

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026

April 2026

Dear Friends,

**The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings
Sunday 10th May 2026**

I am writing to invite you to the Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings, which take place on Sunday, 10th May in the Church Hall at 11.30 am. The pattern of worship that day will be Eucharists at 8.00 am and 10.00 am, with Evensong at 6.30 pm.

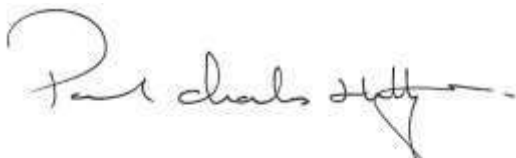
This document includes reports from our church organisations and bodies, as well as the Vicar's report. I would ask you to please read all of these with care, as they reflect the diversity and reality of our life together here at Pinner Parish Church. The agenda is slightly different this year, with the addition of a Vicar's report on the Church of England Living in Love and Faith processes, these consultations and processes ending after 10 years, and the current situation regarding the Prayers of Love and Faith for the blessing of same sex relationships.

We will also be requesting that someone stand forward and fill the role of Parish Treasurer. We have formed a finance committee, but the role of Treasurer remains unfilled, and so if you are minded or interested in that role, do please see me and I would be delighted to discuss the nature of the role and any questions that you may have.

At the two meetings themselves (the Vestry and the Parochial) the Churchwardens are elected, as are members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In order to vote you need to be present at the meetings – voting in absentia is not allowed by the Church Representation Rules.

I look forward to seeing you all on 10th May.

Yours,



The Rev'd Paul Hullyer. CF.
Vicar of Pinner

Pinner Vicarage, Church Lane, Pinner HA5 3AA
Tel: 020 8866 3869
email: paul.hullyer@pinnerparishchurch.org.uk

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

**The Annual Vestry Meeting of Parishioners will be held on
Sunday, 10th May 2025 in the Parish Hall at 11.30 am**

AGENDA

Parish Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening Prayer, then the Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting
- 2 Apologies for absence for both meetings
- 3 Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting of 2025 (found in the Annual Report)
- 4 Election of Two Churchwardens

**The Annual Parochial Meeting will be held on
Sunday, 10th May after the above meeting**

AGENDA

Annual Parochial meeting

1. Opening Prayer, then the Secretary reads the Notice convening the meeting
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2025 (found in the Annual Report)
3. Matters arising from the above minutes
4. Notification of Any Other Business for this meeting
5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council from May 2025 – May 2028
6. Elections to the Harrow Deanery Synod (4 vacancies from 2026 for a term of three years)
7. Electoral Roll report
8. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church
9. Election of an Independent Examiner
10. Safeguarding
11. The Vicar's Report on the Church of England Living in Love and Faith process of the last 10 years: what has been achieved, and the current situation within the Church of England.
12. Questions
13. Any Other Business as per item 4
14. The Grace

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER**

Parochial Church Council Members year ending 31 December 2025

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC. Members of the PCC Standing Committee are marked with an asterisk.

Clergy:	Reverend Paul Hullyer (Vicar)* Reverend Mark Arnold [SSM] (Assistant Priest) Reverend Ben Bloom (Assistant Curate)
Church Wardens:	Rosemary Lay* (first elected 2024) Penny French* (first elected 2021)
Diocesan Synod:	Stephen Brown (first elected 2024)
Deanery Synod:	Stephen Brown (first elected 2023) Olivia Thorndon (first elected 2024) Morella Boon (first elected 2024)
Elected to PCC:	Retiring 2026 (elected in May 2023) Morella Boon Muriel McGregor Elizabeth Taleska Retiring 2027 (elected in May 2024) Carolyn White* Sarah Hullyer Hilary Gould Richard Lawrey Retiring 2028 (elected in May 2025) Karina Johnson* Verena Olby
Safeguarding Officer:	Katherine Pinching (co-opted)
Treasurer:	Joanna Kothary* (co-opted) (Resigned 30 th September 2025)

The following are not members of the PCC but are in attendance in order to fulfil their functions

PCC Secretary:	Elizabeth Edwards
Minutes Secretary:	Trevor Mitchell

PARISH OF PINNER

The **Meeting of Parishioners** was held on Sunday 25th May 2025 at 11.30am in the Church Hall.

PRESENT: - The Rev'd Paul Hullyer (Chair), Penny French (Churchwarden), Rosemary Lay (Churchwarden), the Secretary, Hon Treasurer, members of the Church Council and congregation (See Appendix A).

1. Opening Prayer was said by Revd Paul Hullyer.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Audrey and John Taylor, Alice Renaud, Lewis and Isabel Beddison, Martin and Hilary Singleton, Gillian Andrews, Olivia Thorndon, David Chilton, David Chittleborough, Nick and Judith Childs, Nick and Valerie Ridge, Michael and Alison Hetreed, Ian and Terrie Trimmer, Toby Hullyer, Chris Kenny, Jenny Youle and Katherine Pinching.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Vestry meeting of 2024 (found in the Annual report):** The adoption of the Minutes of the last Vestry meeting held on Sunday 19th May 2024 was proposed by Anita Lomax and after being duly seconded by Morella Boon was agreed unanimously by all those present who attended the Meeting on 19th May 2024 and was then signed by Rev'd Paul Hullyer as a true record of the Meeting.
4. **Election of 2 Churchwardens:** The Vicar informed the meeting that Penny French and Rosemary Lay were prepared to remain in office for another year. Having been duly proposed by Elizabeth Hillman and Emmie McGregor and seconded by Morella Boon and Angela Kenny, they were unanimously re-elected unopposed.

The Vicar took the opportunity to thank both Penny and Rosemary for their support and agreeing to remain as Churchwardens for another year.

This concluded the business of the Meeting of Parishioners.



The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** was held on Sunday 25th May 2025 at 11.40am in the Church Hall

PRESENT: - The Rev'd Paul Hullyer (Chair), Penny French (Churchwarden), Rosemary Lay (Churchwardens), the Secretary, Hon Treasurer, members of the Church Council and congregation (See Appendix A).

Opening Prayer was said by Rev'd Paul Hullyer.

Apologies for absence: Audrey and John Taylor, Alice Renaud, Lewis and Isabel Beddison, Martin and Hilary Singleton, Gillian Andrews, Olivia Thorndon, David Chilton, David Chittleborough, Nick and Judith Childs, Nick and Valerie Ridge, Michael and Alison Hetreed, Ian and Terrie Trimmer, Toby Hullyer, Chris Kenny, Jenny Youle and Katherine Pinching.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2024 (found in the Annual report):** - The adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 19th May 2024 was proposed by Carolyn White and after being duly seconded by Roger French was approved unanimously by all those present who attended the Meeting on 19th May 2024 and was then signed by Rev'd Paul Hullyer as a true record of the Meeting.
2. **Matters arising from the minutes:** - None
3. **Notification of Any Other Business for this meeting:** -
 - Presentation to Helen Walsh
4. **Election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the term May 2025 to May 2028:** - An election was held to fill 5 vacancies and having been duly proposed by Angela Kenny and seconded by Peter Ellis, Anna Karina Johnson was duly elected unopposed.
5. **Election to Harrow Deanery Synod:** There are no vacancies at this APCM.
6. **Electoral Roll Report:** - Janet Huszczo reported: This year was the complete renewal of the Electoral Roll. The names of all members were removed from the current list and everyone had to reapply. When this was completed there were 169 members on the new Electoral Roll. In the years when there is a complete renewal, there is always a significant drop in numbers. With this in mind Janet had sent reminders to all those who were on the previous Roll. Nevertheless, there was approximately a reduction of 50 names. In a reply to a question Janet confirmed that the Electoral Roll is now completely renewed every 6 years. The Vicar thanked Janet on behalf of himself and the parish for all she does in undertaking the responsibilities of the Parish Administrator and maintaining the smooth running of the Parish Office.
7. **Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church (Attached in the Annual Report):** - Firstly the Vicar advised the meeting that after 4 years of being our Hon. Treasurer, Joanna Kothary would now like to stand down. The Vicar took the opportunity to ask for volunteers from the congregation to take over as our new Hon Treasurer. Paul stressed that he or she would be part of the existing financial team, and not be working alone. Before Joanna presented her report the Vicar took the opportunity to thank her for all she had done during the past 4 years to control the church's finances.

The Hon Treasurer then presented her report: - Joanna highlighted the following. Statement of Financial Activities – Net surplus of income for the year was £80,788. This was mainly due to legacies received totalling £37,566. Stewardship increased by approximately £11,000. Common Fund contribution decreased by £10,000 compared to 2023. There was also a reduction in our Curate expenses following Emma moving from Pinner to her own parish in July 2024. In addition we also received a donation from the Friends of St John's towards the cost of a new CCTV system for the church and sealing the asbestos in the boiler room ceiling. The actual cost of the CCTV was shown in the 2023 Financial Statements.

The largest contributors towards income are Stewardship of £162,000, our church hall income £55,000, property rentals £59,000, interest from deposit account £19,000 and legacies of £37,000. With regard to expenses, our Common Fund contribution was £103,000. Our Curate housing and expenses was £12,000, Staff costs £26,000, Hall expenses £20,000, utilities and insurance £23,000, investment properties running expenses £39,000 and our charitable donations were £11,500. The properties running costs appeared to be rather high, but the total figure did include installing new fire doors in Burhill Grove of £3000, and water leaks of £1,000. The bulk of costs were for Eastcote Road being £10,200 for repairs and redecoration together with £4,000 for a new boiler. With regard to Chamberlain Way £2,000 was spent on plumbing repairs.

In reply to questions raised it was noted that 50% of Stewardship income comes from just 29 members of the congregation. This is not unusual in a parish, but could be an issue with a substantial drop in income at some time in the future. Dealing with the second question, it was confirmed that the net profits from the Pinner Music Festivals were paid to the nominated charity for that year, whereas profits from Music in Pinner Series are retained by the church. The Vicar mentioned that Ben, our new curate will be involved in the next Stewardship campaign as part of his training. Planned giving will drop in 2025 for numerous reasons and so will need to be boosted by another Stewardship campaign either this or next year. With regard to financing our new Curate, Joanna warned that we will quite likely be in deficit by the end of the current financial year.

Turning now to the Balance Sheet, it was noted that depreciation amounted to £9,197. The investment properties were valued at £1,400,000 being the same as for 2023. The breakdown of our total assets of £1,989,984 was detailed in the Financial Statements under the heading of "Overview". Contained in the Overview was a Hall Fund totalling £163,335. As this is used not only for church hall funds but also general costs of the church, it has recently been proposed by the PCC that from 1st January 2025 this fund should be merged with the General Fund. There is also a restricted Youth Worker Fund, although there is currently no intention of employing a Youth Worker. In the circumstances it is hoped that we can remove the restriction and re-designate the fund as unrestricted and re-title it "Youth Work Fund".

Although at this time we have healthy reserves helped by this year by an unusual surplus of income due to receipt of substantial legacies, these funds will, Joanna warned, be quickly depleted should we encounter deficits in future years.

In reply to a question it was confirmed that our managing agents, Gibbs Gillespie, provided the professional valuation of our 3 investment properties. During 2025 the Churchwardens will look to see if better value for money can be found by transferring the management of our rented properties to another estate agent.

To conclude, the Treasurer proposed acceptance of the Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2024 and after being duly seconded by Ian Galloway was approved unanimously by all those present. The Vicar expressed his thanks to Joanna, for the meticulous preparation of the Financial Statements, together with those in the finance team who have supported the Hon Treasurer on a day to day basis.

8. **Election of Independent Examiner:** -The Treasurer proposed that Buckingham & Company should be appointed for another year and after being duly seconded by Christopher Lomax, was agreed unanimously by all those present.

9. **Safeguarding issues:**

The Vicar said that this has not been the best year for the Church of England regarding safeguarding. With regard to our own church's safeguarding procedures, Katherine Pinching is willing to serve another year in the role of our Safeguarding Officer and will accordingly be co-opted back onto the PCC at its next meeting. Safeguarding is a vitally important issue with the protection of the most vulnerable within our community. The Parish Safeguarding Officer deals with safeguarding issues not only for those using the church, but also our clergy. If Katherine had any concerns either with anyone using the church or a member of our clergy then it would be referred immediately to safeguarding team within the Diocese of London. Safeguarding appears on every PCC agenda so that any issues can be regularly reviewed. Also the Vicar, Katherine and members of the PCC are obliged to keep up-to-date with regular training.

10. **Questions / Vicar's comments: -**

Following on from safeguarding, there was a discussion about what type of Anglican Church do we want? The process of choosing a new Archbishop of Canterbury is taking an extraordinary long time with no possibility of an appointment being made in the near future. With the election of members to the Deanery Synod next year it will be important to have a strong representation from churches like ourselves i.e. Anglican Liberal Catholicism to balance out the views of the Conservative Evangelicals.

The Vicar highlighted the fact that there was a 14th century strongbox / chest on display in the church hall which is normally kept in the tower for safekeeping. It has three separate locks. The Vicar would have held one key with the other two held by the Churchwardens. A strong metaphor and an excellent example of cooperation within our church.

The Vicar also confirmed that bellringing will continue in our church with all previous difficulties affably resolved.

Paul and the Churchwardens are looking at ways to take forward the possibility of installing a new external floodlighting system. This is quite a complicated procedure bearing in mind the Diocese and local community will need to be consulted.

Looking ahead it would also be ideal if we could complete our restoration programme by redecorating the Nave of the church.

11. **Any Other Business as per item 4:-**

- After 16 years of supporting the PCC as Secretary, Helen Walsh has decided to stand down and the Vicar was pleased to announce Elizabeth Edwards has agreed to take over the roll. The Vicar took the opportunity to thank Helen on behalf of the PCC for her years of dedicated service and present her with a gift.
- Before the meeting was brought to an end, Penny French on behalf of those attending the meeting and the wider congregation thanked the Vicar for all he did together with Sarah, Thomas and Toby for supporting Paul through his ministry.

12. **There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended with a closing prayer said by the Vicar at 1.00pm.**

Appendix A

Members of the Congregation attending both the Parish Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Meeting who signed the attendance register.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2025

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 27th January 2025

Parish Finances: - Copies of the 2025 budget were noted. Our Hon Treasurer advised the PCC that there would be an estimated surplus at the end of 2025 of £1,204, which following discussion was increased to £2,124. An updated budget will be circulated to members of the PCC by email.

Gift Aid – Change of Software to Cloud based software from a PC based software - Morella explained that our current computer software package provided by Data Developments which is PC based is being withdrawn in 2027 to be replaced by a Cloud based software package. Morella recommends transferring to the new system this year, but running both systems in parallel for at least 1 month to ensure that the new package is working correctly.

Churchwardens Business:-

An informal valuation has been provided by Gibbs Gillespie for our investment properties:-

Chamberlain way £350,000

Burhill Grove £350,000

Eastcote Road £700,000

This is the same value as at December 2021 and thought by the PCC to be lower than expectations. Rosemary Lay expressed the view that perhaps we were not getting value for money from the services being provided to us by our estate agents. However, it would be a massive undertaking for the Churchwardens to switch to another managing agent. It was suggested that we ask another estate agent (possibly Robsons) to provide a formal valuation for the above mentioned properties.

Penny French had received a complaint that someone had slipped leaving the West door of the church due to algae on the steps. Accordingly with help, Penny cleaned the steps from the Vestry, steps from the West door and the path from the South porch with non-toxic cleaning fluid. This will now be done on a regular basis.

Children and Youth Group update: -The Christmas craft morning was very successful with 38 children attending which produced an approximate profit of £50. This will be followed by another craft morning at Easter which is scheduled for Monday 14th April.

Church heating: - Rosemary Lay had been asked to raise the question regarding the potential for a new boiler as it is very cold in church. The Vicar expressed the view that because it is a medieval church it is by definition a cold building. The view was expressed by some members of the PCC that it was much too expensive to replace the heating system and would be a massive undertaking. In view of the concerns expressed by the PCC the Vicar will review the Church's Risk Assessment with particular reference to the church's heating system and more specifically, the gas boiler.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2025

Parish Finances: - Copies of the first draft of the Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2024 were noted.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net surplus for the year of £84,399. This primarily consists of unrestricted legacies received of £37,056; An increase in Voluntary Giving of £12,000; a contribution of £8,000 made by the Friends towards the cost of the new CCTV installation, and sealing the boiler room ceiling. A saving of £9,000 following our Curate vacating her rented property in July. There was an increase of £8,800 in rent received from properties, but this was offset by increases in the cost of maintenance during the year. An increase in interest received from deposit accounts of £7,900. A reduction of £10,000 in our contribution towards the Common Fund. The valuation of our 3 investment properties have remained the same since 2023 i.e. £1,400,000.

The Hon Treasurer summed up her presentation by saying we should not be complacent because although there was a

surplus of £84,000 for 2024, £45,000 was made up of legacies and donations from the Friends.

Churchwardens Business:-

The Eastcote Road property – The property is now empty and the keys handed to Ben, our new Curate. The property is in an excellent condition. Ben intends to move in during the last week of May 2025 and will be with us for the Patronal Festival.

Children and Youth Group update: - SNIP's breakfast served after the 10am service was very successful and raised £204.66 for the Alzheimer's Society. The Vicar advised the PCC that Richard Hillman is stepping down as a SNIP leader. Richard has been a member of SNIP and a SNIP leader for 28 years.

Mark Arnold has spent a lot of his spare time thinking of ways to improve the Children's Corner. Mark suggests that improvements to the Children's Corner can be dealt with in three stages. Firstly the corner should be made larger. The second stage is to rejuvenate the enlarged area (a) by removing the antique Altar rail which is propped up against the wall (b) installing a soft 30mm Yoga play mat (c) replacing the table and chairs and (d) a new storage tower and storage boxes to be fitted underneath the wooden bench. The third stage is to (a) have a purpose made cushion for the bench (b) fix a shelf / noticeboard in the corner (a faculty will be required for this) and (c) assess the outcome of all the changes and decide if any additions or modifications are required. Mark and the Vicar proposed that permission be given from the PCC to change the seating and agree expenditure estimated at around £600 using the £130 already received from the Ecclesiastical Insurance together with £679 held in the Youth Committee fund.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 21st May 2025

Churchwardens Business:-

Eastcote Road property – Rosemary is in touch with OVO Energy to obtain a refund of standing charges while the property remains empty. Nevertheless, the company has given us £40 by way of an apology for the delay.

47 Chamberlain Way – The tenants have indicated that they want more work carried out to their maisonette. Rosemary has asked for full details from our managing agents, Gibbs Gillespie. The garden is very untidy and it will be brought to the tenant's attention as it is their responsibility to maintain the garden.

Parish Hall Committee update:-.

A report prepared by Ian Galloway (Chair of the Hall Committee) was duly noted.

The selected contractor who has been employed to undertake the external redecoration of the Church Hall is due to start work on this in the next couple of months. The cost of £7,500 has already been approved by the PCC at an earlier meeting. The Vicar proposed on behalf of the Hall Committee, expenditure up to £1,000 to be spent on a new digital projector, screen, adaptors and cage lock, and to be permanently fixed on the existing platform situated in the main hall.

Children and Youth Group update: The upgrading of the "Children's Corner" is ongoing. The project will be brought to the attention of the congregation by way of an article in the Review magazine.

Easter Craft Day was a success, with 28 children attending. It is the intention to continue with Christmas and Easter craft mornings in future years. Planning for this year's Holiday Club is well underway.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 16th July 2025

Parish Finances

Agree Letter of Engagement with Auditors as per 2025 APCM: - The letter has been signed and will be returned to our Auditors.

Agree 2026 Common Fund payment as per Standing Committee recommendation:

- The Standing Committee recommended £108,000 for our next year's contribution towards the Common Fund. The Diocese has requested £110,000. We are currently giving £106,000 for 2025.

There followed a discussion during which the following points were highlighted: -

- The "London Ministry Cost" benchmark previously known as "Parish Standard Cost" and also referred to as "Single Vicar Cost" is £99,880 for 2026.
- It is anticipated that there could be an overall deficit in our church's finances for 2026, although we do have substantial reserves.
- There will be another Stewardship Campaign at the end of this year with any increases implemented from January 2026.

At the end of the discussion, the Vicar, on behalf of the Standing Committee, proposed £108,000 as our contribution to the Common fund for 2026 and after being duly seconded by Carolyn White, was agreed by a majority of 12 in favour with 2 abstentions.

Joanna Kothary has advised the Vicar that she will stand down as our Hon Treasurer as at 1st September 2025. At the moment it is unlikely that we shall find a volunteer from the congregation to replace her. Consequently the responsibilities of Treasurer would have to be undertaken by the Churchwardens. Our Churchwardens believe that they do not have the skills, experience or qualifications to undertake such a role. Accordingly, the Standing Committee has discussed the necessity of employing a professional accountant to fill the Treasurer's role. It was noted that a paid Treasurer cannot be part of the PCC. All they can do is report and advise the PCC on financial matters. The general view of the PCC was that once the role of Treasurer is

outsourced it will never return in-house to be undertaken by a volunteer.

When considering outsourcing it should also be borne in mind that at some time in the future it will be necessary to replace members of the current finance team i.e. Trevor Mitchell, Chris Lomax, Morella Boon and Kevin Ogilvie when they feel it is also time to relinquish their financial roles within the church. The Standing Committee recommendation was to now employ a paid Parish Treasurer. After being proposed on behalf of the Standing Committee and duly seconded, was agreed by a majority.

Parish Hall Committee report: - A report prepared by Ian Galloway regarding the installation of the new projector and screen in the church hall was duly noted. A vote of thanks to Ian was recorded for all his work in bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion.

It is hoped that the external redecoration of the church hall will be completed during the summer.

Diocesan and Deanery Synodical updates:

-Stephen Brown reported that there was a Diocesan Synod held on 24th June and a Deanery Synod on 10th July.

At the Diocesan Synod Bishop Sarah introduced the main speaker of the evening, Nick Shepherd, who gave a presentation regarding the status of development of prayers for Love and Faith for use within parishes. There followed the presentation of accounts for the London Diocese Fund which showed an overall deficit of £4.2 million. Bishop Sarah made it quite clear to the synod her opposition to the Assisted Dying Bill as it moves to the House of Lords for consideration and debate.

Safeguarding update

The adoption of the Diocesan Safeguarding policy 2025/2026 was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Katherine was adopted as the Parish's Safeguarding officer by a unanimous vote.

Standing Committee election for 2 members of the PCC for next year

– Karina Johnson and Carolyn White were elected unopposed as PCC representatives to the Standing Committee.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 8th October 2025

Parish Finances

Paid parish Hon Treasurer's (the 'Treasurer') role – During the last meeting of the Standing Committee the process for finding a new Treasurer was reviewed. It became apparent that after advertising the vacancy widely among the congregation there are no volunteers willing to take on this role. In the circumstances Penny French had approached MCT Partnership Chartered Accountants, as the senior partner, Mayur C. Thakkar was known to Penny. A meeting had been arranged between Penny, our Vicar, Mayur and his colleague Philip to discuss the possibility of MCT Partnership taking on the role of Treasurer for our church. Consequently Mayur, on behalf of MCT Partnership agreed to take on the role of our paid Treasurer. MCT Partnership's fees would be £3,500 per annum inclusive of VAT. The contract between MCT Partnership and Pinner Parish Church would start from the 1st January 2026 although there would be a handover period between Jo and MCT by the end of this year. The Vicar had ascertained that around 25 parishes within the Willesden area are already employing an accountant as their Treasurer. Of those some were willing to disclose to our Vicar their accountant's fees, which averaged at around £6,000 per annum.

After being proposed by Carolyn White and seconded by Rosemary Lay, the proposal was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Churchwardens Business: -

A cheque was recently received from Ecclesiastical Insurance. They are running a scheme whereby any new customers with Ecclesiastical Insurance can nominate a church to receive a donation of £130. This is the second donation paid to St John's.

Area Dean's Visitation – The Vicar was pleased to announce that the Area Dean's Visitation was a great success and we passed "With flying Colours". The Vicar thanked the Churchwardens, our Parish Administrator and those who were also involved in supplying the copious amount of documentation that was required prior to the Visitation.

Parish Hall Committee report: The external redecoration of the church hall will now need to be postponed until next year. The new projector has been installed in the hall and was used very successfully during this summer's Holiday Club. A new screen has been purchased and will shortly be mounted in the hall to be used in conjunction with the projector.

Children and Youth report: There are now between 8 and 10 youngsters attending the weekly meetings of SNIP. SNIP is planning a "Sparkler Evening" in November, ice-skating at Somerset House after Christmas and possibly a visit to Harrow Wall Climbing Centre during 2026. The Vicar advocated that SNIP would welcome a female leader to supplement the team.

Missions and Charities Committee – A procedure has now been put in place whereby before the annual distribution is made to our regular charities, a check is made to ensure they are still in existence before any payments are made to them. The budget for this year is £12,750 i.e. approximately 10% of Stewardship.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 2nd December 2025

Parish Finances

Paid Parish Treasurer's (the 'Treasurer') role: - Sadly after reviewing what work and responsibilities involved being our Treasurer, MCT withdrew their offer, but instead proposed that they take over responsibility as our Independent Examiner. As Buckingham & Co already fulfils this role, their offer was politely declined by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Morella Boon also approached a firm of accountants who had recently relocated from Harrow to Pinner, but they felt that they were unable to help.

As a result it was decided to form a Finance Group consisting of those directly involved in the day-to-day finances of the church i.e. Churchwardens, Kevin Ogilvie, Chris Lomax, Morella Boon, Trevor Mitchell and chaired by the Vicar. (Subsequently Chris

Lomax informed the Group that he would prefer not to become involved with their deliberations, but was happy to continue as Paymaster) A meeting was held and the following decisions were made:-

- To meet on a monthly basis (probably the first formal meeting will be in January 2026).
- The Vicar will contact Buckingham & Co to arrange a meeting to advise them that we are without a Treasurer and ask their advice and suggestions as how we should try and find a new Treasurer. Also we shall need to know the best way to produce our end of year Financial Statements.

Trevor Mitchell volunteered to endeavour to prepare the above mentioned Financial Statements with the help of Deborah O'Neill, our Independent Examiner, and Kevin Ogilvie. The PCC expressed their thanks to Trevor. Trevor has already been in touch with those who are dealing with the church's finances on a day-to-day basis to obtain background information. The following will also be attending: The Vicar and Curate, Churchwardens, Carolyn White and Karina Johnson [as part of the Standing Committee] Morella Boon and Trevor Mitchell.

Church Fees – A schedule of increased church fees commencing 1st January 2026 prepared by Carolyn White was duly noted. Carolyn White explained the majority of the statutory fees have been increased by between approximately 4% and 4½%. Accordingly Carolyn proposed to the PCC that we also increase our own local fees by 4%, and rounded up to the nearest pound where appropriate.

Churchwardens Business: - Rosemary Lay explained to the PCC that The Renters' Rights Act 2025 is landmark legislation in England that received Royal Assent on 27th October 2025. It represents the biggest reform to the private rented sector in over 30 years, aiming to provide greater security and stability for tenants. The Act will be

implemented in three phases, with the first major changes coming into effect on 1st May 2026. As landlords it will involve the church in additional expenses with regard to upgraded responsibilities towards our tenants, and in particular specific work undertaken on our behalf by Gibbs Gillespie.

Parish Hall Committee report: -The new digital projector screen has been installed in the Church Hall.

AOB:-

Data Protection – Morella explained that in 2018 following the introduction of the Data Protection Act, Morella and Angela Kenny analysed what data we were holding on individuals and who was holding this information. This now needs to be revised and brought up-to-date in particular personal data held on personal devices.

Rosemary Lay – Rosemary is stepping down as Churchwarden at the end of this year for family reasons. Angela Kenny is replacing Rosemary on a temporary basis until next year's APCM. The Vicar took the opportunity, on behalf of the PCC, to thank Rosemary for all that she has done for the benefit of St Johns during her time as Churchwarden.

8am Sunday Service –From Sunday 4th January the 8am Sunday service will be held in the Lady Chapel rather than the Chancel and Nave due to the relatively small number of our congregation who attend this service.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults - The PCC has discussed the topic of safeguarding on several occasions over the course of the year and confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Elizabeth Edwards, PCC Secretary
Trevor Mitchell, PCC Minutes Secretary

VICAR'S REPORT ON PARISH LIFE

Usually, I write something of a take on the current state of the Church of England: where certain items of ecclesiastical business have or have not progressed to in the synodical process; the importance of safeguarding within the life of the church, both national and local, and other such items of wider Church of England process.

This year I was intending to write about the Living in Love and Faith process; the past 9 years (or slightly longer in fact) discussing the nature of and place within the church of same-sex love and its outpouring and flowering in human relationships. But I find that I just can't. The statement from the House of Bishops in October 2025 saying that the LLF process would come to a close, the reiteration of that by the February 2026 General Synod, the formation of yet another "working party" to "require more theological thinking and reflection", the interminable use of the phrase "lessons learned", the bullying and frankly homophobic behaviour of certain sections within the CofE, and the pain and displacement felt by many friends and clerical colleagues across the church means that I just cannot bring myself to write in depth about it.

Instead, I intend to give a verbal update at the APCM itself and to answer any questions that people have, for it is a vital issue within the Church that *all* are felt to be included and that *all* are seen to reflect the love of Christ to us that we may have life in abundance. To be personally honest, it hasn't always felt like that for me in regard to the LLF processes in the past couple of years, so best to speak and not to write.

So, parish life:-

Firstly - the parish requires a Hon.Treasurer. This year, Jo Kothary (who retired from the role in 2025) and Trevor Mitchell, are kindly preparing our annual accounts for us and I am more grateful to them than I can say, but we require a Treasurer to report to the PCC, to have an oversight of the many others who take parts of the financial processes of our church, to be on the finance committee and to be available to answer questions when

required. If there is not a Treasurer, the role defaults to the Churchwardens, who frankly already have enough to do. We are a healthy and prayerful community, so please do prayerfully and seriously consider if you could take on this role. I will be blunt: we require a PCC treasurer.

Secondly – we welcomed Fr. Ben who has settled so well among us, and who will be ordained as a Priest on Saturday, June 20th and then will hold his First Mass later the same day at 6pm. Do please put both into your diaries. We have been blessed not just by Ben's presence, but by his stimulating sermons, pastoral love and evident heart for the Gospel. We are very blessed to have Ben with us. On June 27th, Alice Renaud will be ordained as a Deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral and will serve her Title at St. Michael and All Angels, Harrow Weald. Alice's final Sunday here will be on May 17th so please come to bid her a loving and a fond farewell.

Thirdly – we have welcomed in the past year a wide variety of groups, schools, bell-ringers, singers, musicians, pre-schools, community groups and others into the church, not to mention the parish hall. I know that it's something that I repeatedly mention, but only this week someone with whom I was having a discussion mentioned to me how nice and refreshing it was to have our church open: to be able to walk in on a sunny day and pray. That very openness is, for me, not just something that we should be doing in itself but is also a mark of a truly inclusive church, rather than one which is open only when the congregational faithful gather to worship. Ecclesial inclusivity tends to be seen only through the lens of sexual orientation, and that is simply not the case.

Fourthly – if you are interested in serving at the Altar on a Sunday, reading the Lesson, leading intercessions, being on the PCC or Deanery Synod, bell-ringing, singing in the choir, cleaning the church, helping with Kids' church, craft mornings or Holiday club, and much else, do please say so to either one of the Wardens or one of the clergy. As a community we are richly blessed by so many people who give of their

time freely and without asking anything in return and that enables us to hold to a high standard of not only worship, but care for buildings and site.

Fifthly – thank you to all who have been involved in the past year, and that’s everyone. We have celebrated births and mourned the death of loved ones, and that round of annual life and death reminds us of the God whom we serve and why we exist. If everything that we do is enabled and undergirded by our faith then it isn’t made any the easier, but it does mean that we have an extra dimension to help us, through prayer, when times are difficult.

There is much talk at the moment about what is termed the “quiet revival” – a return to faith by those in their 20’s – 30’s which is being felt in many places. I’m not exactly sure about that myself, as in my ministry I have seen many people put their faith aside and return some 20 or 30 years later. What I have realised is that, in many cases, it isn’t the faith that is put aside but the church itself. That many people return to churches of all styles is proof that there will always be a wider church until the time comes when it has served it’s earthly purpose, but the idea of a quiet revival is one that sits a little uncomfortably with me as I know many people who are faithful Christians but remain outside of the church structures, of any denomination.

I also know many people who currently espouse the idea that one can be a Christian while not believing in Jesus but teaching his values. Well, that’s all well and good if the Christological teachings are at the heart of our individual humanity, but in order to be a Christian we need to believe that Jesus is who he says he is first and foremost and then try to live our lives according to his teachings. Any else, while worthy, is not living the Christian faith for there is an absence of Word, Sacrament and prayer.

A community with Christ at its heart is always a community that will be attractive, despite the fragility of the human element called to make Christ known to the world.

So, thank you to Sarah, Tom and Toby and Tilly; to our churchwardens and my ministerial colleagues, and to you all for seeking to continually make Christ known in the world despite all that makes it difficult at present both within and without of the Church.

With prayers,

Fr. Paul.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Maintenance

The Parish owns three residential Properties: after some garden work, our new curate Ben moved into our Eastcote Road property. We still have two properties which are let. Their rents were increased by 5% this year. The 'Renters Rights Acts' have now come on stream and will give more help to tenants. Gibbs Gillespie promises to 'sort us through change'.

Permission has been granted to replace the carpets at Burhill Grove which have been damaged by moths. The new ones will be of man-made fibre and will be laid as soon as it can be arranged with the tenant. The Gas Safety Record has been renewed as well at this property. Mould was treated at Chamberlain Way in most of the rooms. Gibbs Gillespie continues to manage the properties for us and inspect them twice a year. All the statutory gas and electric checks are up to date, and all three properties are in a good state of repair.

Maintenance and inspection of several items takes place every year, fire alarm (Hall), fire extinguishers, intruder alarm (Sacristy), boilers (Hall and Church), lightning conductor, PAT testing and gutter clearance. These have all been undertaken this year and the necessary certificates received.

Work undertaken at the church this year includes:

- The white lines outside have been repainted.
- The paving has been treated with an eco-friendly non-slip liquid to prevent algae.
- In the Calvary garden the stone structure continues to be planted and maintained by Mrs Susan Beatty.
- Both Yew trees have been pruned, as has the Apple tree in the Hall Garden.
- The dead Cherry tree near the Lych Gate has been removed.
- An overgrown area of the graveyard has been cleared revealing some ancient headstones belonging to children.

- The grounds have been carefully maintained from April to October by B.Wilson Gardening Services.
- Two new pots with Olive trees have been installed by the West Door.
- The Calvary Garden Signs have been repaired.
- The Notice Board by the South Door has been repaired and renovated.
- The ramp in the South porch has been covered with a slip proof mat.

We would like to thank Janet Huszczo, Ian Galloway and the Hall committee and other kind volunteers for all they have done this year to repair and maintain the fabric of the Church and Hall and their surroundings.

Rosemary Lay and Penny French
Churchwardens

Hall Committee

The hall continues to be well used for church events, and by regular and casual hirers. As well as refreshments after the Sunday morning service, church events include Kids Church, SNIP, NET talks, the Lent course and the children's Holiday Club and Craft Mornings.

Our regular hirers include Pinner Parish Pre-school, Pinner Theatre Dance, Rainbows, Tai Chi, Taekwondo, Yoga and Pilates classes. Pianobeats classes, teaching children keyboard skills, are popular and run 7 days per week in the side rooms. With the RSPB and Women's Institute holding monthly evening meetings, we are virtually fully booked during the week. We were pleased to once again host the Pinner Sketch Club Summer Exhibition in August and the PAC Christmas lunch in December.

At weekends the hall is popular for children's parties and other social gatherings.

We are grateful to these outside groups for their use of the hall which provides a significant contribution to church income.

During the year we replaced the overhead projector and screen, and had the external woodwork re-varnished. We also had to replace the hot water urn in the kitchen.

My thanks to the hall committee members, Sarah Hullyer, Becca White and Vino Preetham.

Ian Galloway
Chairman

Mission & Charities Committee

The Lent and Easter Appeal for 2025 was for Alzheimer's Society and the speaker was Pippa Holdup, the regional fundraiser. The Alzheimer's Society works with people living with dementia, carers, experts, campaigners, researchers and clinicians. It aims to make new treatments available, funding research, supporting those affected and helping to make diagnosis accurate. The appeal raised £7,132.05 including the SNIP breakfast, bell ringers' VE Day event, notified online donations, Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme claims.

For Harvest 2025, the appeal was for the Sudan fund of Save the Children. The Sudan has suffered famine and displacement affecting 3.7 million children. A total of £3112.50 was donated including gift aid and GASDS. In addition, 33.5 kg of fruit and vegetables were given for Harrow Food Bank.

For Advent and Christmas 2025, the appeal was for Crisis at Christmas in support of 3500 volunteers providing accommodation, food and support for homeless people in London and across UK. The amount raised, £5947.63, was the highest for over five years. The Christingle Service raised £1372.00 for the Children's Society.

The Lent and Easter Appeal for 2026 is for the British Red Cross, specifically for Ukraine and Gaza. Sasha Tsai from the charity gave an excellent and heartfelt talk on 15/2/26 on the effects of war on the population in those areas and how British Red Cross through its International Partners is one of the few charities able to operate.

Annual giving through Stewardship was £129,000 pa, charity giving being limited to £12,500-£13,000 as 10% of income. Two recipient charities failed during the year, although the money was repaid. Welldon Activity Group ceased suddenly due to a safeguarding issue and Kittrinos, as the result of an adverse employment tribunal. ActionAid UK was adopted as a new recipient providing a wide range of work associated with climate change including alleviating its effects in the poorest countries and lobbying governments to reduce practices that increase the problem.

Current annual giving in 2025 of £12,750 comprised £6,000 in Church funded charities, £3,000 in UK Focus, and £3,750 in Overseas Focus. The current charities are:

- (a) USPG, Christians against Poverty (debt counselling), Church Army, Firm Foundation (homeless people in Harrow)
- (b) Bereavement Care, St Luke's Hospice, Unseen UK (helpline supporting victims of slavery)
- (c) Hope and Homes for Children, Mildmay, Action Aid UK.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to help with the work of the Missions and Charities Committee.

Peter Wilson

Nurture Education and Training

The NET Group oversees a Study and Development Programme for all Church members and those interested in the topics. The current members of the organising group are: Peter Ellis (Chair), Ann Fuller, Karina Johnson, Angela Kenny, Chris Kenny, and Emmie McGregor.

The Group usually meets about 4 times a year to plan events, but all these planned events are open to everybody.

Our events in 2025 were:

1 March - Lent Quiet Day with Audrey Hamilton at SPEC.

Our Quiet days are always interesting, and SPEC (formerly the Grail), in Waxwell Lane,

is a truly wonderful local venue. The day was very suitable for Lent in 2025.

Embracing God's life-giving invitation for us this Lent

'Come back to me with all your heart' (Joel 2:12)



We met on 1 March, to prepare for Lent in our various ways. We were very ably assisted in this by our friend and Retreat giver, Audrey Hamilton. The day started wonderfully with coffee and freshly prepared croissants!

Audrey then got us to ponder the words 'if anyone is seeking God, the Beloved is seeking that person much more'. We were all intrigued by the concept of what God calls us. Does he know our name? - does he have a special name for us? or does the Lord just know us intimately and has no need for a name?

In our contemplations, we were able to wander through some of the wonderful grounds, viewing the snowdrops and an occasional crocus, and the quaint tumble-down out-buildings further from the house. We then had a superb lunch of homemade soup, fresh bread, cheese and ham.

Suitably refreshed after Lunch, we continued our Quiet time, reflecting on the wonders of the Lord. We had contemplated the Transfiguration and had seen this as a pivotal moment where God and humans meet - and as a bridge between earth and heaven.

We finished the day with our Eucharist in the Rotunda. Father Paul arrived to administer the Mass to us. Following that, we had more food! This time there was cake and tea –

home-made cakes prepared specially by our own Jane Mayes. A truly magnificent day!

Our 2025 programme continued with:

29 March: 'Competing Narratives – The Holy Land' Canon Andy Thompson in the Church Hall.

On 29 March, about 40 of us gathered in the Church Hall for an adventure into the Holy Land. Israel, Gaza, and Palestine had been in the news recently such that none of us knew quite what to expect.

However, we did start as expected with refreshments of tea, coffee, and various pastries. Our speaker, the Revd. Canon Andrew Thompson, is rather an expert on matters to do with the Middle East having worked there for a few years and having visited recently. He started by putting the subject of the Holy Land in context: the large number of people dead and the hostages. We spoke about the reality of antisemitism and Islamophobia.

We then delved into the history of the region, looking at theology, mentioning justice, and then looking hopefully at the future. But before we got to the future, we had a fairly detailed timeline – starting at 1900 BCE with Abraham. We of course, mentioned David, Israeli (which split into Israel and Judah), Persia, Greeks, Romans, the Jews establishing Judaea, and Christ being born. The crusades were an important piece of the history, as was the Muslim rule.

In 1947, the UN partitioned Palestine into areas of influence with 55% being given to the Jews. In 1948 Israel declared itself an independent state and war broke out. More recently, in 2024, there was the Hamas attack.

History seems to repeat itself and conflict continues. So what can we do? The answer isn't easy... However, we can be well informed, we can support peacemakers, and we can get involved with local interfaith groups. This was a very thought-provoking morning!

Our next event was very different!

17 May - The Church Party in Church Hall.

The Church Party on Saturday 17th May was a wonderful happy event. About 60 people made merry in a joyous atmosphere. We were entertained by the Junior choir who sang various types of music. The solos were a clear winner. Martin then led a quiz involving counting (in my case just guessing) the number of notes he played on the keyboard, during a particular rendition. There were several close tries, but the victor was Verena, who was very happy with a box of chocolates!

Then food and drink were consumed after the choir had finished their task! There was an abundance of sandwiches, cakes, scones, Prosecco, and soft drinks in addition to tea and coffee. We also had many games to entertain. There was a partly completed jigsaw to finish, Jenga was a great success - with a twist as rooms were built and dolls and other creatures were added! The marble game was also a great hit. The party ended far too soon, and all were sorry to leave. A massive 'thank you' to the Junior Choir who brought along Martin Singleton.

We look forward to having more such fun another time!



The next event was also popular!

6 September - Alice Elmer spoke about her 'Journey to Ordination'.

Alice is an inspiration to us all! On Saturday 6 September Alice spoke of her exciting journey towards ordination. She described how she grew up in St-Malo and, as is the practice in France, she had no religious education at school. Her mother had been born in Wales, her father was French, and neither talked to Alice about God. One day, when Alice was still a child, her mother presented her with a Bible, in French, and shortly after that, her father gave Alice the Koran. Whilst showing a degree of interest in both texts, over the next few years Alice carried out research into other religions. Interestingly it was the Lutheran church that appeared to make most sense, and Alice was baptised in a Parisian Lutheran church in 1994, at the age of 23. But work eventually took Alice to London where a chance encounter with a Church of England, resulted in her wonderful reaction: "That's it! That's what I want!"

So, Alice became an Anglican. At that point, Alice had absolutely no thought of ever training for the ministry.

She married Mark in 2005, and they had a son, John, in 2009. Alice was working full-time in Finance. She was very busy; it was a stressful job. She was the sole earner as Mark had become a full-time carer for their son, who has autism and learning difficulties.

Alice, Mark and John were by now living in Pinner, attending St John the Baptist Church. Simon, the priest in Pinner at the time of her wedding, had encouraged Alice to become an altar server. Again, at this point, Alice still had no intention of training for the ministry and never thought about it. Alice received the call to ministry during a service in November 2021, as she listened to the Gospel reading – Jesus calling the disciples. Alice spoke to Father Paul straight after the service. Her initial thought was that she could become a lay minister, but Father Paul suggested she consider ordination training. By the time Alice got home that day, she knew in her heart that she was being called to the priesthood.

Obviously, Alice passed all assessments before being accepted for ordination training. She started her training in September 2023 at St. Mellitus College in London. Alice aims to complete her academic theology training in June 2026, and will then, God willing, be ordained a Deacon. She will then begin her 3-year curacy, which is likely to be in a church close to her home in North Harrow.

During her talk, Alice was keen to emphasise the help, support and guidance from Father Paul and members of the Ministry team. Also, she was heartened by the positive encouragement of people within the whole congregation. But, of course, above all, she has been blessed with the love and support of her devoted husband, Mark. We all wish Alice well on her continued voyage.

And so, we came to our last event of 2025.
29 November - Advent Quiet Morning in Church. 'Stop! In the Name of Love. Daring to Rest in God.'

We had a wonderful Quiet Morning in preparation for Advent on Saturday 29 November, the day before Advent Sunday. 21 people came to listen and reflect in Church. We knew that Advent is traditionally a time of preparation and waiting, yet now this can be so easily squeezed out by the excitement and commercialisation of Christmas. We were willing to take some hours of quiet to prepare for Advent and to allow us to encounter new rhythms of grace, to wait upon God as we rest, and perchance to dream. We had been warned that God may just surprise us! This event was carefully crafted and led by Rev'd Caroline Shuttleworth.

After introductions and a gathering prayer, we had a reflection on stone with a reading about the hardness of Pharaoh. We had stones to hold in our hands to assist in thinking about this hardness. That reflection was followed by rejoicing in the easy softness of Sabbath. We had beautiful soft pieces of blanket to assist us in this part.

After further quiet, we had a Candle reflection where candles were laid out on the floor, and then lit, whilst we thought about God's sabbath rest. We all thought about

how we could continue to include times of quiet and stillness in our lives in the Advent season and beyond. We owe Caroline a huge 'Thank You' for her skill in directing this morning; we hope to see her again.

Although this is the report of events for 2025, we have already started our 2026 programme:

2026

7 February – 'What is Prayer and what is it for you?' We had a wonderful session on Prayers. This was in Church on Saturday 7 February and about 40 people came to hear and listen.

After the usual refreshments, Father Ben began with some questions about Prayer. 'What is Prayer and what is it for you?' After we had discussed this, we heard what some famous people had expressed. Augustine of Hippo had said that prayer is the lifting up of the mind to God. Martin Luther commented, 'To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing'. Rowan Williams asserts that prayer is about learning to desire what God desires.

And so, we moved on to think about types of prayer practices: Intercession, Petitions, Scriptural Prayer, Meditative Prayer, Contemplative Prayer, Centering Prayer, The Jesus Prayer, The Daily Office, Prayers of Lament, Embodied Prayer, and The Examen.

We then completed a Silent Prayer Exercise: 'Let Your God Love You' - beginning 'Be silent, Be still, Be alone.' – and ending with 5 minutes of Silence.

Then followed a period of Lectio Divina with a reading of 'The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus'. Ben spoke about resources that we might use in our Prayer Life.

We then, somewhat reluctantly, broke for more refreshments before the second part which focused on Intercessions.

Father Paul led this session. He reminded us that those who lead the Intercessions are praying and not preaching. Paul spoke about the ordering of our intercessions. He felt that we should not always pray for the Church before the World. We should perhaps be

more flexible in our approaches and not always pray for the same things or mention the same people every time. However, we should be mindful to always include those recently deceased and those who have anniversaries on that day; relatives may well be visiting especially to hear that name being read out.

Those writing Intercessions need to be aware of what is happening in the world at that particular moment. We spoke about certain dramatic events that would have to be mentioned in some way. We live in a world where there are many unfolding important issues - and so those writing and reading Intercessions need to be awake to such possibilities.

Paul left us with several real-life scenarios of events that would impact on the Intercessions of the day. The death of a young child from the regular congregation, with intercessions on the Sunday when the family and relatives would be in the Church, was just one example. Flexibility and judgement appeared to be key factors.

We thanked both Father Paul and Father Ben for their thoughtful and helpful input. We are truly lucky to have them with us.

We have also had the *Lent Quiet Morning*.

Coming Home to God - Saturday 7 March saw a group of just under 20 people gather in the Vestry, and then Church, for this reflection on the parable of the Return of the Prodigal Son. We were served with our initial beverage but told to hold on to our cups for any refills that we desired throughout the morning. Biscuits were also an option!

At 10am, we all gathered together in church where Ann Fuller led us in this Quiet Morning. We initially listened to a song 'I knew you would come home'. Then, now that we were in a suitable mood, Ann read the first part of this well-known parable: 'The Return of the Prodigal Son'. She then gave us various questions to ponder upon. Are we on our way home, or running away, or are we elsewhere on our inner journey?

After a suitable quiet time for reflection, Ann read the second part of the parable. There was then a poem about 'The Father of the Younger Son'. The father had been so

delighted to see the son return, he forgot all dignity and ran to meet him. We had quiet moments to reflect on a time when we have been separated from a loved one - either a child or an adult - and how we felt at that time. We realised that Jesus is telling us that is how God feels about every one of us.

Ann then read the end of the parable, and we heard another poem, this time about the elder son. We reflected on whether the elder son did eventually join the party. In silence, we considered whether we have sympathy for the elder son but also considered how the father would feel. How does God feel when we stay away? We finished with a repeat of the song 'I knew you would come home'.

There was then a short break while some of us cleared away and at that point, Father Paul presided at a special Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. Altogether an excellent morning!

Our other events planned for 2026 are:

9 May - Church Party in the Hall

26 September - Father Ben with 'Something Amazing'.

28 November - Advent Quiet Morning led by Jane Mayes in the Church.

Details of these will be posted in the weekly Bulletin before the events.

We continue to monitor the Prayer leaflets in the Lady Chapel and the Gospel Imprint leaflets in the Display Rack and replace them when necessary.

I thank the members of the NET group for their commitment and hard work in maintaining our Study and Development Programme in 2025, and also in planning the programme for 2026.

I would like to emphasise that the Programme from the NET Group is for all Church members and those interested in the topics.

If anyone wants something included in the NET Programme, then please do mention that, and we will make efforts to accommodate the request.

Peter Ellis (Chair, Nurture, Education, and Training Group)

STEWARDSHIP YOUTH WORK FUND & OTHER VOLUNTARY GIVING

This report covers the income and tax claims received during 2025 from voluntary giving.

STEWARDSHIP GIVING

Pledged Giving



You may recognise the logo from past Stewardship campaigns. We thank the vast majority of members of our congregation who accept that “The Responsibility is Ours” and give regularly and generously to support our church and its mission.

Stewardship, our main source of income, was £126,870 in 2025 just £3000 down on the previous year. The fall in income is sadly due to deaths or people moving away from Pinner. We appreciate their generous contributions often made over decades. On a positive note, some people have signed up to Stewardship Giving during the year. The Gift Aid associated with the 2025 income was £28,560, claimed on 90% of gifts.

136 people gave, mostly by standing order – some were giving as a couple – this meant around 162 people were involved. Amounts given varied enormously, all are valued. The average giving per donor was £78.32 per month – the C of E comparable national figure for 2024 (latest available) is £77.55. I will give the usual warning, adding that it is not unusual for churches – just 20 people (some with partners) gave half our income.

Going into 2026 we start the year with pledges amounting to £123,000, historically we lose about 3% of income over the year which means income could be down to around £119,000 by year end. If you are willing to contribute to the running of our church, Stewardship packs are available in the porch, on the website or by emailing. giving@pinnerparishchurch.com

YOUTH WORKER FUND

Income for the Youth Worker Fund in 2025 was £670.00. We claimed gift aid of £167.51 which gave a total of £837.51.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES

The yellow Gift Aid envelopes are another source of gift aided income from members of our congregation and visitors. In 2025 we received a welcome total of £2,017.01 with gift aid of £504.30, including 5p interest from HMRC!



PLATE and WALLSAFE

During 2025 we received cash gifts on which we were able to claim GASDS (Gift Aid on Small Donations) of 25%. These cash gifts are mainly from donations given in the plate and wall safe. The breakdown was:

Plate at Services £1,457

Wall safe £1,659

The GASDS claimed on the total was £779.

GASDS and APPEALS

Over the year £17,564 was raised for the charities supported by our special appeals. (See Missions and Charities report for details). We claimed £693 GASDS on all cash gifts which were not gift aided. This was passed on to the charities.

OTHER VOLUNTARY GIVING

PMF and MPS

Each year Pinner Music Festival and the Music in Pinner Series are very generously sponsored, this year a total of £7,440 including gift aid was given.

RESTORATION FUND

We received a very generous gift of £2000 for the Restoration Fund which attracted a further £500 gift aid.

Finally, I would like to thank Trevor Mitchell (Stewardship Recorder) who records donations and banks all the cash and cheques, soon to involve a trip to Harrow to the bank. Also thanks to Janet for all her admin support.

Morella Boon
Gift Aid Recorder

Kids Church

We had a very enjoyable Holiday Club last summer – Destination: Faith – when we flew around the world to learn about different saints. The week was devised and written by Toby Hullyer. There were crafts and activities linked to the saints and also the countries we visited. There was the usual singing and dancing and a visit from a farm on the Friday, with the Vicarage garden being full of sheep, chickens, rabbits, goats and ponies! Unfortunately, numbers of children attending were a bit lower than previous years, but I think everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the week.

On Monday 22nd December we welcomed over 30 children to a Christmas Craft morning in the hall. There were 3 age groups as in previous years – Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men – and each group had different crafts according to age, including silhouette jars, cooking and icing cakes and many other Nativity themed crafts and decorations.

On Monday 30th March we had an Easter Craft Morning and again had almost 30 children joining us. There were Easter gardens made, biscuits and cakes were baked and many other crafts relating to Holy Week and Easter.

The children really seem to enjoy these activities and feedback from parents is really positive. With many thanks to all the leaders and helpers who have given up time to help with these children's events. If anyone else is interested in helping at a future children's event, please do speak to me as it would be great to have more people involved.

Sarah Hullyer

Rainbows -1st Pinner Rainbows

1st Pinner Rainbows have just celebrated their 15th birthday! We continue to have a full unit all the time with a very long waiting list. Over the past year we have been busy with many different activities including crafts, cooking and games. 12 new Rainbows have joined us as those who have reached 7 years have moved on to Brownies.

We have worked for several Skills Builder Badges, as well as exploring local places – Oxhey Woods and a winter walk across Pinner Park Farm. We also welcomed a local author to come and read us his new book, which the Rainbows really enjoyed.

We continue to welcome those who join us as part of their volunteering section for the Duke of Edinburgh awards, and it is great to have their help. I would also like to thank the other leaders, Sally and Andrea, whose help is greatly appreciated each week.

Sarah Hullyer

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Bereavement Visitors

Our small Bereavement Visiting team comprises two volunteers at St John's and two at St Luke's. Sadly, one of the ladies at St Luke's felt it was time to retire at the start of this year, and we will miss her contribution and presence. I'm delighted to report that we anticipate another volunteer will be joining the St John's team in the coming months and, hopefully, St Luke's will also find another member for their team too.

Our work comes under the umbrella of Bereavement Care which provides initial and ongoing training and support for its volunteers, including a stimulating annual Conference with well-known keynote speakers and a range of excellent workshops. Many members of the congregation at St John's have been bereavement visitors in the past - Peter and Sue Ellis (previously trustees) among them. On 4th June 2025 Bereavement Care celebrated 25 years as a registered charity. Past and present members and volunteers gathered for a sumptuous tea at Emmanuel Church, Northwood, to reminisce about their time and involvement with the charity. Ann Fuller, as one of the first volunteers to be trained in 1980, had the honour of cutting the 25th celebration cake.

In November over 100 people attended the annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the Departed which, as

ever, was a real source of comfort and blessing. Many are involved in helping with the service and the refreshments afterwards and their invaluable contribution, as well as the sensitive leadership of Fathers Paul and Ben, is greatly appreciated. A retiring collection of £330 was raised for Bereavement Care.

Although no longer a member of the Bereavement Visiting team, volunteers are grateful to be able to call upon Emmie McGregor from time to time for support and advice from her wealth of knowledge and experience.

If you have been bereaved and feel you would like to talk to someone outside the family or your circle of friends, don't hesitate to ask. It's often easier to talk to someone you don't know, which may be someone from the St Luke's team, or another local team member altogether. We are here for you.

Jane Mayes



Pinner Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Pinner is fortunate to have a strong and very friendly band of ringers. There are 15 active ringers, including one junior member and 2 life members. We also have two social members.

This year saw Chris Lomax become a life member having rung for the Middlesex Association of Church Bell Ringers for 40 years. Terri Trimmer has stepped down from active ringing but remains a social member of Pinner Tower. We thank her for over 30 years of ringing for services, weddings and special events at our church. She will indeed be missed in the Ringing Chamber.

Events we have rung for this last year include two weddings, St George's Day (April), VE80 Day (May), which was an open tower event complete with tea and cake in church, VJ80 Day (August), and welcoming in the New Year.

Thanks to our steeple keeper Patrick we now have effective sound control bringing to an end any complaints from those very few neighbours who were unhappy on practice nights. Ringing for services and practice is well-attended, the quality of ringing has improved and the band is strong. There is even enthusiasm for entering a team for the Striking Competition in May. Nothing has needed repair this year; the bells are in good condition and maintenance is carried out and recorded.

There is also a social aspect to our ringing as this is important for the continuation of our band. A Potluck Supper (December) was most successful and on occasion Tuesday practices end with a visit to The Queen's Head!

Thanks go from all the ringers to our Tower Captain, Michael, for his patience and dedication. Also, to Christine our deputy captain and to Chris, for their expert ringing and support. This has ensured that the bells continue to ring in Pinner and that the band of bell ringers continues to grow.

Sue Ellis
Secretary

Music Report



One of the most rewarding experiences as Director of Music is hearing the voices of the young choristers develop as they grow up. When I first became involved in the music at St John's 10 years ago Saffron Adey had just received her surplice, and last July she rounded off her time singing with the choir, the last highly successful four years of which as Head Chorister, with a memorable performance of the iconic treble solo from Stanford's Evening Service in G. This was just one of many fine performances that Saffron has delighted us all with over the

years, and she moves onto university with our thanks and very best wishes. We look forward to welcoming her back in the university holidays.

Celia has confidently stepped into Saffron's shoes and has already successfully sung several of the most difficult solos in the repertoire at Evensong. She gained a Merit in Grade 8 Singing and is now working towards the ARSM diploma.

Meanwhile we have had very good results in other singing exams too, with Lydia, Nahla and Keira all doing very well in their Grade 7 Singing exams.

The younger choristers, Joe, Shawnell and Annie have all started their musical journeys with good results in the lower grades. Many thanks should go to Philippa Nunn for her invaluable help on Tuesday evenings.

The children have been well-supported by the adults, where recruitment has gone particularly well this year. The pool of adults is larger than for many years, and we are exceedingly lucky in having such a fine group of versatile adult singers that is the envy of most parishes in our area. I am extremely grateful for their contribution to both the 10am services and Evensong.

Ian Galloway has for many years cheerfully borne the responsibility of playing on most Sunday mornings. He has also been most helpful with the running repairs that the organ has needed. During this year our Sunday morning team of organists has been joined by John Eagles, Simon Redmond and Ethan, our potential Organ Scholar. We have been very lucky to retain the services of Paul Jeanes and Jake Scicinski for our Evensongs.

The usual choral events have taken place, including our regular Tuesday *pmf* concert. 2025's concert included an unforgettable talk by Michael Turvey, MBE, which focussed mainly on why the original Harrison & Harrison organ had to go. Its replacement is 50 years old this coming summer and the parish must now think about a refurbishment of the console and action of the organ. Unfortunately, there has been little progress

in facilitating this as there appears to be a shortage of organ builders willing to take on this project. Nevertheless, I will continue to investigate and hope to have positive progress to report next year.

Finally, how delighted we all were to welcome Bishop Sarah as our first female Archbishop of Canterbury, and how we look forward to the inspiration she will give us in our work. It is wonderful to think that she may have her early morning cuppa from a coveted 'My Choir Needs Me!' mug, a design that is unique to St John's. A picture of Bishop Sarah receiving her mug in 2019 from Anna Gould, Saffron's predecessor as Head Chorister, adorns our choir vestry wall.



Martin Singleton



Church Flowers

We are a team of flower arrangers who take great delight in enhancing the beauty of our medieval Church with flowers and foliage. Apart from during Lent and Advent, floral arrangements are always to be found at the lectern and high Altar and in the south porch.

At the special times of Christmas, Easter and Harvest the Church looks glorious with additional flower arrangements on the pillars and window sills. At Christmas our colour scheme is red and gold and at Easter yellow and White. At Harvest, we use autumnal colours and this year these arrangements were surrounded by fresh fruit and vegetables on the window sills - donated by the congregation and then taken to the food bank.

Once again, we had the privilege of arranging flowers for parishioners in memory of their loved ones. We also, arranged flowers for the funeral of a long-standing member of our Church, on behalf of her family. In addition, we were engaged to provide floral decorations for two weddings. It was also a great pleasure to once again, decorate the Church for Pinner Music Festival.

I would like to thank the team for their hard work and support throughout the year in ensuring the Church is beautifully decorated. I would also like to thank Father Paul and the whole ministry team for their continued support and the parishioners for their appreciation and kind words through the year.

Judith Brampton

The Friends of Pinner Parish Church

2025 was the most beneficial fundraising year for The Friends since before Covid. We held a very successful quiz in November which produced the bulk of the £1,600 raised during the past 12 months. The other smaller but nonetheless welcome fundraisers were the June 'Hymns and Pimms' service and refreshments, and sales of marmalade earlier in the year.

We are currently considering what events to hold in 2026 to promote, and raise money for, The Friends. Potential activities include Sunday Teas (one per month in the summer) and a further quiz, likely to be in early Autumn. We hope to provide more information in due course.

Due to her many other commitments, Penny French resigned from the Committee late last year. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for her contribution to the work of The Friends. We are grateful to Michael Hetreed for joining the Committee mid-way through 2025, and his involvement and support since.

As has regrettably been the case for a few years now, we remain unable to find someone willing to become Chair. In order for the Friends to move forward - and to perhaps avoid having to make some tough choices and decisions further down the line - we still need to fill that role and also attract further new Committee members. We would encourage you to consider whether you would be willing to contribute to - or further help - the purpose of The Friends.

Whilst the current situation limits the extent of what the charity can do to raise further funds, we would like to provide reassurance that the Committee - consisting of the Treasurer, Secretary and 5 members - remains wholly committed to the continued success of The Friends.

On behalf of the Committee

House Groups

Ann Fuller - Our group is still small consisting of 3 people: Annie Grace, Lynne Williamson and myself. We normally meet at Annie's on a midweek afternoon on a date which suits our diaries. As we are a very small group, if one person cancels we either cancel the group or 2 of us just have tea and cakes! This means that in some months there is no study element.

The pattern of the afternoon is usually study, sharing, reflection and discussion, ending with prayer and followed by tea and cakes. In addition, this is also a group for fellowship and support. Because we have been together for a long time, people are confident to share their thoughts and feelings, knowing it is a safe place.

At our April meeting we followed one of the Lent sessions on Holy Week: *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus* based on Mark 14:43-72

Some of our meetings have been themed: each person has brought pictures, music and readings (poems and prose, secular or Biblical) and we have reflected on such themes as *Spring, Peace and Creation*, finishing the session with prayer (before the tea and cakes!) One session was a communion service using previously consecrated hosts.

In December we had lunch together.

Ann Fuller

Stephen Brown and Terri Trimmer - We are continuing to meet together as a house group of 8 members, meeting regularly every 5-6 weeks throughout the year. We have, I think, become a closer group in our relationship and showing mutual trust and respect for each other's views and outlook on matters we are discussing.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been reading together 'Living faithfully', a study book by John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, which is designed to deepen our personal commitment to Christ, each chapter identifying an issue in contemporary life which we can respond to and encourage us in our Christian life. We discuss the salient points and share our views in a comfortable

environment, sometimes referring to a Biblical passage and reflecting on it.

For our December meeting during Advent, we shared our thoughts on the season, bringing a poem, a Bible passage or a picture to the group.

Stephen Brown and Terri Trimmer

Pinner Parish Review

The *Pinner Parish Review* is published ten times a year and brings together news, reflections, and stories from across our community. The church office prints hard copies on a regular basis, with extra copies made for special occasions. The Review is available on the Church's website and copies are to be found in the South Porch.

This year, a wonderful mix of content was showcased, capturing the life of our parish. Standout features, including "Celebration of Priesthood", marking Stuart Natrass' 60 years of priestly ministry, and "Belfry Bulletin", detailing our bell tower soundproofing efforts, have celebrated our members and events. The regular crossword keeps many of us pleasantly puzzled for hours.

Special thanks go to Gordon Williams for his many years of dedicated service as a member of the Review Committee. On behalf of the team, we wish him every happiness in his retirement.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the valuable input and support of the Review Committee - Janet Huszczo, Michael Hetreed, Peter Ellis - and Carolyn White for her diligent proofreading. Thank you to all contributors to the Review.

We warmly welcome articles and photographs for possible inclusion, so please do send them to:
review@pinnerparishchurch.org.uk
and help the publication continue to thrive.

We look forward to sharing another year of stories and inspiration with you.

Olivia Thorndon

Pinner and District Faiths Dialogue

We have had two meetings in the past twelve months.

In April 2025 we met at the North Harrow Mosque, SICM, Mahfil Ali. We were shown around the mosque, where construction works are proceeding well. After presentations by faith representatives we discussed in groups the question: "How does my Faith help or hinder my relationships with other people?"

In November 2025 we held a meeting in St John's Church Hall on the topic "How do you mark religious festivals". This was introduced by Fr. Paul, and discussions followed in small groups.

Further meetings are being planned for the summer of 2026.

I am now the group's Chairperson.

Katherine Pinching



Pinner Music Festival

The Pinner Music Festival has been a consistent part of the Parish activities for over 60 years. The first 50 Festivals were directed by Michael Turvey, the Church's Director of Music, and colleagues, and the next ten by Anthony Pinching and colleagues. It comprises a week of concerts, in early June. PMF is a part of the wider community activities of the Parish Church. It has raised substantial funds for smallish, locally-based charities (about £30,000 in the last 9 Festivals) – as well as bringing music and musicians of a high standard to St John's, Pinner, and the surrounding community.

Pinner Music Festival is formally a Parish activity, its Committee being a sub-committee of PCC and answerable to PCC. In the Autumn, PMF sends the PCC a proposed plan and draft budget for approval, together with a suggested charity, for the following year's Festival, as well as sending a report on the financial and artistic outcome

of the June Festival. Finances are held within PCC accounts (as a separate PCC-PMF account, with parish officers as signatories) and subject to audit, as part of Parish Accounts. Reserves of £6,000 have been built up. We are very grateful to the erstwhile Parish Treasurer, Jo Kothary, and especially Chris Lomax, Paymaster until last month, for their help and support through the year. The PMF Committee is chaired by Professor Anthony Pinching (who is also Director of PMF), and includes Paul Jeanes, Emmie McGregor and Stephen Brown (PCC Representative), with Shirley Wootten, Marketing Consultant, co-opted.

Pinner Music Festival – 2025 (9th – 14th June) displayed an extraordinary sweep of classical music over some 850 years played by superb musicians. In our usual Seminar, Ian Skelly (of BBC Radio 3), introduced some of our artists and programmes; Emma Abbate spoke about the Piano Duo concert (with Julian Perkins) entitled *Let's Dance*, while baroque specialist Julian focused on Bach *Cello Suites*, featured by Raphael Wallfisch; Heidi Fardell outlined what we could expect from Sounds Historical in their concert covering 600 years from Hildegard to Haydn; our own Paul Jeanes spoke about the Tuesday and Friday concerts in which he was to play organ and conduct. A lively conversation followed.

At the opening concert, the Pinner Parish Church Choir performed Haydn's Little Organ Mass and range of anthems interspersed with solo pieces by church musicians, all under the direction of Martin Singleton, with Paul Jeanes showing off the organ in a solo and in accompaniment; Michael Turvey gave the background to the organ, as it entered its 50th year. Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins gave a delightful Wednesday lunchtime recital on a dance theme, in music ranging from Grainger to Schumann, Warlock to Dvorak, and Farrington to Barber. That evening, the London Chamber Ensemble String Quartet performed diverse works by Haydn (*Bird Quartet*), Herbert Howells (*In Gloucestershire*) and Ravel (*F major Quartet*), revealing tremendous artistry and ensemble.

Our second Lunchtime concert was a quite remarkable display of music and instruments from the six centuries of early music, introduced and performed by the virtuosic and knowledgeable Sounds Historical. On Friday evening, a capacity audience was treated to a quite exceptional performance of most of Bach's six *Cello Suites*, on three different cellos, by Raphael Wallfisch, who also included apposite contemporary readings. We concluded the concerts with Paul Jeanes conducting a fine quartet of Soloists, with the Festival Choir & Orchestra in a cheerful programme of Haydn's *Te Deum*, Handel's 9th *Chandos Anthem* and Mozart's ever-popular *Coronation Mass*. A lovely Festival Evensong rounded off the week.

Overall this was once again a very successful Festival musically as well as financially, and sustained good audience numbers. As a result, from refreshment donations and a substantial positive overall balance, we were able to donate over £5,100 to our Charity of the Year, St Luke's Hospice.

Our plan for the 60th PMF-2026 (8th-13th June) is well advanced, and will be the 10th & final PMF under the present team. Our Seminar, chaired by Petroc Trelawny of BBC Radio 3, a loyal supporter of the Festival, will be combined with a clavichord concert by Julian Perkins. The Parish Church Choir will, at their Tuesday concert, sing a wide range of anthems and solos, including *Psalm 121* by Paul Jeanes (commissioned by PMF-26) and works by SS Wesley (150th Anniversary of his death), with organist Paul Greally (once our organ scholar, now Assistant organist at Westminster Abbey) – the Church organ coming to the end of its 50th year.

On Wednesday lunchtime, we welcome back the popular Royal Academy of Music Harp Ensemble in more dances. That evening we shall have the privilege of a concert by the Brodsky String Quartet in Mozart's Prussian Quartet, Shostakovich's 11th, and the late Op 130 Quartet by Beethoven. The Thursday lunchtime recital by Ensemble Renard Wind Quintet will cover a works from Mozart, through Bartok and Barber, to ones they have commissioned.

On Friday evening, virtuoso pianist and arranger Yevgeny Sudbin will play works from Bach and Scarlatti, through Chopin and Scriabin, to end with his fine arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet*. The final choral concert will start with Purcell's *Birthday Ode for Queen Mary* and end with Faure's glorious *Requiem*; between, we shall have the premiere of Marco Galvani's *Eternity* to poems by Emily Dickinson (commissioned by PMF-26) and two pieces from Pascoe's *Secular Requiem*. The Festival will raise funds for the restoration of the church organ.

The PMF Committee does an enormous amount of voluntary work throughout the year to plan, publicise and coordinate the Festival. It is strongly supported by many volunteers from the Parish, who help with the practical aspects and to create the particular ambience that is Pinner Music Festival, and which is always appreciated by artists and audiences. We benefit from substantial business sponsorship and personal donations, and are very grateful for these, which make the quality of our Festivals possible.

As we step aside after 10 Festivals, we express our sincere gratitude to all these many supporters, to our artists, and to the Vicar and the PCC for their continuing support and oversight, during our tenure, and wish Paul Jeanes, PMF Director-designate, all the best in continuing this vital local tradition.

Professor Anthony J Pinching
Festival Director, PMF,
on behalf of the PMF Committee

Harrow Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2025.

The first meeting took place at St Peter's West Harrow on 4th February. The Revd Jon Lindsay-Scott (Vicar) welcomed synod members, guests and led us in worship. The Revd Matthew Stone (Area Dean) conducted brief Synod business including welcoming the Revd Irene Lawrence and reviewing

deanery vacancies. This was followed by updates from Diocesan and General Synods.

The main part of the meeting focused on the return of the Willesden Area Roadshow led by Bishop Lusa, Archdeacon Catherine, and the Directors of Mission and Ministry. They reminded Synod members of the Diocesan Vision and how in Willesden there is an overwhelming desire to create a culture of leaning into being intergenerational, intercultural and missional.

Our second meeting on 10th July, at St Paul's South Harrow, began with Evening prayer led by the Revd Steve Taylor (Joint Vicar), followed by an introduction to the church and worship.

The main focus of the evening was churches and disability, led by the Revd John Beauchamp, Diocesan Disability Ministry Enabler. John noted that while some churches are well equipped, there is always room for improvement. He emphasized the responsibility to ensure that buildings and services are accessible and inclusive for all. There are many things we can each do, John encouraged us to start by looking at the easy wins, and pointed those present to accessible resources to assist in this.

This was followed by a short presentation of the Ministry Experience Scheme, a review of deanery accounts, and four applications with presentations of £1000 Mission Fund Grant. All four applications were successful: St Anselm, Hatch End to improve the sound system; St Peter West Harrow towards "Bubble Church"; St Anselm Belmont for improved signage; St Mary Kenton towards the Mission Experience Scheme. Further Synod business included welcoming new clergy, celebrating the newly ordained priests, Diocesan and General Synod Reports, Confirmation of elections (Emma Webber as Honorary Secretary, Graham Hamwijk as Foundation Governor Holy Trinity School Northwood, Graham Nicholson and Marjorie Mott as foundation governors of St John's School, Stanmore. Following the meeting Mike Still was elected as a clergy representative on the Deanery Standing Committee. And finally, Robert May was thanked for over 16 years of exemplary service as deanery secretary.

Our final meeting of the year began with refreshments and student led worship at Holy Trinity School, Northwood on 4th November. The choir were from Holy Trinity, the orchestra from St John's School Stanmore. This was followed by a welcome and introduction to the new grouping of four local CofE Schools through the Ecclesia Partnership.

This was followed by presentations by four local speakers on Embracing Interculturalism looking at welcoming, openness, diversity, learning from one another and mission. This section was concluded by a time of questions to the panel. And the meeting was then concluded with news of the Bishop of London consultation, and a request for Carollers at St Lukes Hospice.

*The Revd Emma Webber
Honorary Secretary*



Pinner Association of Churches

This is my third year as PAC representative for St John's Church and I hold the position of Chair this year.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday was a great success. Hot cross buns were enjoyed afterwards at St Luke's.

In September the PAC Worshipping Together and Tea was held at Cannon Lane Methodist Church. This was well attended.

In November the PAC AGM was held at St John's. This was followed by Choral Evensong and tea.

A very successful Torchlight Carols was held in December at Pinner Baptist Church (owing to inclement weather). Tea and mince pies were enjoyed by all afterwards.

On Christmas Day the lunch at St John's was appreciated by many, the volunteering being impressive.

In January a Service of Christian Unity was held at Pinner Baptist Church. We do hope to see better attendance next year.

Coffee mornings were held every Friday at St Luke's, every Saturday at Pinner Methodist Church and every Thursday at Cannon Lane Methodist Church. Welcome lunches were also held in May, July and August.

Food bank collections are made every fourth Saturday at Pinner Baptist Church.

Helen Lawson

Walking Group

The walking group continues to walk most Wednesdays in the Chilterns, Hertfordshire or Greater London.

As of April 2026, we do not have sufficient walk leaders to fill every week in the year, an indication that more people need to offer to lead rather than relying on a nucleus of about 6 leaders/ leader couples (of whom 2 are active members of the church). These leaders nevertheless provide a surprisingly varied and interesting programme of walks. The number of people on our walks varies between 5 and 25 depending mostly on the length of the walk (between 5 and 13 miles) and the weather forecast. Where feasible we offer early exits for people who cannot manage the full walk.

We welcome anyone who would not hold up the moderate pace. A certain, basic level of fitness is required as we are not an alternative to Harrow health walks whose purpose is recuperation after medical treatment.

We use public transport as much as possible to travel to and from our walks but sometimes car share.

In May 2026 we will take a group of 23 people on a four night residential trip to Sedbergh in the Western Yorkshire Dales, having been to Exmoor in 2025.

This is a sociable and healthy pastime. Please consider joining us on a walk.

Nick (and Judith) Childs



Music in Pinner Series

Classical and Jazz Concerts: '25 – '26 Season

Annual Report to APCM – March 2026

Music in Pinner Series (mps) is a monthly series of Saturday concerts, conducted under the aegis of Pinner Parish Church and its PCC.

Music in Pinner Series is formally a part of Parish community activities, with corresponding benefits to the Parish of raised profile and goodwill. It is run as a sub-committee of PCC and answerable to PCC. In Spring, MPS sends the PCC a proposed plan and draft budget for approval early in the year for the following Season. MPS also sends the PCC a report on the financial and artistic outcome of the previous Season. Finances are held within PCC accounts (within the PCC-PMF account, but clearly separated from PMF, with parish officers as signatories) and subject to audit, as part of Parish Accounts. Reserves of £7,500 have been kindly provided by PCC from part of the proceeds of Pinner Jazz. The Church receives 12.5% of ticket income for concerts on site, and 5% for those offsite. Profits from any year are added to reserves held in the designated account to support future seasons.

MPS is directed by Professor Anthony Pinching, with a supporting team including Stuart Natrass (Jazz Advisor), Stephen Brown (PCC Representative) and Trevor Mitchell (MPS Stage Manager), with Shirley Wootten (Marketing Consultant) co-opted. erstwhile Parish Treasurer, Jo Kothary, and paymaster (to Feb '26) Chris Lomax, manage the PCC-PMF account, supported by Kevin Ogilvie (Bookkeeper), with budget-setting and financial oversight by the MPS Director.

We have an 8-concert MPS Season '25-'26, with four jazz concerts & four classical. Audience numbers have declined slightly.

We shall however remain in good positive balance by careful management of expenditure.

The season opened with a fine viola and piano concert by the impressive Milena Simovic and George Fu, in works by Hindemith, Prokofiev, Schubert and York Bowen. In October, the Clark Tracey Sextet performed the *Under Milk Wood Suite* by Stan Tracey, recollecting that truly iconic work with readings relating to the pieces. Pocket Ellington is a 7-piece band that recreates the sound of the big band they are named after. Led by Alex Webb, the team did indeed evoke that era with some of the classics, as well as some lesser known pieces. Piano Duo, Fiammetta Tarli and Ivo Varbanov gave us a lovely December lunchtime recital of Romantic repertoire, full of colour and drama.

The Matt Skelton Blackhawk Quintet opened our 2026 concerts with a fine event at Pinner United Synagogue, in which they recalled the Shelley Manne Quintet in style, and with contemporary takes on these core works of the bebop era; we were hosted in style as usual. February's lunchtime jazz was served up by the Matyas Gayer Trio, in which this superb performer showed why he has become one of the most sought-after jazz pianists in London, especially when supported by the brilliant pair of Dave Green and Steve Brown.

Two concerts remain: the excellent Belgian violin and piano duo, Jolente De Maeyer and Nikolaas Kende will present contrasting sonatas by Beethoven, Babajanian and Brahms. Our final concert by the combined forces of Moonrakers Folk Band and Oxus String Quartet will explore and elaborate the *Roots and Branches* of Vaughan Williams's early folk-inspired music, in what should be a truly unusual and informative presentation.

We anticipate that a further MPS season will be feasible for '26-'27, and have submitted our plans to PCC. This will comprise three jazz and three classical concerts of tremendous variety and high quality, with two winter concerts again being at lunchtime, and January at Pinner United

Synagogue. Artist bookings have been made, subject to later PCC approval. This will be the final MPS season under the current director and team, and we expect the following year to be a fallow one. Thereafter, it may continue, if a successor can be found to direct it.

The volunteers behind Music in Pinner Series do a great deal of work throughout the year to plan, publicise and coordinate these concerts, strongly supported by others on each concert day. Audience and artists appreciate the welcome they get and the very engaged audiences that they experience at these concerts, as well as the fine ambience and acoustics of St John's Church. We are very grateful for the support and oversight of the PCC.

*Anthony Pinching,
Director, Music in Pinner Series*