



St Leonard's Church

Chesham Bois

Annual General Meeting

To include Vestry meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

The Parish Centre, Glebe Way, Chesham Bois, HP6 5ND



Agenda & Minutes

Reports from Parish Organisations
For the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Rev'd Laurie Clow
Sam McEwen – Choi van Rest – Daniel Stocker

Registered Charity Number 1134113





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VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of 2025 Vestry Minutes
4. Election of Church Wardens

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2025

Present: Laurie Clow
32 members on the electoral roll
Apologies: Juliet Brown, Rachael Palmer, Jenni Sawyer

1. **Welcome and Opening Worship:** Laurie Clow opened the meeting in prayer and worship - Psalm 149
2. **Present and Apologies:** as above.
3. **Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 15th April 2024:** Taken as read and approved by those who were present last year.
Proposed: Choi van Rest **Seconded:** Jackie Lambert **Unanimous**
Abstentions: None
4. **Election of Church Warden:**

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Choi van Rest	Cathy Baldwin	Sarah Pimenta

Choi was elected by **unanimous** decision to serve as Church Warden for the next 12 months. It was proposed by Laurie Clow that an Assistant Church Warden be appointed from within the new PCC. The motion was seconded by Ruth Leach and **unanimously** agreed.
5. **Thanks to the Church Wardens:** Laurie thanked Ali Greenhalgh and Sam McEwen for all their hard work over the previous year as Church Wardens.
6. The vestry meeting was closed.



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 2025 APCM minutes
3. Correspondence
4. PCC reports:
Wardens' Report and presentation of Log Book of Fabric and Ornaments
5. Reception of Independently Examined Accounts
 - 5.1 Honorary Treasurer's report, as attached
 - 5.2 Present accounts as an accurate record of PCC activity
 - 5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2026
6. PCC Elections for 2026
 - 6.1 Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Election of Electoral Roll Officer for 2026
 - 6.2 Election of PCC members in addition to ex officio members and church wardens
Following to continue:
Paul Chiappetti, Matt Palmer, Phil Crispin
In line with APCM 2015 resolution, Jackie Lambert acts as ex-officio post for qualified LLM's
To be elected for 3 years: 6 people
7. Reception of Reports from Parish Organisations, as attached
8. Any other business of general Parish interest to be submitted to the Churchwardens or the PCC Secretary before **Sunday 12th April 2026**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2025

1. **Present and Apologies:** as above
2. **Minutes of APCM held on 15th April 2024:** Taken as read and approved by those who had attended that meeting
Proposed: Ruth Leach **Seconded:** Denise Kolb **Unanimous**
Abstentions: None
3. **Correspondence:** None had been received
4. **Parochial Church Council Reports**
Reports from the PCC and its various sub-committees were reported in the TAR. The Log Book was presented and made available to look at. The Wardens reports were read out.
5. **Presentation of the Independently Examined Accounts**
 - 5.1. Sam McEwen reported that the PCC had already seen and approved the accounts which have been fully audited, and that they were being 'received' at this meeting. Sam also asked for permission to appoint an independent examiner in due course.
Proposed: Sam McEwen **Seconded:** Ali Greenhalgh
Unanimous decision and with no abstentions
 - 5.2. Sam thanked Peter and Katie Flory for bringing the accounts together with her and continuing to help whilst the handover occurred. Sam also thanked Ruth Leach and Alice Somervell for all their hard work in the office.



5.3. Laurie Clow thanked everyone for their generous giving and encouraged everyone to pray.

6. PCC Elections for 2025

6.1. Electoral Roll and Electoral Roll Officer

The published Electoral Roll at the church is 83. Marian Chiappetti has agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

Proposed: Cathy Baldwin **Seconded:** Diana Wright **Unanimous**

Marian Chiappetti was thanked for the work she does on behalf of St Leonard's in her capacity as Electoral Roll Officer.

6.2 PCC Nominations

Five PCC members are stepping down (or have already resigned): Tom Brewer (already resigned), Paul Evans, Peter Flory, Ali Greenhalgh and Alan Lewis.

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Daniel Stocker	Ruth Leach	Alice Somervell
Anna Rabindrakumar	Jenni Sawyer	Jackie Lambert
Phil Crispin	Alice Somervell	Andrea Hayers
Matthew Palmer	Sam McEwen	Fred Clayton
Sam McEwen	Choi van Rest	Kirstie Brewer

Unanimous decision and there were no abstentions.

Thanks were given to all the nominees by way of a round of applause.

7. Reception of the reports from Parish Organisations

Laurie Clow commended the reports and invited everyone to read them. He passed on his thanks to everyone in the congregation. He thanked Gilly Hafner for her work as PCC Secretary and Jackie Lambert for all her hard work and support. He also thanked Ruth Leach and Alice Somervell for all their hard work in the office. Laurie also thanked Jonny Somervell for being our Worship Leader and the amazing work he is doing as Youth Leader.

8. Any Other Business

Ali Greenhalgh and Sam McEwen thanked Laurie and Wendy Clow for being our leaders and closed the meeting in prayer.



THE WARDEN'S REPORT

As we look back on 2025, we do so with a mixture of gratitude, challenge and hope. Like many church families, we have experienced moments that have stretched us, but we have also seen God's faithfulness sustaining us through them. Throughout the year we have continued to worship, pray, serve our community and support one another, and we give thanks for the many people whose faithfulness makes the life of St Leonard's possible.

In the spring we received long-awaited news that the appeal against the refused Planning Application for the Parish Centre redevelopment had been successful. This was a huge encouragement after such a lengthy process. St Leonard's now has three years from March 2025 to break ground on the project, and the PCC has been working carefully to understand and meet the pre-conditions required before work can begin. We continue to pray for wisdom and clarity as we take the next steps in this important project for the future of our church and community.

In April we said goodbye to Bekki Hadley, our much-loved Junior Church leader, as she moved on to take up a new role at St Luke's in Watford. Bekki served with great dedication and creativity, not only in leading Junior Church but also in organising the wonderful community Fun Days with the help of a fantastic team of volunteers. We are so grateful for the energy and heart she brought to this ministry and we pray God's blessing on her as she begins this new chapter.

Junior Church continues to flourish under the leadership of Andrea Hayers, supported by Henny, Dawn, Matt, Viv, Ali and Jacalyn. We are deeply thankful for their commitment, imagination and willingness to serve our children and families so faithfully each week.

The young people of St Leonard's have continued to meet regularly for Youth breakfasts and midweek evening sessions, building friendships and growing in faith together. In the spring they enjoyed a Youth weekend away, and in the summer they attended Limitless, both of which were valuable times of encouragement and spiritual growth. We are so grateful to Jonny and his team of volunteers Alice, Paul, Denise, David and Si for the time, care and dedication they give in helping our young people deepen their relationships with Jesus. Their faithful investment in the next generation is a real blessing to our church family.

We give heartfelt thanks to Barbara Williams for her continued love and care for the seniors in our church family. She faithfully oversees this important area of ministry and kindly organised the Easter celebration, which was greatly appreciated by all who attended. Over many years, Barbara's dedication and compassion have blessed so many, and we are deeply grateful for the love and commitment she has poured into this ministry.

During the summer, Ruth Leach stepped away from her role as Office Manager and PA to Laurie. Ruth's administrative gifts, attention to detail and quiet dedication have been a tremendous blessing to St Leonard's over many years. We are thankful that she continues to serve our church family through her leadership of the Prayer Ministry. Ruth spent the autumn term on placement at St Michael's in Amersham, and we look forward to welcoming her back in 2026.



Over the summer we also learned that Laurie had been diagnosed with cancer. He began treatment in September, and the PCC has worked closely together to ensure the day-to-day life of the church has continued smoothly during this time. Laurie's voice and teaching have still been very much part of our life together, as he prepared a series of videos for our Home Groups to follow during the autumn term. We continue to hold Laurie and Wendy in our prayers, asking for God's healing, strength and peace for them both. Our Home Groups continue to be a real source of strength and fellowship within the life of St Leonard's. As well as gathering during the week for prayer, study and mutual support, they also generously provide refreshments after our Sunday services. This simple act of hospitality is a great blessing to our church family, creating space for conversation, encouragement and community. We are deeply thankful for all they give and the quiet, faithful way they serve. We also greatly appreciate our Home Group leaders, whose commitment, preparation and pastoral care sustain these groups and help them to flourish week by week.

In the autumn Denise Kolb and Cathy Baldwin embarked on a Formation Year working towards becoming Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs). Jackie Lambert has been faithfully supporting through this process during Laurie's absence. Jackie continues to give so much of herself in service to the church - preaching on Sundays, serving on the PCC, organising Open the Bible at Chesham Bois School, in addition to serving as a Foundation Governor there. Her faithful and longstanding commitment is a huge blessing to St Leonard's, and we are deeply grateful for all she does.

Jonny continues to bless us richly through his leadership of worship on Sundays and at Encounter. Week by week he leads us with skill, sensitivity and faith, helping us to focus our hearts on God together. We are so thankful for his ministry among us.

Alice has also stepped into a fuller role in the church office and does a wonderful job of keeping us organised and ensuring that the many practical aspects of church life run smoothly. Thank you, Alice, for all that you do.

In December the findings of a Cultural Audit, commissioned by the Oxford Diocese earlier in 2025, were shared with the Standing Committee and subsequently with the PCC and Elders. For safeguarding reasons, the PCC has maintained confidentiality regarding the details of the audit and continues to follow the guidance provided by the Diocese. Bishop Dave wrote to the church family in December to explain that the concerns raised in the audit are being followed up by him and his team.

We are deeply thankful for our Safeguarding Team, who serve with great care, wisdom and discernment in this vital area of church life. Denise Kolb has led this work faithfully and diligently, ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority for us all. Marian Campbell-Brown has also been outstanding in keeping us up to date with safeguarding training requirements and DBS checks, helping us to maintain good practice across the church. We are very grateful for their commitment and the quiet, consistent way they help ensure that St Leonard's remains a safe and caring community for everyone.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply thankful for the many people who serve faithfully behind the scenes and contribute to the life of St Leonard's in so many ways. We are especially grateful to the PCC, who have worked together with great care, commitment and unity during what



has at times been a challenging and uncertain year. Their willingness to give time, wisdom and prayerful attention to the life of the church has been a real strength to our community and it has been a privilege to work alongside such a formidable team.

Through both the difficulties and the many blessings of this year, we continue to see God's faithfulness to us as a church family. As we look ahead, we pray for His guidance, wisdom and peace, trusting that He will lead St Leonard's forward as we seek to serve Him and our wider community together.

Choi van Rest - Churchwarden

WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

This year has been a challenging one for the fabric of our beautiful church building.

The chimney continues to deteriorate and remains a concern. We are extremely grateful to our in-house steeplejack, Donald Campbell-Brown, who has fitted a temporary cover to prevent further water ingress and additional internal damage. This measure will protect the building while we work towards agreeing a long-term repair solution. We are also very grateful to Marian Chiappetti for stepping in to assist the PCC in progressing the chimney repair and helping to move matters forward.

In April, we were unfortunately affected by lead theft from the church roof - an issue that continues to impact many churches across the country. The stolen lead was replaced in August. Repairs to the resulting internal lime plaster damage will be carried out alongside the remedial work required from the ongoing chimney leak, enabling us to address all internal damage in a coordinated way.

Routine maintenance has been undertaken throughout the year:

- Fire extinguishers were serviced in March
- The church boiler was serviced in May
- Remedial work to the lightning conductor was completed in May
- An energy audit was conducted in September, providing options and recommendations for future heating solutions, as the current boiler is now very old and nearing the end of its serviceable life.
- The church clock was serviced in November

Following the decision that St Leonard's Church no longer requires the use of 19 Stubbs End Close, members of the PCC and volunteers from our church family came together to empty and clean the property so that it could be returned to the Chiltern Christian Trust in good order. This was a significant undertaking, amounting to approximately 80 hours of collective work. It was, however, a



wonderful expression of shared service and fellowship, and it was heartening to see so many people rally together to complete such a substantial task. Thank you to all who helped.

Caring for our buildings is not simply about bricks and mortar; it is part of our shared calling to steward well the place in which we gather to worship, pray, serve and work. Thank you to all who have given their time, skills, and quiet faithfulness in looking after this precious space.

Choi van Rest - Churchwarden

PCC TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2025, both income and expenditure in the General Fund decreased, resulting in a net expenditure for the year. Despite this, our giving to Mission partners has been maintained.

During 2025 we were unable to pay our full Parish Share to the Diocese, as projected costs were expected to exceed donations and a significant proportion of our funds remained restricted or designated.

The PCC spent £1,120.20 on the Parish Centre development project during the year and received gifts totalling £1,875.00 towards this work.

Our Lord and Father continues to be abundantly generous to us, and many within our church family have reflected that generosity through their faithful giving. The 2026 budget recognises the ongoing need to reduce expenditure and calls us to pray for God's provision to support His work here.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PCC for their support during my first year as Treasurer as we navigated a financially challenging period. I am also thankful to Ruth Leach and Alice Somervell for their continued assistance in the office.

Sam McEwen – Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING

St Leonard's works in line with the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, and had a safeguarding team of 3 volunteers, led by Denise as the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Marion is the DBS and safeguarding training administrator and Sam represents safeguarding at PCC meetings, where safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda. Our safeguarding procedures and training are supported by software from Oxford Diocese known as a Parish Dashboard that enables us to retain an overview of our mandatory requirements for staff and volunteers. I would like to say a big Thank You to Marion for her on-going hard work and diligence.



All roles at St Leonards require some level of safeguarding training from the Church of England as it uses scenarios from church and Christian life as part of the learning involved. Thank You to staff and volunteers alike for their commitment to the training and administration required to keep a safer environment for all who attend our church and its activities.

Cultural Audit

In 2025, the Diocese of Oxford commissioned an independent cultural audit of St Leonard's Church following concerns raised regarding aspects of church culture and leadership around the incumbent. The purpose of the audit was to provide an independent assessment and to assist the Diocese and the PCC in considering whether any further action may be appropriate.

The report from that audit was presented to the PCC in December 2025. It highlights matters that the Diocese need to further review and it includes several recommendations that the PCC will need to consider. The matters referenced in the report relate to concerns about the exercise of spiritual authority and patterns of leadership over a period of time.

During 2025, the incumbent was signed off work for medical treatment. As a result, the Diocese can only proceed with the process once he is able to participate fully.

We recognise that the pausing of the process and the limited information we can share are frustrating. However, we intend to be as open as we can be and to address the recommendations during the course of 2026. We therefore ask for your patience, prayers and continued support as this work progresses.

Whilst the cultural audit found issues with leadership, the actual safeguarding processes followed by St. Leonard's are sound and compliant with Church of England guidelines.

Denise Kolb - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Appendix:
Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

[St Leonard's Parish Safeguarding Policy](#)

[St Leonard's Parish Social Media Policy](#)

[Church of England Parish Safeguarding E-Manual](#)

[Code of Safer Working Practice](#)

[Safer Environment and Activities](#)

If reading a paper copy of this document, all links can be found at www.stleonardscb.org.uk/reports



ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

As of the beginning of April 2026 the Electoral Roll stands at 66 members.

Marian Chiappetti – Church Electoral Roll Officer

WORSHIP AT ST LEONARD'S

2025 was a challenging year for the worship life of St Leonard's but even so there were some uplifting moments in the midst of difficult times. Early on in the year we continued to see a number of youth regularly attending worship jam sessions, developing their musical skills and passion for worship. In April, we had an encouraging time of worship during the Seniors Easter Celebration, attended by both church members and guests. From the autumn onwards we held a Worship Night Encounter once a month - these were a great opportunity for us to press in to God in an extended time of worship. It was wonderful to see more people attend these times of worship together.

Jonny Somervell – Worship Pastor

PRAYER AT ST LEONARD'S

Prayer continues to be integrated throughout the life of St Leonard's and a focus in all we do as a Church Family.

In 2025, the prayer team prayed for people in person 47 times, some of which were for couples. In addition, the prayer team prayed for people remotely by email 4 times, again some of which were for couples. The prayer team also prayed for Original Design for 34 Swedish Youth who were over for a Mission Trip with Rise Nations.

Over the first term of the year, I met with each member of the Prayer Team individually for a review of their role in the Prayer Team and to obtain feedback. Following this, the prayer team gathered for some training and sharing of the feedback. The prayer team have also met with Archdeacons to ensure our Freedom Prayer appointments continue to stay safe and robust. It is always a privilege to pray for people and see them know who God made them to be and see them walk in freedom from all that hinders.

On 26th April, we held our Healing Wells prayer day, where around 16 people came for healing prayer, experiencing a touch from God.

Our Watchman Prayer evenings continued approximately every other week on a Monday evening, gathering to pray for the life and ministry of St Leonard's. Since September, these prayer meetings



have moved to a Sunday Encounter evening once a month. It has been encouraging to gather together to pray for our Church Family. Thank you to all those who have led these prayer evenings and all those who have been faithful in praying for St Leonard's either at the prayer evenings or at home.

Over the year, people have also been prayed for during or after Sunday Services, where they have been moved by the service or prayer has been part of the service, such as healing prayer or Healing Wells.

Homegroups and prayer triplets continue to be the main source of pastoral prayer, where people can open up and share their lives and prayer needs with each other and receive prayer in a safe environment.

If you would like to book any type of prayer appointment (Pastoral, Healing Prayer, Original Design or Freedom Prayer) at a time that suits you or discuss Prayer at St Leonard's, then please contact me at prayer@stleonardscb.org.uk.

Ruth Leach – Prayer Team Coordinator

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have 7 children (4-11 yrs old) who regularly attend Junior Church on a Sunday, though we have had up to 10 on occasion. They start in church and enthusiastically leave after the first hymn or communion to go down to Chesham Bois School for their own teaching and worship time.

We start with refreshments and catch up, where they share good news from their week. This is sometimes followed by prayer, an introduction to the topic for the day and often a game. The children enjoy reading the bible passage, finding it in the children's bibles and discovering if the passage is Old or New Testament. Sometimes the leader may read the story while they follow it in their bibles and some draw in preparation for the next stage!

The story each Sunday can take the form of a video, a game, or some dramatic retelling which most really enjoy. We usually finish with a craft; the ones with Dawn are particularly wonderful! and a time of prayer.

We are blessed with a small but brilliant group of children who, despite quite a range in age and ability, both contribute and gain much from this time together.

Under Bekki's leadership we hosted fundays in February and the Easter holidays. Again these attracted several families from outside our congregation as well as those that are part of our family. Thanks must go to Jonny, Simon, Jacalyn, Henny, Viv, Ali, Di and Andrea who have helped to make these fundays happen and of course to Bekki who masterminded them.

Sadly we said goodbye to Bekki in her last service on April 27th after over 3 years of dedicated and loving service in her ministry to our children, and after a successful funday on April 17th and Easter



egg hunt before the service on Easter Day. We wish her every success and happiness in her next calling at St Paul's in Watford.

Since May the responsibility of Junior Church has been undertaken by gifted and enthusiastic volunteers; many thanks to Dawn, Henny, Alison S, Ali H, Charlotte, Jacalyn, Anna R, Viv, and Matt P who have done a fantastic job!

In September we lost some of our volunteers due to various reasons but the solid team of Henny, Dawn, Viv, Jacalyn, Matt and occasionally Andrea spread the load.

With tech help from Matt and ideas from the children and leaders they produced a brilliant video to add to the Christmas family service which was very well received and showed some great thought and skill!

We definitely need some prayer as we move forwards in this work which is vital to the health of St Leonard's. If you would like to join the Sunday team or help at a funday please let Alice or Denise know.

Andrea Hayers - Junior Church Volunteer

OPEN THE BIBLE MINISTRY

We are very privileged that our involvement with Chesham Bois C of E School each week includes leading an assembly which always involves the children in an active Bible story. Our team is made up of volunteers from St Leonard's and King's Church Amersham.

The children are always enthusiastic to take part, along with the adults. We are never short of volunteers! It is a delight to see the enthusiasm on the faces of the children as they come into school, realising it is Open the Bible day. They love to get involved in the story telling by being chosen to dress up as one of the characters or being part of the crowd. Thus making the Bible Stories come alive for the children.

Our themes this year have included, in the Spring Term: Jesus as a boy in the Temple, John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry. The Easter stories were covered in the end of term services so that in the Summer Term we re-told some of the Resurrection appearances leading up to Pentecost and some of the parables. In the Autumn Term we took The Beatitudes and some of the teaching from the Sermon on the Mount and then leading into preparation for the Christmas Stories.

The Story Telling always finishes with a quiet moment of reflection before a prayer, which, to make it all-inclusive, we start with the words "now I am going to say a prayer and if you would like to make it your prayer say Amen with me at the end."

Jackie Lambert – Open the Bible Coordinator



YOUTH MINISTRY

2025 was overall an encouraging year for the youth ministry of St Leonard's. At the start of the year we saw roughly 18 youth on a weekly basis, whether that was at Youth Breakfast on a Sunday, Youth Social on a Tuesday or Older Youth Small Group on a Thursday.

In March, 13 youth attended the Youth Weekend Away at The Frontier Centre in Wellingborough. We had a great time exploring the Living in Freedom teaching, worshipping together and praying for each other. We also really enjoyed playing wide games and sports, as well as toasting marshmallows around a fire.

In June, we were delighted to see 1 of the youth being baptised, making their own declaration of faith in front of the whole church family.

In August we took 7 youth and 1 youth leaver (as a young leader) to Limitless Festival. It was so encouraging to see how the youth had deepened in their faith in the last couple of years, as they attended different seminars in both the mornings and afternoons in addition to the main celebrations.

Jonny Somervell – Youth Leader

HOMEGROUPS

This past year, as a home group, we have really enjoyed going deeper in friendship, fellowship, and consolidation about what it is to be a praying, prophetic community living by following the example of Jesus. We have encouraged each other in and through the prophetic gifting, learning the promises and truth of the Bible as we listen to God's voice through the Word.

We also have spent two terms reading and discussing the book "Practicing the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. It shares the learnings and wisdom of a monk in the 17th century who worked in the kitchens, on how he learnt to develop a deep love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the mundane activities of life. He was a disciple and follower of Jesus, and shared his relationship with God through a series of letters, steeped in the Word and experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Each term we would meet weekly and every second week share and pray for each other. Singing and listening to worship songs has also been part of our time together. We also have one or two meals together each term which is another way Jesus taught his disciples to do life together.

We thank God for the freedom to meet and pray together, read and discuss the Bible together when so many in the world cannot. We are a mature group with mission hearts and frequently pray for our Kingdom Partners and the persecuted church. It's such a blessing to come together each week, using WhatsApp to bring our prayer requests together during the rest of the week.

Diana Wright - Homegroup Leader



SENIORS' MINISTRY

In April we celebrated Easter at the Parish Centre with a short service. We were very grateful to Jonny for accompanying us on the piano as we sang some of the meaningful Easter hymns. We were also pleased to have Laurie with us. He centred our thoughts on the real meaning of Easter. It was a special time of fellowship which continued as we enjoyed refreshments served by Andrea Hayers and her wonderful team of servant-hearted helpers.

Seniors' Ministry has undergone changes this year. We have seen numbers attending decline due to several factors: fewer people from the local community are attending, ill health prevents some from leaving their homes and a number of seniors who regularly attended are no longer at St Leonard's. Sadly there are also those who have passed away. We would like to honour the memory of Pat Lewis, a faithful member of St Leonard's over many years, who went to be with the Lord in September last year. She was a founder member of the first Seniors' Holiday Club at St Leonard's and a wonderful supporter who was keen that all should hear the Gospel and who invited many of her neighbours to come to our events. James Allcock, a former speaker at our meetings and a real blessing to us, passed away in November. Jean Blanchard, a faithful woman of God, also went to be with the Lord in 2025.

Family commitments of seniors' team members have also played a part this year in deciding not to meet in the summer or at Christmas. Maybe this season has come to a natural end for our current team and others will lead a fresh season of Seniors' Ministry forward.

Fortunately, many of the members of St Leonard's who faithfully come as helpers and supporters are also members of housegroups where they are able to enjoy fellowship.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our church family who have supported and blessed the ministry to seniors in so many ways, including those who continue to have a ministry of visiting and praying with seniors who are house-bound.

Barbara Williams – Seniors' Leader

KINGDOM PARTNERS

The Mission Committee seeks to be led by the Lord to support others beyond the parish of St Leonard's. This includes regular giving, support in prayer, irregular and one-off giving.

Within the Mission Committee, we feel led by the Lord to support Kingdom Partners who have been St Leonard's congregation members or who have direct links with congregation members. This gives us a more intimate understanding of the blessings of the Holy Spirit and encourages both St Leonard's and our Kingdom Partners. We see unity and community manifest across continents.



During the past year we have regularly supported a range of partners abroad:

- Steve and Lindsey Poulson working with CMS in Honduras
- The Lunchbowl Network in Kenya
- Pete and Sarah working at Tree of Life in Mannenberg, Cape Town
- Jack and Claire working with Frontiers in North Africa

During 2025 Jack & Claire returned to Eastern Sahara.

We showcased the work of all our Kingdom Partners during the Mission Sunday service in September with Steve Poulson leading the service.

The Lunchbowl Network continues with the Saturday Dinner programme and education support and provision for children.

We continue to support our Kingdom Partners both, financially and in prayers.

Over the recent years St Leonard's has continued to support three charities as Link Partners: Tearfund, Foodbank and Restore Hope with occasional gifts, promotion of their work and appeals, prayer support and updates.

We felt that our support to Foodbank could be shifted to a different organisation, however so far were unable to identify one that would meet the criteria (demonstrate Christian values, have some personal links with our congregation and/or connection to our local area/county), therefore, it was agreed that for the time being we will support two Link Partners..

Anna Rabindrakumar – Member of Mission Committee

CHESHAM BOIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

As you enter the school building you cannot fail to notice the wonderful Christian atmosphere which permeates everything which happens within these buildings. This is emphasised by the display board facing you which tells you of the Vision of our school, as follows.

"We place the child at the centre of all we do. We welcome all children and families. Our work is driven and inspired by our Christian Values which are lived out on a daily basis by children and adults. Our caring, nurturing learning environment enables all children to achieve together.

Building on the instruction of Matthew 19.14:

"Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because this kingdom of heaven belongs to children like these"

...together we believe, achieve and care.

Through 2025 this and the Values for the school have remained constant, with each half term providing in rotation a focus on each of the latter (Love, Thankfulness, Integrity, Aspiration, Respect



and Resilience). Each Value is introduced with a Bible verse, which is also translated into 'child speak' making it easier for the children to understand.

Chesham Bois School continues to deliver strong outcomes, helping young people develop who bless their peer groups, families and the wider community, and as well as positioning them well for further growth. In the July 2025 annual survey the school received 100% positive responses in two crucial areas: that pupils are making good progress in their learning, and that the school is well managed and led. From the perspective of St Leonards, it is notable that 90% of families value the Christian ethos of the school.

As a part of the School Development Plan there has been a focus on growing understanding of 'spirituality', using the framework of mirrors (in which we can see ourselves), windows (which allow us to see others and the world around us) and doors (we choose to step through to take action). The Foundation Governors were invited into school to chat with all the different age groups in the school and we were very impressed by their maturity in discussing and listening to each other's points of views, especially when the group included children of other faiths and none.

Led by a Foundation Governor, a highlight during the spring term was the Prayer Day, at which young people circulated around 'stations', each with a focus on one of the three lenses on spirituality (windows, mirrors, doors). Windows enable the children to reflect on the wonder of the world around them, mirrors provide a time to reflect and ask important questions about themselves and doors encourage the children to go out into the world and make a difference with positive changes. This annual event is much anticipated by the pupils, appreciated by the teaching staff, and brings together a number of local churches to provide an enriching day for the pupils.

We were also pleased in 2025 to be able to support the school in continuing delivery of the 'Junior Duke' award programme for Year 5 pupils, an age-appropriate version of the well-known Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme that includes targeted challenges such as caring for others. It is aimed at increasing children's independence, confidence and resilience by giving them a non-academic platform on which to feel success and achievement

During 2025 the Foundation Governors have supported the initiative by the school towards becoming 'smartphone free'. While Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, who are permitted to bring a phone to school if they walk to or from school unaccompanied by an adult, have never been allowed access to their phones during the school day, the school does, year on year, support pupils with problems that occur outside of school linked to smartphones. The school recognises the considerable pressure parents face to provide their child with a smartphone because 'everyone else has one' but how this pressure can leave families feeling isolated or concerned that their child will be left out. Looking into 2026 the school plan to take steps that will create an environment where choosing not to give young children smartphones becomes the norm rather than the exception.

The wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents has been recognised and supported by governors through regular monitoring and advice being made available. A termly breakfast meeting for staff and governors provides an informal setting for communication, while periodic governor visits provide a more formal opportunity to test and add value on key topics.



We are very fortunate within our school to have a very dedicated team who all look towards every child attaining to the best of their ability. The weekly Newsletter also celebrates the achievements of children for recognition achieved outside of school within sports, music, dance, gymnastics, swimming and the many other activities our children take part in. There have been some staff changes, but we are fortunate in not having any vacancies or having to spend significantly on supply. There were some changes in the team of governors, but two of the three Foundation Governors have remained in place for the full year and into 2026.

Jackie Lambert and Donald Campbell-Brown – Foundation Governors

DEANERY SYNOD

The Synod usually meets four times per year. The meetings are held at local Parish churches, which enables the participants to understand the environment and concepts of our neighbouring CofE Churches.

In June 2025 we had an interesting presentation and discussion about Mission Action Planning. Rev'd Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) emphasised that these are needed and need reviewing regularly.

The first presentation was given by Rev'd Jonny Rapson, Rector of Amersham with Coleshill who explained that he had not set out to write a Mission Plan but it had evolved from a PCC Away Day. This time was spent looking at what the church did well, and this was Community; Welcome; Worship. They then looked at how they could build upon this through Pastoral Care; Outreach; Supporting Young Children. Their aim going forward is to have another Away Day to continue and develop what they have achieved so far.

The second presentation was from Rev'd Samuel Thorp, Vicar of Penn and Tylers Green. He felt that often a Mission Action Plan was set, a small number of people are involved and then it is filed away, but when looked at again the realisation was that 75% of the aspirations had been achieved. Their PCC had four areas of focus, mission, pastoral care and discipleship, worship and governance. It was felt that the APCM was the ideal time to review the Mission Action Plan.

In September Steve & Lindsey Poulson were home on leave and so a majority of the meeting was an update from them on their work in Honduras. They have been the Amersham Deanery Link Missionaries for the last 8 years and so the Deanery have journeyed with them as they have developed their calling out there.

Another hot topic which was on the agenda was the Assisted Dying Bill. This presentation was given by Mr Peter Ladd from CARE (Christian Action Research and Education). This enlightening presentation was well received as many there were unaware of many of the concrete facts and as Mr Ladd said the name should be changed to The Assisted Dying Bill.

The Deanery Parish Share was the topic in November, presented by the Deanery Treasurer, Canon Julie Dziegieel, with clear explanations of how the Parish Shares were distributed.



Rev'd Jez Carr gave an update on the work in the community going on at Seer Green with Jordans where a café has been opened for two days a week.

2025 finished with a presentation and vote of thanks to Rev'd Peggy Ludlow who was retiring as Amersham Area Dean and a welcome to Rev'd Jonny Rapson who is taking on that mantle.

Jackie Lambert – Deanery Synod Representative

LICENSED LAY MINISTER TRAINING

Completely independently, Denise and I both felt called to step forward for training as Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in the Church of England in 2025. After initial interviews with the Archdeacon's Advisor for Wycombe Deanery, Sue Simpson, and with the agreement of the Rector and the PCC, we began training in September. Jackie Lambert, as St Leonard's Church's current LLM, has also generously given of her time to support us.

Our first module was "Mission and Evangelism", which was completed by Christmas. We also began a module called "Being Anglican" in November, which will run alongside our other modules until the summer. We have to write essays for each module. For the autumn module, we also had to research a mission organisation that is important to us. Denise chose Restore Hope, and I chose Chesham Community Fridge. Most of our learning is online, with weekly seminars via zoom, although there are some face to face sessions on Saturdays which take place at Church House in Kidlington.

Year 1 of LLM training is known as the "Formation Year". This is seen as a continuation of the process of discernment, which culminates in panel interviews to hear God's voice for our next steps. We are grateful for all the prayer and support we have received as we have begun this journey. Thank you.

Cathy Baldwin - LLM in Training