



# **ANNUAL REVIEW**

# **2024**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH, BURNHAM****AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (VESTRY MEETING)****27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

- 1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2.MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING 2024
- 3.ELECTION OF 2 PARISH WARDENS

**ST PETER'S CHURCH, BURNHAM****AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)****27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

- 1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2.APCM MINUTES 2024
- 3.WARDENS REPORT.....PETE LEWIS & STEVE DOBSON
- 4.ELECTORAL ROLL.....PETE LEWIS
- 5.TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DEC 2024.....CHRIS KNIGHT
- ☐ PAROCHIAL CHURCH FEES 2024
- 6.APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EXAMINER.....CHAIR
- 7.PCC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.....JACKIE LOVEDAY
- 8.ANNUAL FABRIC and MAINTENANCE REPORT.....PETER LEWIS
- 9.LOG BOOK AND INVENTORY FOR INSPECTION.....PETER LEWIS
- 10.DEANERY SYNOD REPORT.....SHEILA WARBURTON & JOHN CAREY
- 11.SAFEGUARDING REPORT.....EMMA WARBURTON
- 12 PCC ELECTIONS.....CHAIR.
- 13.ANNUAL REPORT – QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

#### **14. DATE OF APCM 2026**

## **MINUTES of the VESTRY MEETING 21ST APRIL 2024**

The Meeting opened at 11.45 am

Chaired by Peter Lewis, Lay Chair PCC

### **APOLOGIES**

Paulann Walker

Clive Walker

Brian Henry

36 Parishioners Present

1.The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 2023 be accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Cliff Blundel

Seconded by John Carey

All in agreement.

2.Election of Wardens.

Two nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

**PETER LEWIS**

Nominated by Michelle Dunster

Seconded by Jackie Loveday

**STEPHAN DOBSON**

Nominated by Chris Knight

Seconded by Peter Lewis

The above mentioned were therefore elected, unopposed.

Pam Rogers, retiring Warden, was warmly thanked, by the congregation and the PCC for all she had done and achieved, over the preceding 14 years.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

## **ST PETER'S CHURCH, BURNHAM**

### **MINUTES OF THE APCM 21ST APRIL 2024**

#### **APOLOGIES**

Paulann Walker

Clive Walker

Brian Henry

36 Parishioners present

Meeting chaired by Pete Lewis Lay Chair/Warden

1. That the minutes of the APCM 2023 be accepted as a true record

Proposed by Pete Lewis, seconded by Jane Slatter.

All in agreement.

#### **2.CHURCH WARDENS REPORT**

Pete Lewis reported all initial remedial work from the Quinquennial

Report has been completed and works on other aspects of the Report will continue over the coming year.

Reports from the Fabric and Maintenance Team are available to read together with other reports and the approved minutes displayed in the south porch.

The Inventory and Logbook were presented for scrutiny.

#### **3.TREASURERS REPORT**

Chris Knight, Treasurer, outlined trends of declining income, drop in planned giving but increase in fees from Cornerstone hire. There has been a small deficit in General Funds but an improvement on last year.

Utility bills are still high, despite generous donations. Utilities costs will decrease this year but are still high.

PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT THE END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT AND  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023.

PROPOSED BY CHRIS KNIGHT, SECONDED BY VICKIE SAMSON  
ALL IN AGREEMENT.

#### 4.SAFEGUARDING REPORT

There were no questions

#### 5.PCC REPORT

There were no questions

#### 6.DEANERY SYNOD

Pam Rogers is stepping down as one of our Deanery Synod Reps.

Sheila Warburton and John Carey continue in the role until 2026.

There are 4 meetings each year.

If anyone wishes to put their name forward, please speak to Pete or Steve.

#### 7.ELECTORAL ROLL

11 Names have been removed

12 Names have been added

Total names on Roll 109

These numbers will be submitted to the Diocese.

#### 8.SIDES PEOPLE 2024

Maggie Rivett, Michaela Cottrell, Sue Bleach. David Burridge, Lorna Pecover. Jackie Loveday, Vickie Samson. Pamela Rogers, Christine Thorn, Amanda Hing, Stephanie Peniket, Sue Lowe

#### 9. INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Tim Berg has agreed to fill this role again this year.

Proposed by Chris Knight, seconded by Steve Dobson.

All In agreement.

Thanks were expressed to Tim Berg for continuing for a further year.

#### 10. AOB

Heather Collins spoke to the meeting concerning the library,

She has been working with Jane Slatter to provide seasonal selections and refreshing books available. Heather reminded us of the need to sign in and sign out. Thanks were given to all those who have donated books and helped in other ways.

The Wardens were asked to outline the Vacancy process so far and those present were reminded of the section 12 meeting being held on 29th May.

Thanks were given by the congregation to the PCC for all the work they have undertaken this last year, especially during our Vacancy.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm

## **PCC ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The PCC is the governing body of the church and is responsible for the overall wellbeing of the church, its members and its buildings, including managing finances and promoting the church's mission. The PCC shares leadership, management and administration of the Parish with the incumbent. The PCC has charitable status, and our members are charitable trustees, meaning they have legal responsibilities regarding the church's financial affairs and charitable purposes. PCC meetings are regulated by the Church Representation Rules 2022.

2024 was a busy year for the PCC, with many members taking on increased workloads to keep the church and its mission on track whilst we awaited our new incumbent.

During 2024 the PCC held 8 meetings, a greater number than usual as decisions had to be made around our Vacancy and how to proceed. For most of the year the PCC totalled 13 members, with one resignation. Pete Lewis was our Lay Chair and took meetings during the Vacancy, Chris Knight continued as our Treasurer and Jackie Loveday as Secretary.

At our January meeting the PCC welcomed Revd Sue to attend future meetings during the Vacancy.

The PCC welcomed back Lighthouse, Burnham as one of our championed charities after a long absence during Covid and a venue change. The PCC endorsed our continued support of the charities and their champions: -

Lighthouse

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice

Beautiful Gate

Unlock

And continues to support The Children's Society with our Christingle service collections and donation boxes.

Steve Dobson introduced and steered us through a new IT communication system to help streamline interaction within the PCC and to improve data and information security.

In March the PCC was informed of the stepping down of Pam Rogers as Warden at the APCM in 2024 and Steve Dobson became our Warden to work with Pete Lewis.

Revd Sue facilitated the PCC'S discussions of the Church of England Bishops proposals for the offering of prayers for God's blessing for same sex couples to celebrate their civil marriage or partnership. The PCC voted to support this proposal, at the discretion of the new incumbent. This was introduced to the congregation during the sermon on Bible Sunday.

Emma Warburton introduced a revised Safeguarding Policy, Promoting a Safer Church which was agreed by the PCC in May, and a Safeguarding Sunday service was held.

Chris Knight, with PCC approval, helped steer Care and Share, Burnham, to become a standalone charity, which was successfully achieved by the new year. Care and Share continues to be a charity supported by St Peter's with volunteers and donation by church members.

The PCC helped promote a full programme for St Peter's week with services and activities and approved funding for the reclaiming of the Garden of Remembrance which can be enjoyed by members of the community.

The North Transept was approved by the PCC for use as an area to promote our Mission Action Plan interests (Caring for Creation, Children, Inclusion, Social Action)

The PCC reviewed salaries, fees and honorariums and updated job descriptions. The PCC approved the funding of a manager for our baby and toddler group, Little Angels, to ensure its viability for the future.



Spotlight on St Peter's, a new initiative to highlight aspects of our church life, was approved by the PCC, with the first addition published in December.

The PCC supported the new group ministry arrangements which sees St Peter's as part of the new Jubilee River Grouping together with Cippenham, Taplow and Hitcham, and Dropmore.

Datchet, Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney will form a new grouping.

Our long-term attempts to solve the Badger invasion in the church yard and Rectory Garden came to an end with the decision by the PCC, supported by approvals from all outside interested parties, to erect a temporary cordon around the affected area to prevent accidents.

Thank you to all PCC Members for their commitment to their duties this past year.

**JACKIE LOVEDAY**

Secretary to PCC

## CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

It's probably safe to say that 2024 has been a challenging year. We started the year with without a Vicar and with Pete and Pam as churchwardens and ended the year with Pete and me (Steve).

Pam took on the challenge of enhancing our Silver Eco Church status, working with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and Men's Sheds. Pam's efforts have led to us having swallow nesting boxes, bat call listening equipment with guided events to understand the calls, a badger fence and a churchyard nature hunt guide, all topped off with a Wildlife Trust Podcast: 'Community and Access: Nextdoor Nature in Burnham'.

In September, St Peter's played a significant role in supporting the Bucks Culture Village Stories project for Burnham. Inspired by Pieter Bruegel's 16th Century Flemish village life paintings. The project created a set of choreographed panoramic portraits capturing the 21st century villagers of Burnham.

From a services perspective, we took the approach of maintaining the status quo which through thick and thin and the help of God, we managed to achieve. Details on general church attendance by age groups for this and previous years are provided in the attached Statistics for Mission (SfM) addendum to this report.

During the year, Pete has been trawling anywhere and everywhere for Vicars to fill our service rota and additionally cover our Wedding, Baptism and Funeral commitments. I'm pleased to say that despite the challenges, we have largely managed to deliver the full-service schedule with which we started the year. We are very grateful to the many visiting clergy who have enabled us to fulfil our service commitments.

Weddings and Baptisms however are not just about the service itself.

For weddings, dates need to be confirmed, identifies checked, Banns organised and read, and pre-wedding meetings organised with the vicar taking the service – a task undertaken by Pete this year.

Baptism has its own challenges. As well as the dates, and details of who will be baptised, God parents need to be identified and a session with the vicar taking the service is required. The pre-baptism paperwork and date chasing has been managed by Pam our office administrator whilst Jackie our PCC Secretary has been completing the paperwork for the day itself.

Further effort has been put into the use of electronic record keeping via the Microsoft 365 platform enabling auditable transparency in how we do things whilst also protecting our information security management in line with our Privacy Policy.

In the background, Rob, Vickie and I have been reviewing and producing required policies, pulling together certification certificates such as for electrical and fire extinguishers, and updating them as required.

I facilitated a successful annual inspection of our records with the Area Dean using these policies, certificates and other documents such as the Terrier and Quinquennial building report.

Our website, managed by Vickie and me, continues to attract visitors to our wonderful church and community. The website has had 1,600 unique visitors and 31,000 page views and tops Google search results for our area.

We also have a Facebook community, moderated by Jenny, Pam and me, which continues to grow and now has 484 members.

For details of maintenance activities during the year which totalled £14,501, please refer to the Fabric and Maintenance report provided by Pete.

One exception to this general maintenance position is the sound system which I have taken responsibility for. Whilst the speakers in the roof space have been upgraded the technology which drives them has reached end of life. The associated costs for the required upgrades are in the order of £8,000 and I am currently in discussion with our Sound Engineering company as to when the project can begin and hope to see progress on this during 2025.

During this year we have also gone through the process of recruiting a new Vicar.

I led a small team, and we successfully prepared the Parish Profile (which is available to read on our web site) along with the associated advert for the Church Times and the entry in the Church of England Pathways platform.

Unfortunately, our first round of applications did not offer any candidates suitable for interview, so we had to wait 3 months before advertising a second time.

Thankfully, following the second round of advertising, a suitable candidate was identified for interview. The interview undertaken by the interview panel (which included Pam and me) and later by other representative of the community including the

St Peter's School Head Teacher and a selection of Year 6 pupils, and our own Girls' Brigade girls resulted in us offering the Revd Josh Cleaver the post of Vicar. He accepted our job offer and will be joining us in March 2025.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who have helped keep the family of St Peter's together and even grow in the past year.

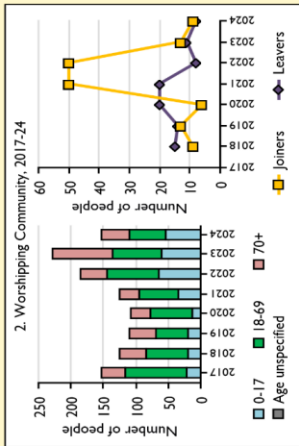
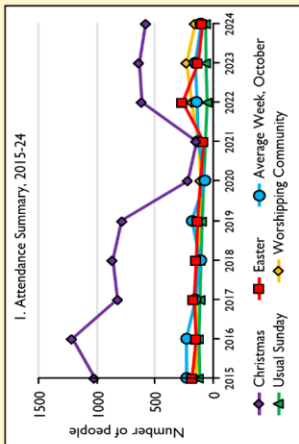
There are far too many to mention by name, but special thanks go to the Ministry Team - Revd Sue Smith, Ian Fordyce (LLM), Jenny Dobson (LLP), Michaela (pastoral care) Also Vickie Samson, Pam Rogers, John Carey, and of course my fellow churchwarden Pete Lewis.

### **STEVE DOBSON**

Churchwarden



## SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Burnham in the deanery of BURNHAM & SLOUGH

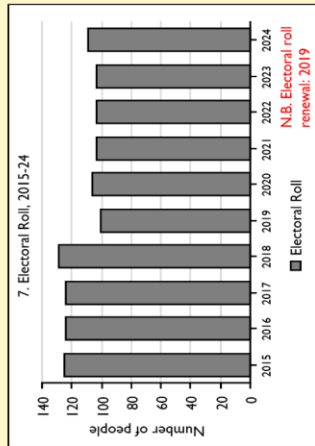
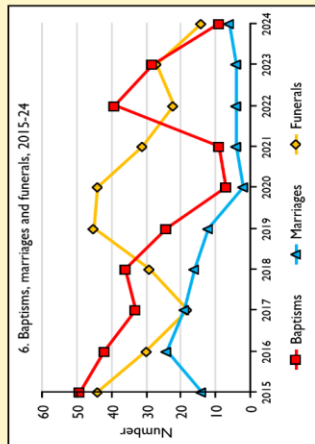
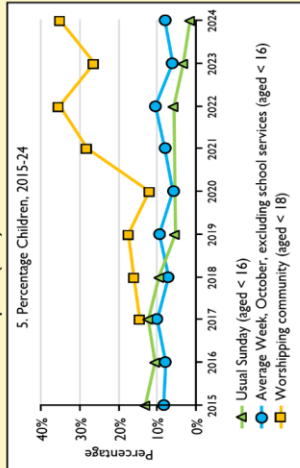
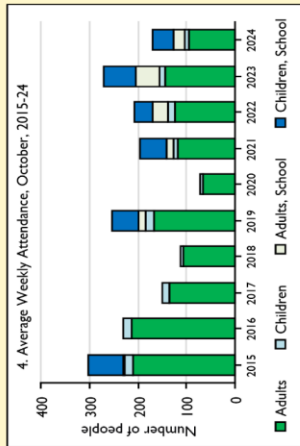
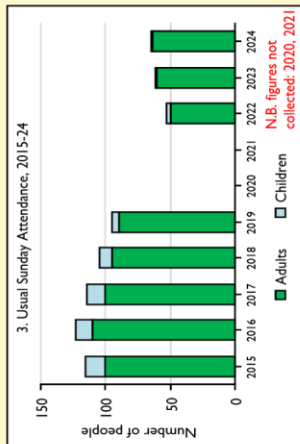


Parish Census and deprivation summary  
Parish population (2021): 13711

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	24%	24%	23%
% aged 20-44	31%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	32%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	13%	12%	14%
% Christian	46%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	22%	13%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 7230  
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://regis.uk/RaSHCS>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and <http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinelight/>



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish  
**Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.  
Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.  
Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.  
Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.  
Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.  
Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.  
Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.  
**Census data:** taken from the 2021 national Census.  
**Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept. 2019.  
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.  
For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 24/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)

## **Deanery Synod Report for APCM 2025 (for the year 2024)**

Area Dean: Revd Janet Binns

Associate Area Dean: Revd Chris Ferris

Lay Chair: Javed Gill

Treasurer: Sheila Warburton

Deanery Synod met on 4 occasions in 2024:

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February - St Thomas', Colnbrook

15<sup>th</sup> June – St George's, Britwell

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September – St Peter's, Burnham

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November – St Andrew's, Cippenham

There was also a Treasurers' meeting on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November

Topics discussed/presentations included:

Deanery Finance – Parish Share/Deanery Share - updates on progress and agree 2025 share (Parish/Deanery). Now a “Recovering Deanery”, Parish Share Strategy Plan 2024-27 agreed.

Deanery Reorganisation – reduction in clergy numbers from 18 + 2 HfD to proposed 15½ + 3 HfD (14 full time stipendiary, 3 half time stipendiary, 3 house for duty) and reorganisation of groupings

Vacancies across the Deanery – regular updates

Deanery Prayer (Thursdays at 4:00 pm on Zoom)

Children & Youth Work Funding Bid – working group developing proposal and presenting to Diocese.

Deanery Survey to support development of a Deanery Mission Action Plan

Mission/Outreach/Stories across the Deanery at each meeting

Presentation from Joshua Townson, Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser

Presentation from a Christian Aid representative

Presentation from Jahn Barringer on the work of Open Doors which supports persecuted Christians in over 60 countries

Presentation by Scott Lamb and Julie Shields on Inter-Faith Dialogue

Schools Work – update by Wayne Dixon (Christian Connections in Schools)

Diocesan Synod Elections took place during the year those elected from the laity were: Sally-Anne Jarvis, Julie Shields and David Moore, from the clergy: Revd Chris Ferris and Revd Canon Janet Binns

Mission & Outreach across the Deanery – Revd Neil Popham shared details of the involvement of his parish with members of the local community with learning difficulties enabling them to take part in different services, the café an important community hub for different local support groups

**SHEILA WARBURTON**

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH FEES – Christopher Knight

The table of Statutory Parochial Fees is on the notice boards in church and Cornerstone. In addition to the statutory fee, the PCC sets the fee for the vergers, organist, bells and choir for services such as marriages and funerals together with any other fees such as heating costs; these are included under non statutory fees. A Fees Treasurer is elected annually by the PCC and a separate bank account is used to receive fees.

Total fees received during 2024:

	Statutory Fees		Non- Statutory Fees £	TOTAL £
	Due to Diocese	Due to PCC		
	£	£		
Marriage Service	480	1,740	3,559	5,779
Wedding Banns & Certificate	0	252	0	252
Funeral Service in Church	247	416	498	1,161
Crematorium following Church Service	156	312	423	891
Funeral Service at Crematorium	380	0	608	988
Burial of Ashes	136	1,136	664	1,936
Monuments	85	306	0	391
Searches in Church Registers	0	54	72	126
Other Income	0	0	570	570
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>4,216</b>	<b>6,394</b>	<b>12,094</b>

Note: Wedding deposits, fees, etc, paid in advance held until service takes place

### TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICES/OTHER

Marriage Service	6
Funeral Service in Church	4
Crematorium following service in church	3
Service at Crematorium	5
Burial of Ashes	8
Monuments	5
Memorial Services	2



## Fabric and Maintenance Report

The maintenance of the church is an ongoing process with many small things going on in the background.

For example, with the help of Rentokil we continue to try to eliminate mice from the building. The fire extinguishers are regularly serviced, and you may have noticed that the chairs in Cornerstone have been cleaned. We have new mats at the church entrance. During the year we have had one of the external lights replaced, and the outside tap has been repaired. We have a new carbon monoxide alarm in the kitchen and all the electrical equipment has been inspected and tested.

On a larger scale we have had screens fitted to the edges of the roof to prevent squirrels getting in and so far, this seems to have been effective. Also, at the roof level we have had the gutters cleaned and painted.

We have a new path from the west door to the Garden of Remembrance and the garden itself is looking very good thanks mainly to the efforts of Rev'd Sue and a team of volunteers.

Over on the west side of the churchyard we now have a wild area to protect our resident badger family, this is surrounded by a fence made up of thirty-four posts which Roy Ainsley and I spent two days hammering into the ground.

We are still working on getting our sound system and CCTV working as we want it to.

The battle goes on to keep glass in the noticeboards.

If you notice anything that needs attention, please let me know.

**PETER LEWIS**

# Safeguarding APCM Report for 2024

## 1 Introduction

Safeguarding is a standard item on the PCC agenda and a report is given at each meeting. We are working in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practise Guidance. Other meetings are communicated from the Church of England and are attended as required, although I was not able to attend any last year, as they were put during the day.

## 2 Formal Obligation

There is a formal obligation for the PCC to report to the APCM, which is why this document is created.

## 3 Safeguarding Roles

- Parish Safeguarding Officer: Emma Warburton
- Safeguarding Assistant – Vickie Samson
- DBS Recruiter: Emma Warburton
- DBS Verifiers: Emma Warburton and Vickie Samson
- Online Training Assistant – Vickie Samson

**Safeguarding Team** – Emma Warburton (PSO), Vickie Samson (Admin), Michaela Cottrell (for Pastoral team) and the Churchwardens (where necessary, especially during the vacancy period.)

## 4 Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

The Safeguarding policy is updated annually in line with diocese requirements, and we use the policy produced by the diocese, tailored to the meet any specific needs of our Church. This document is displayed in both Cornerstone and the entrance porch. We have an ex-offenders' policy in place as well and this will also be updated annually. We work in line with all Safeguarding best practice outlined by the Church of England, including safer recruitment. We also ensure that all volunteers and employees complete the relevant safeguarding course(s) and have a DBS check completed at the appropriate level where necessary.

## 5. Safeguarding Learning and Development - Courses Completed in 2024

- Basic Awareness – 0
- Foundations – 1
- Leadership – 2
- Safer Recruitment – 1
- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse – 0

The following courses are yet to be completed by the following number of people:

- Basic Awareness – 3
- Foundations – 3
- Leadership – 1
- Safer Recruitment – 0
- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse – 1

As many of the courses which need to be completed by the congregation are online ones, this continues to be a challenge - due to the age and technical skills of the congregation. Continuing to support those who need help to complete their course(s) has been vital to enable them to be completed accordingly and this has given them the confidence that they are accessible to all, and we will continue to do this. St Peter's is an Inclusive Church, and this does not preclude people who are not 'online' Some of the courses that need completing are for people who did their training 3 years ago and so now need to complete the refresher training for it. In addition, some people have now taken on new roles and now need to up their training to the appropriate level.

## **6 Safer Recruitment and People Management**

We are compliant with all areas of Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance, and we need to make sure that this is maintained going forward, especially with regards to volunteers.

## **7. Concerns Raised**

**There were three concerns raised in 2024.** One was dealt with internally. One was dealt with, with the support of the Area Dean and the final one was dealt with, with support from the Diocese Safeguarding Officer.

## **8. Additional Information**

None

## **9. Next Steps**

- **Training** to be continually updated and kept on top of to make sure the retraining is completed every three years as required.
- **Ensuring DBS checks** and updates are completed by all applicable staff/volunteers. Any DBS paperwork is confidentially received by the safeguarding administration who can ensure records are updated correctly.
- **Safeguarding Sunday** (an annual Safeguarding awareness service which takes place in CofE churches nationwide) which helps emphasise to churchgoers the importance of Safeguarding for all, took place in November 2024 and we hope this will remain an ongoing service each year

**EMMA WARBURTON – Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## **Report on Saint Peters School Jan 24 to Dec 24**

The year started with a huge book sale suitable for reception to Year 6 children. This was to raise money for Beautiful Gate orphanage in Lesotho.

As Easter approached, Year 6 led an Easter service in church with Reverend Sue joining the service.

During May half term a Well-Being workshop was offered to parents, and the end of May saw Year 6 going on a residential holiday.

Sports day and the Year 6 disco completed the academic year.

September saw 11+ exams being taken and a Harvest Festival service in church.

The Young Shakespeare Company gave a superb production of Twelfth Night and during the Christmas half term Mrs Morris (H.T.) went with Jenny and helpers to spend a week at Beautiful Gate orphanage in Lesotho - Saint Peters adopted charity.

Soon after returning Mrs Morris became unwell and was unable to return to school, missing the wonderful Christmas celebrations.

The year ended with a Christmas service in church.

**SUE LOWE**

## CARING FOR CREATION

We have our Silver Eco Church Award from A Rocha. We are continuing to work alongside Eco Partnership collecting clothes etc in our clothing bank. We collect food from Tesco for those in our Little Angels group and for Care and Share- keeping food waste out of landfill, and there are regular eco posts on our Facebook page. We recycle paper in the office to make notepads and encourage our congregation to send a communal Christmas card.

Our work with the Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and Men's Sheds continued in 2024. Men's Sheds provided us with swift boxes and callers for the tower, which were funded by BBOWT, as part of their Nextdoor Nature project- financed by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The boxes can take 2-3 years before they are inhabited, but we will be keeping a look out from the end of April when the birds will begin to return from Africa. Around this time, we will switch on the callers, which should, hopefully, attract the birds by mimicking their call.

BBOWT kindly funded the purchase of binoculars, bat detectors and litter pickers which were borrowed by our church families and Girls' Brigade for use on their travels. This equipment is available for anyone to use, just enquire in the office.

One warm July evening Barbara from BBOWT led a successful swift walk around the churchyard and in Church Street attended by church members and people from the local area. We were fortunate to see swifts, and evidence of swallows nesting. Men's Sheds made a hedgehog box, which is well away from the badger area, and hidden in the North Churchyard and protected by shrubbery.

I was asked to chair and speak at a community environmental awareness dinner in Burnham Park Hall in November about all the work we have been doing at St Peter's in the churchyard and beyond. It was lovely to have the support of members of the congregation in the audience. Hopefully this will lead to more collaborative projects with the Burnham community.

We finally received the faculty to fence off the badger area and work was completed in December. Thanks to Pete and Roy for all your hard work hammering in the posts. This is a temporary solution and will need to be removed next year. This, too, was funded by BBOWT.

Our final Caring for Creation activity of 2024 was a Christmas Crafternoon in December where we enjoyed recycling bottles, books, wool, cards and buttons to make Christmas gifts and decorations. We were also treated to a spinning demonstration by Sheila.

BBOWT's Nextdoor Nature project has now been completed and our contact, Barbara, has moved on. We are extremely grateful for the help, support and guidance we have received over the last 2 years. We are still in touch with Barbara and are looking forward to working with our new contact in 2025.

**PAM ROGERS**

## **Communion Café 2024 Annual Report**

Services and fellowship continued each month during the year except for August, Cornerstone being closed for cleaning purposes.

Where service dates suggested an obvious lectionary or traditional theme these were explored.

January - New Beginnings

April-the Annunciation (refreshments included Angel Cakes!)

September Harvest (Care and Share donations of toiletries)

During September we also ran an afternoon quiz and cream tea social.

The November Café fell on Armistice Day. Here we explored our remembrance of God's love towards us and then joined an open church for 15 minutes of prayer and silence. It was moving to see some of our congregation wearing their medals.

December's Café followed the 2nd Sunday of Advent themes (there being no 10 am Sunday service), we brought in the Advent Wreath and lit it with accompanying prayer. There was a 'Blessing of the Christmas Baubles' for people to take home for their trees. Refreshments were Christmas themed. Our annual charity Centre Point, young homeless was again supported.

The Café team, Paulann Walker, Sue Lowe, Jackie Loveday and Vickie Samson plan, organise and continue the welcome and social events, clean the linens and set up and serve at each session. My grateful thanks to them for making it all happen.

We continue to be self-financing with contributions made for refreshments as well as church giving at each service.

**REVD SUE SMITH**

## **Behind the Curtain 2024 - Puppets4All@StPeters**

The puppets have been busy again over the past year with lots of services and visits to see others outside in the community. We visited a new residential home in High Wycombe which was brilliant. We currently regularly visit our friends at Lent Rise House, Nicholas House and Winton House and always have a great time! Tania is now out the front interacting with the residents and getting them more involved with the performance. She asks them lots of questions related to the music we are performing to help spark off memories. We've found it works very well.

As well as hosting some normal WOW services, we decided to try something new this year and held a WOW party in November as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, and the usual WOW service would be missed. We performed a variety of children's songs, some religious such as 'He's the King of the Jungle', some Disney songs such as 'Faith' from the film Sing, and some Lighthouse action songs such as 'Our God is a Great Big God'. With over 100 people we would say that it was a big success and are looking forward to doing it again this year.

The puppets were delighted to be supporting Lighthouse Burnham again this year providing some of the Teaching elements and helping teach some of dances on Mian Stage. It felt good to be back at Lighthouse again after such a long break. We will be there again in 2025!

George, Rebecca and friends were happy to take part in the Christingle Services again this year. We have visited St Andrews in Cippenham for around 8 years now and the attendance at their Christingle Service has grown which is marvelous. The Christingle Services at St Peter's are very well attended and are a highlight for many people on Christmas Eve – we raised around £700 for The Children's Society this year and our thanks goes out to everyone who helps at these very busy services. On a personal note, I would like to thank all the puppeteers and everyone who supports us in the background, whether they step in to puppet occasionally (Rachel, Sophie and Ollie), operate the projector, help with sound, make tea, make props, act as sidespeople or help out with craft or just generally support us. We really couldn't do it without you all, and you make such a difference to our wonderful team.

**MICHELLE DUNSTER**



## **Burnham Care & Share – Michaela Cottrell**

Again, another busy year for us at Burnham Care & Share. We had 23 volunteers working in the stockroom, as a Listener, delivery driver or duty manager. The numbers seem to work well for us, with an even distribution of slots over the month to cover the two sessions, held every Tuesday and Friday afternoon. We appreciate everything they do; they are the backbone of our organization, and the service could not operate without them! During 2024, the scheme supported 1657 adults and 1056 children, with an increase of disabled clients and carers. We noted an increase in the number of adults, a decrease in the number of children and those over 65 as a comparison to the previous year. Our capacity is for a maximum of 20 referred households per session.

The start of the year saw the delivery of our new outdoor storage container, purchased by Helping Hands, Bucks Council and a church donation covered costs to prepare the site. We had lots of Easter eggs donated, which were distributed to all the children.

The church accepted non-ambient food items, via the Fareshare Go organization that would otherwise go to landfill, collected from a local supermarket and shared with clients at each session. We acknowledge that all of us are living in difficult times, affected by the heightened cost of living and energy crisis so any donation of food and basic household items, large or small, are gratefully received. We never underestimate the generosity of our donors, who continue to support our cause to help those in our community in the greatest need. Our '5 To Thrive' wish list is circulated via village social media and the pew leaflet for shortages each week. Thank you to you all.

Thanks go to the Charity Community Champion at the Bishop Centre Tesco store who ensures we receive many items donated by their customers, from the store and from the launch of their 'brown bag' scheme. Drop off points for any personal donations are Burnham Park Hall, St Peters Cornerstone, Bluebird Care, Morrisons Local (for items purchased within their store), Freedom Hairdressers, Lent Rise and Burnham Lodge Care Homes, all during normal opening hours. Burnham Library is no longer a drop-off site.

We were fortunate to obtain a grant from Buckinghamshire Council via the DWP Housing Support Fund. A good working relationship has continued between us and the Council, with their recognition of the work we do. Financial support is an ongoing necessity to make up shortfalls, in order that we can purchase essential food items to be distributed. Our presence at local fundraising events raises our profile within the

community to recognize that Burnham has and needs a foodbank. In May, a tombola/Blind date with a book stall raised £472 at the Donkey Derby and £504 was raised at the Burnham Park Lights Switch -On & Xmas market, in early December. Throughout the summer, we were provided with fresh fruit and veg grown by Fiona & David Burrridge in our churchyard and by Burnham Community Shedders'. Tasty extras of new potatoes, beans, tomatoes, rhubarb, courgettes, peppers, chillis and herbs picked that morning, were frequently enjoyed by our clients.

In the autumn, Harvest Festivals that were held in St Peters, Lent Rise and St Nicholas schools, Burnham Townswomen's Guild and all local churches donated an abundance of non- perishable gifts that were donated and distributed to our clients.

In September, BHPT staff and some volunteers joined many others to take part in the Village Photographic Project with Bucks Culture. If you were at or remember that event, you may be interested in seeing the completed work, which was displayed inside Burnham Park Hall.

Burnham Care and Share was originally set up in 2021, within Mays Chocolate shop as a partnership between St Peters and Burnham Health Promotion Trust. In November, we entered an exciting phase in our development to create a standalone charity. Three interim trustees were appointed to set up the application process and apply to the Charities Commission. The registration of the Independent Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) was very quickly established. In December, we advertised for an additional 5 (unpaid) trustees, plus admin volunteers to manage the Charity going forward.

Tesco's Bishop Centre donated 45 Advent Calendars; 1 for every child supported. Burnham Beeches Rotarians provided Xmas parcels for all and gave a substantial donation too. A free 2 course Christmas Dinner was delivered by our volunteers on Xmas eve, for our most vulnerable clients, prepared by a local caterer.

If you feel called to support the invaluable work of Care& Share in our community either with your time or financially, we would be very pleased to hear from you. There is also an opportunity for you to be recognized as one of our Food Street Champions, whereby you act as a collection agent for the road you live on or at your workplace, just once a month or as an ongoing provision. We can arrange conveyance of bags/boxes to the hall, if needed.

Any questions, please feel free to ask.

## **PASTORAL CARE GROUP - Michaela Cottrell**

The Pastoral Care Group mostly consists of those in an active role of Listening ministry within the church setting and at Care and Share. Very sadly we lost John, one of our Listeners, within the year. Ian Fordyce, Sue Lowe, Christine Thorn, Fiona Burridge Martin Bart and I support clients of Burnham Care and Share on a regular basis as part of our Outreach Ministry. All members of the group are DBS checked and validated in all Diocesan Safeguarding Training requirements.

We held our second Safeguarding Service in September, led by the vicar and our Parish Safeguarding Officer, in which the congregation was given the opportunity to consider their own safeguarding journey and be part of creating the open, transparent culture we aim to maintain. Pocket reference cards were distributed as a reminder of the 4 R's (Recognize, Record, Report & Refer) we were called to remember, in the knowledge that all their concerns, however small, will be listened to and taken seriously.

In November, all the team were involved in our Annual Loved Ones Departed Service, led by Rev Sue and me. We remembered all those who had died and particularly been asked to pray for, also including reflective music, poems, readings and song, within the theme of Leaves. Listeners were also available to talk to the bereaved families, after the service.

On behalf of St Peters, two members of the group administer the FoodShare Go App every week to accept donations of food from Tesco, for our Little Angels toddler group and Care & Share.

As a group, we continued to support the rights of all to access all parts of church life, without barrier to worship, our services and events in line with the Inclusive Church statement.

Visits to home and hospital took place to the bereaved, sick and housebound. Home Communion was available, on request.

Regular services held at our three residential care homes in the parish – Lent Rise, Nicholas House and Forget Me Not, some with Eucharist, led by our vicar or LLM.

Is Pastoral Care for you? It is a ministry focused on providing spiritual, emotional and social support to individuals who are suffering in any way or are in need. The concept is grounded in the word of God and the example of how Jesus himself, related to others. Sometimes providing a little practical support but more so, providing comfort during difficult times, fostering wellbeing. If you would like to know more, I will be very happy to talk to you personally – **MICHAELA COTTRELL**

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## **Flowers in Church**

We continue to arrange flowers in church every week (except in Lent and Advent).

Flowers are also arranged for weddings and in tribute to loved ones.

Thank you to those who have helped during the past year.

## **Churchyard Gardening**

We keep the churchyard tidy by picking up the litter and any dead/plastic flowers.

Would you like to help us to keep the grounds looking attractive?

We also look after the flower bed next to the South Door porch, planting bulbs for the spring and will be using it again during the summer to grow tomatoes, beans, etc.

Perhaps you would like to help us by sharing watering duties?

**FIONA & DAVID BURRIDGE**

## 2025 Health and Safety Report for APCM

St Peter's Church Burnham strive to provide a safe and healthy environment for all employee's, church volunteers, members of the congregation, regular groups and visitors to our church premises during services and arranged activities. This is carried out by following the general guidance and rules laid out by the Church of England risk management policy [Church Health & Safety Policy | Risk Management \(ecclesiastical.com\)](https://www.ecclesiastical.com) and implementation of regularly reviewed risk assessments. In November 2024 a new Health and Safety policy has been written and approved by PCC. Most groups and activity leaders now hold risk assessments which are reviewed regularly and updated at an agreed upon period.

These are stored on the St Peter's intranet along with key safety documentation such as electrical and gas safety certificates and any relevant training certificates.

For anyone who is a group leader or about to arrange a new activity within St Peter's church if you are not aware of a risk assessment for this, please ask and one can either be provided or a new one created.

A standard template has been created which highlights some key areas to consider. Anyone not experienced in filling in such documents is welcome to ask the health and safety officer who can take you through the simple steps required.

**ROBERT DUNSTER**

## Social and Fundraising 2024

The social and fundraising team has been very busy this year with a wide range of activities which we hope to have appealed to all the different groups of our church family.

We held a games afternoon, a quiz, a magic night, race night, puppet party, a harvest supper and tea tasting among other things which have been social events which have raised much needed funds for St Peter's. We organised 2 fundraising events at the Donkey Derby and the Village Fete which were all about raising money but also gave us an opportunity to reach out to others in the village and make connections and remind villagers that our village church is there in the centre of the village.

Our coach trips are always popular and whilst we always aim to cover our costs, they are more about being sociable and welcoming others to join us on adventures. We had a summer trip to Wintershall to see the 'Life of Christ', a day trip to Bournemouth and a Christmas market trip to Winchester. All of which were fully subscribed.

We had a couple of craft afternoons with external providers in December. Glass making and wreath making which were both very popular and very social occasions. We also had a Sunday crafternoon to which many locals came and made Christmas crafts – another way of bringing people into our church and raising some funds.

Our Welcome Wednesday is a very popular weekly event and that grew out of our social and fundraising group and is now more about the mission and outreach of St Peter's.

The social and fundraising team is quite a large group, and we aim to arrange a diverse range of activities. We always welcome ideas from members of our church family as to what you would like to do to build our fellowship together.

Totals Raised for St Peter's £3299.83

For our charities £1675.38

Total £ 4975.21

### JENNY DOBSON – COMMITTEE LEAD

## **LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

I am pleased to say that, thanks to donations, we are beginning to build up the Children's section, after the loss following the Pandemic closure. We now have 'The Boy, the Fox, and the Horse' shown on Christmas TV and, although not many of us can understand 'Bible Stories in Chinese,' by looking at the colourful pictures, it is possible to discover the stories and even find the meanings of some words.

We welcome donations, but please give them, directly, to Jane Slatter or me, so that they can be added to our catalogue according to the themes which range from Bible Stories, Biography and Young People, to Prayer, Pastoral and Philosophy.

We try to display seasonal topics and books relating to News items. We have recently added the book by Alan Wilson, the former Bishop of Buckingham, and titles by Steven Croft, the present Bishop of Oxford.

Books may be borrowed for 20p per month, but please record your details in the Borrowing Book.

There is not enough room to display all our collection and so do ask Jane or me if you are looking for a particular book.

Our thanks go to those who have helped dust and tidy the shelves while arranging the themes. We hope you enjoy exploring the library collection.

**HEATHER COLLINS**

## **GIRLS BRIGADE ANNUAL REVIEW – 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Burnham Girls Brigade** has had a very busy year. We have a regular attendance of 21 girls each week and we are blessed with 5 committed leaders.

Our 3 younger Brigaders have now completed their foundation leadership training course, and they have been playing an active role in the running of the Company on a Monday evening. We truly value their contribution to leadership. 2 of our older Brigaders taking some time out to study for their GCSEs now but we hope that they will be back with us when the exams are over.

In May some of our older girls sung at the wedding of Stephanie Higgins who had grown up through the company and returned as a leader after being away at university. This was a real privilege but quite a challenge as we had to sing in various African languages as Steph married a man from Uganda.

We sadly lost our annual rounders match again against the Church in June during St Peter's week, but we also enjoyed our own sports night in St Peter's Park.

The older girls and their parents worked very hard sorting out the bags for the Church stall at the Village Fete in the summer and many of them came to help on the day.

Camp was in Swanage this year and we enjoyed a great week together enjoying swimming in the sea, hiking in the sunshine and shopping in Swanage's lovely shops. We also visited the lifeboat house and had the privilege of seeing it being launched one evening on a training exercise.

We had an excellent turn out for Remembrance Parade earlier this month, we were very proud of our girls who all looked so smart and behaved so well.

We performed our own version of 'Joseph' in November which revealed some of the talent that our girls have, and we have also led and taken part in many WoW services over the course of the year. We are proud to be part of St Peter's Church and are grateful for the prayerful and practical support from many people as we seek to live out our aim to 'Seek, Serve and follow Christ'.

**Jenny Dobson – Team Leader**



## **LITTLE ANGELS REVIEW (for 2024)**

Little Angels is the Baby & Toddler Group for pre-school children ages 0-5, run by our enhanced DBS and Safeguarding trained volunteer team. From September 2024, I was delighted to come onboard as the team leader of the group.

In 2024, we averaged a weekly attendance of between 22-27 children (sometimes as many as 36) and the ages were mostly children between 2-3 years old with a few 4-year-olds and up to as many as five babies – under 1 years old – accompanied by their adult/s. A real mix of ages!

Little Angels received Designated Funds from the St Peter's PCC - which we are always grateful for – and our income from fees on a busy week generated between £36-40. Apart from the annual parties (Easter/Summer/Christmas) and obtaining occasional new supplies/equipment, we didn't have a very large expenditure in 2024. We will be looking to obtain funding and local grants to apply for in the future which will help refresh and update the bigger toys/games we offer; with more sensory and tactile toys - especially for the quieter children. Little Angels also hopes to acquire soft play equipment, which will add variety and enjoyment for our children. The group is part of St Peter's mission action plan and our young members came to enjoy the toys/songs/refreshments that we offer – but, they also got the opportunity to learn more about the Bible with a story each week, played together and socialised with each other in our supportive, friendly, fun and safe setting in Cornerstone.

We were blessed with a great group of parents, grandparents, childminders and carers at Little Angels too. They developed friendships, supported one another and helped our volunteer team deliver a fantastic session for the children each week; with everyone involved and fully engaged in contributing to its success.

Little Angels has served the community well for many years - and we hope this will continue for many years to come.

**VICKIE SAMSON**

***Little Angels Team Lead***

## Wednesday Welcome Yearly Review 2024

### (Where we began – in 2023)

We started on 12th April 2023 (inspired by St Peter's' participation in the National 'Warm Welcome' during Jan/Feb that year) The day was changed to Wednesday to align with post Eucharist refreshments. A team of volunteers were found to take turns each week to host the session, offering a warm welcome to all who visited St Peter's between 10am-12pm. And so, the national Warm Welcome became our local Wednesday Welcome!

### 2024

Going into our second year, we opened each week (except August) and offered a variety of tasty refreshments and the chance to socialise after the Wednesday Eucharist. We were also there to greet new visitors to the church – some from far afield - but all of whom enjoyed the hospitality of a friendly St Peter's welcome!

In 2024, we had many people popping in though some weeks quieter than others. However, the whole idea of our Wednesday Welcome (WW) was simply to be present. Ready to welcome and offer warmth and hospitality to anyone who came along that day. And they came along throughout 2024 -

- New visitors visited specifically to see the church, the tower, the nature and wildlife around us, or enjoy the peace, frequently also came into Cornerstone for a cuppa and enjoyed knowing more about the church and people.
- Our post-service congregation with their refreshments after their service
- Regular visitors over the year who got to know one another better, established friendships, having been afforded opportunities to socialise and converse with each other, finding shared enjoyments and having a laugh or two along the way!
- Visits from groups of people; some large, some small, some from the local care homes and people who attend the day centre in Burnham (accompanied by their support teams) and occasionally, from the local walking club, Simply Walk.

It was excellent to see everyone enjoying what we offered each week.

Many of our visitors also donated money (if they were able) which helped contribute to the ongoing mission and maintenance of the church. **In 2024 alone, we collected over £1000** which is testament to the generosity of people who visit us each week. WW

also hosted specific fundraising mornings a couple of times in 2024, for our supported charities (such as Beautiful Gate, Rennie Grove) and they were a big success.

**In November 2024** – WW were delighted to register with the Warm Welcome campaign, and we are now one of over 5000 locations in the UK listed on their website.

As it explains “...***The difference they make to communities is remarkable; they bring connection, friendship, and human warmth, helping people feel less isolated and lonely and boosting wellbeing.***

***We want everyone to find a Warm Welcome Space in their local community. They are places where new friendships are forged, where guests become volunteers, where people feel valued and where communities come together to improve the lives of everyone” (Warm Welcome Spaces – <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>)***

That ethos is at the root of Wednesday Welcome, and we hope to continue to be part of the church week for our congregation, our community and for all village visitors too. Everyone is welcome and we welcome everyone!

Huge and heartfelt thanks to our volunteer team (Sheila, Jackie, Tania, Val, Michaela) who do a wonderful job each week, with heart and humour, and many thanks to everybody who visited us and supported St Peter’s in this valuable, highly enjoyable mission, and important outreach during 2024.

## **VICKIE SAMSON**

***Team Leader***

### **END OF ANNUAL REVIEW (2024)**

*This year's Annual Review Reporting was compiled by Jackie Loveday & Vickie Samson*

*Any errors or mistakes are wholly unintended and will be rectified immediately upon notification*

*All reports have been written by the team leader/s of the group/ministry involved - or the SME (Subject Matter Expert) of the area of the MAP (Mission Action Plan) reported upon*

*For more information about St Peter’s current MAP – please see the notice board in the porch at South Door*