

ST MICHAEL &
ALL ANGELS,
HUGHENDEN

AP

CM

20
26

Report
Booklet

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Associate Minister's Report

As we look back over 2025, I am struck by how much we must give thanks for, even in a year marked by significant change.

The year began with the joy of welcoming Chris Coyston into his role as Children & Families Minister/Pastor, along with Sue, Lilly, Kayleigh, Zoe, and their wider family. We recognise the enormous contribution each one of them makes to the life of St Michael & All Angels, what a blessing you are, and how grateful we are for you all.

Chris has provided a full report, but I would like to highlight just a few memorable moments: the Pancake Party, Easter Egg Venture, the launch of Lighthouse Live, and the Christmas Puppet Roadshows, all focused on building relationships of trust with new families in our community. Alongside these events, JC Club and our youth space have continued to develop, giving our young people a place to flourish and grow.

After Easter, I had the privilege of returning to St Beuno's to complete my 30-day Ignatian Retreat. I came home refreshed and ready for whatever God might have in store. I was not expecting Keith to tell me he had applied for, and would be accepting a new post in Somerset!

The year continued with many points of encouragement: well attended Mothers' Union Coffee Mornings and the annual Ploughman's Lunch, which both offered a warm welcome to the community while raising funds for MU charities. My thanks to all who support the Mothers Union and make these events possible.

In August, Susan Brice, with a wonderful team, led another spectacular Flower Festival, themed "Happy Blooming Holidays". That same weekend, we celebrated 150 years of bell ringing in the current tower. The church looked beautiful, and many visitors enjoyed generous hospitality, joyful ringing, and the chance to explore the tower.

Keith's final service took place on 28th September. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside him over the past nine years and have valued his generous and deeply pastoral heart. I miss him as a valued colleague, and his presence is missed by many in the parish and wider deanery. We give thanks to God for Keith's time of ministry amongst us.

I am grateful to everyone who stepped up from October onwards to help keep services running including Dorothy Moore Brooks and David Tester along with visiting clergy Ruth Wooster, Lance Sharp, and James Dwyer.

A huge thank you to our churchwardens, Andrew Cole and Frank Hawkins, for their input throughout the year and the significant additional responsibilities they have shouldered since Keith left. Without Frank's drive and hard work on

the Parish Profile, advert, and related tasks, we would not now be able to welcome a new incumbent. Andrew continues to ensure our buildings remain safe and well managed, often quietly and behind the scenes. We appreciate you both enormously.

I also want to express heartfelt thanks to the members of our PCC, who faithfully attend meetings, prayerfully engage with the matters before us, and carry out so much unseen work on behalf of the parish. Your steady commitment enables the ministry and mission of St Michael & All Angels to flourish.

A special word of thanks must go to Brian Morley, our Treasurer, and Roger Grant, our Safeguarding Officer. Each carries significant responsibility, and we are deeply grateful for their diligence, wisdom, and steady leadership in their respective roles.

We are equally thankful for our housegroup leaders, who faithfully prepare, host, and nurture spaces where members of our church can grow in discipleship, fellowship, and prayer. These groups quietly sustain the spiritual heartbeat of our community, and your ministry is valued more than you know.

And to everyone who serves: stewarding the car park, arranging flowers, serving refreshments, baking for MU events, offering prayer ministry, ringing bells, helping with the livestream, operating the iPad, welcoming, reading lessons, writing and leading intercessions, overseeing safeguarding, mowing the grass, singing or playing in our music group or choir, and countless other contributions to the life and worship of St Michael & All Angels: THANK YOU all.

We are also grateful for the ongoing work of the St Michael & All Angels Vision Group, exploring possibilities for how we might best use our facilities in both the church and Church House. It has been particularly encouraging to see Church Cottage fully used by Chris for children's and youth ministry.

Across our congregations, it has been heartening to see new faces joining us this year, alongside our faithful regulars.

THE FOLLOWING OCCASIONAL OFFICES TOOK PLACE DURING 2025:

- Funerals & Memorials: 22
- Interment of Ashes: 18
- Weddings: 4
- Baptisms: 10

As Keith reminded us last year, our ongoing prayer is that as we seek to more fully embrace our shared vision as a church, we may be filled with the fullness of God's love, share that love generously with others, and play our part in building God's kingdom in Hughenden Parish and beyond.

Revd Helen Peters
Associate Minister

Churchwardens' Report

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

The Archdeacon's visitations took place and, because of holidays, Andrew attended his at St Mary's, Beaconsfield and Frank at North Marsden Church Milton Keynes. They thus have formally been admitted into the roles of churchwardens.

CHANGE OF INCUMBENT

The Rev Keith Johnson advised us at the end of June that he had accepted a new position in the West Country and would be leaving after his 3 months' notice at the beginning of October. He has been a great asset to the church with his strong faith and charming personality. We would like to record here our grateful thanks for his 9 year service with us and wish him well in his new location.

This has inevitably created a considerable amount of work during the interregnum, and we would like immediately to thank the Rev Helen Peters for the exceptional service she has done at this time. There have been other ministers who have also assisted at some services, and we would pass on our thanks to them as well.

In addition, so many volunteers in the church have assisted in so many ways and our thanks go out to them as well.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW VICAR

The process of finding a new vicar started in October and by the end of the year we had completed the Profile documents and organised for advertising to go out in January 2026. We would especially like to thank Susan and Ben Brice for all the effort they put in with the creation of the Parish Profile. Whilst not technically in the report for 2025 we are pleased to confirm that a New Vicar was selected in March 2026 and the Rev Charlotte (Charlie) Lloyd-Evans is scheduled to be licenced here in August 2026.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT & FIRE DRILLS

The Fire Risk Assessment has been completed and reviewed and there is a clear focus now on ensuring that everything is in order. This included some improvements to the fire alarm system to cover the electrical equipment in the tower vestry. All members of the congregation are reminded of the importance of familiarising themselves with the fire safety procedures. Should the alarm ever go off everyone MUST immediately leave the building and assemble by the gate at the bottom of the path.

PEST CONTROL

Pest control measures are being managed effectively. Regular inspections are being carried out, and there have been no significant pest-related issues reported in recent months. We will continue to monitor the situation and take any necessary actions to maintain a pest-free environment.

CHURCH HOUSE AND COTTAGE

The space is now being used for youth work whilst the Vision Group prepare plans for the longer-term use of this space and it is also useful for larger events.

VISION GROUP

The Vision Group continues to meet to discuss the future direction of the church. Recent discussions have focused on how to effectively improve Church House and the need for an accessible toilet attached to the church, as well as a dedicated vestry for the clergy team. The group is actively progressing towards the solution that will guide the church's growth and community outreach efforts in the coming years. Our special thanks to Brian Morley for his strong commitment to this project.

DESTRATIFICATION FANS

We are trialling a unit and monitoring the visual impact and its effectiveness. So far this has had some positive results. Our thanks to Colin Wilkinson for pursuing this.

ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course started in February 2025 and went well. No decision has yet been taken for the date of the next course.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER

The appointment of Chris Coyston commenced on 1st January 2025 and we are very pleased with the considerable effort that Chris with his team have put into developing activities for children, youth, and families. His report is elsewhere in this booklet but suffice it to say that we are now in a much stronger position to welcome additional families to the church and have a significant improvement with our relationships with the local communities.

VOLUNTEERS

As churchwardens we must reach out to all who volunteer in so many different ways to keep our wonderful church and the church family progressing so well. Thank you so very much. There is so much to do but many hands make light

work so if you have not yet considered actively doing something please talk with Andrew or Frank who will be able to suggest activities that you might help in and enjoy.

LIGHTING IN THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

This has been a major issue over the years, but we now have a minimum energy lighting system installed in the church thanks to the efforts of Lionel Erasmus and the effect of the lighting has been remarkable. The new systems have proved very satisfactory and are significantly easier to use.

THE PROJECTORS AND SCREENS

We have really seen the benefits of the incredible clarity of these screens in the church and once again our thanks to those who have enabled so many services to benefit from them.

HUGHENDEN COMMUNITY SINGERS

The relationship with the Hughenden Community Singers, who are a community organisation, has been remarkable. The church is used by them for rehearsals and concerts and they in turn have supported the church with additional singers for the Christmas Eve afternoon services and other events as well. We are delighted that this is a good example of the cooperation between the church and the local community.

THANKS TO THE CLERGY TEAM

As the churchwardens are the representatives of both the people and the bishop we would once again like to sincerely extend our thanks to our very special clergy team. Thank you, Keith, for your 9 years of service and Helen for all you do make this church such a positive and loving environment. We pray that this will be ongoing as we look forward to welcoming our new vicar.

A FINAL THANKS

To the PCC members, the volunteers, the workers who help with the cleaning and the churchyard and to every single person who make up the family that is here to be part of the wonderful faith in Jesus Christ. We would also like to thank Denise Barrow who has been undertaking the laundry of the communion linen for at least 20 years but now has decided that she needs to stand down from this role and that Louise Stallwood has agreed to take on this task.

Frank Hawkins & Andrew Cole
Churchwardens

Finance

While there was a deficit of £24,943 during the year, this was in-line with our Budget. We knew that 2025 was going to be an investment year, given the recruitment of our new Children and Families Minister, Chris Coyston.

There was an encouraging 12.5% increase in regular giving to £90,905, which was substantially above our parish share of £79,012. Collections at services were also considerably higher, +30% at £17,333. We hope this trend will continue, given the uptick in our congregation. Overall Income was +10.8% at £ £185,398.

Expenditure during the year was a lot higher, but this mainly reflected a £34,000 increase in salaries and honoria, as mentioned above, which was in-line with expectations. Otherwise, we managed to keep a reasonably tight rein on church and Church House running expenses, utility bills, insurance and general expenses.

Your PCC were expecting to have higher capital expenditure on Church House, but decided to not let out the Cottage, but rather to investigate a more extensive renovation, with a view to using the whole of Church House as a community building. We are currently in discussions with Bucks County Council about what form these renovations may take and will be reporting to the congregation as and when we have further news.

Brian Morley
Treasurer

PCC

The PCC met 6 times between the APCM in 2025 and 2026.

After the 2025 APCM the PCC consisted of:

Clergy: Rev Keith Johnson, Rev Helen Peters

Churchwardens: Andrew Cole, Frank Hawkins

Co-opted: Chris Coyston

Elected: Brian Morley (treasurer), Julia Grant ,Antony Rippon,
Roger Grant, Liz Moseley, Janet Booth, Mark Sherrington,
Colin Wilkinson, Pauline Wilkinson, Ben Sharp, Mike Hill.

Secretary: Susan Brice

Liz Moseley took over as Lay Chair of the committee in September

Ben Sharp resigned from the committee in the summer as he was going abroad to work.

Keith Johnson and Mike Hill both moved away from the parish in the autumn.

Susan Brice
PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll

At last year's APCM the number on the electoral roll was 130. At the close of the roll on 29th March 2026 the number was 141 - 15 names were added and 4 removed.

50% of people on the roll live in the parish (down from 52% last year).

Ben Brice
Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is a standing item at all PCC meetings (see formal obligations below).

To keep abreast of changes and developments the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is an active member of the Oxford Diocese' PSO Working Party and Safeguarding Training Team.

FORMAL OBLIGATIONS

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 all authorised clergy, licensed readers, ministry group leaders and helpers, churchwardens and PCC members must comply with the safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this includes both policy and practice guidance).

THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Roger Grant, 07909 960938, roger_h_grant@hotmail.com is the current Parish Safeguarding Officer, DBS Recruiter and Verifier.

He provides safeguarding training for the PCC, the outcomes from which contribute to the church's safeguarding action plan. As a working document, the action plan guides the work of the church in this area.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY, GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

A copy of our current Safeguarding policy, approved by the PCC, is displayed in the entrance to the church and on our website.

Clear guidance on 'What to do if you have a safeguarding concern.' is available also on our church website under 'Safeguarding'.

SAFEGUARDING LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

With few exceptions, we do very well in ensuring that those performing a ministry role within our church, paid or voluntary, undertake the necessary level(s) of safeguarding training.

Our administrator, Ben Brice and Chris Coyston (Families and Children's Pastor) have successfully set up ChurchSuite to manage new applications and appointments for ministry roles, paid or voluntary.

Following a data breach in 2025, the diocese terminated its contract with APCS, the company employed to process Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS)

applications. The new provider, as approved by the Church of England, is Verifile. Training for DBS Recruiters and Verifiers is currently ongoing.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

At the time of this report, there are no recorded safeguarding concerns.

NEXT STEPS

To build on our findings from the use of the Safeguarding 'Culture Cube' activity by:

- **Building effective structures** so that "Everyone in our church is offered appropriate support e.g. through supervision, personal support, personal development, coaching, mentoring, etc.
- **Establishing good governance** whereby "Our procedures and expectations of people are clear, consistent and easy to understand."
- **Communicate effectively** to ensure we share well and widely enough, messages that help us: maintain a safer safeguarding culture; provide a clear picture of what a safe church looks like, and that we welcome people who are broken, wounded or vulnerable, offering them a safe place to be."

Roger Grant
Hughenden Parish Safeguarding Officer

Children & Youth

As I reflect on my first year here at St Michael & All Angels, I am able to see God's hand on the children and youth both at our church and in the local community. As a church we can see His guidance in looking to follow our vision 'To know God's love and to share that love with everyone, that all may know Jesus Christ, become his lifelong followers, and grow into mature members of the church'. This aligns really well with the vision I brought to the church with my appointment 'Seeing the Hearts and Minds of Children and youth Transformed by the Love of the Holy Spirit; Even the youngest of us can be moved by God's presence.'

This year has been a year of change for many aspects of Children's and Youth ministry as we build strong foundations that, even though we are still small in number, as we welcome new families into the church those foundations will help to guide both the children and the teams that I have started building to discover Jesus for themselves in a safe and fun environment.

There are 3 main areas we have been focusing on:

CHILDREN

JC Club

Firstly, we must say a huge thank you Shelagh and Steve for all the work they have been doing for the children at JC Club, they took the decision to step down but the door will always be open to them to come back. I took the decision to rethink the volunteers giving their time to the wider children's work at the start of the year. Previously we had been running Bubbles for the pre-school aged children but as currently there are no children of that age, I approached them to see if they would be happy to become part of the JC Club team. They accepted and this opened the door to us being able to have provision for primary aged children every week at out 11am service. With the help of Sue, Lucy Rippon, Lucy Leonard, Poppy Leight, Agnes Dodwell, Kayleigh and myself we have a great team of volunteers. Some of the subjects we have been looking at through 2025 are Jonah, Daniel, Creation and new beginnings, Joseph and finally some of the parables Jesus told.

Specials and Annual Events

At the start of the year, we welcomed approximately 50 children and their families for a pancake party which was an amazing success and opened the doors to many new faces joining us, we followed this up with the Great Easter Egg-venture which again was really successful and a lot of fun for everyone.

In September we started a brand-new venture called Lighthouse Live running monthly which is a mix of crafts, games, a celebration finishing with a shared tea. Using the Lighthouse branding opened the door to lots of people who recognised it. These sessions have been really fun. We have a great team of volunteers, many of whom have not done this kind of thing before, again helping us build that firm foundation. We plan to continue this into 2026 building on a really strong start.

YOUTH

Youth @ Home

We made the decision to open our house to the youth of the church at the start of the year, these were a mix of social events and teaching, looking at the chosen videos and sharing together. Now the Cottage has been decorated (huge thank you to Mike Dale) we plan to move the youth work to here and open it to the wider community under a banner of Rooted, which will start in January.

Youth @ Church

Youth had been meeting once a month in the Donkey Shed led by Scott and Jen with Kayleigh and I joining the team. My appointment coincided with Arthur retiring and the cottage becoming available. We moved the Sunday youth work to there and have been continuing to meet once a month. In January we plan to go to twice a month under the banner of Rooted.

United

I am part of the team that heads up United, an event that happens monthly for all the local churches in the area, they meet for fun engaging worship evenings once a month and we have been joining them regularly. Alongside this is an annual camping weekend that we took some of our youth to in May. It was an amazing weekend where the 'quiet revival' that is being spoken about a lot in churches was anything but quiet.

Schools work

As well as Helen and Keith and I leading a collective worship each week at Great Kingshill School, I have been able to join both Hughenden and Naphill & Walters Ash Primary Schools for various assemblies throughout the year, again starting to open doors into new ventures for children throughout the community. One highlight was our Christmas Roadshow, Kayleigh, Helen, Lucy and I took the puppets into all three schools to tell the story of 'the not so wise men' bringing the real reason for Christmas to over 600 children in one day. We got a great reception from all the schools and already have an Easter Roadshow booked in for 2026.

OUTREACH

During my first year here, we have also had the opportunity to be a part of Napfest both providing a large craft stall for everyone to enjoy as well as a large puppet show which went down really well. We also took the show to the Great Kingshill Fete as well as lots of volunteers joining the team there to run the stalls.

I have also been able to open the church to both local school visits and the local Beavers, cubs and scouts providing a mixture of fun, craft and teaching. We already have lots of these type of events booked in for 2026.

Chris Coyston
Children & Families Pastor

Communications

The role of the Comms Group is in connection with dissemination of information within and outside the church. Much of the internal communication is now achieved through the use of ChurchSuite, through which the weekly notices are transmitted (as well as hard copies on Sundays). Our church administrator, Ben Brice, is a key member of the Communications committee, and thus can advise on and implement the extended use of ChurchSuite. (For example we are looking at inviting members of the congregation to post a photograph of themselves on their own ChurchSuite entry, to assist our new incumbent to identify the St Michael & All Angels flock on arrival.)

For those who could but have not 'signed up to' ChurchSuite, it is an invaluable resource, which we urge you to consider particularly if you are on any church rotas. However, it is essential that we continue to ensure that those who are not electronically connected are informed as to church events and news.

To further our role in informing non-St Michael & All Angels attenders of what we do and what we are about, we use:

- Posters, notices and banners in and outside the church;
- Parish magazine: taken by many non-church attenders;
- Regular contributions to Naphill Gazette (monthly) and Hughenden News (quarterly);
- Our extensive website operated by Ben Brice;
- Our social media channels;
- Delivery of Easter and Christmas cards to every house in the parish (for which many thanks to the members of the congregation who doggedly tread the parish pavements).

Much of our discussions this year have been focussed on tech matters:

OPERATING IN-CHURCH TECH

In the absence of Ben Sharp, our one remaining 'fixer', Richard Peters, has had much of the 'screwdriver work' to do, but the system has, under his care, achieved greater reliability and some ability to be adjusted by non-specialists.

We have also expanded the team of people who can run:

- Live stream: Richard Peters, Colin Wilkinson, **Chris Aston**, **John White**, Guy Mannerings
- Proclaim: Frank Hawkins, Jane Tyrer, Anu Thompson, **Pauline Wilkinson**, **Mike Dale**.

Those emboldened are the new team members trained since I last reported and we are grateful for their enthusiasm in joining the team.

We are particularly grateful for the training done by Pauline and Colin, and for their very clear printed instructions which are now available in the vestry as a reminder for the operation of both systems.

WELCOME SCREEN

The welcome screen generally operates throughout the week to inform visitors of events, and can be used to display texts during services. On-line updates occasionally knock the screen out for a short time: a fix will be employed, so this can be more easily remedied.

I reported last year that:

We hope in the future to be able to enhance visibility of the body of the church for the organist, and to make live streaming controllable from the inside of the church, possibly for use in weddings and other events.

We are moving forward with this and it should be completed ere long.

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER LEAFLETS

I can repeat, with grateful thanks, what was said last year;

Leaflets were again designed by Ben Brice and delivered by members of the congregation for which many thanks. (Members of Hughenden Singers also helped with Christmas deliveries, and this was instrumental in ensuring the early deadline to publicise the Christmas Sing-Along was met.)

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

We also seek to enhance accessibility for the visual or hearing impaired: please let me or Richard Peters know if there are other needs and we will try to accommodate.

Kayleigh Welsh has recently taken over the maintenance of our social media channels, (for which many thanks to her) and she is happy to post short video clips of any church activities, subject to the permission of all those in shot.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The communications group consists of:

Jane Tyrer, Ben Brice, Richard Peters, Guy Mannering, Andrew Collard, Colin Wilkinson

Colin Wilkinson joined the team this year and is also our essential link to PCC.

I continue to be grateful for the commitment, expertise and good sense – and good humour - of all members of the group.

Jane Tyrer
Group Chair

Eco Church

"The Earth is the LORD'S and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"

Psalm 24:1

Our climate is breaking down. Rising seas and extreme weather events are putting tens of millions of people around the world at risk. And younger generations are being robbed of their future on a healthy, habitable planet.

By declaring an ecological and climate emergency, we add our voice to those asking the governments of the world to take urgent action for climate change and all of God's creation for the sake of future generations.

As children of God, we have a special duty to care for the world God has created. At Hughenden we are so fortunate to have a beautiful church in a National Trust park. For a number of years we have used the 'Eco Church' programme to bring the care of God's creation to the heart of our Community. We now have an active team who meet regularly to take forward this agenda.

Eco Church is an award scheme for churches in the UK organised by a charity called 'A Rocha UK'. It provides a framework and a toolkit of resources to support the church. It also provides an action programme to support the improvement of biodiversity, address climate change and make a real difference to nature restoration. The three awards available are bronze, silver and gold. Our church building, as a listed ancient church, provides challenges in some areas. However, we are delighted that in 2024 we achieved a bronze award in January and silver in June.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

- We achieved our silver award in 2024 and are currently working towards gold!
- We recycle as much waste as possible, using a number of different recycling points. This includes collecting waste products for other charities to recycle e.g. Medication blister packs, stamps, spectacles and sunglasses and bras!
- The vast majority of hot and cold drinks at St Michael & All Angels are served in china mugs, cups or glasses. For the remainder we choose environmentally friendly disposable cups wherever possible. When a straw is requested we avoid single use plastics where possible.
- We try to use china crockery and washable cutlery for our church functions as much as we can including lunches and similar events.
- Where possible we follow LOAF principles for the food and drinks we procure: Local, Organic, Animal-friendly and Fairtrade. We also use 'green' cleaning products wherever possible.

- With an increasing awareness of the environmental crisis, our worship and teaching are frequently focused on the environment and God's creation and this includes the teaching with our children's groups. In Great Big Green week we have a Nature Quest and also run bat evenings and nature walks.
- We undertake an Annual Energy Audit and look at how we can use this to improve our energy performance e.g. we now have almost all LED lights in the church and spotlights outside. We also undertake an annual 'Lifestyle survey' with our congregation and highlight the results to raise awareness.
- We actively manage our churchyard and grounds and have an Environmental policy. We have developed a 'wild' area where we manage the grass by an annual cut to encourage wild flowers, bees, butterflies etc. We have a 'Bug & Bee hotel', woodpiles, a large number of nest boxes including for swifts and Tawny owls.
- We work with and take advice from other Environmental organisations both local and National: A Rocha, Bucks, Berks & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), Bucks & Oxfordshire Raptor Group (BORG), Wycombe Community Board, Refresh High Wycombe. The Climate Coalition,
- We have a 'Quiet Garden' at the back of the church. This was built in an overgrown area and it is now a dedicated restful area for people to spend time: with a bench, small water feature and plants to support wildlife. We have had many encouraging comments about how beautiful this area is and how peaceful.

Every day many people visit our church and churchyard. Whether or not they come to church services or have a faith, it has become an extra important place for relaxation, contemplation, prayer, and to connect with friends. This is particularly important in our own churchyard, where we also have many National Trust visitors to our church.

Julia Grant
Creation Care Team

Mission Support Group

With the departure of the Revd Keith Johnson, and David and Charlotte Tester stepping down after seven years, it has been a huge learning curve to take on the lead of the Mission Support Group. David gave me a thorough handover but it has been a little daunting nevertheless! We are pleased to have new members and now number six plus the invaluable support of Helen Peters in this interregnum period: Clare Aston, Roger Grant, Helen Marshall, Jen Mueller, Sue Newton and Lyn Watterston.

We have continued the format set up by David, a focus on a different mission every quarter, inviting visiting speakers to the church, with an article in Outlook. In addition, we also write articles on other missions we support throughout the year. Over the last twelve months we have focused on: Lighthouse (Apr-Jun); A Rocha (Jul-Sep); YMCA (Oct-Dec); Wycombe Refugee Partnership (Jan-Mar 2026).

FORTHCOMING

We have set up the focus for Apr-Jun Open Doors which supports persecuted Christians around the world. John Barringer has been invited to speak. Our Jul-Sep focus will be Wycliffe Bible Translators, enabling people around the world to read the message of God's love in their own language. The focus for the last quarter will be decided at our next meeting in April.

CHURCH FUNDING

In 2025 the MSG was allocated £8,000 of church funds to donate to mission causes. The £8,000 was donated as follows:

- £2,250 to Embrace the Middle East.
- £1,000 to Growing Hope High Wycombe.
- £1,000 to Wycombe Youth for Christ.
- £500 each to Kevin and Jen Cable and Lighthouse HW.
- £200 each to Christian Aid, Ebenezer, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Wycliffe Bible Translators, One Can, Wycombe Homeless Connection and Chosen.
- £250 speaker donations were given to Growing Hope HW, Lighthouse Central, One YMCA, and although a speaker from A Rocha was not available, we donated the amount.
- £150 to Lighthouse Central

We are asked to keep back a contingency each year. In 2025 we had a contingency of £1,150 which was donated in January 2026 to Growing Hope HW, Wycombe Youth for Christ and Lighthouse Central, which is why there appears to be large payments in particular to Growing Hope and Wycombe Youth for Christ. They will not have further donations made from the 2026 budget. A top up of a further £150 will be donated to Lighthouse Central to total our annual donation. The 2026 PCC budget for the Mission Support Group is a healthy £9,000 of which £2,000 has been asked to be kept in contingency.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The Mission Support Group recommends the causes to be supported by collections over the Christmas period. The total collected over the Christmas 2025 period was £2,869.53, which the Treasurer rounded to £2,880 to allow a donation of £960 each to Embrace the Middle East, The Children's Society and One YMCA.

FUTURE CHURCH SUPPORT TO MISSIONS

Embrace the Middle East remains a key focus for the church. Conditions continue to be extremely difficult, especially with the Iran war raging in the area. In the 2025 APCM report David recommended a church ambassador be appointed to be our link with charity. Jen Mueller agreed to be our ambassador in May 2025. Close links continue with Rowena Worthington in the High Wycombe offices. MSG members recently attended an online talk given by Serop Ohanian, from Karagheusian Medical Centre in Lebanon, and an event hosting Serop at their High Wycombe offices.

In our next meeting, the MSG will be reviewing the current list of supported charities and discussing possible new missions to support as new members have introduced their own particular interests and contacts. Mercy Ships and Christian Blind Mission have been suggested. We have already agreed to support Amatelaz in Zimbabwe. Clare Aston has co-run this charity with Nev Borradaile from Swansea for 23 years. Amatelaz means "God loves the Young Ones" and the charity provides basic needs for and educates approximately 30 young children. Clare wrote an article about Amatelaz in the March Outlook magazine.

With the church's aim to include children more in the general life of the church, Chris Coyston was approached and is working with the JC Club to produce an article on a charity for Outlook. The children were presented with three charities, which we are already supporting: Growing Hope HW, Wycombe Youth for Christ and Lighthouse HW. It was a close-run thing apparently, but they have decided to focus on Lighthouse - a movement close to their hearts!

Helen Marshall

Social & Outreach

The Social & Outreach 2025 programme was varied, and once again focussed on building community within our church and building links with the local community. As always, the programme relied on a huge number of volunteers, led ably by our wonderful and dedicated Social & Outreach team and supported by professional and enticing event adverts from our gifted parish administrator.

Below are some highlights of the year:

Walking featured in a couple of events on new year's day and the parish boundary walk in the spring. For those that are able to, walking is such a pleasurable way of sharing company and fellowship.

Whilst the inclement weather suppressed numbers participating in nature quest, there was no shortage of enthusiasm from the volunteers and connections were made with families, helping to build our vibrant congregation.

We held the family BBQ at Liz Moseley's house in 2025 with around 50 people of all ages joining for this truly brilliant afternoon. Liz and Stuart opened their home and provided lavish generosity and despite the odd shower, the weather was good in the end, supporting fun activities such as swimming and games complemented by plenty of conversation.

Hughenden Village hall was filled for a 'proper knees-up' as congregation and community joined in for the Barn Dance. We are so blessed that our very own Associate Minister happens to be a caller so the evening was filled with dos-a-dos, promenades and swinging of partners interrupted only briefly for a delicious chip shop supper.

The main programme was complemented by other supporting ministries: the men's breakfast group met frequently during the year and continued to be an important setting for men to share fellowship and SPACE (spirituality, prayer and contemplation events) was initiated. Initially focussing on fellowship between women, two events ran during the year and including a retreat at Parmoor, which was attended by both women and men.

Away from the events themselves, we are pleased that we have enabled ChurchSuite to make payments online and we wish to encourage people to do this where they are able to, as this reduces administration.

Finally, we are very grateful to those that have supported in our activities over the year, in so many different ways – leading, helping, participating and so on and we're really pleased with the committee membership, which continues to be well served by the church. We do hope you'll manage to join us for some, if not all, of our events this year and we thank in advance, those volunteers and our church & community participants, who will make it all possible and worthwhile.

Antony Rippon
on behalf of the Social & Outreach team

Bellringing

Thank you to everyone for the help and support you've given me in my second year as TC. Here follows a summary of what we all got up to and have achieved in the last year, in chronological order:

8TH FEBRUARY – ANNUAL OUTING AND TOWER DINNER:

The year started with a very enjoyable mini outing to ring at Turville followed by a lovely dinner at The Bull & Butcher. Thank you to our friend Rachael Wallace for her hospitality and letting us ring at her tower.

8TH MAY - VE DAY 80

Our bells rang out in celebration on 8th May to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We rang for 1945 seconds! and joined churches throughout the country ringing a mixture of rounds, call changes and a variety of different methods. We also decorated the ringing room with union flags and VE80 bunting, and enjoyed special 'VE Day Orange and Ginger cakes' made from the official WI's recipe to mark the occasion.

14TH JUNE - EBSB 6-BELL CONTEST AT PENN

In June we put together a one-off scratch band with friends from Hughenden, Amersham, Wycombe and Chesham to take part in the branch 6-bell competition at Penn. Once the ringing was done, we headed to the church hall opposite for tea and cakes while the judges deliberated and when the results were announced, we were pleased to discover that we'd secured a respectable and a very close, second place behind Wycombe.

15TH JULY – A SPECIAL 60TH BIRTHDAY SURPRISE!

On Tuesday 15th July, our Hughenden ringers were joined by friends from Wycombe, Amersham, Turville and Chesham for what I assumed would be an ordinary Tuesday practice. It turned out to be anything but. At 8.00 pm, after being lured out of the ringing room on a carefully engineered pretext, I wandered to the back of the church and walked straight into a wonderful birthday surprise that everyone except me had been in on. A table was set out with sparkling wine, soft drinks and cake, and it dawned on me that I'd been completely and delightfully "had". After a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday, I was given a bird box fitted with a solar-powered camera - something I'd secretly coveted ever since Annie and Cliff showed me the footage of blue tits nesting in theirs. It was a truly lovely surprise, and I still feel moved whenever I think about it, though I must confess... I'll never trust that lot again.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25TH AUGUST – TOWER OPEN DAY

On Bank Holiday Monday we welcomed ninety-eight visitors into our ringing room as part of our Tower Open Day. The aim was to give a glimpse into what goes on behind the scenes so that visitors could learn about the bells in the belfry; their history, how they're hung, what they weigh & why they matter, as well as to give them the chance to watch us ringing so they could see as well as hear, the magic in action.

We received great feedback from both locals and those from further afield: one visitor was inspired to take up bellringing, another was moved by the experience of watching the live demonstrations and visiting bellringers compared notes between their towers and ours, because despite there being over 5000 towers in the UK, no two rings of bells are ever the same. Most visitors were surprised by the complexities of bellringing, and Cliff the Steeple Keeper ('what a title!' someone exclaimed) and nine of our bellringing friends, enjoyed sharing our enthusiasm and passion for this uniquely English tradition.

11 OCTOBER - HUGHENDEN TRIUMPHED IN THE 2025 LORNA NEWTON BELLRINGING COMPETITION

In October we were delighted to share the news that Hughenden had won the 2025 Lorna Newton Striking Competition - a knockout-style contest between towers in our branch that has been held every year since 1973. Running from February through to October, the competition began with a random draw that matched 18 towers against each other in a series of elimination rounds. The winners progressed to the final at Chalfont-St-Giles, where the five top teams gathered for one last ring-off for the coveted trophy. Hughenden emerged victorious and will now enjoy a year as proud custodians of the Lorna Newton Trophy.

26TH OCTOBER – CIVIC SERVICE

In October we welcomed Councillor Sarfaraz Khan Raja to our ringing room. In his capacity as Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council, he held his Civic Service at Hughenden, attended by distinguished guests including His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. To mark the occasion, we rang methods and call changes to greet his guests as they made their way up the path to join the service.

9TH NOVEMBER - HALF-MUFFLED RINGING ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

As is tradition, we range the bells 'half muffled' for Remembrance Sunday. Each bell was fitted with a leather pad (a muffle) to one side of the clapper. When the bell strikes at handstroke, the metallic side of the clapper strikes the bell and we get a loud, strong, bright note, but when the bell strikes at backstroke, the muffle cushions the blow and we get a deep, mournful sound – a beautiful

sorrowful echo. This alternating rhythm evokes a powerful emotional response with each muted note a gentle reminder of lives lost and memories cherished. Locals listened, as the half-muffled peal carried through the air, a solemn tribute to those who have gone before.

4TH DECEMBER – SCOUTS CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas ringing season began with the local Scouts Annual Carol Concert, and we welcomed several enthusiastic young Cubs and Scouts into the ringing room before the service too, to have a closer look and to watch what goes on behind the scenes.

DECEMBER - NEW PROMOTIONAL BANNER

Throughout the year we've tried to increase awareness of bellringing by posting regularly in the local Facebook groups. We've included most of the events listed here, and this new promotional banner is the latest attempt at bringing bellringing into the limelight to a greater extent. A big thank you goes to Ben Brice for his wonderful creativity and thanks also go to Helen, whose mentions of bellringing during her services directly resulted in us acquiring one of our new recruits.

NEW RECRUITS

We're delighted to have welcomed four new learners in recent weeks, so the future looks a little brighter for ringing at Hughenden and we look forward to them adding to our numbers on a Sunday morning in the year ahead.

14TH JANUARY - CONGRATULATIONS TO TJ

Our year ended with us sending our congratulations to Revd Tracey Jones (TJ) who has just been licenced as Associate Vicar for St Nicholas, Cuddington in the Central Branch of the ODG. While she's looking forward to ringing at several towers across the Wychert Vale Benefice, she's assured us that she'll maintain her strong links with Hughenden and still plans to ring with us often. We wish her every success and happiness.

What a wonderful (if busy) year!

Verity Nicholls
Tower Captain

Flowers

Another year of lovely flowers in church, thanks to the team of seven, and sometimes eight, ladies who help to make our church look pretty and welcoming. We try to keep flowers in four areas, the altar, the vicar's window, the pulpit and the memorial window.

Mothering Sunday was marked by the usual small bunches of daffodils, distributed at all services and given out by the children at the 11.00 am service. Thanks go to the ladies who spent a very pleasant hour or two tying the blooms into posies. The Easter flowers brought a welcome show of colour after the reflective days of Lent during which the church is not decorated. It is always a joyful uplifting of the heart when entering the church on Easter Sunday.

Some special arrangements were done by request to mark birthdays or anniversaries of loved ones and were very well received. We are happy to do this – just mention it to me or one of the team.

The high spot of the year was our Flower Festival, held over the Bank Holiday near the end of August and organized by Susan Brice. There were around 30 arrangements on the theme of 'Happy Bloomin' Holidays'. The variety was amazing, some remembering past holidays, others depicting holidays around the British Isles or memorable holidays abroad. The church was extremely busy over the three days and thanks go to all who helped to set up and clear away, to act as stewards and to welcome visitors. A very interesting display of different aspects of U3A was held in the North Room and on the Monday the Bell Tower was open with guided 'tours' which proved extremely popular. Refreshments were served in Church House and Garden and huge thanks go to all those who donated around 70 delicious home-made cakes, all of which were enthusiastically consumed by the visitors. Thanks too, to the teams of helpers who waited on tables, cleared away and washed up. Nothing was charged for, but donations were invited and around £4,000 was raised for the church.

The decorations for Christmas 2025 looked attractive and complemented the beautiful tree set up near the altar. As there were abundant berries on the holly, this featured in the displays, carefully arranged by ladies wearing gloves to protect against the prickles!

Once again, a big thank you to all who have helped throughout the year in this lovely ministry.

Sylvia Clark

Friendship Morning

I continue to have the privilege of overseeing St Michael & All Angels Friendship Morning. However, the monthly meetings would not be possible without the incredibly committed and experienced Friendship Team, who give their time, energy, and baking skills, as well as collecting guests and taking them home again. They also step up to lead whenever I am unavailable. My heartfelt thanks go to Cathryn Carter, Carol Plested, Penny Austin, Alison Stacey, and Jennifer Neighbour for all they contribute.

We began 2025 with 25 members on the books, with an average monthly attendance of around 16.

It has been lovely to welcome several new members during the year, and we are delighted to see the group continuing to grow.

2025 PROGRAMME

- January – New Year Quiz
- February – Focus on You: interviews with members David & Brenda
- March – Winter Warmer Soup Lunch
- April – Easter celebration (with plenty of chocolate!)
- May – Spring photographic presentation by Alan Jaycock
- June – Organ recital from Neil Brice (always a real treat)
- July – Focus on You: interviews with members Frank & Pat
- August – Summer Quiz
- September – Sing-a-long with Nicky Fairbairn on keyboard
- October – Year 2 poems and song from Piper's Corner School
- November – Boxing Day Buffet
- December – Christmas celebration with carols, accompanied again by Nicky

CELEBRATIONS AND SADNESS

We were delighted to celebrate several milestone 90th birthdays during the year.

In January we celebrated George Farmer's 99th birthday. George, a much-loved and long-standing member of Friendship Group, continued to attend regularly until August. We had hoped to celebrate his 100th birthday, but we were saddened when George passed away in the autumn.

Early in 2025, long-standing members George and Judy Wilson moved to a care home in Chipping Norton to be nearer family. Judy sadly passed away in October.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friendship Morning is a friendly and welcoming group, and we are always open to new people joining us. If you know someone who might enjoy companionship, conversation, and a warm, relaxed atmosphere, please do encourage them to come along.

We would also greatly appreciate additional help from volunteer drivers who might be able to offer a lift once a month. This support makes a huge difference to members who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Revd Helen Peters

Mothers' Union

It was an interesting and successful year with our numbers increasing and a good attendance at all our meetings. Our monthly meetings have covered a variety of topics ranging from "Quilts", "A North-East Indian cruise", "Custom-made equipment for disabled people" and the work of a local company producing specialist teas with the opportunity for tastings.

We have been able to provide support to the wider community with a Christmas appeal for presents for the Women's Refuge mothers and children.

Our popular coffee mornings and summer lunch enabled us to support several MU Diocesan charities during the year. We organised the yearly Teddy Bears picnic for mothers and toddlers on a very pleasant sunny day in June.

The church garden has benefited from the formation of a new gardening sub-group which met during the summer months. At a Diocesan level, we were delighted to receive a large grant to enable our Youth Minister to buy portable sound equipment to use with children and youth groups in Church House.

As next year will be the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union we hope to continue as an active group that can contribute to the life of St Michael & All Angels.

Ann Gee

BAPTISMS

Nicola Fairbairn has continued the managing of the Baptism Rota during 2025.

There have been nine Baptisms, one Dedication and one Blessing at St Michael & All Angels during this time, all taking place on a Sunday, usually at the 11am service. The custom of a Mothers' Union member presenting a Baptism (or other appropriate) card to the candidate has continued. It also provides an opportunity to introduce the MU to the Baptism party.

During the service, the parents and Godparents learn of the MU support that is available should the family be in need of it. Details of the 'Hughenden Weekly Baby & Toddlers Group' accompany the card. Two members of the Tiny Tots Team attend this weekly Thursday Toddlers Group in the North Room, providing coffee, tea, biscuits and support of any kind: this continues to be very much appreciated by the parents and carers of the children. The very warm welcome that the family receives often leads to the child being presented for Baptism.

Once again, I must express my appreciation to the MU representatives who have attended the Baptism Services. This support, as part of the church's outreach programme, continues to be greatly appreciated by the Baptism families.

Nicola Fairbairn

Parish Magazine - Outlook

Our colourful magazine continues to be well received by parishioners and visitors alike. There has been some very encouraging feedback, one message being from a visitor from the north who 'liked everything' about Outlook.

We, the editors, the printing team headed by Andrew Cole, and Ben Brice who oversees the design, layout and illustrations, meet every few months to discuss all things pertaining to the production of Outlook. Ideas, suggestions, criticisms are all mulled over and we hope this makes for a continuing good standard. We are always open to suggestions from our readership regarding aspects of Outlook.

Especial thanks must go to Ben Brice who not only produced a small booklet to inform visitors looking at the flower arrangements at the Flower Festival last August, including photos of all the entries, but also, together with Andrew Cole, managed to produce and print the September copy of Outlook in time for Festival visitors to take away with them. A great piece of outreach.

We are always appreciative of any contributions, whether from regular readers or from anyone who wishes to share something of interest with us, e.g. articles, poems, holiday stories, sports events, books etc. Our thanks go to all who have offered items during the last year. In addition, we often include pieces from 'The Parish Pump', an online resource for parish magazine editors.

Our thanks, as always to Andrew Cole and his printing team, and to Andrew himself for delivering bundles of magazines to distributors for circulation to readers. There is generally a good take-up of the copies delivered to the Village Shop in Hughenden.

We, as editors, will continue to use our best endeavours to produce an enjoyable parish magazine.

Sylvia Clark, Christopher & Jane Tyrer, Susan Brice
Editors

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots has continued to meet weekly during term time, usually in the North Room or, during the summer months, in the Mothers' Union garden. We also hold a monthly service in church.

We are delighted that Chris Coyston continues to join us on Thursdays. He has been a great asset: arriving early to set up, welcoming families, and returning at the end of each session with his guitar to lead singing. It has been encouraging to see relationships forming, and to have natural opportunities to invite families to Lighthouse Live and other family-focused events.

I was privileged to baptise four children from three Toddler Group families in 2025. Two more families are interested in baptism during 2026, which is very encouraging.

Our monthly service on the second Thursday continues to introduce children to Bible stories, simple songs with piano accompaniment (thank you, Nicky!), and prayer. Charlotte faithfully prepares an age-appropriate craft activity linked to the story. These "service weeks" have become affectionately known as 'Piano-Cake Church', a name lovingly coined by one of the children, and includes generous homemade refreshments provided by the Tiny Tots Team.

As I emphasise every year, Tiny Tots is very much a team effort. I would like once again to thank Charlotte Tester and Jane Tyrer for their administrative leadership and for keeping communication flowing through WhatsApp and email. My sincere thanks also to our committed team members; Christine Powell, Nicky Fairbairn, Barbara Willson and Dianne Walker, who take turns attending weekly sessions, providing refreshments, helping set up and clear away, and offering a listening ear and prayer when needed. And, as mentioned, an enormous thank-you to Chris Coyston for his ongoing support.

As relationships deepen, trust grows, and conversations naturally move to more meaningful places. Many parents tell us that the warmth and friendship they find at Tiny Tots is especially important to them.

We continue to enjoy a lovely core of regular families each week. It is always bittersweet to say goodbye when children leave for school, but we send them off with prayers and a small gift to remind them of their time with us. The group remains wonderfully welcoming to newcomers, with new families joining us at various points throughout the year.

During the warmer months, we meet in the Mothers' Union garden, where we again held our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic in June. The Mothers' Union provided a wonderful picnic—as always—and the beautifully warm weather made the occasion even more special. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their generosity.

Rev. Helen Peters



St. Michael & All Angels

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING