

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

IN THE BENEFICE OF LANGELEI

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
ON SUNDAY 11th May 2025 at 11.30 am**

Contents

Agenda

**Minutes of Meeting 14 April 2024
Proceedings of the PCC and Parish Activities
Audited Accounts for 2024
Report on the Fabric of the Church
Report of Deanery & Diocesan Synods**

AGENDA

Prayers

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Apologies for absence – *please advise the Secretary if you are unable to attend*
2. Election of Churchwardens - see nominations for election on the notice board.
(Those entitled to vote are either on the Electoral Roll of the parish, or live in the parish and are on the register of local government electors)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(Church members are invited to attend and those on the Electoral Roll to vote)

1. To approve the minutes of the APCM held on 14 April 2024
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. To receive reports for 2024/2025
 - 3.1 Electoral Roll report
 - 3.2 Report on the proceedings of the PCC including Safeguarding, and parish activities
 - 3.3 The financial statement of the church for the year ending 31 December 2024, and to approve the accounts
 - 3.4 Report on the Fabric of the church
 - 3.5 Reports from Deanery and Diocesan Synods
4. Elections
 - 4.1 To elect lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
 - 4.2 To elect lay representatives to the Benefice Team Council
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year.
6. To receive a report from the Vicar
7. Any other business

Secretary: Sue Gouch 07808 929219

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THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY LEVERSTOCK GREEN

In the Benefice of Langelei

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Held on Sunday 14 April 2024 at 11.30am

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev'd Lizzie Hood opened the meeting with prayers.

Apologies for absence were received Cathy Ayling, John Ayling, Frances Brown, David Brown, Ruth Carl, Kirsty Millar, Gillian Redman, Matt Tattersall, Muriel Towell and Gary Townsend. 54 Parishioners attended in church.

Election of Churchwardens: Lizzie thanked the churchwardens, Karen Ball and Mike Heylin for their immense support and hard work throughout the year and gave them a gift in appreciation. She thanked the deputy wardens, Kathy Perry and Beverley Burgess for their commitment. Terry Perry, proposed by Karen Ball, seconded by John Walker and Beverley Burgess proposed by Linda Cooke, seconded by Terry Perry were duly elected as churchwardens, with thanks. **All Agreed**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 11.40 am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 24 April 2023** were approved and signed as a true record.

2. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

3.1 **Electoral Roll Report** – It was noted that there is a strong membership at HT. The ER in 2023 was 147 and in 2024 the roll stood at 151 as there had been 2 deaths and 6 new people had joined the ER. There will be a New ER in 2025, with the criteria being that anyone living in the parish is eligible or anyone living outside the parish but is a regular attender is eligible. Lizzie extended thanks to Norah Tattersall for her work on the Electoral Roll.

3.2 **Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) including Safeguarding and Parish Activities** – Safeguarding is dealt with by Pauline Lyndsey. As there were no questions for PL, Lizzie sincerely thanked her for her hard work. Beverley Burgess' report on the Social Committee missed the bundle and can be viewed on the noticeboard in the Trinity Room. Lizzie thanked Beverley and her team for their excellent work. Lizzie thanked Sue Gouch for her work as PCC secretary.

We are grateful to Terry, Mike and Miles for streaming our services.

We need to thank the members of the PCC for their sound governance of the church, and we are indebted to all the volunteers who willingly give their time and effort to help with the running of the church. Without their contribution, the church would not function.

The written reports were noted.

3.3 **The Financial Statement of the Church and to Approve the Accounts** - Martin Chapman gave everyone a big thank you for their contributions to Church running costs of £3326 and all those who do work fundraising. This money is put towards heating costs. Thank you to those who gift aid their contributions. Thanks also go to Kathy Perry and Sue Gouch for counting and banking the money. Martin thanked Geoffrey Dix for inspecting the accounts.

Martin Chapman proposed the accounts which were seconded by Dick Selby. All in favour.

Lizzie expressed huge thanks to Martin for managing the accounts throughout the year.

3.4 **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church** – This was covered in the report. Mike Heylin thanked Mike Hawtin and others for their support. There was a lot of work to be done in this next Parochial year.

Sam Stanbridge said that she would like to see more people volunteer to help clean the church, especially with the deep cleans during the year.

3.5 Reports from the Deanery and Diocesan Synods – The reports were noted and our representatives, Mike Hawtin, Dick Selby and Sam Stanbridge were thanked.

4. Elections

4.1 To elect lay representatives to the PCC — Miles Cooksey had reached the end of his term and did not wish to be re-elected. Lee-Anne Stubbings resigned due to family commitments. The PCC consists of Vacancy, Lay Reader – Tim Bourne, 2 Churchwardens – Karen Ball and Mike Heylin, 3 Synod representatives and 12 elected members. Lizzie thanked the current PCC. The following people were elected for a 3-year term:

Terry Perry proposed by Karen Ball, seconded by John Walker

Beverley Burgess proposed by Linda Cooke, seconded by Terry Perry

Karen Ball proposed by Terry Perry, seconded by Mike Hawtin

Lorraine Ellis proposed by Kathy Perry, seconded by Terry Perry

Mike Hawtin proposed by John Walker, seconded by Terry Perry

Mike Heylin proposed by Terry Perry, seconded by Karen Ball

Pauline Lindsey proposed by Karen Ball, seconded by Beverley Burgess

Mark Millar proposed by Miles Cooksey, seconded by Sue Gouch

Kathy Perry proposed by Karen Ball, seconded by Mike Hawtin

John Walker proposed by Terry Perry, seconded by Julian Cooke

All Agreed

4.3 To elect Lay Representatives to the Benefice Team Council – Mike Hawtin and Dick Selby both agreed to continue as lay representatives of the Benefice Team Council.

5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year – Martin Chapman said that Geoffrey Dix was willing to do this and was proposed by Martin Chapman and seconded by Karen Ball. All agreed. Lizzie asked Sue to send a letter of thanks to Geoffrey Dix on behalf of the PCC.

6. To receive a report from the Rector

It's astonishing, when you read through all these reports, to see just how much goes into our communal life and how broad is the range of our activities. As I approach the end of my time here with you, I feel very fortunate indeed to have been called to such a wonderful vibrant parish and to have worked alongside so many committed people. But this is not going to be a farewell speech! I intend to leave only once, and that will be in two weeks' time!

I think we've had a very positive year and continued the journey not just back to 'normal', but to a 'normal plus' with lots of shoots of new growth. We have welcomed a number of new people into our church family, and some of those have been baptised or confirmed. We have enjoyed a rich variety of worship, nurture activities, a lovely parish retreat, and a full programme of social and fundraising events. We have benefitted from the installation of a new heating system which has enhanced our experience in church, with very little disruption to our schedule. And our new shipping container has made storage so much easier and the church building easier to work in. We are in good heart, with a strong leadership team.

But inevitably there will be some element of disruption when I leave, as by the very nature of my role I have a finger in every pie and co-ordinate a lot of what goes on! I have been making a lot of effort to leave things in good shape. The clergy rota is very nearly complete right to the end of the year, and various groups and individuals have already been nominated to pick up a range of tasks that I'd

normally lead on. Some of you may be wondering what happens when a vicar retires. The Bishop and Archdeacon are already actively preparing for the future. They have arranged a meeting for 1st May with the ministry team, wardens and PCC to discuss the way forward. The first task will be to see if we can appoint a Team Rector from within the team, and interviews will be held later in May. If that appointment goes ahead, you will then be looking for a Team Vicar for Holy Trinity, and our PCC will need to get to work on the Parish Profile. If that appointment doesn't go ahead, you will be looking for a Team Rector based at Holy Trinity. The Parish Profile is a hefty document that gives prospective candidates all the information they need before deciding to apply. Information about the area - school, leisure, transport facilities; the vicarage; the nature of our team and the way we operate; the Deanery and its pattern of clergy meetings, the Diocese, training opportunities etc; the support that can be expected; some parish statistics & our accounts; our churchmanship; our pattern of worship; our Mission Action Plan; the spirit of HT; the challenges and opportunities this post will present - how do you want to develop in the future? What are our weaknesses? You will have to decide where to advertise, and the Bishop will present a timetable for shortlisting and interviews. All being well, a successful candidate would probably need to give three months' notice. So, you may be looking at 9 to 12 months, or so of interregnum.

During that time the wardens are legally in charge of the parish. I'm sure the team you've just elected, and deputy wardens to be appointed at the next PCC meeting, will serve you well. Jos has been very generous in offering to cover 2 Sundays a month at Holy Trinity, as well as baptisms, weddings and the main seasonal services, so your worshipping life will carry on in a similar pattern. But Jos works part-time for the Safeguarding Dept of the Diocese, and she will not be stepping into my shoes as a stand-in vicar, so please be mindful of that. I hope you will benefit from the different styles that visiting priests will bring to your worship and give them a warm welcome. Your wardens and PCC will need support from you all, and willingness to share the load.

Reading over last year's APCM papers I see that I said, 'lay participation is vital to a church community; every member ministry is the very nature of the church, and our calling in baptism. The Vicar is not here to do everything for a passive audience! We are essentially and intrinsically corporate. Literally a body. We are the Body of Christ.'

I would like to share with you a presentation I gave to some of our newer church members last year, which I hope will illustrate the full picture of our parish life. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Hurray for volunteers and thank you to all volunteers.
Thank you to Sue for minuting the meetings.

Karen Ball: wanted to say a massive thank you to Lizzie for all the hard work that she puts in. We have been immensely lucky have you and will miss you.

Outstanding Agreement

7. Any other business –. None.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm with The Grace.

APCM 2025

Item 3. Reports for 2024/2025

3.1 Electoral Roll Report

This year there has been a full revision of the Electoral Roll.

A full report will be given at the APCM on 11th May 2025 by the Electoral Roll Officer.

Norah Tattersall, Electoral Roll Officer

3.2 Report on the proceedings of the PCC including Safeguarding, and parish activities

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2024 – 2025

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar (when appointed), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Its membership consists of the Clergy, one Lay Reader, two Church Wardens, three representatives to the Deanery Synod and those elected by the Parish to serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

Following the APCM in 2024 it approved the following appointments: Rev'd Jos Perris (Associate Priest), Karen Ball, Tim Bourne, Frances Brown, Beverley Burgess (Churchwarden), Martin Chapman (Treasurer), Liam Derham (Deanery Synod rep), Lorraine Ellis, Colin Gage (Deanery Synod rep), Sue Gouch (Secretary), Mike Hawtin (Team Council Rep), Mike Heylin, Pauline Lindsey (Safeguarding Officer), Mark Millar, Kathy Perry, Terry Perry (Churchwarden), Lesley Ripley, Dick Selby, Sam Stanbridge and John Walker. The following appointments were also approved: Deputy Wardens - Kathy Perry, Mike Heylin and Karen Ball, Health and Safety Officer – Karen Ball and Electoral Roll Officer - Norah Tattersall. All on the Electoral Roll were appointed as Sidespeople. The Standing Committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to the overall directions given by the Council. This comprises the Vicar (when appointed), Church Wardens and Deputy Church Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer. The Standing Committee conducts business by email and its work is reported at each PCC meeting by the Secretary.

We have continued to hold PCC meetings every other month in the usual pattern and only one PCC meeting date was changed so that PCC members could watch the European Cup football competition. Whilst the Churchwardens alternated as Chairman of the meetings, few decisions were made while we were without a Vicar. The PCC unanimously Agreed to re-introduce the wine Chalice and Open Church started.

Over and above the PCC Secretarial duties this year, I have been involved with the following workload since the end of April 2024 in assisting the Churchwarden team:

- Weekly editing and production of the Bulletin using Publisher.

Liaising with the Team Administrator, the churchwarden team, Jos and the presiding and preaching priest to ensure that our bulletin contains the correct Priest/Preacher, Readings, hymns, JC leader and daily activities plus whatever needed to be included in the weekly bulletin.

- Being part of the team that discussed and produced the Profile for the advert for our new vicar.

- Maintaining the Church online Diary (especially logging Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) as well as events, external Groups. Liaising with the CA group if their dates need changing. Maintaining the bookings for all the Church Groups on an annual basis.

- Setting up the Holy Trinity email to send out 27 email invitations to local people, dignitaries and church members to the Installation and induction of Diana. Preparing a spreadsheet of acceptances/declines so that the churchwardens would know who was coming to the Service on the 24th April. Forwarding the emails to the c/the Beverley and Terrys if people requested further info. I was still forwarding messages until the afternoon of the 24th April, the day of the Installation!

- Preparation of the documents for the 'Bundle' for the APCM. Sending individual Emails to 20+ people requesting their reports for the APCM (and receiving 2 extra reports). Editing the reports and putting them into one document. Downloading the necessary documents for the APCM from the Diocesan website - notice of meeting to attach to church door, application forms to be a member of the PCC, Churchwarden documents to complete after the vote at APCM. Preparation of the Agenda for the APCM prior to meeting with Diana.

Sue Gouch, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding Report

I have reported at each of the bi-monthly PCC meetings on Disclosure and Barring clearance and the required training of individuals to support this. The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice. There have been no reported safeguarding incidents within Holy Trinity since the last APCM. Our Safeguarding policies were reviewed, approved and signed off at our March PCC meeting and updated copies are in all four folders (Vicar, PL, vestry cupboard and the bookcase in the Trinity room for public access). The Diocesan website is updated with DBS certificates and training courses completed.

Pauline Lindsey, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Reports on Parish Activities: Worship and Spiritual Growth

Church Wardens Report

After the 2024 APCM we hit the ground running starting with Lizzie's retirement and the process and preparation of finding a replacement vicar for Holy Trinity. A committee was formed and many meetings held, the parish profile and advertisement were approved by Bishop Jane of Hertford and Archdeacon Charles, AD of St Albans. The dates were decided, we were fortunate to have Diana apply for the vacancy and after a successful interview day, Diana was offered and accepted the position and here we are! Last May we eventually achieved an Open Church, something that had been discussed and planned for quite some time. We have a rota of willing volunteers to open the church at 10am and close up at 4pm, unless there are services taking place. We set up a WhatsApp group with the volunteers, so if anyone is unable to open or close the church on their day, a request can be made for another volunteer to swap or take their place, this system works really well. Most of the larger church valuables are locked in the old vestry after the service has finished on Sundays and brought back out the following Sunday before the service. A secure lock was put in place on the Trinity Room door so that visitors cannot access it or disturb any groups that use this space. We have had many comments in our visitor's book that show visitors appreciate the church being open as a place for quietness and prayer. 2024 also saw Holy Trinity's 175th anniversary, officially the date is in October but we celebrated on Trinity Sunday, when we had the pleasure of having Archdeacon Charles taking our service. The AD stayed for a celebration drink, the BBQ and cake, we also held an anniversary exhibition in church all weekend. We have been incredibly well supported by Jos all year, her dedication and commitment to Holy Trinity during the vacancy has been invaluable and we would like to thank Jos for her unwavering support. We would also like to thank our deputy wardens, Kathy, Karen and Mike, we've been a great team! We would also like to thank the PCC Secretary, Sue Gouch and the PCC for their help and support during the year.

Beverley and Terry

Baptism Report

This year we have had 19 baptisms of both adults and children here at Holy Trinity.

Baptisms services are generally held after our Sunday service or on Sunday afternoons. Church families may choose to make it part of morning worship. Jos has run preparation classes for parents before booking and a member of the team assists her, providing hot drinks and biscuits.

On the day, two people are there to welcome the families and their guests, and act as sidespeople during the service. One of the team will come forward with a taper lit from the Easter candle to light the Baptismal candle which is then given to the child/adult. Once the families have left, the church is then tidied and the register completed.

My thanks as always go to the whole team Ruth Carl, Linda Cooke, Pat Driver, Lorraine Ellis, Sue Gouch and Jean Hunter for ensuring a warm welcome for baptism families at Holy Trinity. If anyone is available to join the team and would like information on what being a helper entails, please contact me

Kathy Perry, Baptism co-ordinator

Choir Report

The choir has continued to support the congregational singing on Sundays and holy days and has sung an anthem and an introit at each service, except at non-eucharistic family services. The choir sang for the switch on of the village lights in November and at the Carols by Candlelight in church in December and also at the Ecumenical Carol Service at Our Lady Queen of All Creation. They also sang for three funerals of church members and for the funeral of Pat Brown who had been a valued choir member for many years. During the year the choir have sung jointly with the choir of All Saints' Kings Langley at the team services, the installation of the Team Rector, and the Confirmation service. Some choir members also sang in the Fauré Requiem

and at some evensongs at Kings Langley. Currently we are working hard on music for the installation of our new Team Vicar. We are grateful that Matt Tattersall has continued to accompany the service once a month, and that John May (trumpet) has played for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter.

We are very fortunate that a new soprano has joined during the year: Abby Robertson. We now have nine members: four sopranos, two altos, two tenors and one bass. We would welcome new members, especially in the lower parts. It is not necessary to read music, just to be prepared to listen to the other singers and sing in tune.

Rosemary Knight, Music Director

Music & Meditation

We continue to meet four times a year for a morning of music and readings, followed by our usual chat, refreshments and company. Taking place on the third Tuesday of the months March, June, Sept and December at 63 The Horseshoe, this year we are examining the theme of "Faith, Hope and Charity" My thanks to the group for their continued help, new members are always welcome.

Frances Lawson

Nurture and Growth Team Report

Nurture and Growth Team meets two or three times each year and comprises, since Lizzie's retirement, Norah Tattersall (Chair), Tim Bourne, Jean Britt and Linda Cooke. Stay for a Second ran after church on the second Sunday of each month, when the theme of the sermon was discussed, until October 2024. Date clashes and reduced numbers then led to it being discontinued. Bible Bites continues on the fourth Saturday of each month, using Bible Society material. We are currently looking at the book of Romans, "a letter that makes sense of life". All are welcome.

Lizzie had booked our biennial Parish Retreat at Pleshey for July 2025 and we were delighted when our new Vicar, Diana, agreed to lead it. Bookings came in very fast.

For Advent 2024 daily prayers based on the words "The Light of the World" and "God so love the World" were suggested. For Lent this year a Benefice wide course was organised, without any effort our part, based on the book "Women of Holy Week" by Paula Gooder.

We welcome feedback.

Linda Cooke, Secretary

Pastoral Care Group

The group meets bi-monthly to share updates on home visits and phone contact with people who have asked for support, all home visits are logged. Home Communion is being given when requested. The group are Pam Batten, Tim Bourne, Pauline Lindsey, Gillian Redman, Lesley Ripley and Anne Twiggs.

Pauline Lindsey

Servers and Sacristy Team Report

We continue to welcome new people to the team of servers, acolytes and chalice assistants.

Our roles and practices have continued to evolve over the year with the reintroduction of the chalice at communion, and with the church being open throughout weekdays. The church being open has resulted in more tasks in setting up and clearing away for services so that the altar vessels and valuables are only left out during services. A huge thank you to everyone who does these extra "behind the scenes" tasks.

Thanks, as always, to John Buxton for being sacristan and to Sarah Kiesa who has the unenviable task of organising the many rotas!

It is a huge privilege to serve at the altar and we are always keen to open this opportunity to others. We are particularly keen to add more crucifers to the team. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Norah Tattersall

The Youth Group (TYG) Report

The TYG group has met monthly throughout the year, with a steady attendance of around 5- 7 regulars. The group is largely made up of members of the immediate church family, but we have also welcomed friends of regulars, cousins and schoolmates. Membership is open to all in the community and Benefice - the more the merrier!

This year the group has enjoyed a wide variety of activities, both on site (at the Holy Trinity Rooms), at Jos Perris home, and an offsite outing. We have been Trail walking, Geocaching, sharing picnics, engaging in faith-based learning at Pentecost, Garden games (badminton, football, hide and seek & team games), bush crafting and BBQing, board game evenings, understanding the significance Remembrance Day, a Christmas party with secret Santa gifts, shuffle board, pool and darts, Christian board games and an outing to the Putt shack in Watford for a crazy golf play off! We are planning a

TYG welcome dinner and games for our new Revd Diana Stretton, and we hope to do more outdoor activities before the club breaks for the summer holiday.

We had last year aimed to focus on fair play and fun outdoor activities. We've strived to initiate group activities that keep all of the TYG members engaged with one another and with their faith, building a community of young Christians who can meet up and have fun. We have shared some great home cooked healthy dinners and we encourage an 'around the table' chats at each meal we enjoy together.

There are spiritual elements around the Church season and our activities feed into this where possible. Some of our discussion activities revolve around significant points in the school term, such as moving up in school years or moving on to secondary school. We even had volunteers from TYG helping our HTC community during the Christmas fair, keeping them included with the wider church community too.

TYG is led by a volunteer group of experienced youth leaders from within the clergy, Jos Perris and the congregation, who provide both guided activity leadership as well as acting as spiritual role models: Abby Daniell, Liam Derham and Miles Cooksey. We've encouraged our TYG members to take part in a recent young person safeguarding quiz from the Diocese, sending a clear message that their voices and thoughts matter to us.

TYG is open to any young person who is in year 6 or above. We have great fun and share a supper together as part of the friendship of our group.

Abby Daniell, Youth Group Leader

Junior Church

Over the past twelve months, Holy Trinity Junior Church has maintained a consistent and regular level of attendance from children aged around one to thirteen, typically welcoming five to eight children each week. A key ambition for the coming year is to grow our numbers further, including renewed engagement with LG Primary School and the Toddler Group. The recent Good Friday Workshop was a particular highlight, welcoming 20 children for a morning of great fun and meaningful exploration of the Easter story. We hope to see more of our toddler group families joining us for Sunday sessions soon.

Our leadership team remains devoted to delivering fun, engaging, and faith-filled lessons. We continue to be blessed with five dedicated and experienced youth leaders. As a team, we are steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding, and we strive to provide a safe and welcoming space where our youngest disciples can explore faith at their own pace.

We welcome all children to Junior Church, regardless of their faith background, age, experience, or learning needs. Among our leaders, we have a wealth of experience in supporting children with SEN and neurodiverse profiles, and we're always happy to adapt our lesson content to ensure it is accessible, engaging, and fun for everyone.

Miles Cooksey, JC Co-Ordinator

Toddler Church Report

The year since the last APCM has been one of downs and ups for the Toddler Church. When Lizzie retired, we were slightly concerned that we would lose some of our toddlers, but, happily, that didn't happen. We kept our numbers steady until July, then lost over half of the group.

Some went to School; others went to nursery and some mums went back to work. When we returned in September, we only had three or four little ones, all under two! We continued as usual, telling stories from the Diddy Disciples books, singing songs and playing instruments, saying prayers and doing a wide variety of crafts, including growing beans, a collage of boats on the waters with fishermen and decorating biscuits. Of course, we also learnt the Christmas story and performed it at the Toddler Church Nativity service, with help from returning children and relatives. Since the New Year we have gained several new children who come regularly and had nine the other week which was lovely. We are looking forward to Diana's Licensing and hope that she will join us and enjoy the fun and laughter we share.

With many thanks to Carole, Vicky, Wendy and Gillian for all their help throughout the last year.

Lorraine Ellis and Lesley Ripley

Welcomers' Report

We are always looking for "meeters and greeters" to stand at the church door to smile and say hello to new and old faces. It's a great way of getting to know people - Please step up and help - you're at church anyway and it's an important form of outreach to make people feel comfortable and keep our reputation as a warm and welcoming place. Also, to nip out at the end of the service to stand by the door to say goodbye as the Clergy frequently get caught up in conversations - you wouldn't not say cheerio to guests who come to your home. We are really short of volunteers to make coffee after the service. It's not difficult, just arrive

at church 10 minutes early and bring milk, set the cups and leave the service 5 minutes before the end to put the coffee on, serve, clear up and stack the dishwasher. Please help. If you are scheduled to help on any rota and are unable to do so, please can you arrange a replacement and then let Sarah Kiesa know. As ever - a huge and massive thanks to Sarah who organises all the church rotas. A thankless task without whom we wouldn't function.

Gillian and Sarah Kiesa

Cleaning Report

Many thanks to the small and very loyal group of folks who clean the church every week + 3 new volunteers, Sarah, Chris and Trish. We are always looking to increase the number so each one can do it less frequently. It's only the church and porch that are cleaned, the other offices are cleaned by a contractor. The sign-up sheet is on the back wall in the Trinity Room and training is given for new volunteers. If 2 people work together, it only takes an hour. Thanks.

Gillian Redman

Reports on Parish Activities: Community and Social Coffee Shop Report

Our Saturday morning coffee shop is a positive weekly event. We have around 25+ people each week with many being members of the public who aren't involved in the church. It's a great place for people to come to socialise, especially for people who are living alone. We also have families come in for refreshments if they are holding a burial of ashes service in our remembrance garden.

In 2024, our coffee morning takings were £3001 with 50% allocated to be donated to the Traidcraft charity. We spent £542 on coffee, tea etc which means we made a profit of £958.50. I took over coffee morning last year have many people on our rota which takes us up to the summer. I would like to say a huge thank you to Tim and Sue Bourne who organised the coffee morning rota for many years. Another huge thank you to everyone who volunteer their time in making lots of yummy cakes and serving the tea and coffee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps to serve coffee after our Sunday services. You may think it's just a small task but without you, we wouldn't be able to run these social events.

Sam Stanbridge, Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Craft Group

The group continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons with an average of 20 members each week, there has been a small turnover of members and we continue supporting some of our members who have health problems, much of it via our lively WhatsApp group. We have raised over £2000 for the church with our various sales events at the Village hall, Cricket Club and here at our own Church events. We enjoyed our usual bring and share Christmas lunch.

Jean Britt, Jenny Chaney and Pauline Lindsey, Craft Group Co-ordinators

Social Committee Report

January 2024 began with a very enjoyable concert; we welcomed back Cynthia and Kevin O'Donnell and their daughter Mel for 'Some Enchanted Evening' with songs from the musicals.

Our next event was a fundraiser for Grace Hurrell, her mum Kim cooked us a wonderful Caribbean Curry. We had another Scrabble Tea, thanks to Dick and Val for a fun afternoon with a delicious cream tea. We had our usual Pancake Tea, two Lent Lunches and Easter breakfasts. At the end of April sadly it was time for Lizzie's farewell party in the village hall.

We celebrated our 175 year anniversary in May, the church was open all weekend with an exhibition of the church's history, we served refreshments and Eileen Heylin & friends organised a plant sale. Trinity Sunday, we welcomed Archdeacon Charles to our Patronal Festival, he was pleased to join us for our celebrations with Prosecco and a special cake, followed by a barbecue.

We had 2 quizzes in June and 'Beryl's Quiz' in November as always, these were well attended and are good fundraisers, we're very thankful to Mike and Lesley Hawtin's daughter and son in law. We served refreshments at the successful Summer Fun Day, thanks to Gillian and a small committee.

Our Strawberry Tea was held in August. We were entertained by Chris Lawrance and his Bluegrass band for our Harvest Supper in October. We held our usual events during the Autumn, Halloween Light Night in the churchyard with hot chocolate and popcorn, very popular with young families, as was another 'stir up' Christmas pudding afternoon organised by Suzanne Nkonkomalimba and her family. We served refreshments after the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, always much appreciated by bereaved families and friends. In December the social committee served refreshments all afternoon at the Christmas Fair, followed by the Light up a Life service, this was very successful again thanks to Kathy and Terry and a

small committee. Lastly, we served mince pies & mulled wine after the Carols by Candlelight service, this service grows in numbers year after year. We are very grateful to everyone who helped with all our events last year. They are a good outreach in the community and help with much needed church finances. Special thanks to the Social Committee and the Events Committee for all their help.

Beverley Burgess

Events Committee Report

2024/25 has been a very good, busy year for the Events Committee.

We started with an auction of goods and promises, raising approx. £1,300, but it was a lot of hard work falling on a few shoulders. As well as our usual Spring and Autumn quizzes, we had stalls and representation at both the School and LGVA Summer and Christmas fairs, two really good musical events. Chris Lawrence and his friends entertained us at the Harvest Supper and a fund raising concert by Just A'Capella and BURP. The Summer Fun Day and Christmas Event were both very well attended both by church folks and others which was great to see. Some events were organised purely as outreach and fun, but happily still made money. Lite Night was again very popular, as was the now traditional Stir Up Saturday Christmas Pud event together with the Pancake Tea held in February and the Lent Lunches. The Selby's arranged another very successful Scrabble afternoon and Terry Perry's wine tasting evening in January was thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you to everyone who has organised, assisted and supported the Events Committee in any way this last year. We couldn't do it without your help.

Gillian and Lorraine

Trinity Men's Group Report

The Men's Group met every month during 2024 with an average attendance of 19 members. We have over thirty men which we email each month and managed to raise £500 for church funds.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Trinity Room for a beer and a pizza often with an interesting speaker. The topics ranged from our own Lizzie Hood with tales before her ministry; sports for the disabled; computer frauds; sailing for the disabled; Guide Dogs for the blind; the War Graves in our churchyard; true stories from a retired policeman; the Herts Regiment at D-Day; model cars and a magician at Christmas. Not all of us are from our parish but there is great fellowship and we have had three new members join us during the year. The group flourishes.

Dick Selby

Trinity Women's Group

The Group has had another interesting year with speakers enlightening us on many different subjects. We started our year with an AGM with cheese and wine. In January we had an interesting talk from Workaid on knitting for Africa. Rev Lizzie Hood gave us a humorous talk on some unusual occurrences in her ministry. We then had a talk on Plague Cottages and Pandemics by Alison Hall. May saw us enjoying a quiz and in June we had a talk on Behind the Cameras at The Movies. In the autumn we had visits from an ex SOCO officer on digital forensics, a talk from a personal stylist and a talk on the life of Katherine of Aragon. Our year ended with a Christmas get together with wine and food and entertainment from Light Touch. We have a varied programme booked for this year and look forward to some more members joining the Group. On a personal note, I have decided to stand down as Leader at the end of this year after 30 plus years. I would very much like to assist a new Leader for the Group, in the time remaining, to take over from me.

Cathy Ayling (Leader)

Talking Elephants Bereavement Support group

We meet once a month in the Trinity room on the 3rd Tuesday between 11am - 1pm in conjunction with Neville's funerals and the Hospice of St. Francis. These meetings offer informal, free, friendly support and companionship for anyone who is finding it difficult to talk to those close to them about bereavement or if they feel there have no one to understand how they are feeling. The group discuss many subjects over tea and biscuits. Each meeting is different, the conversations are diverse covering general topics, sharing light hearted funny memories, difficulties with emotions or practical problems. We are usually well attended by new people who have been referred by doctors, official organisations or family/ friends and also regular attenders, feelings of loss have no time limit. Everyone will experience bereavement differently, all are listened to, respected and supported by the group.

No prior notice is needed, anyone can just turn up on the day and introduce yourself, all are welcome.

Lesley Ripley

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Treasurer's Report to APCM - Year ending 31/12/2024

Firstly, a big thank you for the contributions of time and money during 2024 which allow us to continue the work of this Church. We ended the year with a running costs gain of £7,976. This was much better than anticipated due to fundraising efforts and the stewardship campaign. However, costs continue to rise, particularly for heating and maintenance, so that we need to draw on reserves, grants, donations or fundraising to cover all costs.

Our total assets rose to £167,367 (£153,859 in 2023) and our CCLA investments could realise a further £35,000 when we need them. We will need them for:

- Repairs to Trinity Room Heating
- Repairs to car park entrance
- Repairs to walls and windows due to extensive settlement cracks
- Replacement of rotting Trinity Room roof
- Redecoration of Church interior
- Increased insulation to reduce energy costs and to help preserve the environment.
- Increases in Parish Share (£3,909) to pay for Clergy and support from the Diocese

A building of this type will always be expensive to maintain, and we would like to extend the ministry of the Church in Leverstock Green – so we need to increase our reserves!

In comparison with 2023:

- Collections and Regular Giving increased by £9,200
- Income from donations was down by £3,800
- Electricity cost £7,331, (2023 was £7,065)
- Our contribution to the Diocese for Clergy & central services was £65,836 (2023 was £66,579).
- Clergy expenses were down by £515, as we had no Incumbent for much of the year, but fee income was down in consequence (by £2,103) and we spent over £1000 advertising for a new Incumbent.

Highlights!

- Even during the interregnum, we have provided varied opportunities for worship, ministry and friendship every week. This was facilitated by our members and Revd Jos Perris, to whom we are very grateful.
- We received small grants from Herts. County Council, Leverstock Green Religious Education Fund, and the Blakemoor Foundation towards our mission.
- Our members contributed £10,502 in fundraising through concerts, quizzes, tea towels, books, cards, etc.
- We held a Christmas Fair which raised £3,151 – and received two bequests amounting to £3,000.
- Charities

We contributed to Action Aid, The Children's Society, and Herts. Air Ambulance, Sunnyside Rural Trust, Rennie Grove Hospices, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Leprosy Mission (Bishop's Harvest Appeal) and DENS. We have set aside £5,146 for Charities, 5% of our income, as in previous years. Suggestions for this year's distribution of the 2024 allocation will be most welcome.

The Future - Budget for 2025

Our unavoidable expenditure continues to rise, and our Parish Share and fuel costs will rise considerably, so, we would welcome an increase in income from regular giving and donations from our Members. We would strongly encourage members to join the Parish Giving Scheme, or to consider payment by regular banker's standing order. Anyone who is a taxpayer can Gift Aid their donations by completing a Gift Aid form, available from the Treasurer, to enable us to reclaim tax, which added almost £15,000 to our funds in 2024.

As Treasurer I am in the fortunate position of rarely having to handle cash as paying in and Gift Aid records are all handled by Kathy Perry and Sue Gouch. I would like to thank them for all their hard work. We are most grateful to Geoffrey Dix who has undertaken the task of Independent Examiner.

Martin Chapman – Treasure

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Report at 01/03/2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2025

Year Commencing 01/01/2025

		To Date Actual	2025 Budget to date	Exceeding budget		2024 Actual this time last year	Comparison with 2025 Gain/Loss
2025	<u>DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS</u>						
£	<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£			
£16,000	General Collections	1,282	1920	-638	down	2,927	-1,645
£58,000	Planned Giving	9,316	9917	-601	down	8,829	487
£15,730	Tax Refund (with donations)	2,275	2522	-248	estimate	2,463	-188
£5,500	Fees	142	435	-293	down	631	-489
£4,650	Donations	775	775	0		561	214
£11,000	Fund Raising	1,746	0	1,746	up	1,213	533
£1,200	Hall Hire (fund raising)	240	188	53	up	180	60
£4,000	Interest and Dividends	134	667	-533	down	151	-17
£116,080	TOTAL	15,909	16,423	-514		16,955	-1,046
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
£2,500	Clergy Expenses	1,025	0	1,025	no clergy!	237	788
£3,500	Church Servants	493	492	1		235	258
£3,500	Sacristy	100	582	-482		366	-266
£7,920	Administration £648/month	102	1320	-1,218	due in March	1,296	-1,194
£10,500	Church Upkeep	2,207	2000	207	electricity	1,590	617
£69,745	Parish Share paid	10,472	11624	-1,152	we owe	11,600	-1,128
£8,500	Repairs and Maintenance	402	1417	-1,015		1,017	-615
£5,905	Charitable Giving (5% of income)	795	821	-26	2025 payments	848	-53
£112,070	TOTAL	15,596	18,256	-2,660	down	17,189	-1,593
£6,035 Gain	2025 Operating Surplus >>	313	-1,833	2,146	<Budget gain	3,632	<<2023

BALANCE SHEET FOR 2025

	2025		2024	Gain/Loss
ASSETS :	£		At 1/3/24	
CCLA Deposit Accounts 4.5%	92,041		92,041	0
Diocesan Board of Finance - Sygrave Fund	23,352		23,352	0
Debtors				
Inland Revenue	2,275	To be claimed in 2025	2,463	-188
Cash : Bank Accounts	32,919		30,179	2,740
DBF Investments: Child & Poulter - restricted	601	value now	601	0
CCLA Investment Fund Account	10,000	378.66 sha. £23,444	10,000	13,444
CCLA Global Equity Fund	10,000	1899.44 share £11,686	10,000	1,686
TOTAL	171,188		168,636	2,552
REPRESENTED BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AS FOLLOWS :				
General Reserve - Accumulated Surplus	99,174	estimate	90,203	8,971
Emergency Building Fund (Designated/Unrestricted)	27,079		27,079	-0
Sygrave Capital (Untouchable Endowment)	23,352	Restricted	23,352	0
Sygrave Income restricted for Church Repairs	6,470	Restricted	2,063	4,407
Creditors (2023 charity fund)	0	already distributed		
Charitable giving 2025 5%	795	to be allocated in 2025	848	-53
Holding Account (Restricted)	11,525	Restricted	12,115	-590
Vicar's discretionary Fund	490		490	
Junior Church	705		705	0
Hall Hire (2025) £8405 moved to reserve	3,870		2,720	1,150
Toddlers Church	965		785	180
Youth Group TYG	110		87	23
Choir Fund	109		211	-102
Traidcraft	3,311	£2300 to Transform Trade	4,160	-849
Car Park Fund (Restricted)	915	Restricted	915	0
Flower Fund	341		285	56
Poulter Grave Fund for churchyard	2,216	Restricted	800	1,416
Craft Group Donations	1,348		1,098	250
Sundry Trust Funds	601		601	0
TOTAL ASSETS	183,377	estimate	168,515	14,862

The Benefice of Langelei

Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of Leverstock Green – 2024 Accounts

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

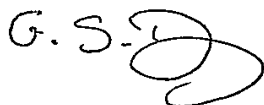
In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Geoffrey Dix
Independent Examiner

Date: 24 February 2025

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2024

Year Commencing 01/01/2024

2024 Full year budget		To Date Actual	To Date Budget	To Date Exceeding budget	Difference	Last Year 2023
£	INCOME :	£	£	£	£	
11000.00	General Collections	12,661	11000.00	1,661	2,116	10,545
50000.00	Planned Giving	55,419	50000.00	5,419	7,120	48,299
13800.00	Tax Refund (with collections)	14,885	13800.00	1,085	1,947	12,938
7000.00	Fees	4,897	7000.00	-2,103	-3,693	8,590
8000.00	Donations	4,172	8000.00	-3,828	-3,428	7,600
11000.00	Fund Raising	10,502	11000.00	-498	708	9,794
2550.00	Hall Hire (fund raising)	1,090	2550.00	-1,460	-1,450	2,540
2109.00	Interest and Dividends	4,661	2109.00	2,552	764	3,897
105459	TOTAL	108,287	105459	2,828	4,084	104,203
	EXPENDITURE :					
2000.00	Clergy Expenses	828	2000.00	1,172	-515	1,343
3100.00	Church Servants	3,038	3100.00	62	115	2,923
1400.00	Sacristy	3,470	1400.00	-2,070	1,998	1,472
7600.00	Administration	7,570	7600.00	30	387	7,183
10000.00	Church Upkeep	9,742	10000.00	258	-144	9,886
65836.00	Parish Share	65,836	65836.00	0	-743	66,579
4284.00	Repairs and Maintenance	4,413	4284.00	-129	129	4,284
5272.95	Charitable Giving (5% of income)	5,414	5272.95	141	-1,791	7,205
99493	TOTAL	100,311	99493	818	-564	100,875
5966	Gain	7,976	5,966.05	2,010		3,328
	Operating Surplus >>					

BALANCE SHEET FOR 2024

		2024		Gain/(Loss)	Brought Fwd.
		£			2023
ASSETS :					
CCLA Deposit Accounts	4.5%	92,041.17	CB3033328	33,000	59,041
Diocesan Board of Finance - Sygrave Fund		23,351.62	Cannot use	0	23,352
Debtors					
Inland Revenue	0	9,092.38		324	8,768
Investments: Diocesan Brd. of Finance(Restrict)		601.00		0	601
Cash : Bank Accounts & cash		22,280.76	As Cash sheet	-16,823	39,104
CCLA Investment Account	23,766	10,000.00	378.66 shares	0	10,000
CCLA Global Equity Fund	12,006	10,000.00	1899.44 shares	0	10,000
TOTAL	Value^A^	167,366.93		13,510	153,857
REPRESENTED BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AS FOLLOWS :					
General Reserve - Accumulated Surplus		80,412.43		6,863	73,549
Emergency Building Fund (Unrestricted)		27,078.73		0	27,079
Sygrave Capital (Restricted Endowment)		23,351.62	Untouchable	0	23,352
Sygrave Income for Church Repairs		5,257.07	Restricted	5,223	34
Creditors (Accruals)		5,146.29	2024 distribution	213	4,933
Expenditure					
Charitable giving designated	from above				
Holding Account		9,977.84	Restricted	-2,298	12,276
Vicar's discretionary fund		489.91		0	490
Junior Church		705.08		0	705
Hall Hire (COGS)		3,630.05		1,090	2,540
Toddlers Church		965.04		283	682
Youth Group TYG		80.26	Restricted	-7	87
Choir Fund		140.66		-70	211
Traidcraft		3,050.70	Restricted	-800	3,851
Car Park Fund (Restricted)		914.75	Restricted	0	915
Flower Fund		341.19		56	285
Organ Fund		2,000.00	Restricted	0	0
Poulter Grave Fund for churchyard		2,126.08	Restricted	945	1,181
Craft Group		1,098.23		0	1,098
Sundry Trust Funds		601.00		0	601
TOTAL ASSETS		167,366.93	0.00	13,498	153,869

Signed GS-D Date 24 February 2025
Independent Examiner

Income from Investment Funds £ Confirmed by DBF statements
Poulter (Churchyard Upkeep) 356.42
Child (organ Maintenance) 5.26
Sygrave (Church Repairs) 5,223.16

Holy Trinity Church

Charity Report - Donations made in 2024

In 2003 the PCC agreed to donate 5% of income to charity.

The donations shown in 2024 below were mostly from funds set aside in 2023.

In 2004 the PCC again agreed a 5% donation and the accounts show that £5414 has been reserved for donations in 2025. The PCC would welcome suggestions of charities which might benefit from this fund.

	£
Medecins Sans Frontieres	1000
Rennie Grove Hospices	1000
DENS – Lent Lunches & pancakes	382
Action Aid	290
Sunnyside Rural Trust	1000
Bishops Harvest Appeal (Leprosy Mission)	1000
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	933
Weekly donations to St Benedict's Food Bank	
Envelope box collections for The Children's Society	

Martin Chapman

Fabric Committee Report for 2024/25

In the last year we have completed or considered the following;

Secondary glazing of the east and west windows to reduce drafts and improve heat retention in both zones. This work is ongoing.

We dealt with the black mould in the north and south corners of the nave. We removed the oil and tank from the old heating system. It remains to drain down the remaining system and remove the boiler and header tank. Repairs to the car park exit zone are in hand as at 12th April. The external paintwork on the Trinity Room has been painted during the year. Trinity Room roof, we have been told that an inspection can only be completed by lifting the felt on the roof. The Committee is concerned that an invasive inspection may start a process which then entails re-felting the whole roof, leading to some serious unbudgeted costs. The committee agreed to not conduct a survey of the roof at this time. We have recently installed new heating in the Trinity Room. We believe we need a small working group to develop our thinking around redeveloping the Trinity Room with a view to our present needs and our likely needs when 2,500 additional homes are built to the east of the village and bring perhaps 10,000 new residents to our doorstep. In 2021 the village population was 9,712, so the size of the opportunity is to at least double our congregation and capacity for social events. Milke Hawtin has agreed to rejoin the Fabric Committee when his health has improved.

My thanks to all the members of the committee for their assistance and dedication in the last year.

Mike Heylin, Fabric Committee

Annual Report on Diocesan Synod for the APCM 2025

The Diocesan Synod is the democratically elected, decision-making body of the Diocese of St Albans. Its membership comprises some 200 clergy and laity split approximately 50/50 and elections from the Deanery Synods to the Diocesan Synod are held every three years (known as triennium). Hemel Hempstead Deanery is allocated four clergy and three lay member places on the Diocesan Synod. The president of the Synod is the Bishop of St Albans and Hemel Hempstead's lay members include Colin Gage.

The Synod meets three times annually, one of which is now held online to reduce the need for travel as part of the Diocese's efforts to move towards its Net Zero Carbon target.

- The Synod's first meeting since our last APCM (which was the final one of its 2021-2024 triennium), took place online on 15th June 2024 and happily was chaired by the Bishop of St Albans following completion of his cancer treatment. The first part of the meeting dealt with financial matters and operational reports from the Diocese's various Boards and committees. The principal aspect of the meeting comprised a wide-ranging consultation as to how the governance of the Diocese could be streamlined, made more diverse and improved by a major reorganisation of the various Boards and committees.

- The first meeting of the 2024 – 2027 triennium took place on 12th October 2024 at the University of Bedfordshire's campus at Putteridge Bury near Luton. It began with a Eucharist and after agreement of the Diocese's financial budget for 2025 and a number of operational reports there was a detailed discussion on the changes in the governance of the Diocese it was planned to carry out commencing on 1st January 2025.
- The most recent Synod meeting was held on 8th March 2025 at Putteridge Bury and was considerably influenced by the fact that it will be last Synod presided over the Bishop of St Albans prior to his impending retirement. Arrangements were agreed to be put in place to cover the interregnum and for much of the meeting members were invited to indicate what they would like to see in the profile of a new Bishop so that it could be incorporated into the recruitment process. Also covered were the controversial discussions arising in the recent General Synod on independent safeguarding arrangements and the Living in Love and Faith issues.

The most recent Synod concluded with a valedictory speech by Bishop Alan in which he said he was disappointed that he had not achieved more in the 16 years he had headed up the Diocese, but he was reassured by numerous members that his guidance and leadership had been invaluable and that he absolutely had no reason at all for disappointment. All members of the Synod expressed their sincere thanks and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The next Diocesan Synod is scheduled to be held on 14th June 2025 and will take place online.

Colin Gage, Deanery Synod Rep

Report of Deanery Synod proceedings (2024 - 2025)

This report covers the proceedings of the Hemel Hempstead Deanery Synod for the period from March 2024 to February 2025. During the year there were three Deanery Synod meetings, covering a variety of different topics. The key areas of discussion are reported below:

Tuesday 18th June 2024 at The Church of the Resurrection Grove Hill. This meeting started off as an open forum where we welcomed an additional 20 guests from around the Diocese. We had Revd Canon Dr Tim Bull join us where he gave a very interesting talk about "AI and a theological response".

As this was the first synod meeting of the new triennium, there were several changes to the committee. Mike Macey, James McDonald & Austin Janes were elected Diocesan Synod reps. Colin Gage, Job Rombout & Lindsay Kemp were elected as the three Diocesan Synod Laity. Carolyn Andrews became the new Deanery Synod lay chair & Sam Stanbridge became the new Deanery Synod secretary.

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at St Francis' Church, Peter Bladon reported on deanery expenditure so far this year. He firstly wanted to thank all our parishioners for their generous donations throughout the year. Rev Austin Janes was given a grant by the Deanery to help with the cost of printing a book he had written about St Alban. All profits were distributed between Warners End & Grovehill. We used this meeting as a great way to express one positive thing within each parish & a way to get to know each other a little more. The meeting ended with Compline & Benediction.

Tuesday 11th February 2025 at St John's, Boxmoor, we welcomed Glyn Barker – Finance Director for the Diocese, who gave a very in-depth presentation focussed on the diocese's finances. He explained where our parish share goes, and the income and expenditure of the Diocese. Colin Gage also presented us with a presentation used at Holy Trinity's 2024 APCM. The concept was incomings & expenditure for the year using a bath diagram. We could clearly see & understand monies coming in (bath filling up) & monies going out (bath emptying).

I have the presentation from Glyn, which has been sent to all Synod members for them to distribute to their PCC members.

Words of encouragement from St Mary's, Apsley:

– Don't give up, keep trying & keep going.

Further Deanery meetings planned this year:

Deanery Synod

Tuesday 11th February 2025

Tuesday 8th July 2025

Tuesday 4th November 2025

Standing & Pastoral Committee

Wednesday 29th January

Wednesday 4th June 2025

Wednesday 8th October 2025

Sam Stanbridge, Deanery Secretary