



Parish of Crookham

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
Christ Church Crookham

for the year ended 31st December 2025

Incumbent
In vacancy until 4th August 2025
The Reverend Matthew Smith from 5th August 2025

The Parish Office, Christ Church, Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Hampshire GU52 6LH

Registered Charity Number 1132174



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This report is arranged in two parts:

- Part A: Sections 1 to 13 are the mandatory sections as listed in Chapter 3 of the PCC Accountability Guide. The financial statements and reports are provided in a separate document.
- Part B: Sections 14 to 18 are reports from the various committees and church groups, providing a reflection of church life at Christ Church Crookham.



Part A: Mandatory Information & Reports

This report was approved by the PCC on 19th April 2026.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Church Wardens are elected at the meeting immediately prior to the APCM, and to which anyone on the Electoral Roll or resident of the Parish may attend and vote. Churchwardens are ex officio members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2025 edition). Deanery Synod Members are also appointed in accordance with the said rules at the APCM. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members, and members elected at the APCM. Based on the numbers on the electoral roll our church has up to 12 elected PCC members and each stands for three years, with the intention of having approximately one third of the members elected each year. All those who attend our services or consider themselves to be members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. PCC members are inducted through a discussion of their role and function in the first meeting of the new PCC, and by going through a review of PCC policies annually. Specific training is provided by the Diocese in Safeguarding. Eligibility and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are carried out where relevant.

The PCC meets sufficient times to carry out the required business, typically around six times per year. The PCC appoints a Standing Committee to transact PCC business between meetings of the full PCC, and consists of the Vicar, the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and at least two elected members. It operates within the directions agreed by the full PCC. There are also sub-committees for Buildings, Grounds & Fabric and Pre-School Management. In addition there are a number of informal groups for specific areas such as Events, Technology and Pastoral Care.

The PCC employs two part-time parish administrators and the staff for the Pre-school.



2. Administrative information

Christ Church Crookham is situated in Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, Christ Church, Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Hampshire GU52 6LH. The email is administrator@christchurch-crookham.com and website is www.christchurch-crookham.com.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, no. 1132174.

PCC members during 2025

Incumbent

- In vacancy until 4th August 2025
- Revd Matthew Smith from 5th August 2025

Ministry team

- Mrs/Revd Rosemary Fox, LLM until 28th September, then Deacon from this date

Churchwardens (ex officio)

- Mrs Briony Allen
- Mr Peter Roberts

Treasurer

- Mr Andrew Munnings

Deanery Synod (ex officio)

- Mrs Rosemary Fox (until 28th September)
- Dr Keith Mundy (from 6th April 2025)
- Mr Michael Oxley (from 11th September 2025)

Elected Members

- Current term ends 2026: Dr Keith Mundy (Deanery Synod rep. from 6th April 2025), Mr Andrew Munnings, Mrs Jane Ash, Ms Emily Baker, Mr Peter Bradley, Mrs Mel Trundle
- Current term ends 2027: Mr Kevin Fox, Mr David Pooley, Mr John Wilkinson (left during 2025)
- Current term ends 2028: Mr Eric Barnfield, Prof. Mark Cross, Mrs Marion Foreman, Mr Liam Sleath

We are sad to report that Sue Foster, our Electoral Roll Officer, died in February 2026. In addition, Mr Martin Redgrave, previously a member of the PCC, and Ian Coward, previously PCC Secretary, died during 2025.

Other positions

- **PCC Secretary:** Mr Kevin Fox
- **Electoral Roll Officer:** Mrs Sue Foster
- **Safeguarding Officer (acting):** Mrs Briony Allen
- **Health & Safety Officer:** Mr Peter Roberts
- **Data Privacy Officer:** Mr David Pooley



3. Aims and Purpose

The PCC of Christ Church has the responsibility of working with the Incumbent, Revd Matthew Smith, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has oversight of the financial affairs of Christ Church Crookham and maintenance responsibilities for the upkeep of the whole premises including the Vestry Hall, the Jubilee Annexe and the churchyard.

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC and Deanery Synod.

The Mission of Christ Church is “to know Jesus and make Jesus known”. Revd Matthew Smith was instituted, inducted and installed on 5th August 2025 and the pattern of services continued as previous.

4. Objectives

Our overall activities in 2025 fall into six main areas that map onto our ongoing development plan:

- **Worship.** Always of high importance, to ensure our worship caters for all ages, both formal and informal, and also to include those unable to be in church in person.
- **Fellowship and discipleship.** To further encourage people to meet after Sunday services and at other times. We also recognise the value of the fellowship of groups that support our worship, such as flowers, choir, music group, bell ringers, job squad etc.
- **Service to the community.** To provide pastoral and physical support to the local community, as well as specific church groups, events for the community, and facilities available for use by the community.
- **Evangelism.** To share the saving Gospel of Christ with all. It is essentially a meeting with those who see themselves as outside the Church and the Kingdom of God and to make new disciples of Jesus.
- **Children & youth.** We encourage families and children to be part of our church community, through a number of channels including children-friendly services, community events, our preschool, and our close links to Crookham Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School.
- **Housekeeping & infrastructure.** To ensure Christ Church Crookham is well-managed, provides well-maintained facilities for use by the local community, is financially self-supporting, is compliant, committed to individual safeguarding guidelines and has effective communication channels.



5. Review of the Year (August to December 2025)

Worship

In 2025, we continued with the pattern of services at 9am and 11am with coffee/tea between, and also once per month 'Cake Church', an informal service for families and children. Morning Prayer took place at 9.30am on a Monday and Evening Prayer at 4pm on a Wednesday.

Other than our regular services, we had two Choral Evensongs, one on All Saints Day, and the other on Advent Sunday, which were beautiful services. We had a special civic service on Remembrance Sunday back in church welcoming the uniformed organisations after the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial. At Christmas we had a Christmas Cheer celebration with the Fleet U3a Ukelele group, a nativity, Nine Lessons and Carols, Blue Christmas, Christingles (which were very well attended) and a Midnight Holy Communion service. Across the whole year we were averaging 66 Adults and 5 children at our usual Sunday services.

Our worship is enhanced by many groups, and we thank all those who contribute their time in serving the church. These include the sacristans, the choir, the music group, the handbell team, the flowers team, those who provide tea/coffee, the live-streaming techies, and Jenny and Ruth in the office producing the weekly service sheets. Laura continued to lead 'JAM' (Jesus And Me) for the younger people during the 11am service, and we thank her for her ongoing work with this. We also recognise the contribution made by many others in the services, such as the welcomers, the readers, and the intercessors. We thank Martin Dakin for leading the Choir who usually sing twice a month, and Matt Stapleton our occasional organist.

A significant moment in the worshipping life of the church was the celebration of Revd Ros Fox being ordained as a Deacon at Michaelmas and began her curacy thereafter. Thanks also to Mike Gibbons, occasional preacher, for all his involvement in preaching ministry in 2025, having a particular focus on supporting the 11am all age services and cake church.

Fellowship and discipleship

The buildings continue to be used by community groups, including every day by our own Pre-school, the Parents & Toddlers group known as "Little Bells", and "Coffee and Conversation" which is an informal gathering of friends at the church, which has grown from strength to strength and is hugely valued by those who attend. There is also the weekly "Coffee Drop" where parents of pre-school children can drop in for a chat and a coffee. Particular thanks to Katherine Gibbons

Led by Marion Foreman, the pastoral care team has found there is an increasing need to support our church members by visiting, phoning, giving lifts etc. The weekly "Coffee and Conversation" sessions have been an opportunity for keeping in touch with the concerns of the congregation and friends in the wider parish. We also recognise the value of community events such as fayres, plant sales, special services etc. which provide an opportunity to welcome visitors into the church.

Mike Gibbons also faithfully led the bible study group, Face to Faith; unfortunately numbers had dwindled down and so that group ran its course at the end of the year with new initiatives taking place in 2026 to reinvigorate and revitalise discipleship.

We had a successful church curry night in November, and look forward to having more church meals throughout 2026 to bolster fellowship and encouraging a sense of church family.

We thank all those involved in this important work.



Service to the community

The mission and outreach work of the Christ Church Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team continued in 2025. This consisted of a number of specific initiatives including: Feed a child programme, Cook Well for Less workshops, Money Coaching and Stretch the budget sessions. More details can be found in the CAP report in section 17. We are grateful to all of those who assist with this important work, and particularly Jan Drummond and Bruce Bulgin for leading these initiatives.

Further afield, we continued to support national charities: Christian Aid, The Children's Society and Royal British Legion, and we thank those who lead our initiatives for these important charities. Our thanks to Mel Trundle for her work supporting Christian Aid initiatives, not just at Christ Church but also across the Fleet and Church Crookham area.

Due to major road works during the second half of 2025, many of our usual community activities weren't able to happen this year, although there was a successful Christmas Fayre.

Children and youth

Our Pre-school continues to provide a much-needed service for children of ages 2-4. Close links are kept with the infant school and the junior school, with assemblies and visits by Revd Matthew Smith, and a particular thanks to those who support the work of FACCTS, especially with their Open The Book team going into the infant school and helping at our Easter and Christmas Presentations. Our thanks go to Briony Allen for running "Little Bells", the parent and toddler group.

6. Future Plans

2026 started with a bang!

We restructured our service times from 9am & 11am to 10am & 4pm: the 10am offering a traditional Anglican service with hymns, Holy Communion most weeks and Morning Prayer once a month. There is always tea/coffee after the 10am service. The new 4pm service is our intergenerational offering during which our Sunday school takes place. It is a more contemporary service with modern worship songs, often a service of the word, Holy Communion once a month, and a café-style all-age service once a month in the hall. At 5pm each week there is a tea for all people to encourage deeper fellowship to grow. We will continue this pattern for the duration for 2026 and see how it goes, but early signs is that the 10am in particular is thriving and there's room for growth at the 4pm.

In January we started running Alpha on Monday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, which has been tremendously well supported with 25 participants on this course. In February we had a PCC Away Day when we spent some time thinking about where we are presently as a church and articulating some of the challenges we are currently facing (financial pressures, ageing congregation, lack of confidence in sharing faith). We looked at where we desire to be by the end of 2030, and ultimately what do we need to do in order to reach those dreams. We considered what strategies and structures we need to have in place to see our 2030 vision come to fruition.

Our 2030 Vision is to be a thriving intergeneration church family, sharing the good news of Jesus to Crookham and beyond, seeing lives transformed by Jesus.

To assist this vision our core church values are to be:

- Christ-Centred
- Compassionate
- Courageous



- Community

Although we weren't able to solve all of our complex issues over the course of one day the PCC did however agree that there are five key areas of growth we are going to prioritise. These include:

1. Growing Demographically Younger

We have an ageing congregation, and like many churches, we rely too heavily on too few individuals. We will invest our time, talent, money and energy in supporting the work of children and young people in the church and wider parish. To help facilitate this crucial ministry we will appoint a Children and Families Worker later this year to be a co-worker with Revd Matthew Smith to help us reach more families, supporting and equipping them to do faith in the family home; and also to reach more of the schools in our parish, with more children having the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus. We are very fortunate to have funds from the School House Trust to fund this venture.

2. Growing in Discipleship

The heart of the Christian faith is to have a vibrant, living relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not just about coming to church on a Sunday, or following a set of rules, or believing a set of doctrines. It is all about an intimate relationship with Jesus, who calls us friend. As we mature in our Christian faith and grow in that relationship, we long to become more Christlike, to grow in our personal devotion and love for God and for our neighbours. At Christ Church Crookham we will encourage all members of the church family to commit in their own discipleship, to grow in their love of God, to invest in their relationship with Jesus. Revd Matthew Smith will create a discipleship pathway for those at different stages of their walk with the Lord and will encourage all to meet regularly with other Christians, to study the bible and to pray daily. To assist this there will be resources given to equip the church to grow in discipleship, such as the running of courses like the Bible Course.

3. Growing in Evangelism

When we look at the great commission in Matthew 28:19 '*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*', we see a gospel mandate to evangelise, which means to share the good news with others. The church is not a homogenous social club; we are to be the diverse body of Christ in our corner of the earth. We are blessed to call Church Crookham & Crookham Village home, we have around 20,000 people in our Parish, which is the third largest in the Guildford Diocese. This is wonderful, because it gives us a significant mission field and a tremendous opportunity to reach many people with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we want to grow our worshipping community, and if we want to see the lives of those who live and work in our parish transformed by the love of God, then we will need to introduce them to the person of Jesus and tell them about the good news he has to offer them today.

To assist with this the church will introduce a colour-coordinated traffic light system which links to the various events and courses we will run throughout the year, which will help people consider to which events it is appropriate to invite their friends, family members, neighbours, colleagues or whoever you meet. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to hear about Jesus. We all have a sphere of influence around us, we all interact with other people, and so we all have a part to play in this crucial ministry. I believe in evangelism by relationship building, so I will be encouraging everyone to be pursuing authentic relationships with those outside of our worshipping community and to bring Jesus to them. I will also be encouraging everyone to have five people they are praying for to find faith in Jesus. Ultimately, I want us to generate a culture of faith-sharing, whereby this becomes very natural for people to do in everyday life.



4. Growing in Generosity

In order to be the church that God is calling us to be we need to be self-sufficient and sustainable. We do not receive any funds centrally from the Church of England. In fact, we pay the diocese around £100,000 in parish share, which means we currently run a deficit budget. I believe we need to step-out in faith and pursue to run a surplus budget in order that we can in turn be increasingly generous to the needs of our wider parish. To facilitate this, we're going to have to dig deep ourselves and challenge ourselves to grow in sacrificial generosity. It costs around £4,000 per week to keep the church running. It would be wonderful if we could meet our financial needs from within the church family by everyone raising their financial contribution significantly. Generosity also goes far beyond finances: to flourish and thrive as a church we need people to give of their time, talents and money in order to meet the great needs we try to reach in our community. Together we can cultivate a culture of sacrificial generosity; Jesus personifies this, we should follow suit.

5. Growing in Confidence

We need to grow in confidence in three ways: firstly, to grow in confidence in our own faith; to have a steely confidence in God, so when the storms come, we will not be shaken. Secondly, to grow in confidence in articulating our hope; we are people of hope. 1 Peter 3:15 says '*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect*'. This is the minimum expectation for all Christian believers, to be able to articulate the hope you have in Jesus. I want us to grow in confidence in being able to do just that. Thirdly, I want us to grow in confidence in inviting others to come to church and events that we put on. We need to develop a culture of invitation. We should take every opportunity that we're presented with to invite people to join us here at Christ Church. The truth of the matter is that if we don't invite them, they won't come, so it's down to each of us to use our spheres of influence, and to extend that warm welcome we have as a church, where all are welcome, regardless of background, class, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, profession, age, marital status. All are welcome to come to the House of the Lord, a house of prayer, to come to his table and receive mercy. The body of Christ is a diverse body of broken individuals fully relying on the grace of God, we get the utter privilege of extending that welcome and growing this community of faith.

We desire to be faithful, fruitful and have a lot of fun along the way. I look forward to all the Lord is going to do in 2026 and beyond, I will continue to dream big and encourage you to be inspired by all the Lord has done for you and to share his love with others after all: **WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19.



7. The Electoral Roll

A revised Electoral Roll has been prepared for 2026 (in 2025 a new roll was prepared as required every six years in accordance with guidelines from the diocese). There are 108 names on the Electoral Roll.

The updated Electoral Roll has been displayed in the church for inspection since the 12th April 2026.

8. Safeguarding Compliance

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Briony Allen, as Churchwarden, continued covering the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in 2025 as the PCC look to find someone to take on this role.

In August, the Diocesan DBS check provider (APCS) was subject to a data breach, which affected a number of our staff and congregation, who were offered subscriptions to Experian to monitor for any issues as a result. DBS checks were set up through Thirtyone:eight until another provider was found. Many thanks to Martin Dakin for his hard work through this stressful and difficult period, and his ongoing work as our DBS Validator.

Dean Else from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team had a meeting with Briony and Revd Matthew Smith on 14th October to offer advice on achieving the standards required for safeguarding in the Diocese. The recommended simplifications allowed our parish to progress to Level 3 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and to receive an invitation to join the Safeguarding Hub. This was approved at the PCC Meeting on 13th Nov 2025.

Christ Church took part in Safeguarding Sunday on 16th November, with prayer for the victims of abuse, and a look at the scriptural call to protect the vulnerable.

Progress is being made with regard to paperwork, but there are constant changes being made to the Hub in an attempt to streamline it. Churches vary hugely in congregation demographics and activity, and it is recognised it can become overly complicated. I hope to find time to undertake more PSO training in 2026. I also hope to be able to assist people who struggle with on-line courses going forward. There is still some outstanding safeguarding training.

The Church of England Code of Safer Working Practice is now displayed in the church for all church users.

In 2025 five incidents were reported to the PSO. Three did not require further action as it was deemed there was no safeguarding risk. Two were already under the appropriate authority, but help was sought from the DSA in one instance to ensure that the Authorities were taking action. The DSA alerted the PSO to an individual who visited Christ Church in breach of a safeguarding agreement with another church.

It everyone's duty to protect and support all users of our church and our Parish community, and I see that in action on a daily basis in our congregation as we serve each other in love.



9. Report on the Fabric of the Church

Work carried out during the year included:

- Hand dryer in Children's toilet replaced due to an electrical fault. Tap in gents toilet replaced.
- New windows and stays fitted to Vestry Hall.
- Organ serviced.
- Fire Extinguishers inspected and all found to be correct. Legionella test carried out and certificate issued. Security system inspected and all found to be satisfactory. PAT Testing carried out and recommendations carried out. Alarms and security alarms checked.
- Roofs cleaned of moss and debris. Broken slates, tiles replaced and or secured. Guttering cleaned and realigned for improved waterflow. Downpipes secured as necessary.
- Boiler serviced. It was noted that the heat exchanger was no longer securely attached and quote sought for replacement.

A quinquennial inspection was carried out on the 3rd September and overall condition of the building satisfactory. The report mentioned urgent roofing repairs which had all been attended to after the inspection. The key findings are:

- Roofs have deteriorated since the last inspection.
- The bell cote needs higher-level access and likely repairs after inspection.
- Documentation such as fire risk assessments, H&S policies, asbestos register updates, and inventory admin require significant sorting, updating, and regular signing.
- Some electrical issues (missing 5-year test, damaged socket) require urgent action.
- Some damp investigations, repointing, and localised building fabric repairs are needed.
- Monitoring tasks and minor maintenance work should be logged systematically in the H&S file.
- Energy efficiency and net-zero pathway planning needs to be developed.
- Accessibility documents (audit & statement) remain outstanding.
- The interior is generally good but requires redecorations and enhancements.

10. Deanery Synod

There was only one meeting of the Aldershot Deanery Synod in 2025 but due to administrative error we did not receive the invitation to attend. Therefore, there is nothing to report. We did, however, send a full complement of representatives to the first meeting of 2026.

11. Financial Review

The financial reports and accounts are provided in a separate document.



Part B: Committees & Groups Reports

12. Infrastructure

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of a Parochial Church Council (PCC) within the Church of England is a smaller group appointed from among PCC members to act on its behalf between full meetings. Its purpose is to ensure continuity in governance, enabling timely decisions on routine or urgent matters that cannot wait for the next PCC meeting. The Standing Committee includes the incumbent (Revd Matthew Smith, Chair), churchwardens (Briony Allen & Pete Roberts), the treasurer (Andrew Munnings), the PCC secretary (Kevin Fox) the GDPR officer (David Pooley).

The Standing Committee handles administrative tasks, oversees implementation of PCC decisions, and manages finance, staffing, or building issues within agreed limits. However, it does not replace the PCC; its authority is delegated and accountable to the full council. Major decisions, such as significant financial commitments or policy changes, must still be approved by the PCC. Overall, the committee supports efficient parish leadership while maintaining proper oversight and shared responsibility. It meets monthly over Zoom and each meeting lasts for about an hour. It prepares the agenda for PCC meetings, follows up on actions agreed at its meetings and deals with the day-to-day issues in running the church operation. As is appropriate the governance of the church is in the hands of the PCC and they agree all significant issues of substance, but much of the delivery and consequential aspects are dealt with by the Standing Committee reporting back to the PCC.

We offer great thanks to Mark Cross who chaired the Standing Committee during the vacancy, and also thanks to Ros Fox who supported the ministerial and worshipping aspects for the Standing Committee during the vacancy. Both stood down after the vacancy. My thanks to each member of the Standing Committee for their considerable efforts and energy they pour into serving Christ Church Crookham in a myriad of ways, it's truly appreciated!

Revd Matthew Smith

Pre-school Management

The Ofsted visited the Pre-school in February, and much to our delight they rated our Pre-school as Outstanding, which is the same rating as before, however, the Government standards have been adjusted which meant that the Outstanding rating is only available at a much higher standard, and so more difficult to achieve.

The Pre-school continues to be a happy and stable team of seven staff, comprising of one at qualified teacher status which we are very fortunate to have, five fully qualified at Level 3 and one currently studying as an Early Years Educator apprentice. Between them they work a range of hours and present a well-functioning team, as recognised by Ofsted and parents. In November, we had one member of staff leave and who was replaced by a fully qualified new member of staff.

The Pre-school continues to perform well financially, but was impacted by a large increase in National Insurance costs, and whilst the financial support for parents in the form of government grants also increased, this was at a lower rate than the rate we charge directly to parents. We were able to increase the private rate by 20% reflecting the Ofsted rating, however, this amounts to only a small increase.



The Pre-school is overseen by the PCC through the Pre-school Management Committee which met twice during the year, and in support of the staff, and during the staff interviews. We additionally met informally with Tracy Jarvis, the head, many times during the year.

Andrew Munnings, Chair - Pre-school Management Committee

Health & Safety

The Christ Church Health and Safety Policy was updated to reflect our current practices. This was reviewed and accepted at the PCC meeting in November. It has highlighted the need for regular scheduling and recording of some H&S tasks. It is hoped to set up a general policy review in 2026, which should provide a framework in which to work, and hopefully make it easier to meet our responsibilities.

Regular inspections have been carried out; fire alarms and extinguishers, security alarms, PAT testing and Legionella testing. The boiler service was missed but has subsequently been carried out. There have not been regular 'walk through' inspections, and these will be put on a schedule rather than being carried out ad hoc. The COSHH register has been reviewed.

There have been some significant accidents recorded. A fall in the church car park was found not to be as a result of poor lighting or any defect in the surface, and the surface was clear of slip and trip hazards. There were three falls associated with the loft over the Office. The causes have been addressed with the removal of heavy items from the loft, and maintenance and adjustment to the hatch for easier opening and closing.

Pigeons have reappeared this year, and are causing ongoing problems with accumulation of droppings, particularly a problem being on the Pre-school play area. Thanks to Peter Bradley for cleaning up. Efforts are being made to discourage them. Mouse droppings were found in both lofts and bait was laid, and there is no evidence of mice now. There was also a rat that managed to get into the Pre-school cupboard, and was dealt with by a Pest Control Officer. There was no issue with vermin entering the kitchen, but I would still remind everyone to keep external areas clear of clutter which provide cover, not to store food in the kitchen unless in sealed containers or in the fridge and not to leave waste food in the kitchen bins.

In April Hart Environmental Health came to inspect the kitchen facilities. Everything is in order for our current activities, the only defect picked up being flaking paint on the ceiling which potentially could fall in food. Cook Well For Less can continue without the need for registration. The Inspector indicated that when there were regular meals or food being served, then we would need to register.

During the gas mains replacement works at the end of the year a roof tile which containing asbestos was discovered when a new gas pipe into the church was being laid. This was low risk and removed by National Gas Networks.

I would like to thank Peter Bradley and Eric Barnfield who have undertaken various minor repairs to keep us safe, and ask that anyone spotting a H&S issue report it to one of the churchwardens promptly.

Briony Allen



Data Protection (GDPR)

I In the summer of last year, we were notified of a serious data breach at the company who perform the DBS checks on behalf of this parish and the diocese of Guildford. In line with our legal responsibilities, I reported the breach to the Information Commissioners Offices (ICO). We later found out that seven people's data had been accessed improperly, and each of the victims was informed personally. Due to seriousness of the breach, the diocese took out a policy with Experian to monitor the finances of the seven people and alert them to any suspicious activity. As result of the subsequent investigation, the DBS company has ceased trading and we are using a completely new company to process the DBS on behalf of the church.

During the year, we have been rolling out the use of ChurchSuite to manage the parish information. This has been done in a measured and cautious way as we are aware that your data is sensitive and we need to keep it safe.

David Pooley

Job Squad

This year, thanks to heroic efforts and fortuitous dry weather during the spring and summer, the churchyard has finally lost much of its post-Covid wilderness look, which has been encouraging for the team, and appreciated by those who come to tend graves.

In addition to our stalwarts, we had some extra muscle this year; Craig cleared the southeast area of long grass and brambles, Peter Rooney returned to help trim the southwest area of long coarse grass, and our neighbour at The Kop, Mark Lee, kindly had a bonfire to clear woody plant material. All this allowed the rest of the team to keep up with the other maintenance jobs, which meant all the hedges were cut, including the laurel on the north boundary and the wildflower areas were mowed at the beginning of September, allowing us to concentrate on leaves and acorns, and in particular managing to keep the carpark relatively clear. The churchyard trees are due for an inspection, which needs to be arranged in the coming year.

Grass clearance has exposed a number of graves which have sunk and are a possible hazard, but they are now visible. Roger has marked them as we were hoping that the offer of a 'charity day' offered by the National Gas Networks group would materialise, but nothing so far. That may be a job for next year.

Peter Bradley has taken on the upkeep of the Garden of Remembrance and done a great job, it is looking lovely, and the fact it is tended so carefully is reassuring to those whose loved ones are placed there.

Allie provided Skimmia for the North door, and it is the intention to have more flowers there to make the door obvious as an entrance, as well as attractive and welcoming. We thank all those who look after the planters, Easter Garden and patio areas.

The Pre-School have been given a donation for refreshing the patio area, which should make it more attractive for both Pre-school and church and this will be carried out in the coming year.

From a biodiversity perspective this year, the drought and heat, which was tough on the team, also meant that the wild flower display wasn't as diverse or pretty as in previous years, and there were fewer bees, butterflies and other pollinators as a consequence. Common Spotted Orchids did do well in the early spring, but the Sheep's Bit Scabious didn't appear at all. The native hedge is establishing nicely and Sarah, Terry and Robin kindly topped it so it should remain manageable. Going forward,



only the species rich areas will be left unmown this year, plus a few refuges for the toads, while the areas with coarse grass will (hopefully) be kept shorter so that finer grasses and other plants can move in. However, if the wildlife area is reduced to allow better control, 'no mow' must be adhered to in the marked areas or we will lose our special lowland heath species.

Thank you to all who turn up in all weathers, to Mike, Jo and Marina who came on board, to all our quiet, unseen heroes who put in extra work throughout the year Also, a big thank you to Jan Coward, who although is stepping down from officially heading up the team, still seems to be helping out!

Briony Allen

Administration

The church requires a wide range of administration tasks to function smoothly, not just during normal working hours but also sometimes weekends and from home when required. There are two administrators, Jenny Baker and Ruth Rose.

Jenny works Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and at weekends when events are taking place, while Ruth works Monday and Friday mornings on a flexible hours basis. The office is open during from 11am-1pm Mon-Thurs and 10am-12 noon on Fridays providing a welcoming place to those requiring administration assistance and information.

Key responsibilities are summarised here:

- Phone calls, emails and in-person enquiries.
- Production of the service sheets for the 10am and 4pm services, plus special services such as at Christmas and Easter. Also sending these out in advance to those taking part in these services.
- Ordering of items such as stationery, office supplies, items for church services, and general supplies.
- Organisation and liaison for weddings, funerals, interments and baptisms.
- Parish Magazine distribution, co-ordination, printing, subscriptions and advertising.
- Fire alarm testing.
- Venue hire (bookings, documentation and access).
- Printer and office equipment management.
- Parish returns.
- Venue hire bookings and documents.
- Invoices for hall hire, funerals, interments, weddings, monuments, memorial services and magazine advertising.
- Involved with arranging, co-ordinating and promoting events.
- Liaising with Blucando for support of the church IT systems.
- Using ChurchSuite, a new systems for contact information, the parish diary and venue bookings.
- Numerous ad hoc tasks.
- Co-ordinating and briefing the cleaner.

Jenny Baker



Buildings, Fabric & Grounds

Vicarage

March. HCC requested that the hedge bordering the pavement on Gally Hill Road be trimmed back to boundary line. Carried out.

June. Agreed to redecoration of the vicarage, colours picked by incumbent and spouse except for the office and downstairs toilet, which was actioned by the Diocese. Decoration carried out before they moved in.

July. Lawns cut and garden tidied which included a new fence around the garden.

Jubilee Drive

December. Gas boiler serviced and heating system checked, as required. Some light bulbs replaced and other small ancillaries sorted out by the Sexton.

School House

September. All chimneys capped to prevent water ingress. Roof cleared of moss and other debris. Broken slates replaced and lead guttering tidied up.

October. Boiler serviced.

Church

January. Hand dryer in Children's toilet replaced due to an electrical fault. New Windows and stays fitted to Vestry Hall.

May. Organ serviced and all found to be correct.

June. Fire Extinguishers inspected.

July. Legionella Test carried out and certificate issued. Security system inspected and all found to be satisfactory. Tap in Gents toilet replaced. Various other small repairs carried out over the period up to September.

October. QI carried out. Roofs cleaned of moss and debris. Broken slates, tiles replaced and or secured. Guttering cleaned and realigned for improved waterflow. Downpipes secured as necessary.

December. Boiler serviced. It was noted that the heat exchanger was no longer securely attached and quote sought for replacement. Alarms and security alarms checked by responsible company. PAT Testing carried out and recommendations carried out.

My thanks go to all involved in the activities of the BFG team.

Pete Roberts



13. Worship

Bell Ringers

The Christ Church Crookham Handbell Ringers continue to enjoy meeting once a week to practise our change ringing and our tunes.

We continue to ring for a Sunday Service most months, and last Christmas also enjoyed playing carols before the Carol Service.

Local groups sometimes ask us to ring for them, and these can be old favourites or Christmas carols, depending on the time of year. In 2025 we played for Age Concern in Yateley, Basingbourne Road Baptist Church, Bourley Grange, Freelands Croft, Hill House and Keble Court, in addition to our own Pre-School.

When asked, we are always happy to visit care homes, as long as the date required is in good time, so that we can ensure that seven people can be at the same place at the same time!

We also offer to play for weddings, when we do change ringing as the bride and groom leaves the church. Folk who have taken advantage of our offer are always grateful. We played for a wedding here last October. The church charges £50 for the handbells at weddings.

Sometimes we get given a donation for Christ Church when we play away which we gratefully accept.

Diana & Peter White

Church Choir

The choir has continued to lead the singing during, what is now, the 10am Holy Communion service. This later start has given us the opportunity to rehearse more music before the service. This includes music for the recently introduced choral evensong which has provided many within the choir the opportunity to learn more anthems and also the skills required for chanting. It is a great help that Malcolm Hicks plays for the Evensong Services, and that his wife can join the choir. Due to other commitments, rehearsals are generally only possible immediately before the Sunday service. However, given the increased amount of music we are now singing, weeknight rehearsals are becoming more regular.

We greatly look forward to the Sundays when Matt Stapleton plays and we now try to coincide with him which does mean that there is no regular pattern to the Sundays we sing.

We currently have twelve members, although no recognised tenor which greatly reduces our repertoire, particularly as our music library is limited.

Martin Dakin, Choirmaster

Flowers

The flower team continues to enjoy supporting our worship by producing flower displays throughout the year. We endeavour to be as environmentally friendly as possible whilst doing this.

Occasionally individuals donate money and ask us to make an arrangement in Church for a special occasion such as an anniversary and we are delighted to do this.



We produced arrangements to sell at the Church Fairs and instead of a Christmas wreath workshop this year, we expanded the Christmas stall range with Christmas wreaths to sell & order. All profits going to Church funds.

We had a fun morning making Mother's Day posies back in March, and enjoyed supporting the Sunday school children with making Advent wreaths .

I'd like to thank all the members of my team who work so hard throughout the year producing beautiful arrangements.

Angela Clarke

Live Streaming

In 2024 we live-streamed 23 Sunday 9am services, following the pattern of 2nd and 4th Sundays, plus services at Easter and Christmas. Generally there are only few 'live' views, but after a day or two the figure usually increases to over 20. The Christmas Midnight Holy Communion had around 30 views. We also live-streamed two funeral services.

The laptop, audio mixer, cameras and cables continue to show wear-and-tear since the equipment has to be setup every time. If we are to continue live-streaming a permanent system will be required before long, although it is worth noting that many churches that started live-streaming during the period of covid lock-down no longer do so.

We use a mobile phone ('droid-cam') to allow a second view, such as of the altar for communion services. We continue to create a document containing the order of service, readings and hymns for displaying alongside the camera view.

My thanks to Mike Gibbons for his support as an additional live-streaming operator.

Kevin Fox

Music Group

During 2025, the Music Group continued to provide live accompaniment for the 11am service on the third Sunday in the month, and also played for the two Christingle/Crib services on Christmas Eve and one hymn at Revd Matthew Smith's installation service.

After the change of service times in 2026, the Music Group now plays at the 10am Holy Communion service on the third Sunday (when possible). Our singing group continues to provide a strong lead in services.

My thanks go to all the players and singers who contribute to our worship.

Ros Fox



Sacristans

The Sacristans have been really busy over the last few months, continuing to work well together supporting worship at Christ Church and helping to ensure the church services run smoothly.

During Lent we had purple on the altar with a number of positive comments regarding how it looks.

I would like to thank Revd Matt and all who have helped the Sacristans team over the past year.

Pam Selwood

14. Fellowship

Coffee & Conversation

Despite some tricky navigating around the renewal of the gas main along Gally Hill Road earlier in the year, we have continued to meet on Thursdays in the Lefroy Room from 10am for an hour and half of chatting and laughter. The friendships have deepened over the year and it was especially touching to see people supporting one another during the vacancy.

The relaxed atmosphere makes the morning accessible to those who are not used to being in church or who feel uncomfortable in the sanctuary and occasionally we have had visitors who needed pastoral support. We have an open door and have been delighted to welcome a variety of folk this year, including some very little babies! Some of our folk are getting increasingly frail so are unable to attend but we try to keep in contact and make sure we invite them where possible. We did manage to have a few sessions outside in the summer when it wasn't too hot – none of us like the chocolate melting on our biscuits.

There has been a gentle turnover of attendees but most weeks there is a core of between 10 – 16 people in the Lefroy room. The arrival of the printer has not been without worries but we are learning to manage the space more effectively and we are delighted with the heat it generates!

Katherine Gibbons and Pam Selwood

Coffee Drop

Coffee Drop continues to be an established part of the Wednesday morning routine for many of the pre-school children, their parents and Christ Church. The North door has become the main entrance with some families using church as a cut through to the patio outside preschool. It has been lovely to see the parents supporting one another this year and 'supporting me' as they worried about how the church was coping without a vicar.

The children have a refreshingly different perspective and use church furniture in an entirely different way to regular congregations so if you find any plastic food or crockery tucked into your chair please pop it in the wicker basket at the back of church!

It continues to be privilege to host the children and families making all feel at home in Christ Church.

Katherine Gibbons

Pastoral Care

This past year there has been an increasing need to support our church members by visiting, phoning, giving lifts etc. Those that are able to offer help on a regular basis are very few, but we have kept a



presence and a listening ear and are grateful for the network of church members and friends who keep in touch and support one another. Our ability to offer visits, phone calls and prayer has been greatly enhanced by the arrival of Matt as our vicar and the ordination of Ros, our curate. This has broadened provision but as we reach out further, the need increases.

The focal point of the group is Coffee and Conversation, following the Thursday morning Prayer Circle which is open to all. Requests for prayer are welcomed. Events and special services have continued to provide opportunities for welcoming visitors, having conversations and hearing of needs.

Marion Foreman

15. Community

Christian Aid

The team met and planned the two fundraising events again this year. A plant sale took place in May. We were blessed by fantastic weather, having started with two long tables I was amazed at the plants that arrived by those donating which soon overran the tables and were spread liberally across the car park. The whole event was very well supported – nothing was marked with a price – the result being that people gave generously. There were numerous tables full of cakes and biscuits, and when they were gone more frozen home-made cakes appeared to restock. The event had a good community feel and support across the churches for the Charity.

The Christmas Concert was rolled out in its normal format. Graham Hix bounced back and forth from piano to organ. The carols were interspersed with various prose, some very funny, others more thought provoking, expertly delivered by representants from local churches including our own David Pooley – many thanks. Emma Mabin sang beautifully and I performed in an entertaining sketch - the Donkey's perspective of the nativity story! A pleasant afternoon was rounded up with tea and mince pies!

All Saint/P&J Myanmar Appeal, March 2025	£895.00
Christian Aid Week (combined churches)	£4,202.89
<i>Christchurch Crookham contribution: £650</i>	
All Saint/P&J Afghan collection, Sept 2025	£500.00
Christmas Concert	£1,272.28
Total 2025	£6,870.17

Notes:

1. You will note that some churches have responded to specific world events but to date we have not approached our congregation at Christ Church in this manner.
2. The non pricing of plants at the sale saved time and complication, and seemed to result in generous giving, is this something we should consider?

Mel Trundle



Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

The Christ Church CAP team continued its mission and outreach work throughout 2025, focusing on Cook Well for Less workshops, Money Coaching, Feed a Child support, and the launch of the new CAP Debt Centre in Fleet.

CAP Debt Centre

The newest CAP initiative in Fleet is the CAP Debt Centre, based at Fleet Baptist Church. After extensive training, Bruce Bulgin qualified as a CAP Debt Coach in 2025. Since August 2025 he has supported four debt clients and acted as a befriender for three others.

CAP's Debt Advice Service is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Unlike most other debt advice services, CAP's support is face to face. Debt clients are often vulnerable and may face a range of challenges, so Debt Coaches meet clients in their own homes. For safeguarding and holistic support, a befriender accompanies each visit. We now have two new team members training as CAP bendifenders, who will work closely with the Debt Coaches and focus on clients' non debt related needs.

Cook Well for Less

Across April 2025 to February 2026, we ran six Cook Well for Less workshops, incorporating elements of the CAP Life Skills course. In total, 48 adults—an increase of 13 from the same period last year—and 26 children attended. While we have some regular participants, attendees come from a wide range of sources including social services, Hart Foodbank, and our own advertising and social media outreach. As the name suggests, CWL aims to help people prepare nutritious, low cost meals and to promote healthy eating. Course outcomes are building confidence through learning new skills, sharing a meal together afterwards adds an important social element, and creating natural opportunities for church outreach. Although it is not easy to measure success in terms of increased church attendance, we are bringing more people across the threshold, and many go on to join other community events at the church.

In 2025 we were able to run workshops at Church Crookham Community Centre as well as Vestry Hall. We are now in the process of expanding Cook Well for Less by facilitating sessions at other churches and community centres, sharing our model so that others can use or adapt it.

Funding for the workshops is secured from Hart District Council.

Money Coaching

We ran one CAP Money Coaching course in the past year. It took place online in February 2026 with five young adult learners

Feed a child

In 2025 we continued to run the Feed a Child programme as part of our wider community support. Feed a Child provides food parcels during school holidays for families whose children receive free school meals or who need extra support during the longer holidays at Easter, Summer and Christmas. We work with Crookham Infants, Crookham Juniors and Tweseldown Infants.

For Easter and Christmas 2025 we secured funding from Hampshire County Council. However, due to the timing of their grants, we were unable to obtain funding for Summer 2025. We are grateful to the congregation for their generous contributions, which helped top up church funding for the programme.

- Easter 2025: 48 families received food parcels
- Summer 2025: 49 families each received two bags of food



- Christmas 2025: 60 families received parcels, as we invited schools to include families on limited budgets who do not qualify for free school meals

Schools consistently tell us that the parcels are gratefully received.

Reporting and thanks

We continue to report to the Christians Together projects team every six weeks.

Our work is only possible because of our wonderful team of volunteers. We praise God for His guidance and open our hands and hearts to follow His lead as we continue to provide community workshops in 2026.

Jan Drummond and Bruce Bulgin

Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools (FACCTS)

Christ Church supports Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools, working with the team of four schools workers and volunteers from the 10 other churches in Fleet. Mike Gibbons is one of the directors of FACCTS.

During term time, a small team goes from Christ Church to take an 'Open the Book' Bible story into Crookham Infants School for their Tuesday afternoon assembly. Volunteers from Christ Church occasionally help with other activities such as Prayer Spaces in the junior schools, the FACCTS walk-through Nativity at Fleet Christmas Festivities and presentations to Year 6 pupils. Christ Church hosts the FACCTS Christmas and Easter Presentations to Crookham Junior School's Year 6 and provides helpers to pack goody bags and give support at the craft tables.

It is encouraging that children from the local schools are brought into Christ Church and feel at ease here. Many are happy to return bringing their parents to see the church or to attend a service.

Marion Foreman

Events

Fundraising events continued throughout the year, with the plant sale, the Graham Hix Concert in the Early summer, and the Christmas Fayre raising the bulk of the funds. In addition we held the Easter egg hunt, a Barn Dance/BBQ, Gift-Your-Gift, and a family dinner. We also organised a Welcome Tea for our new vicar.

In total events brought in £5,680. This is lower than we were hoping to have, due to not having the £2-£3,000 we would have expected from the Arts Festival, which we had to cancel due to the major roadworks for the replacement of the mains gas pipes.

Andrew Munnings

Communications/Publicity

We inform our community about church services and events in a wide variety of ways:

- Notice boards (inside and outside).
- Leaflets and fliers.
- Emails sent to our contacts in ChurchSuite.
- Notices in the weekly sheet and service booklet.



- Parish Magazine. This is available either as a traditionally printed booklet or as an emailed PDF document. By the end of 2025 around 125 regularly received the magazine by email, and about 50 as a printed book. Thanks to the team of magazine editors for putting each edition together, and to all the contributors, who together make the magazine an interesting and informative publication.
- Website. On average this has about 20 visits per day but with up to 100 at Christmas. The church administration team uses ChurchSuite for all calendar entries including events and bookings. The website displays church services and the next six 'featured' events with the information automatically coming from ChurchSuite. The website has information about the PCC, a daily prayer cycle, links to our on-line streamed services, links for online donations and a 'members' area showing rotas, documentation and APCM forms.
- Facebook.

Our thanks go to everyone involved in the communication of all aspects of our church.

Kevin Fox

Facebook

Our Facebook page "Christ Church Church Crookham" and group "Christ Church Crookham" regularly show posts about our services, as well as events held on behalf of our community.

Our group site has gained over 5,815 views during the year, whilst our page has over 1,000 followers. We are growing our social media platform slowly and steadily, We have managed to enhance our postings during the year with growing engagements for the services and video postings,

Laura Roberts

16. Children & Youth

Little Bells

The group started 2025 well, but mums returning to work saw the numbers decrease, and this has remained low since the summer. Moving the session to a 3pm finish has allowed people to drop in and go on to pick up older siblings from school.

Matt assisted with promoting the group on social media, and there was a short increase in numbers, but most found that the afternoon session didn't suit their routine. The regulars have been coming for over three years now and are a friendly and supportive group. Lack of community is something they all mention and see as a positive part of our church. However, they haven't taken up invitations to church services although do appear at community events.

Anita signed up to help, and it has made a big difference having help setting up, teas, chatting and interacting with the little ones. Alice and Josiah also come along, boost the numbers and show the younger face of our church community, plus is up to date with all the latest advice!

Toddlers will continue, but would really benefit from someone who could fully invest in running it.

Briony Allen



JAM (Jesus And Me)

2025 was quieter than normal, however, this is not unexpected due to the vacancy period.

The age group for the year has been between 2 months and 16 years old. The older children are now part of the helpers team, which is enabling us to have one-to-one help for the younger children.

This year we held our Pancake tea, with around 15 attendees, with a good mix of adults and families. In December we held our nativity play during the 11 o'clock service and it was nice to see members from the 9 o'clock service stay and support the children.

The future of the services for 2026 will change and our main family service is moving to 4pm. We hope that this time works well for families in our community and that the whole congregation of all services continue to support the changes.

Laura Roberts

Crookham CE Aided Infant School

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in our Church Infant School. It is truly a delightful school, and we are blessed to have such a wonderful school and have such a positive relationship with it.

I am saddened that the headteacher, Mrs Hannah Inglis, has left the school as of the Easter Term. She has only been there two years but has transformed the school and has developed a stunning vision statement: From tiny seeds, we grow and learn together, little people can do big things through love, courage and joy.

I personally want to thank Mrs Inglis for welcoming me so warmly into the school community. I am committed to supporting the school with their Christian distinctiveness and Christian ethos and values, and religious education. I do fortnightly Vicar Collective Worships and encourage the Open the Book Team. I support the staff and have led the occasional lesson. I have done a Christmas and Easter service for the whole school. I have also had the school in church and run a prayer space for Epiphany and will do another for Pentecost in May.

I am an ex-officio governor and sit on the curriculum and standards committee. I am also on the headteacher recruitment panel and God-willing, look forward to welcoming a new headteacher in September. I will offer my support to them to grow a thriving and flourishing relationship from the off. I am excited for the huge opportunities to reach so many families with the good news of Jesus through the school. Please do pray for me as I support the school, pray for the appointment of a new headteacher, pray for the staff in this time of transition and most importantly, pray for the Children: Jesus says in Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Thanks also to Jo Oxley as a foundation governor; if anyone else wishes to join us on the governing body please do speak to myself or Jo, we'd be delighted for you to join Team Crookham!

Revd Matthew Smith