The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Nicholas Church on Sunday 17th May 2026

10.00am Holy Communion
Coffee 11.10am
APCM 11.30am

Agenda - Annual Meeting of Parishioners 'Vestry Meeting'

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held 11th May 2025
2. Appointment of Churchwardens 2025– 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM held on 11th May 2025
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Presentation of New Electoral Roll
5. Presentation of Annual Accounts
6. All reports sent out and therefore no verbal reports will be given
7. Opportunity for questions or clarification of reports (to be notified in advance please)
8. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner of the Accounts
9. Safeguarding
10. Elections for PCC vacancies
11. Rector's address
12. Any other business (to be notified in advance please)
13. Closing Prayer

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Churchwardens Report

It will come as no surprise that this year has been dominated by the vacancy arising from the decision by Jane and Charles to enter a well-earned retirement. Jane announced this at the APCM last year and they presided over their last service on October 19th. It was of course a very emotional day but also a celebration of all that they have achieved here during the last eight years.

If Jane and Charles want to be remembered for anything, it will be how they encouraged others to step up and take on roles that might be out of their comfort zone. The importance of this has really come to the fore since they retired. We have been truly blessed with the support of many of our church family, too many to mention here, and our Curate David Reed, especially during the Christmas period prior to his placement at Red Post. Chris Tebbutt has supported us wonderfully in his role of retired clergy, always making himself available to us when needed.

We produced a Parish Profile which was circulated via the Church Times and resulted in the appointment of Rev Lesley Jones, who was Inducted at a wonderful service on April 29th. We feel so privileged to have attracted such a high calibre candidate to St Nicholas and St Hubert's. We are all looking forward so much to having Lesley with us. A special mention here to Neil Stevens who masterminded the very attractive Parish Profile document which has been taken up by the Diocese.

Our worship has not suffered during the vacancy, with so many people coming forward to lead and preach at our services. Our Life Groups, which were run in several homes, were a huge success. The Sunday evening Refresh services have re-started on a regular basis and provide the opportunity for the church family to come along and spend a quiet hour in prayer and worship, which has proved to be extremely valuable to those who attend. Wherever we are on our journey in faith there is a place for us all at St Nicholas. There is plenty of opportunity to learn more of God's word and we are actively encouraged to take our faith out into the community.

Another significant development this year has been the appointment of Rachel Stevens to the role of Community Lead. This is a full-time position funded by the Diocese with the intention of giving local churches the opportunity to work more collaboratively. Rachel has made huge strides in this area, and her report will be found elsewhere in our booklet.

The recent heavy rain has taken its toll on St Hubert's, regrettably we have had to take the difficult decision to close the church due to the extreme flooding. We are now in the process of repairing the damage, mainly to the flooring, but unfortunately the reopening will not be any time soon.

On a brighter note we can tell you that much work has been carried out at St Hubert's. The guttering project has now been completed along with some lead replacement, a ridge tile replaced and some loose tiles repositioned. The gardens are in very good order thanks to John Burbidge who continues to show great dedication to the grounds this year without the level of support that we have previously enjoyed from the Community Payback Scheme.

We are grateful for the work that has been done to keep St Nicholas a safe and comfortable place to worship and in such great condition. Jason Wyles has chaired the building committee who have overseen several important projects this year. More details of that work can be found in his report.

Our office administrator Karen Dale has advised us that she will be retiring from her role at this year's APCM. Karen has been with us for approximately eight years and has been at the heart of everything that goes on here at St Nicholas. It has been so reassuring to have such a capable person making sure that the centre is well maintained, organised and ready for over a thousand users per week.

We are also hugely indebted to Tracie our PA to the rector. Funnily enough this role becomes even more difficult when we don't have a rector!! Tracie has, as she always does, kept everything running smoothly, always keeping the church family uppermost in her mind. She offers us a gentle prod when deadlines are approaching and has continued her voluntary work with the Food Bank.

One of the standout features of this year is how we have grown the attendance to our services for Children and Young Families. Evie has built on her efforts in recent years, and the results have been truly remarkable. We now have a well-established Rise service at 9.30am on Sundays along with Wild Church, Tots Tea and Toast, Craft Fayres and of course the highlight of the year for children's work the Holiday Club held in July. Evie's role has been increased to full time under the Diocese Community Lead initiative, and she has really embraced it and achieved great things.

Finally, Daphne and I would like to thank you for all that you have done this year during the vacancy. In last year's report we spoke of the unfailing unity that exists here at St Nicholas and St Hubert's. We are so pleased to say that unity has become

stronger than ever this year as we have all pulled together to make both churches so welcoming to all.

God bless

Neil and Daphne.

Finance Report

We are very grateful to John Cordner who has compiled the annual Financial Statement of Accounts for our Parish. The full report is available from the church office on request and on both church notice boards.

The full report includes both restricted and unrestricted funds. The use of restricted funds is confined to a specific purpose while designated funds may be used for any purpose but should ideally be used for the purposes intended.

The figures used in this summary do not include restricted funds (for example, income received by the foodbank and holiday club) to enable a focus specifically on our main sources of our income; namely that received from the regular giving of congregation members plus the income from rents from the use of the St Nicholas Centre by all the various groups that use the facility throughout 2025. This report reviews the operating costs and income for the parish separately to that of the Centre and then combines both operations to provide an overall financial position.

Financial position of the parish

The total income from the parish primarily from giving and donations (i.e. not including the income received by the St Nicholas Centre) for 2025 was £94,554 which is an increase from the previous year of £8,312. This is very encouraging and is a reflection of the growing numbers in our congregations and of course the generosity of the church family.

Expenses for the running of the parish during 2025 was £112,861 which was an increase of £21,445 from the previous year. The reasons for this are because we had an increase in our parish share of £5,364, a higher wages and salary bill and the expense of replacing the Velux windows in the Narthex and the Hall, which was split against the centre.

The expenses of running the parish exceeded its income from giving and donations by £18,307 and means that we have had to rely on income from the centre to support the running of parish. It also highlights the challenge of meeting our increasing costs associated with our rising wages and salaries bill and our parish share.

Our longer-term aim is that parish income from giving and donations is able to completely support the running of the parish and can pay its own way, without reliance on income from the centre operations. This will mean that any surplus generated by the centre can be invested in the ongoing upkeep and renovation of our church buildings, in addition to the wider mission and ministry of our churches.

One final point on parish income - there has been an increase of £6,281 in the amount given through planned giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and Planned Giving Envelopes with less being received through personal donations. This indicates that more people have decided to use the planned giving scheme as a way of giving to the church which is both helpful and beneficial to us in managing our finances.

Financial position of the Centre

In 2025, the total income from the St Nicholas Centre was £59,176 which is similar to the amount we received in the previous year albeit down very slightly. Expenses incurred from running the Centre were £40,945 which is an increase from the previous year of £6,640. This reflects the cost of replacing the Velux windows in the Narthex and the Hall, of which £6,853 of the £10,383 cost of their replacement was set against the centre. This is because the centre has the greatest occupancy of the building compared to its use for church activities. We also had an increased utilities expenditure of £1,928 against the centre, This means centre income from room hire exceeded the expenses of running the Centre by £18,231.

Overall financial position

Therefore, taking both parish and centre operations together this left a very slim overall positive financial position of £76.

However, it must be remembered that the income and outgoing figures above do NOT include the full salary bill for the church as the salary of the Children and Families Worker is paid from legacies; eventually these monies will run out. If we were to include these salaries in our overall income and outgoings figure, then in fact we will have an annual deficit.

Our substantial financial reserves mean this shortfall does not create any immediate or even medium-term problems, however if we wish to retain these posts that further the mission and ministry of the church over the much longer-term then our parish income will have to increase.

Investments

In recent years the parish was left generous legacies. In total, the finance team invested £303,000 in seven different easy access and long-term investment accounts to ensure careful stewardship and prudent management of our funds to achieve interest from our investments. The value of these investments now stands at £347,000.

Looking further ahead, the PCC agreed that the primary use of remaining legacy funds (and indeed any future legacy income) is to further the mission and ministry of the church within the local community as well as enabling us to fund major building upgrades, together with any grant income we receive. We are thankful to all who give to our churches and for the generous legacies left to us which we seek to steward wisely.

Once again, we are encouraged by the increase in our overall income over the year and very grateful to all who generously give.

Tom

Safeguarding

This report covers the period May 2025 to March 2026.

In 2025/26, Corfe Mullen PCC complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ guidance in relation to safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated in October 2025 and is a go to document which advises “How to – safely” e.g. safer recruitment.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. This ensures that our church leadership is kept informed of good safeguarding practice and is held to account to follow this guidance.

We were an earlier adopter of the parish safeguarding dashboard. This is an on line tool that enables parishes to check levels of compliance with safeguarding. We are currently registering a high level of compliance, 100% at level 3.

Another tool we use is the Parish Safeguarding hub. This helps parishes to record safeguarding training and safer recruitment. The hub enables us to provide our volunteers with a friendly nudge when their safeguarding training or DBS needs to be renewed.

On 26th October we held Safeguarding Sunday at St Nicholas which was well received.

During the summer of 2025 there was a data breach from the DBS provider used by Salisbury, APCS which unfortunately affected some of our volunteers. APCS is a DBS service provider approved by the Home Office and used by many thousands of organisations nationally – including government departments and the NHS which were all affected. Advice and guidance was provided to all volunteers involved. Additional resources were found by the diocese to accelerate the move from APCS to Thirtyone:Eight as our recommended DBS checking provider – a move that was already underway prior to the breach. The DBF has since undertaken additional detailed discussions and diligence with Thirtyone:Eight and the Safeguarding Hubs to assure everyone, as far as is reasonably possible, that they have all necessary safeguards in place.

Thanks to Mark (our data protection officer and GDPR lead) and Tracie Jackson who spent a bank holiday week end working on this. Mark has also revised our Data protection Policy.

The Safeguarding team at Salisbury led by Suzie (ex-social services) and Jem (ex-police) are brilliant. They do not just inform us about the guidance and provide training but more importantly advice. They are the go to people where we report all concerns or allegations against church officers. Fortunately, to date we have not had to report any allegations but have had lots of queries and request for advice which is given that same day. Learning from this is disseminated to PCC and volunteers involved.

Corfe Mullen PSO (Alison) and parish verifier (Tracie) have attended PSO workshops this year. These workshops enable teams to share good practice and learn latest guidance from the diocesan safeguarding team.

This year the diocese safeguarding team offer on line drop in sessions to support and train PSO's. Topics covered include modern slavery and the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer.

The requirements for safeguarding training are unchanged. In summary these are;

- Basic Level-for all who volunteer for roles in the church
- Basic and Foundation; required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or has contact in their church role with children/young adult and/or vulnerable adults for example, children's workers, youth workers, leaders of groups, Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Worship Leaders, Choir Leaders, Church Warden's.
- Leadership; only for those who lead a congregation or are significantly involved in shaping the culture of the church, for example, rectors, vicars, Licensed Lay Ministers, Parish Safeguarding officer.
- Safer Recruitment and People Management; for anyone involved in the recruitment of volunteers or paid staff
- Understanding Domestic Abuse it is a requirement for certain roles (such as clergy, parish safeguarding officers and PCC members) and a recommendation for others who hold pastoral posts.

Training needs to be refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of training e.g. for a Licensed Lay Minister who has completed basic awareness, foundation and leadership training, the refresher requirement would be to only repeat Leadership training. Please tell Tracie or Alison when you complete any training so we can add your name to the parish safeguarding hub so that you can receive a reminder when your training needs updating.

Basic and Foundation, Understanding Domestic Abuse", "Leadership" and "safer recruitment" courses are accessed online via the Church of England Training Portal. Leadership courses can be booked via the Salisbury Diocese website. There is also some opportunity for face to face foundation training opportunities at St Nicholas. Please let Alison know if you are experiencing problems with the on line courses.

Thank you all for helping to make St Hubert and St Nicholas a safe place to worship. To quote Bishop Stephen "Safeguarding is not an added extra, it is a gospel imperative"

Finally, I wish to give a very big thank you to Tracie, our parish verifier, who manages the DBS process and parish safeguarding hub.

Alison Duyvesteyn Parish Safeguarding Officer2026

Children and Families

I want to start this report by saying a huge, heartfelt thank you to all those who make our children and families ministry possible. This report is a true testimony to this parishes heart for making Jesus known, specifically in the way children and families ministry has been embraced. Across the year so many people get stuck in, with 25 individuals volunteering regularly across the year, as well as those who then help at holiday club, craft fairs and other events, and not forgetting those who make donations towards the ministry, pray steadfastly for our children and families work and those who faithfully do cutting out of resources at home! You are all amazing and I feel truly blessed to be so well supported in this ministry, so thank you.

Sundays

All Age Service

To me, all age is a precious first service of the month, where all ages gather together for a service that tries to incorporate something for every age and stage. This of course does mean we are all compromising a little bit, whether it be the joyful buzz of noise that is inevitable in the service, worshipping with an action song, trying to move little feet a bit slower to keep the room safe or practicing sharing of breakfast food and craft resources… But what a joy to be in the body of Christ, where relationships are built and valued across generations and where we grow closer to God and each other. If you have a real heart for all age service like me and would like to be involved in the planning of the service, please do get in contact with me. It is always lovely to have multiple voices feeding into services. It has been a joy most recently to have some of our young people getting involved through readings and by joining the worship team. We are hoping to develop the involvement of young voices in the leading of the service further so keep your eyes peeled for that!





Rise

For those that may not know, Rise is our short, engaging and fun service for families with young children, running for just half an hour from 9am to 9:30am. In last year's report I shared that Rise had grown from 3 families to 15 families… Well, it has since further grown to around 20 families, with each Sunday having a good number attending. We have a great time at Rise, with puppets delivering the Bible teaching, fun worship songs, a Makaton sign of the day, short and snappy crafts or games and time for family prayer. Families are then welcome to stay for refreshments which doubles as an opportunity to connect with those arriving for the 10am service. So, if you don't already, please do be sure to introduce yourself to the Rise families when you come for your tea/coffee in the morning. Furthermore, we've had 4 baptisms from Rise families over the past year which are always a beautiful time of commitment and celebration.





With little ones from Rise growing older, it was clear that we needed that next step for children and families on Sundays. So, it has been such a joy to start Little Lights, our children's group that runs alongside the 10am service in the lounge. This is aimed at children around school age who are content being left in our team's care whilst parents engage with the main service. We have been running little lights for 8 months now and I'm happy to report that it has been a wonderful success. Children have really taken to the routine of the group which is as follows – worship with instruments and actions, Bible story, a group game, craft, play time, snack, prayer and worship again! It has been a blessing for parents who have then been able to focus on the main service, some have even said that they can't believe how attentive the children are when they have had a peak through the lounge window.

In the week

Tots Tea and Toast





Tots Tea and Toast is a great first contact point with families, running Tuesdays in term time 9:30-11am. Our team does a wonderful job of building relationships with those that come along, being a listening ear and serving a hot tea or coffee. We have seen families attend both Rise and Wild Church, having first been to Tots Tea and Toast which is brilliant. For the first hour, children enjoy a variety of toys as well as a craft table and messy place option. Parents have often commented on how great it is to do messy play at Tots Tea and Toast so they don't have the mess at home! At 10:30am, we pack the toys away together and children have toast and fruit around the table. To finish we have child led prayer where children choose prayer cards for the morning which is followed by a short story (sometimes a Bible Story) and nursery rhymes. This continues to be a great space to signpost parents to other activities like Wild Church, Rise, Seasonal events and also Baptism information, not forgetting hall hire for birthday parties! But also serves as a blessing to parents and grandparents with little ones, looking for a safe and fun space to come and be.

Dad's and Toddlers *(Written by David Reed who has overseen this activity)*

Once a month in 2025 we ran a Dads & Toddlers Playdate in the hall at St Nic's, on a Saturday morning to coincide with coffee. Led primarily by David, each session included sausage baps, toys and games, as well as a "big activity" that involves some form of kinetic play between dads and the children. The playdate has been a successful form of outreach to families and a helpful first stepping stone for dads to take part in the life of the church. Some of the dads have gone on to join Fitness and Faith as well as our most recent Alpha course.





Wild Church

Wild Church continues to be a popular family spot, running on the third Saturday of each month. I think all those involved love this outdoor, informal version of church where children have the opportunity to learn practical skills like cooking and using tools. We start each session with an interactive Bible story around the campfire – whether it's with actions for families to join in with, things for children to find or tactile elements, everybody gets involved. Children then have the option of making a craft (sometimes using tools), playing with the mud kitchen, swinging on the tree swing or going bug hunting! Families also enjoy making a snack, we have done all sorts of things such as: popcorn on the campfire, cakes baked inside oranges, toast, bread on a stick, caramel apple slices, bananas stuffed with marshmallows or chocolate chips, and of course the classic, marshmallow on a stick. Much like Tots, Tea and Toast, Wild Church has been a great space to direct families to other things happening and has also acted as a first stepping stone for some who have then gone on to join us on Sundays too. The Wild Church space is also used by other groups/organisations, like the rainbows, brownies, blossoms day nursery and Lockyer's Middle School's Young Carers group.





Henbury View First School

We continue to have a great relationship with Henbury View First School through a number of activities. Ann, Veronica and I listen to the Year 1 children read every Thursday in term time and each year we are amazed at how quickly the children progress. The support is greatly appreciated by the school, and we really enjoy getting to know the children. I am also a school governor which is a privilege, working in partnership with the school to ensure it is running effectively. This includes meeting termly with the other governors and school representatives. Additionally, I run an after-school choir club every Thursday which is great fun. We have express permission from Sally, the headteacher, to learn Christian songs as well as mainstream songs. This has been particularly wonderful as we have then invited the choir to sing at seasonal services like Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Parents have told me how great it is for the children to have the opportunity to sing in front of the

congregation and have expressed their gratitude for the work that is put into it. Furthermore, we have visited for an occasional assembly, delivered 'Experience Christmas' at the school which you can read more about in the Christmas section and have also hosted 'Experience Easter' at church, which you can read more about in the Easter section of this report! You may or may not know that Sally Wall (Headteacher) will be retiring after this school year. I know that Sally has greatly valued the connection with us, and we hope it will continue in the future as we meet the next person in role.

Lockyer's Middle School

This year we have had two blocks of Walk and Talk with Lockyer's Middle School, where we take a group of children for a walk in the local area once a week, for a block of 5-6 weeks. It has a deliberately high adult to child ratio as it aims to have an almost one to one feel where children have the full attention of a trusted adult. Children who would benefit from the activity are carefully chosen by Lockyer's staff. Throughout the walk we have a few stops where we practice a wellbeing exercise (for example, breathing techniques/journalling), we have a snack and we have a faith question where we gently share about our faith whilst also listening carefully to others beliefs. One teacher has said how they believe Walk and Talk is the best thing being run at Lockyer's, they said that children who have attended talk so positively about it all the time, telling their friends about it and wanting it to run all year long. We know from experience, that children are honest about how they feel, so this is just a wonderful piece of feedback.

Through this link, the Walk and Talk team have been invited to attend musical productions put on by the school which are always so incredible. The school have used the Wild Church space for their young carers group where they can toast marshmallows. And the team, as trusted people known to the children at Lockyer's, have been invited to help with invigilating the Year 6 SATs tests. Over the year Revd Jane and/or Revd David visited for assemblies, often bringing a fun interactive aspect with them! We were also really pleased to have some students from Lockyer's involved in the vacancy interview process, which was positive for all those involved.

Summer 2025

Corfe Mullen Carnival

What an amazing presence we had in the carnival last year! Revd David and the dads truly did an amazing job making a ginormous whale to walk in the procession, advertising our Under the Sea Holiday Club. Then seeing all the families walking together on the day was a beautiful sight and a lovely representation from our Parish. Not forgetting that they came 2nd place in their procession category, what a result!

We also had a team on the recreation ground carrying out a crafty mission to create another ginormous whale art piece that would then go on to decorate the church for holiday club. Children absolutely loved tying and weaving fabric onto the mesh frame, and it was a wonderful way to get the community involved. Great conversations were had throughout and lots of flyers were given, advertising all the activities we do. A special mention is necessary for Neil Stevens, who, no matter what bizarre idea I throw at him, is always ready to take on the challenge of making our ideas come to life – perhaps he should be titled creative director or general mastermind!







Ice Lollies for the last day of school!

As a small blessing to those children walking past the church building after breaking up from school for the summer holidays, we handed out ice lollies! They were gratefully received, and we hope brought a lot of joy. Parents commented on Facebook showing their appreciation!

Youth @ St Nic's



With the news of the council youth club closing over the summer term, our church family stepped up to provide 'Youth @ St Nic's', a safe space for young people to come and have fun in the evening! It was so well received, and we had around 50 young people coming along throughout the summer term. They enjoyed playing with the pool table, sports in the hall, table tennis, karaoke in the lounge and various activities that we did such as toasting marshmallows, watching a film, silly competitions and more. But that just wasn't enough! We wanted to end Youth @ St Nic's on a high, with news that the council had appointed a new Youth Leader and so would have provision in September. So, we took the youth to the beach! It was so much fun, the young people were able to swim as we hired a lifeguard to come along with us, they enjoyed fish and chips, toasting marshmallows and ball games too. Parents were so grateful for what we had provided, and some said it was the best provision for young people they'd experienced. Although Youth @ St Nic's was a temporary activity, Rachel and I regularly meet with the Corfe Mullen Youth Trust Team to stay up to date, support where possible and pray with them.

St Hubert's Cream Tea

A short snippet from the St Hubert's cream tea, as this year we provided children's games on the field alongside a story trail and had some special visitors from Hope Farm Alpaca Rescue! There was a great buzz on what was a gorgeous day of socialising, feeding alpaca's and playing games, not forgetting munching on the incredible home-made scones. The perfect afternoon of 'growing closer to each other and our community'.







Under the Sea Holiday Club

At holiday club last year, we followed along the story of Jonah in the Whale and let me tell you, we had a WHALE of a time! We are really proud to run our holiday club at an affordable price for families, keeping the ticket price at £30 for the week which includes a snack, hot lunch and dessert. It's our intention for our holiday club to be a blessing to families in this way. Below is some feedback from parents themselves:

Parent 1 *"My little boy had the absolute best time at the under the sea holiday club last year. He came out every day so excited and happy. He tried new foods and met lots of new friends. As my little boy has an allergy requiring epi pens, I was nervous however all of the helpers were amazing and put me very much at ease. He cannot wait to return this year. Highly recommend!"*

Parent 2 *"My daughters have attended your amazing holiday club two years in a row. They tell me it's their favourite holiday club in the summer. They love all the themes, games, activities and hot lunches. I know they are safe and cared for there. It's very well organised and fun. My only complaint is that is doesn't run all summer ;) thanks to everyone involved for making it consistently so successful. You can tell a lot of effort, planning and hard work goes into it. It's incredible value too, which is so helpful when school holidays are particularly expensive time for parents."*

As you have read, parents really appreciate the hard work, care and effort that is put into holiday club by all involved. It could not be done without all those who volunteer, it is a team effort, and I am so thankful for all the support. With crafts, sports, games, messy games including shaving cream pies to the face, healthy snack making, worship with the band, wake up and stretch exercise and hot lunch – it truly is a fun packed week and one I look forward to each year.





Big Church Festival

Although this one isn't strictly limited to children and families, I thought as the one who instigated us going that I should probably share how it was. I'm thrilled to report that it was amazing! We had the most wonderful time worshipping alongside 35,000 people, I can say it truly lifted our spirits. Not only did we grow closer together as we camped, shared meals and worshipped together, but we also came away feeling refreshed and filled with the holy spirit. Across the grounds are a number of different stages including the main stage, the garden stage, the worship tent and more. Stuart particularly enjoyed the rave tent – bringing young people to worship! I highly recommend coming next year, and if this interests you please do get in contact with me.









Autumn 2025

Light Party

Following you, previous year's success at the Bonfire Night family social, I wanted to try something a little bit different in offering a similar event but instead as an alternative to scary Halloween events. So, we ran a light party, and it was amazing! We had 120 people come along and our team did an amazing job of making a really fun and social event. We had a 'rolling zone' in the hall where children could use their scooters or rollerblades, crafts in the lounge, toasting marshmallows and lighting sparklers in the church garden, hot dogs from the kitchen and then to top it all off, a firework display in the car park! We run this as a free event with the aim of being a blessing to families, with the opportunity for donations to be given at the end. The fireworks were kindly donated too which is a wonderful contribution.







Christmas 2025

Christmas Tree Festival

Once again, our space at St Nicholas Church was beautifully decorated by 21 trees from the local community. I am always blown away by the creativity shown and it brought so much joy to all those who used our building over December. Quite often I overheard people commenting on the trees as they walked by my office, and the resounding feedback was that they were wonderful! The community were able to vote for their favourite trees at the Christmas Craft Fair and we had Knit and Natter in 1st Place, Corfe Mullen Rainbows in 2nd Place and Forest Hill House Nursing Home in 3rd Place!







Christingle Service



For the first time since I have been in my position, we had an all-age Christingle service! It was great fun and both adults and children were able to make their own Christingle to take home. From another local church, we borrowed the most wonderful Christingle puppet who talked us through the different parts. It was beautiful to have all of the candles lit during the last song, and we praise God that there were no fiery mishaps!

Christmas Craft Fair

We had 60 children come along to our Christmas Craft Fair which was full of festive fun. Children were able to make all sorts of Christmas crafts under the guidance of our volunteers and each went home with a nativity story book. Parents and other adults had the opportunity to shop the stalls in the hall, overseen by Karen and Tracie and the wonderful café team were ready to serve delicious cake and hot drinks too! It was a great event for whole families to come along to, and as always

was kept at a reasonable price (£2 per child) to cover the cost of the event rather than to make a profit. Tracie also offered free tickets to those using the foodbank which is great.

Experience Christmas

A small team of us had the joy of visiting Henbury View First School to deliver 'experience Christmas'. This is where we set up six stations that tell the nativity story – starting with an advent station, then the angel visiting Mary, the birth of Jesus being foretold, Mary and Joseph journeying to Bethlehem, the angels appearing to the shepherds and the birth of Jesus, God's gift. A church member guides the children through each station by reading a passage of the story, reflecting with some questions and responding with a quick activity. Prior to exploring the stations, we watch a video of the whole nativity story, then children are split into groups of ten which rotate around each station. The morning goes by so quickly as each group only has 10 minutes at each station, but the children gain so much by having this in-depth exploration of the nativity story. Sally, the headteacher, notes each year how valuable it is to have the church delivering the activity and is so grateful for the support.

Nativity Service

Wow! We were busy on Christmas Eve at the Nativity service with 156 adults and 75 children in attendance (50 more than last year). Children got stuck in by dressing up as nativity characters and coming to the front to join in when called upon! Adults had jobs to do to, as they had actions to do when they heard certain words in the story. Just thinking about it I can hear the festive buzz of excitement. With carol songs mixed in throughout we had a very jolly time. As they were leaving, children were able to take a Nativity story book and a chocolate coin.

Christmas Day

We had another joyful gathering on Christmas Day, with 66 adults and 12 children, celebrating the incredible gift we have in Jesus. We concluded our sermon series of 'wonder' with everybody getting involved by twinkling their fingers every time they heard that word! Leaving with the message that, with the great gift of Jesus, we don't have to wonder if God cares about us, if we matter, if God understands what we're going through, if we belong, what God's priorities are, what good leadership should look like, if we're forgiven or what God's like. Because those questions were answered in the life of Christ, and the gift we've been given. Everybody was sent home with a little Jesus figure to remind them of just that!

Saltmine Theatre Company

And just when all the festivities were over and we had seen the New Year in, we welcomed the Saltmine Theatre Company to perform their festive production of Cinderella. We certainly kept the Christmas fun going as long as we possibly could with this one running on the 3rd of January! The Saltmine team are so skilled at putting a Christian spin on classic tales, highlighting that message at the end of the performance too. The cookie cabin was popular for yummy refreshments, and everybody enjoyed the show. This is another event where tickets are priced to cover the cost rather than to make a profit – just £6 per ticket or £20 for a family of 4, which we hope is a blessing to those that come along. In total we had 265 people come along which is amazing!

Easter 2026

Experience Easter

Once again, this year we had the pleasure of welcoming two year groups from Henbury View First School to explore our Experience Easter stations! We started by watching the Lego version of the Easter story in full and then children were split into groups which rotated around the stations. There were six stations in total: Palm Sunday, Washing of the Disciples Feet, Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, The Cross and The Resurrection. At each station we had a member of the church who read part of the story, asked and answers questions and did something interactive. I'm sure you can imagine the fun with children waving palms, tasting grapes and pitta bread, cleaning each other's shoes and more! It's such a valued morning from the school's perspective, particularly in having Christians running it who feel confident answering questions appropriately. My favourite question this year was 'does getting my homework wrong count as sin?', which I assured them it does not, and shared just how often I got my homework wrong when I was younger – ha! We look forward to running this again next year.





We were also blessed to have a visit from The Children's House Montessori Nursery this Easter, with around 20 children aged 2-4. The children enjoyed hearing a simplified, age-appropriate version of the Easter story with lots of play involved! One parent shared that their child came home really excited, adding that 'he has absorbed every detail, I've been told about donkey, how it's his church and he knows you and Rachel', which was extra heart warming to hear. We are really excited to have this new connection and look forward to seeing them again this Christmas!






Easter Fun Morning

On Saturday 28th March we ran an Easter Fun Morning for families which was a wonderful success. With sixty children in attendance, we had plenty of Easter crafts for them to make in the church, the Corfe Mullen Youth Trust team in the hall with games and our usual Saturday morning café going on too. The whole building had a great buzz about it and feedback from parents was wonderful! One lady shared that she comes every year and is always amazed at the quality of the crafts provided for the children to do at such a low cost and also noted the volunteers who are so attentive in helping at the tables.

Easter Drawing Competition



We challenged the local children to design an Easter card for our drawing competition this year. The entrants were all incredible, but only three winners could be chosen! You can see those winners in the picture on the right. Each winner went home with a little Easter prize and a certificate which was gratefully received. This is such an easy way to connect with the community and bring some fun and joy!

Wider Support and Networking

Diocese of Salisbury

Over the past year I have been supporting work in the diocese, specifically in helping to develop a 0-25 Discipleship Pathway alongside the Growing Faith advisor and Mission Coordinator. This has involved various meetings and travel to Salisbury.

I am also on the Discipleship, Vocations and Ministry Committee (DVMC). The Discipleship, Vocations and Ministry Committee is responsible for creating and enabling discipleship and ministry across the diocese through its strategic oversight, formulating policies, and monitoring the delivery and evaluating the impact for all aspects of formation of ordained and lay leaders, evangelism, learning, discipleship, wellbeing and ministry in response to the strategic direction set by the Bishop's Council/Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC). The DVMC works in partnership with diocesan staff in the Board of Finance and the Board of Education and with the Ramsbury and Sherborne Mission and Pastoral Committees (MPCs.)

Recently I had the opportunity to be on the external stakeholder panel for the interview of the Diocese's Head of Growing Younger. It was a great experience, and I am really excited about this new role within the Diocese and what it may bring.

Through the Diocese I have also been asked to share good practice and support with others. In various meetings I have shared about Walk and Talk, Wild Church and Rise. This has then led to one-on-one meetings with those seeking support and advice, and with some coming to visit and see our practice first hand!

Thank you

If you made it right to the end of the report, thank you so much for taking the time to read through what we've been up to in the children and families ministry over the past year. It is still such a blessing to me to be in this role, and I am so grateful to be a part of this family. May God bless this next year coming too!

Evie

Church Centre Report

This is my final report for the ACPM as I will be retiring from this post at the end of May. I have enjoyed my time working here and will miss my regular contact with you all.

This year has seen the centre continue to be busy, however the number of ad hoc bookings for parties and concerts has reduced. In addition we have lost a couple of groups and some of the current groups have moved to smaller rooms or term time only to reduce their running costs. As a result despite the rental price for rooms increasing the revenue from hires has not increased. This is obviously disappointing and reminds us that we cannot rely on the external bookings to cover all the overheads of the building. Moving forward we need to look at how we can fill existing gaps and encourage more ad hoc bookings

The caretaking and housekeeping teams continue to do a great job managing to keep the rooms clean and ready for the groups. This has need a level of flexibility to fit around events / groups and the teams can do attitude has been much appreciated. Feedback from groups using the centre is always positive about the environment.

Unfortunately this year we have had very minimal support from Community Payback. All grounds work at both sites have been down to us and the caretaking teams have been working hard to keep the grounds looking good. In the future it would be good to get additional volunteers to support the caretaking team on a regular basis.

Over the course of the year a variety of improvements have been commenced and some completed on both sites. At St Nicholas new velux windows have been installed in the narthex and hall due to leaks and the spire has been closed in which appears to have stopped the leaks in the Church. The final stage of the works in the Church to repaint the area took place in January 2026. After a lot of difficulty obtaining a faculty works on replacing the guttering at St Huberts work has started and is nearly complete. Hopefully this will help prevent some of the leaks at St Huberts. Further works at St Huberts to complete jobs identified in the Quinquennial are still on going.

Projects for 2026

- Increase advertising of hall to fill current gaps with regular rentals and more parties
- If possible get more input from Community Payback to help us maintain the grounds at both sites
- Undertake remaining works required for Quinquennial at both sites

- Repair the damage caused by flooding at St Huberts which means this building is currently closed

Karen

Mission Hub



Church Worship Band

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who is involved in our worship at St Nicholas. For everyone in the band who so faithfully practises at home and at weekly band practices. For our tech team who work on the sound and visuals, for the staff who put the slides together and book a space for us to practice, and all those involved in the creative process of choosing music. I would also like to personally thank Chris Tebbut, who since stepping down as worship leader last June, has continued to guide and encourage me in this new role, and act as my line manager during the inter-regnum.

In total we have thirteen musicians involved in our worship band. Since June, we have welcomed two more - one joining following an open band evening in September. Many of our musicians serve in other areas of the church or have other commitments, and so on some weeks are numbers can be diminished. As a band we hold strongly onto the belief that the worship depends not on our size but ultimately in God's presence. We think of Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them".

We do also hope and pray that with a growing congregation, we will be blessed with more musicians and those who are called to support with tech and the sound system. Please hold this in your prayers.

Our team continues to work closely with the tech team who use the sound system installed two years ago, and continues to work well. With an inter-regnum, there has been a pause in working to improve the sound quality by installing sound dampening (to reduce the echo). We hope to re-visit this in the coming year.

Our repertoire of music continues to be one that includes a variety of songs and traditional hymns. Since the inter-regnum we have focused on maintaining this repertoire, whilst always being responsive to what the congregation connect well with. Music is carefully considered and chosen by following a theme from our reading, considering the season of our church calendar and including requests from whoever is preaching or from band members.

A few of our band members went to the Big Church festival last summer, worshipping for a whole weekend with thousands of others! It was such a blessing when they returned, revived and ready to share their energy and passion for worship at our church. I hope that in the coming year we can explore new opportunities for

our musicians to be inspired creatively and filled up with the Holy Spirit. Please pray for this.

As we begin a new chapter in our church life, welcoming Lesley as our vicar, we pray that as a church we continue to embrace all the opportunities to lift our voices in worship to the Lord! Be it from a tune known to us our whole lives or one not so familiar, may we embrace any opportunity to open our hearts and sing of His Glory!

> Psalm 96
> *Oh sing to the Lord a new song;*
> *Sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

Catrin Waugh-Baker
Worship Co-ordinator

Buildings Committee

Items and issues addressed during reporting period

St. Nicholas: Completed activities

- Repainting of main church ceiling, following spire works
- Roofing repairs, outside gent's toilets
- Repairing Brickwork and refixing railings in the car parking area, closest to the Vicarage
- Replacement of the x8 Velux windows throughout the church
- Replacement of ladies' toilet roll holders and soap dispensers
- Gent's toilet roll holder replacements
- Repair of gent's toilet auto tap
- Fixing of leak from under sink box work.

St Nicholas: Near-term planned activities

- Replacement of external fire escape doors. Priority being those leading out from the small hall due to their poor condition – currently seeking grant funding
- Painting of outside step makings.

St Nicholas: *Longer--term planned activities*

- Replacement of main church and vestry carpets
- Re-fit of kitchen area.

St. Huberts: Completed activities

- Replacement of car park slabs
- Guttering replacement.

St Huberts: Near-term planned activities

(NB: Planned near-term planned activities over-ridden by flooding repairs, which have taken priority to get building back in action.

- Painting inside
- Lead replacement
- Crack repairs
- Digging out of river
- Glass windows replacements
- Clean/freshen up lamps
- Flood protection barriers on doorways.

Members: Karen Dale, Neil Stevens, John Burbidge Neil Wellington, Anthony Sherman

Jason

Book Club

The Book Club is run once every 2 months. We select different books, often based on recommendations. It varies between 4 and 10 people attending, with a lively discussion about a book we have all read. It often prompts discussions on other topics.

Life Groups

Once again over the past year, Life Groups have been a wonderful way for individuals to come together midweek to encourage one another, grow closer toward each other, as well as dive deeper into the sermons heard on Sundays and think about how we carry that in our faith. We have had a rich variety of voices in sermons as

we've been in interregnum, which has been an extra blessing this year! In autumn, winter and spring, life groups have met fortnightly and as we come into summer, we look forward to all meeting together for a series on 'practicing the way'.

We have continued to follow the four W's format – Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness, which enables people to take on an aspect of leading the group. I have particularly enjoyed the variety of 'welcome' games we've had in our life group, making a nice icebreaker but also allowing time for us to get to know one another a bit more!

Over Christmas, life groups supported the running of events at church which was a great show of witness and a blessing to those attending who were served with great welcome and smiling faces!

A special thanks to those leading and hosting life groups – Thank you Heather, Adrian, Caroline, Tim, Chris, Sandra, Rachel, Ann, Catrin and Hannah for your hospitality, for leading so well and for creating a welcoming space where reflection and growth can take place. Another thanks goes to all those who attend a life group, we are all made uniquely in the image of God, and each of you brings something special to your group making conversations richer and bringing fruit to us all.

Evie

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

This has been a busy year for me, as the Vacancy has brought a greater commitment to leading worship and preaching. Taking on the role as Community Lead in October, as part of our Mission Hub, has dovetailed well with my LLM calling. The Community Lead role is about networking and building relationships in our community in order to develop new missional opportunities, providing new people and places to share the good news of Jesus.

For those who may be interested in who and what a Licensed Lay Minister within Salisbury Diocese is, it a lay leader who has been identified, trained, and licensed by the Bishop in order to:

• teach the faith

• enable mission

• lead in church and society

Licensed Lay Ministers come from a wide diversity of occupations and backgrounds and provide a vital link to the world of work, witnessing to the unchanging love of God in their communities and in their everyday lives. How an individual's ministry develops is dependent upon his or her individual strengths, the balance of skills within the ministry team and the particular needs of the benefice. Some may have a focus on leading worship; others may be more involved in pastoral work or outreach. Licensed Lay Ministers are enablers and encouragers of other lay Christians helping them to make use of their gifts in the service of God.

In the Autumn, Alison Duyvesteyn began her LLM training. This is a combination of in person training at Sarum College in Salisbury, online tutorials and practical experience within our Parish. The training takes 2 years at which point Alison will be Licensed in Salisbury Cathedral.

If you are interested in exploring whether this or any other ministry may be for you, please chat to either myself or Alison, we can point you in the right direction to explore where God may be calling you.

Rachel Stevens

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Our pastoral team work with a variety of church family members whether they are elderly, young, recently bereaved, sick or housebound. The team, help to run the community lunch and also offer prayer to those in need after the church service. Some trained team members (LPA) take communion to those who are unable to come to church. LPA stands for Lay Pastoral assistants, volunteers who are trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church.

All team members focus on pastoral care, but an individual's ministry varies according to their gifts and skills. We meet every 6-8weeks, offering each other support and obtaining continued education. For example, this year we had a talk from the local undertaker. The team play an active role in the remembering loved ones service in December and take communion to the residents at Hartnell Court (local sheltered accommodation) . In April we joined other Pastoral Teams in the Wimborne Deanery to learn about Dementia.

We follow guidelines laid down by the National Church regarding home vising and have our own written policy and risk assessment template.

This year we lost one of our longstanding members Heather Sims. Heather was a mentor for many of us and had a strong servant heart. She will be greatly missed.

We are delighted that 3 new LPA's, Agatha Ling, Mervyn Jackman and Ann Thrasher, were commissioned by Archdeacon Penny earlier this year. They are already proving to be enthusiastic members of the team.

I wish to thank all team members for their prayerful work.

If you know of anyone in our church family who may benefit from a visit from our team please let me know. The email to use is; pastoralcoordinator@parishofcorfemullen.church or contact me in church.

A J Duyvesteyn

LPA and Pastoral care coordinator

Threads of Faith

During the past year we have met and mainly concentrated on repairing the wall hangings and recycling old hangings. The pool tables was moved into the Narthex and needed a cover so we were asked to make the current blue covering..

We crafted a patchwork quilt with matching cushions for Jane's retirement. For the second year running we make small Christmas stockings for the children in Tots, Tea and Toast. A few more nativity costumes were needed, so we made them too.

For the Christmas Fair we produced Tote bags, Cushions, small purses for children and Christmas decorations. There were a few Tote bags left which we donated to the Food Bank. Separate toiletry bags were produced for the Food Bank as well.

New tablecloths for Communion were needed at St Hubert's, the Chapel and main Altar at St Nicholas. Other cloths used in the giving of Communion were also made.

Sadly, in February this year Jenny Gibson passed away. Jenny was one of the original sewing group members, which was set up 2 years ago. Jenny will be greatly missed at our Tuesday meetings.

Hazel

Community Lunch

Every Thursday at St Nicholas Church during term time there is a two course lunch with tea and coffee, this is provided by Matt our 'outside' chef.

Matt brings the meals to church for our volunteers to serve to the community. The cost of this meal is £7 per person.

We have about 10 willing volunteers who provide a helpful and friendly service, they all arrive early to set the tables then relax and enjoy a quiet cup of tea and chat before our guests arrive. Not all are church members. For safety matters we record who is in attendance.

Most of our guests live alone and enjoy sharing a meal and friendship with others. We have many regular guests that attend most weeks.

In December Matt provides a Christmas meal for which we charge £10 per person, this includes crackers, chocolates, mince pies and some non alcoholic drinks. We arrange a festive raffle which is enjoyed by all; raffle money from last year (>£100) was donated to Roots to Routes, a charity for the homeless.

If a new person comes to lunch for the first time we don't charge them.

Matt plans the menu for the month so everyone gets to know what there is in advance, he is also happy to provide a specific dietary requirement meal when requested. He responds well to any feedback.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers who help to make this ministry possible to carry on.

Mandy, Heather and the Team

Women's Group

We have enjoyed another exciting year meeting with a lovely group of approx. 20 ladies of all ages, witnessing the love of the Lord, both church and non-members sharing fun and fellowship together. Everyone participates and enjoys each other's company in the great outdoors or doing indoor activities.

We started the year with a fun competitive skittles evening, where everyone supported one another enjoying sharing our food contributions. We have been walking down the beach, some of us went in for a swim! The evening was finished with an enjoyable fish and chip supper. Crafting learning a new skill making Dorset buttons, whereby we enjoyed food, fun and laughter. I think we were very proud of our buttons. We ended the year's calendar making a Christmas floral table centre arrangement enjoying coffee and a mince pie.

We generally hold these events on a Friday evening or Saturday morning meeting the requirements of ladies commitments.

Another year of meeting and supporting one another whilst being in a safe and confident environment with the love of Jesus at heart. We look forward to welcoming in the year ahead.

Jackie and Heather

Coffee @ St Nics



Coffee@StNics has continued to run on every Saturday of the last year. Providing that space for gathering and building friendships. We have had to add extra tables for one of our groups as their numbers keep growing!

We have a faithful 13 volunteers who take it in turns to keep the coffee shop running. A huge thanks to them for being willing to give up a Saturday morning to serve coffee and cake and make our guests feel welcome.

Alongside the coffee shop we have regular events that boost the numbers of those attending; Wild Church, Win on Waste, Litter pickers all find their way to us.

We have also held some special events such as Easter and Christmas Craft Fare's during which the coffee shop turns its hand to build your own BLTs. These events raise additional funds.

Over the coming year we are going to be looking at providing spaces in the building on a Saturday morning to charities or groups so that we can encourage a real buzz during that slot and increased usage of the food and drink on offer.

All proceeds from the Coffee Shop go towards the catering budget of the church, it helps us to provide the tea and coffee on a Sunday morning, as well as food for special events such as Maundy Thursday ore the summer BBQ.

If this is a space you feel you could volunteer in then please just let me know, as the more the merrier. The commitment at the moment is about once every 6 weeks.

Rachel Stevens

St Hubert's Bell Ringers

March 2025

- Ringers travelled to St John Bournemouth church to ring at the branch practice.
- Guild used St Hubert for training session.

April 2025

- DCA used St Hubert for training day.
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- Ringers went to the Branch Spring Quarterly meeting

May 2025

- Guild used St Hubert for training session.
- DCA used St Hubert for training day.
- Ringers rang for VE day and pictured in the Ringing World magazine.
- Guild AGM attended by St Hubert ringers
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- Ringers attended Lytchett Matravers church for ringing
- Denise Chapman achieved her level 1 ART course
- Annabelle Swash achieved her level 2 ART course

June 2025

- I rang a peal at Worth Matravers 2 hours 25 min for the reopening of the church
- St Hubert ringers entered the Guild ringing competition and WON. Trophy is in the ringing chamber at the moment. Ringing took place at Shroton.
- DCA used St Hubert for training day.
- Visitors rang ¼ peal

July 2025

- We rang on and off for 4 hours at the St Hubert cream tea event giving people the chance to experience the bells.
- Ringers travelled to Fontmell Magna church to ring at the branch practice.

Aug 2025

- St Hubert ringers went on a tower outing and rang at different towers during the day, Witchampton, Gussage St Michael, Wimborne St Giles, Cranborne and Spetisbury churches.
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- We rang for VJ day.
- St Hubert ringers went up to our bells and learnt about bell maintenance with me.
- Ringers travelled to Cranborne church to ring at the branch practice.

Sept 2025

- I rang in New York on holiday at Trinty church.
- We rang half muffled bells for the funeral of Sally Lench.
- Guild used St Hubert for training session.
- Visitors rang during the month.
- Ringers travelled to Christchurch Priory church to ring at the branch practice.

Oct 2025

- DCA used St Hubert for training day.
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- Ringers went to Loughborough bell foundry and visited the museum
- Ringers went to the Branch Quarterly meeting at Swanage

Nov 2025

- Visitors rang at St Hubert

- Paul Chapman completed his first ¼ peal with me conducting.
- Angie Brown completed her first ¼ peal with me conducting.
- Ringers travelled to Durweston church to ring at the branch practice.

Dec 2025

- Group of Cubs joined us to have a go at ringing the bells
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- Ringers had their Christmas meal out at the Lambs Green
- Ringers travelled to Wimborne church to ring at the branch practice/carol service
- Rang for Midnight mass

Jan 2026

- We had 2 new members of the band join us. Helen and Don.
- Ringers travelled to Wareham church to ring at the branch practice/AGM. Where Paul Chapman and Angie Brown received their ¼ peal certificates.
- Visitors rang at St Hubert
- Annabelle Swash completed her first ¼ peal
- Guild used St Hubert for training session.

Feb 2026

- Paul Chapman completed his level 3 ART course
- New learner joined our band, Manda
- St Hubert held the branch practice
- Visitors rang ¼ peal
- Guild used St Hubert for training session.

Our band is increasing yearly; we have 13 ringers at St Hubert.

Members from St Hubert visit other towers during the week going to Sturminster Marshall, Lytchett Matravers and Canford Magna.

Ringers go to minor practice each second Wednesday of the month to Canford Magna church to practice.

We have visitors on a weekly gathering to St Hubert Monday practice nights and Sunday evenings from Sturminster Marshall, Canford Magna, Spetisbury, Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers.

Which I would personally like to thank them for all the support given.

Kind Regards

Andy Fall (Tower Captain)

Compass

The Compass Bereavement Group meet each month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am for a friendly cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. When a family member or close friend dies it is natural to feel lost and alone for a time and it can, quite often, help to have a friendly chat and the support of others who have been through the same experience. It may also be a stepping stone to the Lunch Club, Book Club or a knitting/needlework group.

With all good wishes, Beryl

Sing @ St Nics

Sing is a group that was set up about 4 years ago at St Nicholas church for anyone who enjoys singing songs from the past - musicals "war time " songs, and early pop songs. It is appreciated particularly by local residents with dementia and their carers

It is such a joy observing the happy faces and listening to the reminiscent chatter as well as knowing the benefits that singing provides particularly for those who struggle with everyday living due to memory loss.

The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 10 30am - 11.45am at a cost of £3.00. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are provided at an interval in the middle of the session which encourages friendly conversation and new friendships to be made. Lynne, who leads the singing and plays the songs on keyboard, is a very experienced musician and runs several choirs. She also demonstrates her experience of entertaining the elderly. Her happy fun loving nature ensures that the sessions are enjoyed by all. The lyrics are all provided in folders with help in following them provided for those that need it

We are delighted to also have attending the last couple of sessions a few residents from a couple of local Care Homes along with their carers

So with numbers attending now reaching 30 plus and more welcome to join us, I am sure the likes of Vera Lyn would be proud of our singing.

Jan Grover

Corfe Mullen Foodbank

Last year each of the volunteers wrote a paragraph about what they do, I haven't asked them this year as we have been very busy.

2025 was the busiest we have known. We have seen more new people that have had to turn to a foodbank for the first time than previous years too; as well as some familiar faces falling back on hard times. For those that like numbers last year we gave out 406 food parcels, 2024 was 349, which is a 17% increase. For perspective, between 2023 and 2024 the increase was less than 1%.

Our refurbishment has paid dividend; designed by the volunteers it has worked perfectly. We have even found a way to clean off enthusiastic Sharpie pen strokes to keep it clean, who knew the secret was hairspray!

We were very fortunate to be one of Co-Ops charity of choice, which not only means we benefit financially, but it has also strengthened our relationship with the local Co-op. Recently they donated a shopping trolley, to save back ache on carrying out bags for clients.

Support has continued to be key with our commitment to help. We still receive physical donations, however the financial donations have increased and we are grateful to those that regularly give. I could thank so many people, organisations or charities that donate but I would like to mention just one, the Brownies.

I was asked if we could do a couple of sessions with them. The plan was simple:

- Week 1 - introduction to the foodbank,
- Week 2 - brownies do a charity event to raise money,
- Week 3 – the brownies would buy supplies and bring them to the foodbank, where they could date the tins and pop them away.

It was fun to see them engage with the activity, as well as seeing their delight as the final amount raised from their sponsored silence was announced, a staggering £619!

We continued to do our recipe and craft bags (which are now based on the Holiday Club theme!) We have built on our relationship with the Citizens Advice Bureau and can now refer people for additional advice and are working on ideas to support the older generation of our community.

A couple of us attend Dorset Council support forums, which have provided networking opportunities as well as ideas – such as the tomato plants we are hoping to do this year.

Christmas saw a change in what we offered, as we included plenty of fresh veg and fruit, along with a lovely hamper which was funded from within the community.

I think there are ways that we could alter what we offer, and that is something that will be developed more over the next year. I recently attended a Friendly Food Club Community Trainer course, which provided the platform and detail, for what was needed to give community cooking courses or demonstrations. It is early days yet, but maybe 2026 is the year we are able to offer something!

Finally…

A paragraph I include each year, but is genuine. We are grateful to PCC for overseeing our accounts and for their continued support. The foodbank has a great bunch of volunteers that juggle their lives with the foodbank, offering support not just to those who use us, but also to each other.

Tracie

Deanery Synod Report

What is Synod? The word synod comes from the Ancient Greek *synodos* meaning assembly or meeting. Each deanery has its own synod which reflects on issues of concern to the local church and community. Matters can be sent to Deanery Synods from PCCs or Diocesan or General Synods. Resolutions passed by a Deanery Synod can be sent for discussion at higher levels. Elected members (made up of lay and clergy) serve for three years and are the voters in elections for Diocesan and General Synods.

Corfe Mullen PCC lay reps to Wimborne Deanery are Daphne and Alison. Synod meets three times a year, twice in person (March and June) and once remotely (November Meeting). This year will see the retirement of the Lay Chair, Gill Clarke

and Lay Secretary , Romey Schofield. The two have served for many years on Synod. Elections for a new committee take place in June 2026.

Speakers attending Synod in this year gave presentations on “Social Media”, Work of the Diocesan Board of Finance and our own Rachel presented her work on Community Leadership and growing younger. Synod is an opportunity to network and share good ideas.

A new Deanery Facebook Page has been created in order to facilitate communication and the Deanery Framework has been agreed, see below for details of the framwork;

Making Jesus Known in Wimborne Deanery 2025 – 2030.

Through chapter and deanery synod we aim to work collaboratively, supporting one another in our shared mission to make Jesus known. We recognise that most activities are best determined and directed at the parish-level, but where we can we aim to work together and communicate well to make a bigger missional impact in a spirit of generosity.

Prioritising Children and Young People and Families (CYPF)

Our ambition is to see every parish develop and grow their ministry with CYP. We will support this by:

- Investing in the Deanery Children, Youth; Families Minister network
- Through this network exploring ways to bring together paid staff and key volunteers for training and idea sharing (e.g. a deanery CYPF conference/training day)
- Encouraging and facilitating churches with established ministries to support churches eager to develop their CYPF ministry

Courageous Christian Leadership

Our ambition is to nurture vocations, grow the number of lay leaders in our churches and increase training and development opportunities for all existing and potential leaders. We will support this by

- Aiming to hold a vocations event in the deanery
- Aiming to open training courses/events to all in the deanery (e.g. leadership training, pastoral assistant training, in-person safeguarding courses)
- Exploring how parishes can work together to nurture younger leaders

Creative Partnerships in Local Mission

Our ambition is to support one another in growing and developing missional partnerships with other organisations and groups. A partnership opportunity common across the deanery is with local schools. We will support this by:

- Reviewing our current engagement with schools across the deanery, especially middle and upper schools where multiple churches and the deanery youth outreach worker are involved to ensure joined-up working
- Sharing encouragements, challenges, and fresh ideas in partnering with our schools at chapter and synod

Justice &; Creation Care

Our ambition is to be a leading eco-deanery and to continue our strong support for struggling households in East Dorset and South Sudan and the Sudan Medical Link. We will support this by:

- Encouraging churches to complete the Energy Footprint Tool to monitor their progress to Net Zero Carbon.
- Providing regular opportunities for eco groups to network and work together, for parishes to share plans, successes and struggles in pursuing EcoChurch awards with the new (2025) survey and net-zero ambitions
- Continuing to promote our link with South Sudan and the Sudan Medical Link through chapter and synod
- Supporting local food banks and other creation; justice initiatives (e.g. East Dorset Christians Against Poverty (CAP) ; Planet Wimborne) across the deanery and assessing if there are opportunities for greater coordination or shared investment

Financing the Future

Our ambition is for every parish to be in a more sustainable financial position by 2030. We will support this by:

- Establishing a deanery treasurer's network for support and idea sharing.
- Exploring ways to reduce administration/share administrators across some of our smaller churches.
- Continuing to promote the Parish Giving Scheme, Contactless Giving and other strategies for increasing giving

Supporting Worship and Prayer

Our ambition is to support a rich variety of worship services and styles across the deanery. We will support this by:

- Establishing a contemporary worship leaders' network for encouragement and idea sharing
- Establishing a group to resource and support Evensong service.

Daphne and Alison

Eco Church

Eco Church is a programme that equips churches to help care for creation. Each of the five aspects of the award (Worship, Land, Buildings, Lifestyle and Community Engagement) has a survey which scores points, those points then determine the level of the award: Bronze, Silver or Gold.

As we mentioned last year, Eco Church has moved away from a potential 'tick box' exercise to something more sustaining, something which is more encompassing and something that is looking forward too and not just for the now. It is great to achieve an award, but we think going forward it will be great to be recognised for the work of gaining the award; a subtle difference.

Our aim for 2025 was to get St Huberts to Silver, the same as St Nicholas; which was achieved. Behind the scenes consideration is given to the impact on the planet, we have reduced the number of newsletter we print, if we can we use PowerPoints rather than printing off order of services' or if we do print then we try and make it work in black and white. Gold is still our aim, for both churches, which as we said last year needs buy in from us all. 2026, will hopefully allow some planning to occur to take us closer to that goal.

Mark and Tracie

End of Reports

Just a reminder, that if you would like to raise a question to be considered by the rector and / or the PCC, then please submit it by Tuesday 12th May to pa@parishofcorfemullen.church

Parish of Corfe Mullen Values

(As discerned by our PCC 2024-2025)

Knowing Jesus, seeking to grow like Him and to be obedient to Him is at the heart of our faith. This means we seek to:

- *Study and learn the Bible together in a way that engages with the realities of people's lives.*
- *Discern and enable God's purposes through prayer.*
- *Discern and embrace the guidance and active work of the Holy Spirit in all of our lives.*
- *Be a people of praise and thankfulness to God.*
- *Grow deeper in our faith and love for God through the transforming work of the Spirit while nurturing an attitude of humility.*
- *Cultivate 'spiritual' and practical gifts/skills, believing these are for all; this matters more to us more than achieving presentational excellence and 'polish'.*
- *Be real, honest and kind to one-another.*
- *Exercise leadership which is genuinely collaborative and empowering; and which seeks to develop other leaders.*

We believe that the Christian faith is genuinely good news for all which means we seek to:

- *Value and warmly welcome everyone and be a blessing to our local community.*
- *Encourage and equip the church family to be able to live out their faith through the week, not just on a Sunday.*
- *Be a church where all generations can find a place and grow in faith.*
- *Nurture a 'warm' and friendly culture where friendships can grow but, more than this, a culture in which there is a servant-hearted care and commitment for one another.*
- *Recognise that we are distinctly Anglican although we embrace and celebrate a breadth of traditions and worship styles; there are strengths in all.*
- *Be accessible for everyone; we value our online ministry.*
- *Be committed to the eco church initiative and see this as part of our stewardship.*
- *Work with other local churches and organisations.*

* *Be a place where church members feel safe; we're prepared to address difficult and/or decisive issues.*
* *Value fun/ humour .....and lots of opportunities to socialise and eat*

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