

Reports to the APCM

18th May 2026

Safeguarding

Since taking on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in May 2025, I have attended all the monthly Parish Church Council meetings, reporting on safeguarding issues that have arisen as well as updates from the Chichester Diocesan Safeguarding Team. I can confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

At All Saints we have group activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults, all requiring protection from harm. Jacqui Lee has ensured that over 200 volunteers, staff and clergy involved in these groups, have done the Church of England safeguarding training and Sarah Hagger has arranged Disclosure and Barring checks for those for whom it is a requirement. This training is done online and face to face.

Our Safeguarding Management Group has met three times in the last year, and I have met regularly with Steve Nichols to discuss safeguarding issues that have arisen within our church. On our Safeguarding Sunday, 1 March 2026, he and I did a question-and-answer session at all our services, on the important aspects of Safeguarding. We will continue to do something similar during the next church year.

Safeguarding is at the centre of our Christian faith, and we all have a responsibility to look out for one another when we are together, in any capacity, here at All Saints.

Sue Broadstock
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Church Wardens

As Church Wardens, we have enjoyed welcoming many new people to All Saints this past year. It is rare for a week to go by without a guest passing through or someone looking to see whether All Saints may become their home church. We're grateful for the work of the welcome team each week to make sure everyone is greeted and made to feel at home and are excited to see the number of people in church gradually rise Sunday by Sunday.

We have also continued to work closely alongside the clergy. Reflecting on the past year we are struck again by the commitment that they show to the church family and church mission. We are pleased to record our thanks for all they do and thank the Lord for his blessing in his provision of godly leaders to teach and guide us.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has continued throughout 2025 to exercise its responsibility for the governance, oversight and strategic direction of the parish, working in partnership with the clergy and wider ministry team to support the worship, mission and pastoral life of the church. The PCC has met regularly during the year and has given careful consideration to a broad range of matters affecting the life of the parish, including worship, finance, safeguarding, staffing, church fabric, mission, ministry development and wider Church of England matters. In all of this, the PCC has sought to act prayerfully, responsibly and in the best interests of the parish.

A significant and ongoing area of work during the year has been the Tiger Project. The PCC is grateful to all those involved in progressing this work, in particular the Tiger Team, comprising Roy Marshall, David Izod, Simon Head and Ashley Bence, who have given a great deal of time and energy to the project. The PCC has received regular updates on the progress of this initiative and has given attention to the associated planning, tendering and oversight processes. This has required sustained diligence and careful coordination, particularly in relation to the parish's long-term stewardship of its buildings and resources.

Financial matters have remained a key area of responsibility throughout the year. The PCC has reviewed the annual accounts and considered the budget for 2026, both of which were approved. The PCC has been mindful of the need to balance the demands of mission and ministry with the responsibilities of prudent financial management. Members have reflected on the opportunities presented by growth in church life, while also recognising the continuing pressures on parish finances and the importance of sustainable stewardship. The PCC was pleased to record the appointment of Oli Taylor as Church Treasurer and expressed thanks to him for taking on this important role. The Council also offered its sincere thanks to Rob Kingdom, who stepped down after nearly seven years of diligent service as Treasurer. His careful stewardship, commitment and contribution to the financial life of the parish have been deeply valued by the PCC.

Safeguarding has remained a standing priority throughout the year. The PCC has continued to give this area the seriousness and attention it requires, ensuring that safeguarding matters are regularly considered and that appropriate policies, training and procedures are kept under review. The church seeks to foster a safe, welcoming and accountable environment for all, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC remains committed to maintaining high standards in this regard and is thankful to Sue Broadstock for all she does in her role as Safeguarding Officer

The PCC has also continued to engage with wider Church of England developments and diocesan matters. In particular, the PCC considered the Living in Love and Faith process and the diocesan Alternative Parish Share Fund. Following discussion, the PCC unanimously agreed to continue participation in the fund. This decision reflects the PCC's willingness to support the wider Church's common life and mission, while also engaging thoughtfully with the evolving context in which parish ministry takes place.

The PCC has received encouraging reports on the parish's ministry and mission across a range of areas. These have included work among children and young people, ministry to seniors, music, and wider discipleship and pastoral engagement. The Council has welcomed signs of growth and vitality in church attendance and participation, and has noted with thanksgiving the dedication of those who serve in worship, teaching, care and administration. The parish continues to benefit from the gifts of many individuals whose commitment and faithfulness contribute to the strength and breadth of its ministry. The PCC is grateful for the increasing engagement of members of the congregation in parish life and for the ways in which this has supported the church's witness and mission in the community.

The PCC is conscious that the year has involved a great deal of work, much of it carried out faithfully and quietly by a relatively small number of people. It therefore wishes to place on record its sincere thanks to all PCC members for their attendance, contributions and commitment throughout the year. Their willingness to serve has enabled the Council to discharge its responsibilities effectively and to contribute meaningfully to the life and direction of the parish. The PCC also expresses its gratitude to the clergy and all who support the church through prayer, service, generosity and practical help.

In summary, 2025 has been a year of continued responsibility, careful oversight and hopeful progress. The PCC has sought to serve the parish faithfully in governance, planning and support for ministry, while also preparing for the future through major project work and financial stewardship. Both as Church Wardens, and the PCC, we PCC remain committed to enabling the church to fulfil its calling to worship God, proclaim the Gospel, serve the community and grow in faith, fellowship and mission.

Sam Griffiths & Kevin Hargin
Church Wardens

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod, the gathering of clergy and lay representatives from churches across Cuckfield Deanery met twice in 2025.

The synod met on Thursday 22nd May at the Martindale Centre, Horsted Keynes. Rev. Canon Rebecca Swyer (Director for Apostolic Life, now retired) spoke from Matthew 28, the Great Commission and under the heading 'More Converted to Jesus Christ'. The practical focus of the meeting was to share collective wisdom around the use of evangelistic and discipleship courses.

The synod gathered at St. Mary's Balcombe on Thursday 12th November to explore the theme of vocations. The speaker was Rev. Giles Carpenter (Diocesan Director of Vocations) and encouraged churches to be intentional in cultivating vocations to ministry.

In addition to the synod meetings, the deanery also organised a teaching day on Saturday 15th March. Hosted by the Ascension Church, they welcomed Rev Canon Dr Earl Collins (Vicar of St John's Hove and Diocesan Continual Ministerial Development Officer). Earl spoke on the theme of 'Uncovering the Nicene Creed' tying in with the diocesan Year of Faith, focussing on the creed.

Furthermore, there was a Deanery Confirmation at St. Wilfrid's Church Haywards Heath on Thursday 5 June, with Bishop Will and a Deanery Finance Meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2025, also at St Wilfrid's.

Fabric

Much of the fabric focus for 2025 was to bring the Tiger roof project from the drawing board to the appointment of a contractor to carry out the works in 2026. Tender documents were drawn up, issued and returned although the actual appointment of Pilbeam Ltd ran into the beginning of 2026. Huge amounts of work have gone on behind the scenes throughout the year to get to this point and thanks go to Roy Marshall, David Izod and Simon Head for their ceaseless efforts. Ongoing maintenance continues on the fabric of all church property together with the required testing of all alarm, fire prevention lightning conductor and other systems.

CHURCH & CHURCHYARD

In the church much time and effort was spent identifying and rectifying sound issues with the PA. Works were carried out in the Belltower to improve security and repairs to the oak seating. Thanks go as ever to Herta and the rest of the gardening team who continue through rain and shine to keep everything in tip top condition. Work was carried out on the block paving of the churchyard path to ensure there were no trip hazards.

THE TIGER

Over the summer a complete redecoration of the Crypt was carried out and new carpets were installed both there and in the schoolroom. New AV equipment was also installed as well as an upgrade to the emergency lighting system. The toilets serving the hall and Tiger cubs were upgraded with all new sinks and sanitary ware.

75 FIELDWAY

After some administrative and other difficulties, the sale of the church property at 75 Fieldway was finally completed in September.

CHURCH CLOSE

Upgrading continued with the installation of a new external rear door. Final bits and pieces were completed on the garden office and some new fencing was installed.

Ashley Bence
Facilities Manager

Mission

- January - Twelve Iranians from Oasis Church in London were baptised. **Simon Lunt** is involved with encouraging and discipling them. Ron & Janet Goodenough and Andrew Nunn went to the baptismal service which was a great encouragement.
- June - **Mission Sunday**, Lindsay Brown who had been involved with student ministry for over thirty years working for the International Fellowship of Evangelical students, spoke at all three services.
- **Jonny & Olga Anderson**, our mission partners from Bolivia, were in the UK and Jonny spoke at a Cornerstone service
- September - Will Leaf, who works with **Tearfund's** UK & International Partnership Department, spoke at our Harvest services. He is based in Brighton and we are hoping to have closer links with him in the future.
- **Caminul Felix**, Phil Hale took a group of ten on a trip to the Romania orphanage to help in the building of a house. Seven of the group were young people.
- November - **Persecuted Church Sunday**, Jonny Payne who works for Release International, brought Dr Behane to speak at Cornerstone. He is Eritrean, he shared his testimony and the plight of Christians in Eritrea.
- **Julian & Nicky Milson**, working in Valencia under Crosslinks, have left the church they were leading. They are now meeting in a hotel with almost all of their congregation. They are hoping to find a more suitable permanent building.
- **Lucy Welchselbaum-Barlow** has been our mission partner for about eight years, working in Thanet with YWAM. After considerable prayer, she and her small team felt it was right to draw the ministry to a close. She has left YWAM and is considering her future. All Saints support for her concluded at the end of 2025

The above is just a snapshot of 2025 but we are thrilled to continue supporting all our other mission partners who are doing some wonderful work in the UK and around the world.

Janet Goodenough
Chair of Mission Development Group

