



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST WOKING**

Charity registration number: 1128277

Report for period between 19/02/2025 and 10/02/2026

RESPONSIBILITIES

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings, the Youth Centre and the assistant clergy's house and stewardship of other assets.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the PCC is summarised in the motto *"To know Christ and to make Him known"*. This remains the same year on year because the gospel never changes; 'Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever' (*Hebrews 13v8*).

The PCC is committed to encouraging and involving as many people as possible to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put our faith into practice through regular Bible reading, teaching, music, singing and prayer.

In planning future activities, the members of the PCC will have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission where this is relevant, and will include:

- Acts of worship which are open to all.
- The provision of space for prayers, reflection and contemplation.
- Pastoral work including visiting the sick, housebound and bereaved.
- Provision of children's and youth work for the local community, plus weddings, funerals, etc.
- Provision of venues for community activities.
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish is composed of two churches: St John the Baptist in St John's village, the parish church, and Emmanuel in Mayford. Rev Glyn Lucas is the incumbent and Rev Peter Chamberlin is the Associate Minister. They were assisted by Rev Robert Bennett (honorary OLM Curate, retired and with Permission to Officiate), George Belfield (Ministry Lead: Youth), Robin Langdon (Ministry Lead: Children's Work and Music) and Lys Price (Ministry Lead: All Age Worship). On 1st December 2025 the staff team was joined by a Ministry Trainee, Idris Rashq, on secondment from Interserve International.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The following have served on the PCC since the last APCM, held on 16th March 2025:

Clergy: Rev Glyn Lucas and Rev Peter Chamberlin

Churchwardens: Richard Price and Christine Jones

Diocesan Synod members: Nigel Cundy

Deanery Synod members: Stephen Horn, Robin Langdon, Helen Sankey and John Sweet.

Elected PCC members: David Askew, Alec Ashley, William Barrie, Matthew Cherukara, Darren Hughes, Charlotte Langdon, Margaret Molloy, Tim Parr, Reji Prasad and Karen Rapley.

Co-opted members: Tony Graham (Treasurer) and Mary Kirkman (Safeguarding Officer).

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. PCC members are elected for a three-year term, after which they stand down for at least a year. Day to day management is delegated to the incumbent and the churchwardens.

This year Margaret Molloy is standing down from PCC having served three year; Reji Prasad stepped down during the year and David Askew is standing down at the APCM. We would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

The Standing Committee meets between PCC meetings when necessary and comprised the Incumbent, the Associate Minister, the churchwardens, the treasurer, and two other PCC representatives.

The Emmanuel Committee is responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of its church.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The numbers on the electoral roll to be reported at the APCM are St. John's 202 (last year 200) and Emmanuel 12 (last year 12). This makes a parish total of 214 (last year 212).

The average Sunday attendance during October was adults 170 (180 in 2024) and children 28 (34 in 2024); there were approximately 2,112 attendances (including schools services) over the Christmas period (2,185 in 2024).

During 2025, there were 3 baptisms and 0 Services of Thanksgiving (0 and 1 in 2024); no confirmations (0 in 2024) and 4 weddings (3 in 2024). During 2025, 13 funerals (9 in 2024), 3 cremations (4 in 2024) and 10 interments of cremated remains (9 in 2024) were conducted.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts presented with this Annual Report have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with Charities SORP (FRS 102); accounting regulations stipulate that the financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They have been subject to an independent examination by Fuller Spurling, Chartered Accountants.

The expenditure for our ongoing activities in the year exceeded our income by £5,353, which is an improvement on last year's deficit of £16,712. We also received a further £750 for the extension to the Hermitage Woods Crescent property.

Giving from the church family is up 6% (£19,300) from last year, including a £10,000 legacy, which was the first for many years. Interest income was down slightly, but lettings income was up by 8%; together these contributed about 15% of total income in both years. Overall, total income was up 6% (£22,200), which helped considerably in reducing the deficit as our costs inevitably rise.

Costs rose by 2.8% (just under £11,000); this was mostly due to an increase of £8,000 in the Parish Share paid to the diocese and an increase in the staff costs, as 2025 had a full year of our Youth Minister (who started midway through 2024). These were offset by having no major repairs to the church building in the year.

As stated in note 7 of the financial statements, our policy is to maintain our regular cash reserves at three months' expenditure, or roughly £96,000. They currently stand at roughly £94,000.

MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER ASSETS

The St John's Church quinquennial inspection took place in June 2025. The report identified about 90 repairs, maintenance tasks and potential improvements to the building that need to be considered. Though this sounds a lot, the inspecting architect did not identify any major problems of which we did not already know about. There is however a very long list of lesser works some of which are essential, some just desirable and there are a few which though they would be nice, may never get done. Some of the simplest jobs have already been completed and a prioritised list of the rest of the work required has been prepared and will be carried out over the next 5 years.

A number of smaller projects have been tackled this year. Most recently, the replacement of all lights in the Nave and Chancel to improve the lighting and reduce our Church electricity bill, is now nearing completion. 100 of the most threadbare and stained church chairs were re-upholstered.

There will be a number of high-cost repairs needed in the near future: The roof over the Lounge and Narthex will need to be replaced, the roof over the small halls will also need attention and the Church will need some redecoration.

There are also a large number of improvements needed to the Youth Centre – the electrics and plumbing need updating; the ceiling and lighting in the main hall is not in particularly good condition; the ceiling to the upstairs room is made from asbestos panels. Overall, the general layout and condition of the facilities are outdated. Various options are being considered by the PCC.

As usual a large number of routine maintenance and repair tasks have been carried out this year. Service requirements include the fixed electrical installations, 5 boilers, organ, fire protection and intruder alarm. These must all be done by professionals – generally at high cost and usually needing follow up rectifications! However, there are a vast number of smaller repairs and maintenance tasks which have been completed; some by professionals and others by volunteers. We are once again very grateful to the contributions made by our Tuesday work group and Saturday morning work parties. This year they have been able to accomplish a large number of really useful jobs such as tending the Churchyard, clearing gutters the car park and pathways, cleaning and polishing, minor plumbing and electrical repairs as well as the preparation of holes for the interment of ashes, all of which keep the church working properly, are warmly welcomed and much appreciated. There is no shortage of work to do so please do be prepared to come and help this year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed have been reviewed and systems and procedures designed to manage or minimise those risks have been established. A rolling annual review is established but appropriate updates are also incorporated into our policies on a regular basis as circumstances change.

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish of St John's, Woking is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children and young people within our church community and also to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

We are also committed to the implementation of the Diocese of Guildford Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and the relevant statutory legislation and guidance for the welfare of children, young

people and vulnerable adults. We have complied with the duty to have due regard to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Our safer recruitment policy for anyone wishing to volunteer/work with children, young people or vulnerable adults includes the completion of an application form and interview/informal discussion as well as two references being sought.

Anyone working with children and/or vulnerable adults, both on a paid or voluntary basis, is required to complete a DBS check and, if the role is eligible for an enhanced or enhanced with barring check, this will include the completion of a Confidential Declaration Form. This also applies to members of the pastoral team and PCC members as the PCC approves activities involving children and vulnerable adults. The validity of a DBS check is 3 years and has to be renewed if still in role.

PCC members, children's and youth leaders and helpers and members of the pastoral team are required to complete basic awareness and foundation courses in safeguarding which are available online. During the course of the year, it became mandatory for anyone working with children and young people to complete domestic abuse training. This is in light of the high level of domestic abuse in the UK as it is considered important for individuals to know how to recognise the signs of potential abuse and what to do if they receive a disclosure or have concerns. Members of the pastoral group are also required to undertake domestic abuse training. Certain roles require additional safeguarding training in the form of leadership and safer recruitment and people management. The leadership sessions are normally delivered via zoom by the diocese and the safer recruitment training is available online.

We use the Parish Dashboard which is an electronic management tool used by many parishes across the country to monitor safeguarding arrangements in the church. It is designed to make church safeguarding life simpler and clearer and enables the parish to keep up to date with local and national changes in safeguarding requirements. Of the mandatory requirements on the dashboard, we have currently achieved a level of 83%. There has been an upgrade to the dashboard adding a new safeguarding standards section which asks each parish to assess their safeguarding work against five standards. Whilst not mandatory, it is considered best practice to consider these standards. At a PCC away day in May, we looked at the first standard relating to culture, leadership and capacity. In light of this, we have endeavoured to increase awareness of safeguarding generally in the church with the safeguarding officer writing a letter in the weekly news sheet and being interviewed at a morning service.

A safeguarding health check audit has recently taken place with a member of the diocesan safeguarding team with 11 church members present including the leadership and administrative teams. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss safeguarding in general within the church and ways of strengthening safeguarding practice and culture. Overall the church scored well on the health check, particularly in the area of culture and leadership.

Every year the PCC agrees the Parish Safeguarding Policy and Policy Statement. A copy of the Policy Statement is displayed in the church both at St Johns and Emmanuel. Our Safeguarding Officer is Mary Kirkman and Ann Abraham is our DBS Administrator.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

At St John's we are blessed to have a church family stretching in age from 0-100, with every generation well represented. We give thanks for those aged under 18.

First Steps (Babies & Toddlers)

This group meets weekly during term time on Thursdays from 9.30-11.00am. This year has continued to be very encouraging, with a lot of new faces coming through our doors each week and the vast majority of those attending coming from outside our church family. We have a bible story and

themed craft each week and finish with music and songs. We are pleased to see some First Steps parents attending events outside the group and coming into church for Christmas and Easter events. We would love to start a second group as we are operating at maximum numbers of attendees but lack volunteers to run it.

Children's and Families Work

In our ministry to children and families, we aim to show them and teach them about the love of Christ, how he died for our sin and how we need a saviour to restore our relationship with God. We aim to support parents in our congregation and partner with them in raising their children to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour and we aim to reach those in our community who do not know him through events, activities and schools' work.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Morning Children's Groups continue to provide age-appropriate faithful teaching of the Bible for our under 11's led by our brilliant team.

This year we have covered more of Acts, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, Christmas from Luke's gospel and Mark and have reached three quarters of the way through our 4 year cycle of teaching. Numbers are still strong with approx. 25 under 11's each week.

Schools Work continues to be a big part of what we do, visiting local primary schools and having them to visit us, to help them learn more about what Christians believe, what the Bible says about various topics and aiding the school in delivering the national curriculum for RE.

The Children's Team continues to visit Hermitage Infants weekly and St John's Primary fortnightly to act Bible stories (Open the Book/From the Bible), and visit Hermitage Juniors approximately fortnightly to lead "What Christians Believe" assemblies. Each term we deliver three music assemblies at St John's Primary. We have visited the schools to assist with RE lessons and helped at school events such as their Christmas fete.

Alongside these regular visits to the schools, the Ministry Lead for Children and Families and the clergy are involved in the schools' trips to the church to cover a range of curriculum topics, as well as the local Beavers group studying for badges. We continue to welcome the schools when they come to the church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest to hold their services.

We also have a great relationship with two local pre-schools, Seedlings and Mayford who enjoy coming to us for special occasions such as Christmas.

Events – We have hosted lots of different types of events this year including a Christingle, more Lego clubs and Fun days and special services.

Dangerous Kids Club (DKC) (7-10 year olds) Tuesday Early evenings in term time.

We regularly we have around 20 children aged 7-10 years attending DKC. Our highest number has been 25. In September 2025 a few of our regulars 'outgrew' DKC. Some have moved onto 1:80 or their own church youth activities. A good number of new attendees joined DKC, so numbers have remained fairly level.

The leaders' team consists of 6 adult volunteers and 2 older youth. This number has been achieved through the recent recruitment of 2 adult volunteers and the youth volunteers staying on beyond their Duke of Edinburgh award service. This allows us to accommodate leader absences. The evening's content has not changed but the structure has been amended during the year: the hour-long meeting still starts with games or craft activities and finishes with a portion of a film, but the refreshments are now served after the Bible talk and enjoyed during the film. In warmer months we add outdoor and off-site activities. We repeated our fireworks night: a social evening where parents were invited to join their children for fireside food and then a firework display, as this was enjoyed by many last year. Attendance again this year was high with 70+ children and adults attending.

We celebrate the achievement of certain levels of attendance: children receive a club-logo t-shirt then a youth bible. This remains a popular.

The upstairs room at the Youth Centre is open during club time has been used by parents regularly. This enables parents to remain onsite and eliminates either multiple journeys or waiting in their car; it provides more pleasant surroundings and is warmer in winter.

All-age spots. The all-age spot team continue to provide lively and engaging teaching relevant for the children during the main 10am service through the year. Teaching from the same material as used in the children's groups, which run during the latter part of the service, has been adopted. This format reinforces a single set of learning points for the morning rather than two different ones.

All-age services. All-age Sunday services at 10am continue to be held in February, at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. These services provide the opportunity for children to experience a full church service but with adaptations to make some aspects more accessible for them, eg. use of simpler forms of liturgy, the sermon split into two short talks pitched to be inclusive of children, and greater involvement of families in the delivery of readings, prayers and music.

Summer Holiday Club was yet again well attended with a large number of volunteers assisting. It was a great opportunity to teach children what the Bible says about Jesus.

Youth Aged 11-18

With regards to our ministry to teens our aim is such: we want to work hard to wisely proclaim Jesus Christ to young people from our church and beyond, and to see them put their faith in him and grow to maturity in him. We also want to offer them belonging in church and youth group, to a community that is different; one that is growing in love for Jesus and each other; welcoming to newcomers; authentic and honest, and worth committing to. We aim to do all of this in partnership with church parents. It sounds big and lofty, but it looks rather ordinary each week. Still, God is at work amongst us.

Our Youth Group meets on Tuesday nights. The group aims to be a space where our young people can hang out together in the week and deepen the friendships with one another through activities, chat, talks and discussion time. We also hope this can be a place where youth either on the edges of our church or from outside the church feel welcome too.

A few updates on this:

- With new additions this year. The group demographics have changed and so we have shifted back to having more separation between years 7-9 and years 10-13. We all meet together and then split into those groups for most of the evening. It is likely from next September that we will have to fully separate, with more children moving up.
- Teaching this year has largely focussed on going through the book of Romans, but we have also had one-offs tackling big questions teenagers have about faith and had a few interviews, hearing how individuals came to faith in Jesus.
- There has been the encouragement of seeing a few youth from outside our church join us and several move up from the younger groups.

Eighty is the discipleship group for ages 11-14s. They meet during the morning service on Sundays and have largely been following the same sermon bible passage as is being preached in the service. This is to make it easier for families to talk together about what God has been teaching them each Sunday. So, we have looked at books like 1 Peter, Hebrews and Matthew together. We have also covered some thematic teaching such as 'What will happen at the end of the world?'. There are usually between 6-8 young people attending.

iNsight is the discipleship group for years 10-13. At the start of the 2024/25 academic year their bible study group was moved to a Sunday. However, this has struggled to gain momentum so, at the start of the new year 2026, we have made some significant changes which should work a lot better. We are now meeting once a month for lunch after the service to hang out and chat about a big topic together. Two other weeks a month we shall also meet after the morning service simply to chat about the sermon over snacks. We are hoping that this group will be in a healthier place next year.

Schools Work. Despite multiple attempts to approach our local secondary school by a variety of means, this door seems closed for now.

Sons and Dads group. As of a few months ago, with partnership from a couple of key dads and sons at church, we have launched a monthly group for young men in our church to meet together with some older wiser men to chat about faith and life. We are still figuring out what this group is going to look like long term, but it has been seen positively so far.

Other highlights of the year

- We thank God for the great team of leaders who love the Lord and are keen to serve our young people, and for godly and supportive parents, who want the best for their children. This is not to be taken for granted!
- Sorted and Sorted Nano. Youth leaders took a group of our older teens to Sorted in London back in November for teaching on John's gospel and great sung worship with hundreds of other teens and youth leaders. Our younger teens had a trip for Sorted Nano and teaching on Revelation last spring. Both were good times of encouragement for those who went and we enjoyed hanging out in London afterwards.
- Baptisms. We are thankful for the two young people who were baptised last year.
- Weekend away. We took our young people away for a couple nights at an activity centre near Farnborough. We had a lot of fun and had some good teaching on the Psalms delivered by Kurt Holmgren (a children's and youth minister in Guildford)
- Socials. Recognising the importance of quality time together, we try to do lots that is just fun such as: a bonfire night, a three course Christmas dinner at different leaders' homes, a scavenger hunt around the village and escape room.
- Summer Camps. The Lord greatly blessed our young people through camps last summer and some of our adults served as leaders.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

The pastoral support group is a small team of the clergy and approved volunteers, which is available to support adult members of the church in need, through fellowship and friendship. At Christmas and Easter they also support the clergy in taking home communion to the more frail and housebound members of the parish and throughout the year when the clergy conduct their regular services at the two care homes in the parish.

The prayer ministry team is a dedicated part of the PSG and meets before the service each Sunday, and then afterwards to pray for anyone with a particular need.

One of the PSG also liaises with the compiler of the prayer diary and those leading prayers in church.

Handmade cards prepared by a church member are sent to anyone in the congregation who is sick, bereaved or going through a difficult time.

During this year Woking & Sam Beare hospice have established a new group for pastoral and spiritual support for people in their care and their families. St John's clergy and pastoral team are involved in this work.

MUSIC

Music at St John's exists to lead and encourage the congregation in communal praise and worship of God, proclaiming gospel truth in line with the theological views of the church, connecting head and heart through the use of well written multi-generational songs and hymns.

Music on Sundays continues to be blessed with a good number of musicians and singers serving in the morning service and sufficient musicians for the evening services and special occasions. This year we moved to a band based system in the organisation side of things which has helped teams to lead even better.

Choir: The seasonal choir has had strong numbers for Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day with an age range from 10 to over 80. It is a wonderful way for members of all ages to serve together.

Carolling at The Rowbidge pub, with the Beaver's in the village and at Woodbank Retirement apartments all continued again this year and are a real joy.

Singing Assemblies have continued at St John's Primary School and are an amazing opportunity to bless the school through music and teach them what Christians believe through song.

SIDESMEN

Around twenty-three people have served as Sidesmen during the year at the regular Sunday Services and the additional Christmas and Easter ones. Many thanks to all who have served in this way.

EMMANUEL CHURCH

After Easter 2025 Emmanuel introduced a 4pm service, replacing the 9.30am service. This was not immediately welcomed by the congregation, but it did make providing a live preacher easier by separating Emmanuel's service from morning services at St John's. It was recognised that dark winter evenings would prevent a number of people attending Emmanuel, but some local residents have found the later time convenient. Monthly services of Holy Communion have continued, as have monthly coffee mornings, followed by the newly-introduced daytime parish prayer meeting. The monthly Knit 'n' Natter meetings have been well attended and the resultant handicrafts donated to those in need in many countries.

There were several bookings by other churches and outside organisations, all of which find the quiet and comfortable premises welcoming. Emmanuel hosted the Woking Welsh Society's annual St David's Day service, led by the Bishop of Dorking, Paul Davies. The Mayford Village Trust has made two grants to Emmanuel during the year for upkeep of the building, garden and grounds.

THE WIDER CHURCH

The Woking Deanery is one of 12 subdivisions of the Guildford diocese, and has representatives from each of the churches in Woking and the surrounding area. The Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and each meeting has an open presentation on a topic of interest, followed by a short meeting sharing news and needs from the Woking churches and the wider diocese. Motions can be raised by parishes to be passed onto the Deanery Synod, then the Diocesan Synod, and into General Synod. The meetings this year discussed the Church's Net Zero initiative, mission activities, and allegedly amusing stories from Woking's parishes. Our current lay representatives are Stephen Horn, Helen

Sankey, Robin Langdon, and John Sweet. From 2026, St Johns will be allocated two more lay representatives to the synod. Nigel Cundy also serves as a lay member on the Deanery Synod as he is a member of Diocesan Synod. The Rev. Glyn Lucas and Rev. Peter Chamberlin represent our clergy at the synod, and meet more frequently with other clergy in the deanery.

General Synod and Diocese of Guildford

Nigel Cundy serves as a lay representative for Woking Deanery on Guildford Diocesan Synod. The Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Board of Finance oversee the work of Guildford Diocese, including its education programs, training and clergy support. It can also discuss issues passed down from General Synod for review, and can raise motions to be discussed in General Synod.

St Johns Church does not currently have a representative on General Synod.

Other Links

The church is represented at both the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship and the Surrey Gospel Partnership. The Rev Glyn Lucas and Rev Peter Chamberlin are involved on the committees of these two partnership groups and members of the church are encouraged to attend their events.

St John's also has membership status with the Church Society and Evangelical Alliance and supports the Christian Institute.

MISSION

St John's with Emmanuel financially support a number of mission partners through recognised organisations which share our convictions. For each family or individual that we support there is member of the congregation who is a key contact, someone who maintains regular contact with them. We also support them through our corporate prayers.

Our current partners at St John's are:

- Robbie and Lizzie Bellis (Crosslinks) who have been engaged in work on a church plant in Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium since 2019 and evangelism amongst university students. This year they have also run a holiday club and held a Carol service.
- Josh and Cathy Hooker (Crosslinks) who, although working in Northern Ireland for a few years where they are leading training ministries and local mission, will be returning to their long-term mission base of Namibia later in 2026.
- Matt and Andrea Vaughan (Interserve), Mission Enablers based in Bordesley Green, Birmingham developing outreach networks with Afghan and Pakistani communities and developing a breakfast club at their local church.
- Maddie Judson-Lewis (UCCF) who has been a CU staff worker in UCCF's south east region since September 2022, supporting the Christian Unions at Surrey University and Royal Holloway college, UCA Farnham and UCA Epsom.

We are also partnering with Interserve for the secondment of Idris Rashk to St John's for a maximum two year period in order for him to gain UK church experience to assist in the expansion of his mission work among our local communities, particularly those of other faiths.

St John's also gives regularly to the following local projects: ACROSS, which helps Christians to share faith across cultures in Woking, the York Road Project, which provides emergency and longer-term accommodation for those experiencing homelessness and Engage which supports Christian work in local primary and secondary schools. Emmanuel Church supports the Christian Institute, which seeks to promote the Christian faith in the public square, the York Road Project, and Interserve.

Again this year the parish supported the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal, sending over 120 boxes with a variety of toys, toiletries and stationery to children in need, which are distributed with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Both St John's and Emmanuel commit to giving 12.5% of their unrestricted income to their chosen organisations.

Approved by St John's PCC – 10 February 2026

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfonso', written in a cursive style.

PCC Chair