Connect Groups and to raise awareness so people would be able to find out what was offered and available across the Parish.

Connect Groups are a great way for sharing life, building friendships and growing in relationships with God, providing an opportunity for members to grow spiritually and deepen their faith as well as provide support when going through difficult times or facing life challenges.

In October 2025 (after the Morning Services at Oakley and Wootton), we held Autumn Roadshows over a 3-week period. All were well attended. We also produced a booklet and posted Connect Group details to the website. As a result, new members joined existing Connect Groups, and 4 new Connect Groups were created. We also have 2 more in the planning stage.

Currently, Connect Groups span across Film Groups, Fellowship Groups, Home Groups, a Walking Group, a Book Club as well as Bible Study Groups but although each is different, Christian values and fellowship are at their core with Jesus at the Centre. We hope more people will step forward to offer to host and lead new Groups because, as we found in October, once created and made known, members quickly step forward to join! If anyone is interested in doing so, please let me know.

During the coming year, support for Connect Groups will be ongoing alongside progressing other Adult Discipleship areas.

I would like to thank Penny, Erika and Richard for their commitment and support.



*Jeanne Johnson*

### (3) Fellowship

The Fellowship ministry area does not currently have a designated coordinator. This area covers the social life of the church (meals, quizzes, picnics, BBQs ... the BIG church weekend away ... and future opportunities like participating in a Christian summer festival). It also involves Newcomers Welcome (led by Erika Conti), Men & Women's ministries, and fellowship gatherings like Brief Encounters.

If you love to throw a party, build relationships, plan events, welcome new friends, enabling belonging ... then the Fellowship role might be for you!

#### Men2Mow

Men2Mow frequents the Barley Mow in Oakley twice a month, except in December. We have lunch there on the second Wednesday of each month and an evening meal on the final Tuesday of each month. You are very welcome to join us and in doing so help a local amenity survive. We were appalled to discover that from a £7 pint of beer the landlord only retains 12p to keep his business running.

We would be delighted if you were to join us. Just give your email address to Derek ([derekhall956@gmail.com](mailto:derekhall956@gmail.com)) or Graeme ([graemewr09@gmail.com](mailto:graemewr09@gmail.com)) and they will email you each month with the date of each meal and menu. Let us know your choice by return email and enjoy an evening meal, good company and putting the world to rights. Twice a year we have lunch with the Ladies who lunch when we usually fill the Barley restaurant.

*Derek Hall and Graeme Wheeler*

#### Ladies Who Lunch

Ladies who Lunch was formed after the success of the Men at Mow. Penny suggested that we should try and start something similar for the Ladies and we started the group in August 2024. We meet at the Barley Mow on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12.30pm.

Currently, we have 27 members from both the Church, and from other groups and ladies in the village. Each month, I send out a WhatsApp group message out reminding ladies of the date and asking them to let me know if they are interested in joining us and what they would like from the lunch time menu which is included as an attachment. I let the Barley Mow know in advance what has been pre ordered. We have anything from 10 to 18 ladies each month.

Twice a year we join up with the 'Men at Mow' for a summer buffet lunch and a Christmas Lunch which are both held at the Barley Mow and are well supported.

We are a friendly group and the lunch gives us a chance to catch up with one another and to meet new ladies who join us.

If you would be interested in joining us we would very pleased to welcome you, there is an open invitation to join in, you do not need to come along every month but when you do we will be very pleased to see you.

If you are interested please contact me on my email: [margaretbunkle@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretbunkle@hotmail.com) or telephone no. 07880733029 or you could leave a message in the office for me so that I can get in touch.

*Margaret Bunkle*



## (4) Prayer

The Prayer ministry area is led by our curate Ceri Deosun. Its primary focus is on the prayer ministry team (led by Derrick & Heather Norton and Harry Slinger). But it also covers prayer gatherings, prayer walks, our ecumenical network of Prayer Clusters, and our annual 'Thy Kingdom Come' big week of prayer.

Prayer is a foundational aspect of what we do as a church, so it has been great to be involved in this area of ministry. The Sunday morning Prayer Ministry team has become a well-established part of the 10:30 service, with wonderful words and pictures shared and more people taking up the opportunity to be prayed for. Thanks to Derrick and Heather Norton and Harry Slinger, with help from Alison, for stepping up to lead that team, especially for the great training sessions they have put on. We are always in need of more people to support this ministry, and to lead intercessions in our services, so please do let me know if you would like to help.

Looking ahead, we will have our next week of prayer for Thy Kingdom Come in the summer, so planning has started for that with lots of opportunities to get involved. We are also hoping to relaunch Prayer Clusters in the next year, so watch this space for more news on that. As with everything that happens in our church, it all comes down to the dedication of so many church members making everything happen, so thank you to those who give their time and effort to support the prayer life of the church and please do get in touch if you are not yet involved but would like to be.

*Ceri Deosun*





## (5) Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care ministry area is overseen by Katey Butler. It includes our pastoral visiting and Home Communion teams, pastoral courses like Kintsugi Hope, bereavement ministry, pastoral outreach into the community, Holiday@Home, Evergreen Fellowship, and our work within local residential care homes.

We are extremely blessed to have a skilled and willing pastoral care team, who give generously of their time and talents to fulfil a variety of roles. Some team members make regular Pastoral visits or administer Home Communion to those who find it difficult to access church due to lack of mobility, age, or health issues. These visits are important as they create the space for meaningful conversations, prayer, spiritual and emotional support, and ensure people remain part of the church family. Others make meals, cooking and delivering delicious food to people in need. Volunteers also support Oak Lodge services and Holiday@Home.

Christmas 2025 saw a big increase in the number of families the schools requested support for. Your incredible generosity and kindness enabled us to bless families from the school, church, and parish with food vouchers. A huge thank you for all your financial contributions, and also to members of the Gap for the chocolate treats they donated.

We continue to provide support for the bereaved through pastoral visits, The Bereavement Journey, In Loving Memory, Blue Christmas and signposting to appropriate regular meeting points. For example, Men2Mow and Brief Encounters.

Our work in partnership with the local Social Prescribers continues as we look at ways to further support and build community around some of our more isolated residents.

At the end of July, a team of volunteers welcomed twenty guests to St Leonard's Centre for three days of Holiday@Home, an opportunity for fun, fellowship, and friendship.

The guests were entertained by a variety of groups and participated in a range of interesting activities. The warm atmosphere showed in their faces as they relaxed, chatted, and got to know one another.

Guests were treated to delicious meals cooked by our volunteer team, and Community Care very kindly provided transport.



Some of the feedback from Holiday@Home 2025:

*'What a wonderful few days we have just enjoyed – A resounding success'*

*'Three days of companionship and enjoyment'*

*'A special time for all'*

*'I had such a happy time'*

Plans are well underway for Holiday@Home 2026

If you feel a calling to any aspect of this rewarding ministry and would like more information, or to join the team, please contact me.

*Katey Butler - Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator*  
[pastoralcare@oww.church](mailto:pastoralcare@oww.church)



## Oak Lodge

Oak Lodge welcomed us into their home for the first time three years ago in March 2023 to provide four Communion Services a year. We recognised a spiritual need and within a short space of time we were also providing a monthly Service of the Word which very quickly became our Messy Vintage Service.

Messy Vintage provides a way into worship for older people regardless of their faith background and opens the way to share God's love. The carefully chosen monthly theme supports and encourages the residents in their faith journey, and the craft activity provides the space for meaningful conversations, friendship and prayer between volunteers and residents. We were blessed again this year to have a group of children from Oakley Junior School participate in the Christmas Service. They delighted the residents with their carol singing and with the conversations that took place during the craft activity.

The service to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day was a very moving and meaningful service for the residents and volunteers, with many of the residents sharing vivid memories of the day. They were able to reflect on the joyous occasion but also contemplate their sadness during their conversations with volunteers.

For those wishing to grow deeper in their faith, Ceri runs Hymns of Hope, a discipleship and discussion group twice a month.

The services are all very well attended and appreciated by the residents and staff. They are immensely rewarding, mutually beneficial, and a blessing to all.

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time and talents so generously to support this invaluable ministry. We are incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to share God's love with these wonderful people. If you would like to find out more, or be part of this exciting ministry, please contact me.

*Katey Butler - Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*



## Evergreen Fellowship

A small group of church members, who lived on their own, began to meet in our lounge for a cup of tea and cake in the year 2000 and Evergreens was born. Since then, we have met on the first Monday of every month and as we grew, we had to transfer into St Leonard's Centre. Currently we have a group of 58 members, helpers and drivers.

In June 2025 Evergreens celebrated its Silver Anniversary with a party, including entertainment from the Purple Company Singers and much reminiscing. We began 2025 with a New Year Party, including delicious cakes and pastries and entertainment from our resident Magician, Dave Rundle, up to his usual tricks!!

Our Rector, Ben, led us in a Holy Communion Service for Easter and in a 'Loving Memory' Service for all who are bereaved.

Our Table-Top Gardening afternoon is always a great success, kindly organised by Ian Pryce. Members take great delight in getting their hands in the soil. The resulting planters give great pleasure for many months.

August saw us boarding a coach for our Annual Outing to Hilliers Garden Centre at Aldermaston for Afternoon High Tea. Mervyn's Coaches now provide a coach with a hydraulic lift for those with mobility aids.

During the year we have enjoyed a speaker from the Willis Museum; talks on Mischievous Jackdaws, Malshanger Mint Harvest and chocolate production.

The year 2025 ended with another delightful afternoon at the Junior School with entertainment from the older children and good conversation between them and the Evergreen audience. We so enjoyed tea and mince pies, served by the children.

Each Half-Term we arrange a lunch for our group.

We would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all our helpers and drivers, without whom Evergreens could not function.

*Rodney and Marilyn Scott*



## Kintsugi Wellbeing Course

We are delighted to say that the Kintsugi Wellbeing Course is running for a third year starting again in January 2026.

Our passion is to reduce stress levels in people's busy days so they can live happier and healthier lives. Inevitably things go wrong - relationship breakdowns, financial problems, health issues, work issues etc and we can get stuck in a downward spiral.

We are helping people discover how to handle the ups and downs of life through our 10-week course including overcoming stress, worries and fears, how to nurture special relationships and how to deal skilfully with the increasing demands of modern life

Our Kintsugi course is a safe and confidential place for a group of 12 people to strengthen resilience, courage and wellbeing.

### A testimonial from a previous member of a group:

*"Taking the Kintsugi course has been transformative. I feel more resilient and empowered than before and it has been so wonderful to share this self-discovery with such a fantastic supportive and understanding group, whose stories and experiences have been inspiring and whose encouragement has been so valuable"*

*Lou Eley*





## (6) Community Engagement

The Community Engagement ministry area has been led by Ben Kautzer. After Easter Penny Brown will be taking on this responsibility in her new role as our Evergreen Pastoral Coordinator.

Our church has built strong integrated partnerships within our villages. This has taken lots of creative forms over the years from the Hub project to the COVID Oakley Support Network to our eco church 'Love Oakley Go Green' initiatives. A significant focus of this year has been supporting the work of **'Our Oakley'** and the **Oakley Wellbeing Forum**.

Bringing together the church, Oakley & Deane Parish Council, OCA and Rural West Primary Care Network's Social Prescribers, the Wellbeing Forum gathers leaders and volunteers from our community to identify and promote the strengths and assets of our community. The aim is to build collaborative relationships and encourage local partnerships by raising the profile of the amazing things that are already taking place, discerning gaps in provision, and exploring creative solutions – all in an effort to combat loneliness and promote the flourishing of our villages.

One initiative which has emerged from the **Wellbeing Forum** is the Welcome Club – a special group for SEND children and their families which gathers each week of the school holidays. This project was launched in October as a community partnership between St Leonard's and the Oakley SEND support network and has been supported by the Parish Council. Our first full session took place in the February half-term. The Centre had a wonderful atmosphere as families came together to enjoy games, activities, conversations, and a chance to connect with one another.

If you have a heart for partnership, service, listening, bridge-building, opportunity spotting, connection-making, loving the neighbourhoods of our parish with everything you've got ... then Ben and Penny would love to have that conversation.

*Ben Kautzer*



## (7) CAS | Children and Youth

Our Children and Youth ministry area is overseen by our youth worker Sochi Ezeanowai. This ministry area ranges from CAS Tots (age 0 to 3) to CAS Kids (age 3 to 10) to CAS Youth (age 11 to 18). It covers everything from Sunday services, midweek groups, events and activities, engagement with our local schools, and networks with other children and youth ministries across Basingstoke. Under Sochi's dynamic and energetic leadership, our outreach to young people continues to develop and grow.

The Come and See (CAS) Children and Youth Ministry has experienced a remarkable year in 2025. Reflecting on this period, we are profoundly grateful to God for His continuous guidance and for using CAS to bless and inspire the children and young people of Oakley and beyond. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our incredible volunteers, whose daily dedication, time, and energy sustain this vital ministry.

We also thank everyone within our church and community for your generous support, prayers, and encouragement. Your partnership is instrumental in enabling us to serve our children and youth effectively.

### Weekly Outreach and Activities

Each week, CAS continues to reach numerous children and young people through the **CAS Youth Café**—an engaging outreach space designed for connection, conversation, and community building. We are thankful to see participation at the Youth Café expand to children from Oakley Infant School, Oakley CofE Primary School, and young people from various secondary schools, who drop in to connect and share.

Our midweek groups, **CAS+** and **TRIBE**, have become vibrant hubs for discipleship, meaningful conversations, and fostering genuine community. Our volunteer community continues to grow and thrive, and we are grateful for everyone involved—those who dedicate their time, skills, homes, and resources to support CAS. This year, we hosted three volunteer training programs—**AFRESH**—a space dedicated to equipping and empowering our volunteers with the necessary skills and spiritual foundation.

## Youth Engagement and Community Partnerships

The **GAP** Youth Group continues to flourish, meeting every first Friday of the month. It provides a safe space for young people to connect, support one another, and grow in faith. The dedication of the GAP team has been instrumental in nurturing this vibrant community.

Our **partnerships** within the local community have strengthened our mission. Collaborations with local businesses, Oakley Methodist Chapel, and the Oakley Community Association (OCA) have played a significant role in supporting our youth initiatives. Additionally, The Community Food Link in Basingstoke and The Oakley Co-op have provided invaluable assistance by supplying food for our events.







## School Engagements

Our relationship with Oakley Church of England Junior School and Oakley Infant School remains strong. We actively participate in activities such as prayer spaces, Open the Book, collective worship, well-being clubs, school trips, and Religious Education support.

This year, children from Oakley Junior School participated in various projects with the Church of England, including a notable trip to Church House, London, where they and the CAS community led worship as part of the Growing Faith Strategic Leadership Program. The students also welcomed the new Bishop of Basingstoke, Bishop Kelly, at her welcome service at St Mary's Church, Andover, demonstrating confidence, courage, and respect.

We sincerely appreciate the warm support from both teaching and non-teaching staff, which enables us to serve the students effectively.

## Special Events & Prayer Ministry

The **CAS Big Sunday** outreach service has been a highlight since its inception. With over 60 participants at each session, these events have fostered community and spiritual growth. Notable sessions include Youth Alpha Big Sunday, Silent Disco, and Best Friends Night, all of which received enthusiastic participation and engagement.

Our **events calendar** has been packed with exciting activities—weekend trips, community outreach events, Who let the Dads Out, camps, outdoor hangouts, parties, and trampoline park visits—each designed to encourage fun, fellowship, and faith.

**The CPR (CAS Prayer Room)** has become a vital source of spiritual strength. Meeting monthly, our prayer group has experienced the power of collective prayer and witnessed answered prayers, thereby strengthening our faith community.





### Faith and Baptism

This year, we saw several young people grow deeply in their faith and walk with God. We continued to run discipleship spaces and Youth Alpha sessions. There has been a noticeable increase in interest regarding the knowledge of God, faith, and the Bible among the young people. We also witnessed a few children and youth baptisms and christenings this year, which fills our hearts with great joy.

### Internship Program

This year, we launched the CAS Internship Program in partnership with the Church of England's Ministry Experience Scheme. **Alfie Wells** joined us as our first intern, and it has been a privilege to support, train, and mentor him. Alfie has integrated seamlessly into our church community and has been a significant blessing to our team. We are grateful to the Diocese of Winchester and Christ Church Winchester for their support and partnership in this initiative.

### Young Adults and Broader Engagement

The Young Adult Community, known as **The Bridge**, continues to thrive under the leadership of CJ, Dimitri, and Sochi. Their dedication encourages connection, spiritual growth, and mutual support among young adults.

We have also **strengthened partnerships** with various youth organizations across Basingstoke, facilitating joint sessions that promote relationship-building beyond our immediate community. Our collaborations include national organizations such as Youth Alpha, Urban Saints, Bunted, Youthscape, Growing Faith, the 30K Project, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Rotary Sport UK, and the UK Parliament.

### Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, we encourage everyone to continue praying for the children and youth of Oakley. Your ongoing support, love, and dedication are vital to our mission. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of young people and their families, nurturing faith, hope, and community.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

*Sochi Ezeanowai*





## Who Let The Dads Out?

Who Let the Dads Out? continues to provide a friendly, informal space for dads and male carers to spend time with their children and connect with one another. The group meets monthly on the morning of the second Saturday and offers a relaxed atmosphere with coffee, bacon rolls, and plenty of conversation. This simple hospitality has helped create a welcoming environment where men feel comfortable chatting, sharing experiences, and building supportive relationships.

Children enjoy a range of activities, including games, crafts, toys, and the PlayStation, giving them a fun and engaging space while their dads have time to talk. The balance of adult conversation and children's play remains one of the group's strengths.

Attendance is currently small but steady. Awareness is gradually increasing through church notices and community word-of-mouth, and we hope to see numbers grow over the coming months as more families hear about the group. Our focus is not only on increasing attendance but also on deepening the sense of community among those who already come.

A small, committed team continues to run the sessions each month, preparing food, setting up activities, and welcoming newcomers. Their support is vital, and we are grateful for their ongoing dedication.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue strengthening our presence in the community and exploring opportunities to develop the group further. We remain thankful for the positive impact the group is already having and look forward to seeing it grow in the year ahead.

*Tim Saunders*









**United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence**

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**Charity Registration Number 1131064**

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429  
Weller Mackrill  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
South Building  
Upper Farm  
Wootton St Lawrence  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG23 8PE

16 March 2026

# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31st December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
	Notes					
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	153,102	51,027		204,129	210,492
Income from investments	2b	6,331	18,625	31	24,986	26,495
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		1,082		1,082	159
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	56,550	8,121		64,671	61,688
Income from Designated Activities	2e	147,621			147,621	130,584
		<b>363,604</b>	<b>78,854</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>442,489</b>	<b>429,417</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Church Activities	3a	195,627	73,548		269,175	281,018
Governance Costs	3b	360			360	360
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	122,630			122,630	110,745
		<b>318,616</b>	<b>73,548</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>392,164</b>	<b>392,122</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>44,987</b>	<b>5,306</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>50,325</b>	<b>37,295</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	5	<b>2,632</b>	<b>1,538</b>		<b>4,170</b>	<b>3,136</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>42,356</b>	<b>3,768</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>46,155</b>	<b>34,160</b>
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423
<b>Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025</b>		<b>963,149</b>	<b>480,394</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>1,445,737</b>	<b>1,399,582</b>



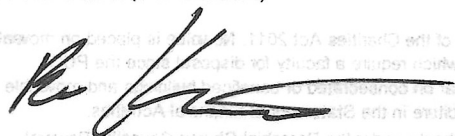
# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>763,236</b>	<b>897</b>		<b>764,133</b>	<b>762,905</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Debtors	6	6,383	7,243		13,626	10,195
Investments		0	7,325		7,325	6,243
Short Term Deposits		165,000	435,000		600,000	600,000
Cash at Bank and in Hand		46,727	26,947	2,195	75,869	51,615
		<b>218,111</b>	<b>476,515</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>696,820</b>	<b>668,053</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-18,198	0		-18,198	-31,376
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>199,913</b>	<b>476,515</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>678,622</b>	<b>636,677</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>963,149</b>	<b>477,412</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>1,442,755</b>	<b>1,399,582</b>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	208,341			208,341	165,985
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	754,808			754,808	754,808
Restricted	8		477,412		477,412	476,626
Endowment	8			2,195	2,195	2,164
		<b>963,149</b>	<b>477,412</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>1,442,755</b>	<b>1,399,582</b>

Approved by the PCC on 16 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)



The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

## UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

##### Funds

Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

##### Incoming Resources

Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

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

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

##### Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

##### Taxation

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

##### Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.



# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

#### Financial Instruments

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### Reserves

Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

#### Agency Income and Expenditure

Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

### 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

#### 2a Incoming resources from Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £10,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £12,500 (2023: £20,000) into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
<b>2b Income from Investments</b>					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	6,331	18,224	31	24,586	26,113
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		401		401	382
	<b>6,331</b>	<b>18,625</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24,986</b>	<b>26,495</b>
<b>2c Gains / (Losses on investments)</b>					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		1,082		1,082	159
<b>2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading</b>					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	42,716			42,716	40,265
Weddings and funerals	11,655			11,655	12,915
Other	2,179	8,121		10,300	8,507
	<b>56,550</b>	<b>8,121</b>		<b>64,671</b>	<b>61,688</b>

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,108 (2024: £15,295) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activities (Note 3c)

#### 2e Income from Designated Activities

Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
<b>3a Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church</b>				
Common Mission Fund	85,464		85,464	75,314
Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,865		5,865	6,212
Payroll costs	41,689	34,862	76,551	88,981
Donations to charities	12,000		12,000	11,000
Utilities	14,122		14,122	15,062
Insurance	7,025		7,025	6,880
Other Churches & Centres Expenses	26,642	12,410	39,052	38,047
Buildings maintenance	2,820		2,820	34,345
Architect and Planning expenditure		26,276	26,276	5,177
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>195,627</b>	<b>73,548</b>	<b>269,175</b>	<b>281,018</b>
<b>3b Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	360
	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>3c Costs of Designated Activities</b>				
Payroll costs	100,372		100,372	86,186
Rent	15,108		15,108	15,295
Other pre-school costs	7,150		7,150	9,264
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>122,630</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>122,630</b>	<b>110,745</b>

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

### 4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	15	16
Gross Salaries and wages	170,439	167,625
Employer's National Insurance Costs	3,322	4,100
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	3,162	3,442
	<b>176,923</b>	<b>175,167</b>

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.



# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

5	FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
	<b>Actual / Deemed Cost</b>				
	As at 1st January 2025	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
	Additions	0	5,398	0	5,398
	As at 31st December 2025	754,808	81,596	7,690	844,094
	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
	As at 1st January 2025	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
	Charge for the year		2,632	1,538	4,170
	As at 31st December 2025	0	73,168	6,793	79,961
	<b>Net Value</b>				
	As at 31st December 2025	754,808	8,428	897	764,133
	As at 31st December 2024	754,808	5,662	2,435	762,905

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.

The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6	DEBTORS	2025	2024
	Income tax recoverable	3,132	1,082
	Gifts and Interest Receivable	6,657	7,397
	Other debtors and prepayments	3,837	1,716
		<b>13,626</b>	<b>10,195</b>

7	LIABILITIES		
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,633	1,346
	Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	360
	Donations to charities	0	500
	Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	11,520	25,000
	Other creditors and accruals	4,685	4,170
		<b>18,198</b>	<b>31,376</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due after one year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 8 PARISH FUNDS

Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

## 9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

**United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence**

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**Charity Registration Number 1131064**



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**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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16 March 2026



# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31st December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
	Notes					
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	153,102	51,027		204,129	210,492
Income from investments	2b	6,331	18,625	31	24,986	26,495
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		1,082		1,082	159
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Income from Designated Activities	2e	147,621			147,621	130,584
		<b>363,604</b>	<b>78,854</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>442,489</b>	<b>429,417</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Church Activities	3a	195,627	73,548		269,175	281,018
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Costs of Designated Activities	3c	122,630			122,630	110,745
		<b>318,616</b>	<b>73,548</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>392,164</b>	<b>392,122</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>44,987</b>	<b>5,306</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>50,325</b>	<b>37,295</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	5	<b>2,632</b>	<b>1,538</b>		<b>4,170</b>	<b>3,136</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>42,356</b>	<b>3,768</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>46,155</b>	<b>34,160</b>
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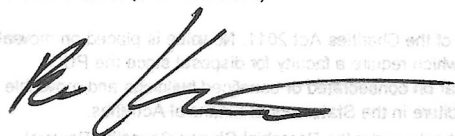
# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

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Approved by the PCC on 16 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)



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## UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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##### Incoming Resources

Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

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

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

##### Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

##### Taxation

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

##### Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

#### Financial Instruments

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### Reserves

Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

#### Agency Income and Expenditure

Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

### 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

#### 2a Incoming resources from Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £10,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £12,500 (2023: £20,000) into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
<b>2b Income from Investments</b>					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	6,331	18,224	31	24,586	26,113
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		401		401	382
	<b>6,331</b>	<b>18,625</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24,986</b>	<b>26,495</b>
<b>2c Gains / (Losses on investments)</b>					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		1,082		1,082	159
<b>2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading</b>					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	42,716			42,716	40,265
Weddings and funerals	11,655			11,655	12,915
Other	2,179	8,121		10,300	8,507
	<b>56,550</b>	<b>8,121</b>		<b>64,671</b>	<b>61,688</b>

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,108 (2024: £15,295) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activities (Note 3c)

#### 2e Income from Designated Activities

Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.



# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
<b>3a Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church</b>				
Common Mission Fund	85,464		85,464	75,314
Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,865		5,865	6,212
Payroll costs	41,689	34,862	76,551	88,981
Donations to charities	12,000		12,000	11,000
Utilities	14,122		14,122	15,062
Insurance	7,025		7,025	6,880
Other Churches & Centres Expenses	26,642	12,410	39,052	38,047
Buildings maintenance	2,820		2,820	34,345
Architect and Planning expenditure		26,276	26,276	5,177
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>195,627</b>	<b>73,548</b>	<b>269,175</b>	<b>281,018</b>
<b>3b Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	360
	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>3c Costs of Designated Activities</b>				
Payroll costs	100,372		100,372	86,186
Rent	15,108		15,108	15,295
Other pre-school costs	7,150		7,150	9,264
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>122,630</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>122,630</b>	<b>110,745</b>

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

### 4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	15	16
Gross Salaries and wages	170,439	167,625
Employer's National Insurance Costs	3,322	4,100
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	3,162	3,442
	<b>176,923</b>	<b>175,167</b>

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

# UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

5	FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
	<b>Actual / Deemed Cost</b>				
	As at 1st January 2025	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
	Additions	0	5,398	0	5,398
	As at 31st December 2025	754,808	81,596	7,690	844,094
	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
	As at 1st January 2025	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
	Charge for the year		2,632	1,538	4,170
	As at 31st December 2025	0	73,168	6,793	79,961
	<b>Net Value</b>				
	As at 31st December 2025	754,808	8,428	897	764,133
	As at 31st December 2024	754,808	5,662	2,435	762,905

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.

The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6	DEBTORS	2025	2024
	Income tax recoverable	3,132	1,082
	Gifts and Interest Receivable	6,657	7,397
	Other debtors and prepayments	3,837	1,716
		<b>13,626</b>	<b>10,195</b>

7	LIABILITIES		
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,633	1,346
	Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	360
	Donations to charities	0	500
	Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	11,520	25,000
	Other creditors and accruals	4,685	4,170
		<b>18,198</b>	<b>31,376</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due after one year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 8 PARISH FUNDS

Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

## 9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.