

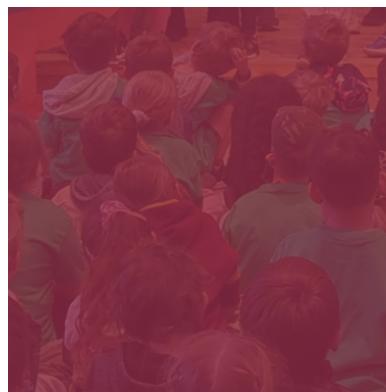
# Annual Report 2025

**Jesus said:**  
"I will build my church..."

*Matthew 16:18*



A snapshot of *some* of the groups and events which have marked 2025 at All Saints Lindfield.



# Parochial Church Council (PCC)

### Clergy

Steve Nichols (Vicar, Chair)  
Hugh Bourne (Associate Vicar)  
Ben Lucas (Associate Vicar)  
Matt Porter (Curate)

### Church Wardens

Kevin Hargin (Vice Chair)  
Sam Griffiths  
*Liz Jessop (Secretary)*

### PCC Members

Cathy Bence  
Sue Broadstock (Safeguarding)  
Vic Donougher  
Phil Hale  
Amanda Hateley  
Nick Hawes

Anna Leiwe  
Helen Morris  
Steve Norris  
Katie Spensley  
Oli Taylor (Treasurer)  
Tim Webster

### Deanery Synod Representatives

Noah Mitchell  
Anne-Marie Prescott

Gordon Scoble  
Cavan Wood

## Staff Team

Ashley Bence (Facilities Manager)  
Janine Bending (Children's Pastor)  
Antonia Easley (Women's Pastor)  
Maria Emmerton (Accountant)

Mandy Fisk (Church Cleaner)  
Sarah Hagger (Church Manager)  
Rachel Nibloe (Additional Needs Co-ordinator)  
Peter Silk (Ministry Trainee)

## Dear Friends

Like many churches in the UK, in 2025 we welcomed a steady stream of visitors and enquirers. We thank God for the growth in our congregations, particularly at 9.30 am and at Cornerstone (6 pm), with new children and young people also joining us. It means, of course, that we value enormously our more senior members, who have been part of All Saints often for decades and who show us what it means to follow the Lord. It is a privilege to be part of a church family of all ages.

In 2025 we launched the 'Under One Roof' project to repair the roof of the Tiger building for the next chapter of Christian service and outreach to the local area. Thank you again to all who gave financially to this project. It was very humbling to see, and at the time of writing the Tiger building is covered with scaffolding and the work is about to begin.

Amidst continuing serious challenges to the historic, biblical foundations of the Church of England, on the ground the work of the gospel continues: preaching, encouraging one another, praying, caring, giving, worshipping and reaching out to others in loving service. At the heart of it is prayer. Let's not forget Pray First, when we gather together in united prayer. Please put the first Wednesday of the month (8-9pm) in your diary and let's make it the foundation of all we do.

Finally, I am glad to say some 'thank yous'. Thank you to our churchwardens, Kevin and Sam for all they have done; to the Deanery Synod reps and PCC members (particularly those whose terms have come to an end) to our staff team. Thank you to all who have given financially or served sacrificially throughout the church in so many ways. Without us each playing our part, so much simply wouldn't happen and we would all be the poorer for it. We are a family together and it is a blessing to be part of such a church. All thanks and praise to God!

With love and thanks,

**Steve Nichols, Vicar**



*Rather than individual reports from those with responsibility for various ministries, our annual report will go through an 'A-Z of Life at All Saints'. Do read it, be encouraged and let us give thanks to God for His goodness to us.*

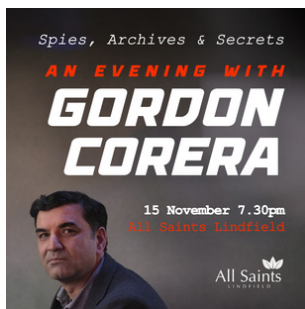


## Archives

In November the church was turned into an Ambassador's Reception as a sell-out crowd came to listen to stories of 'Spies, Archives and Secrets'.

Gordon Corera, former BBC correspondent and now host of 'The Rest is Classified' podcast came to Lindfield to share the gripping story of KGB archivist, Vasili Mitrokhin.

In a world of secrets, Gordon also shared how he personally had come to find light, truth and hope in the Lord Jesus.



## Bereavement

On 6<sup>th</sup> April we held our annual Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration. This has become an important service not only for church family, but those who have had a funeral service during the year.

This was followed by the Bereavement Journey course, meeting over several weeks. Those who've attended the course have found it hugely helpful in their loss.

## Christmas

Christmas is always an exciting time at All Saints. Both traditional and Big Band carol services continue to draw many guests. Due to demand we moved to FIVE Christingle services (featuring 900 oranges) and introduced an online booking system to allow people to safely attend and find a seat. Christmas continues to be a wonderful opportunity to declare the good news of Jesus to our community.



## Dr. Behane

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, to mark Persecuted Church Sunday, we welcomed Dr. Behane and associate partner of Release International.

It was humbling to hear Dr. Behane's first-hand testimony of living under persecution in Eritrea and now serving the church there while in exile.



## Easter

Easter is always an exciting time at All Saints as we live the Passion Story together. Maundy Thursday brought families and churches together for lamb wraps and communion. Good Friday's reflective services were concluded by a performance from the New Sussex Singers. Then on Easter Sunday hundreds gathered to celebrate the resurrection with trumpet fanfares while the church was beautifully adorned with lillies



## Farewells

We said a number of farewells this year. Towards the end of 2025, Chris Steynor and Jane Haughton announced that they would be moving on from their paid role at All Saints. Chris has brought 10 years of vision and growth to the music ministry, while Jane in a much shorter time has brought enthusiasm and love to our seniors' ministry.

We also said farewell to Lucy & Pete who finished as mission partners in Thanet. A particularly poignant time was our goodbye in the summer to Ira and her children as they returned home to Ukraine. We're thankful for their time with us and for the hospitality of Mark & Jacqui.

## Grow Together

In the Autumn term we started a new initiative - Grow Together. Conscious that lots of new people had started coming to church we wanted to start a group with no prior knowledge assumed. We thought about the Bible, prayer and Christmas.

Grow Together is on hold for now - it was so popular that it helped launch the Alpha course in the New Year.

We want to be a church that helps everyone take a next step in following Jesus.

tearfund

## Harvest

The church always looks especially beautiful at harvest time with flashes of gold and red - with special thanks to the Flower team.

We welcomed Will Leaf from Tearfund as our guest speaker speaking on the theme of 'Abundant Harvest'.

Food collections were taken in aid of the local ministry of Family Support Work.



## In view of God's mercy

Between May and July we concluded our sermon series in Paul's letter to the Romans - "Training for Mission". We also studied Beginnings in Genesis, 1 Am statements, Core Convictions, Honest Questions, Jeremiah, The Marks of a Disciple, 2 Peter, and Advent in Isaiah. We're thankful for our Connect Groups and their leaders who guide us into deeper study week by week.

What have you learnt from God's word in the last year? How has it shaped you and grown your faith?



## Jungle Explorers

In 2025 Holiday Club headed to the Jungle! Over 180 children accompanied by a team of 80 leaders dressed up as intrepid explorers.

Pilot Penny, Nervous Ned and Timmy Toucan found out that Jesus really is the Way and the Truth and the Life!

## Kids

All Saints Kids continues to grow, serving our 0-11s during the 9.30am service. We're so thankful for Janine and a wonderful team of volunteers who serve in this ministry and care for our children.

Noah's Ark and Twins club continue to be busy, serving lots of local families.



## Lindfield

As a church we love to serve our local community. Sometimes that's through our schools as the team take assemblies. Or through ongoing language classes to Ukrainians, or through love in action of hundreds of church members each day.

On Lindfield Village Day (31<sup>st</sup> May), we hosted a stall to offer water and shelter and free games to play for visitors. On Lindfield Village Night (2<sup>nd</sup> December) we ran our popular street game 'Hunt the Nativity'.



## Men's WA

On 10-12<sup>th</sup> October we held the inaugural Men's Weekend Away. We've had weekends for men before, but not in the luxury of Horsley Park hotel before.

Just over 100 men gathered for a weekend of food and fellowship, worship and teaching. The highlight was the inspirational teaching from Paul Blackham who taught about our Future Hope.

How does the promise of Eternity shape your today?



## Neon Party

Loads of fun was had at our annual Neon Party - a reminder for our children that we don't celebrate the darkness associated with Halloween but rather we worship Jesus, the Light of the World!



## Order of St. Ric

We congratulated Keith Ward and Matt Easley, who each received the Order of St. Richard from the Diocese of Chichester. The award recognises 'lay people who have made an exceptional contribution to the parish. Many give personal thanks for Keith's ministry among young and old in both church and community over many years; Matt has led Pathfinders at All Saints for 34 years.



## Pathfinders

Pathfinders is our youth group for 10-14 year olds. Led by Ben Lucas and team, they meet on a Sunday morning during the 9.30am service and on a Thursday evening for Pathfinders Club Night, with an invitation to the wider community.

In January, the Pathfinders went on a weekend away to the West Watch centre in Chelwood Gate where they learnt from God's word together. They also played in the (very muddy!) woods, had a campfire, ate lots of food, and more.

Pathfinders both on a Sunday and midweek is growing rapidly and welcoming in lots of guests - is God calling you to be getting involved or praying for this ministry?



## Quiet

Sometimes the church is busy, other times it's quiet. Whether that's just during the week as people pop in to visit or say a quiet prayer, or in one of our reflective services.

We held Taize services in March and November, and a Compline in July. Those who come along appreciate a different style of service and a peaceful end to the day.



## Ride to Barrow

Between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Phil Hale embarked on an epic bike ride. Covering over 300 miles he rode from Lindfield to Barrow in Furness.

Why make such a long trip? All in aid of sponsoring this year's house building project in Caminul Felix in Romania.

Phil led a team 13-20<sup>th</sup> September to work on a house project there, preparing a new home for a family to live in.

## Seniors

Our seniors are active whether at Tiger at Ten, in Connect Groups, in pastoral visiting, in Care Home ministry and all sorts of other ministries.

We're especially thankful to Jane Houghton for bringing energy and enthusiasm to this ministry. Forget Me Knots, a group for those with cognitive impairment launched in September.



## Together (Women)

At Women Together our numbers are regularly around 70+. We have been attracting people who are new to AS and serving as a next step in being part of the church family and deepening friendships. It continues to be a valuable time gathering women from across the ages and stages.

Our first Big Night In, to bridge the gap between our weekends away, was a huge success. Some sound bites:

*I found our Speaker so helpful and it really uplifted me.*

*What a great 'taster' for the weekend away.*

*Quite amazing, it was a real joy to be with all the ladies on Saturday evening.*

*I loved the singing!*

*The food was extremely tasty and just right. I appreciated immensely the talks.*



## Under One Roof

In the Autumn, we launch the 'Under One Roof' project with the vision to Restore the Tiger, Revive its Ministries and to Reach our Community.

We were overwhelmed with generosity, with around £350,000 (including gift aid) given to the project.



## Volunteers

The church doesn't run without volunteers. It's not just about being on a rota, but rather being part of a team, a place to get to know others and use our gifts to serve others. Perhaps gifts of hospitality, administration, caring or teaching. None of our ministries would run without volunteers pouring out their time and gifts in service. Thank you!

## Welcome

So many new people have come to All Saints in the last year, some who've moved locally, others who are (re)discovering faith.

We held welcome teas in January, May and September to help those new to church to connect.

## eXalt

It's always hard to think of an X, but exaltation expresses something of our worship, perhaps most evident in prayer.

Pray Together, our monthly whole church prayer meeting brings together young and old to give thanks to the Lord, seek his wisdom and commit our plans to him. If you've not been, come and join us!

## Yes!

Things that make us say "Yes!" - people putting their faith in Jesus. We've seen that this year with people of all sorts of ages and backgrounds coming to know Jesus! We held a baptism service at the URC on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



## Zeros of Faith

In our summer all age services we learned that God can use everyone in his plans - even those who messed up and made mistakes, even you!



## Sunday Services

### 8am

Our 8am service gathers on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month. We celebrate Communion in this said service which follows the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

### 9.30am

Our 9.30am service is contemporary in style, and informal. It's a service for all but we aim especially to include children, particularly through our All Saints Kids groups.

### 11.15am

Our 11.15am service is classical in style with organ and piano led music, accompanied by the Daytime Choir.

### 6pm

Our 6pm service is more informal than the others, with contemporary and lively worship and applied Bible teaching.



## Attendance

At the end of the year there were 436 (434) names on the electoral roll, with 253 (58%) living in the parish and 183 (42%) living outside the parish.

While we capture attendance numbers for every service, the Diocese asks us to submit data for the following times:

Total number of attendees on Easter Day: 813 (715)

Average number of attendees during Sundays in October: 475 (439)

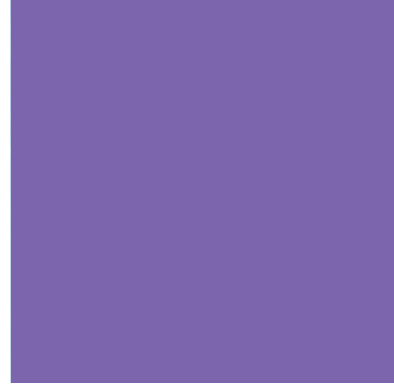
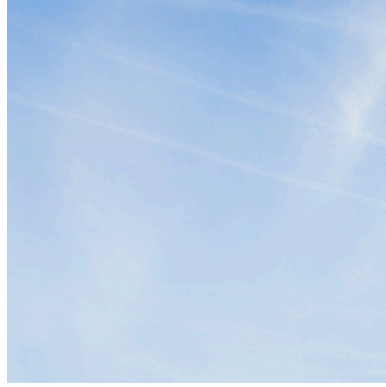
Total number of attendees at Carol Services: 1612 (1850)

Total number of attendees on Christmas Eve & Day: 2094 (1966)

*\*2024 figures in brackets.*







All Saints  
LINDFIELD

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 [www.allsaintslindfield.org](http://www.allsaintslindfield.org)