

# Holy Trinity Church Malvern & St James' West Malvern

## Annual Report 2025



## Vicar's Report

2025 has been a positive and fruitful year for both Holy Trinity and St James' Churches. Each church has offered a rich pattern of regular worship alongside a wide range of special events, supported by a dedicated team of clergy and lay leaders. It has been particularly encouraging to join together for Benefice services, including our fifth Sunday gatherings, Patronal Festivals, and the "Hymns and Pimms" service at which the Joint Church Council (JCC) was commissioned. These shared occasions continue to strengthen our unity and deepen the partnership across the Benefice.

This year marked the second full year of the JCC and it is good to see the initial governance changes now well established. At the Holy Trinity APCM, we thanked Elaine Beven and Jill Harmer as they stepped down from their roles as Churchwardens. Their commitment and care have shaped Holy Trinity's life and it was a pleasure to work alongside them. Following the APCM, each church now has one Churchwarden and responsibilities have been shared creatively. Holy Trinity's active Churchwarden's Group and St James' Housekeeping Group have both offered vital support to the day-to-day running of each church.

Lent brought opportunities for reflection through three Benefice courses. Holy Trinity ran the Lectio Course encouraging prayerful engagement with scripture and a Climate Justice Course exploring environmental responsibility. Meanwhile, in West Malvern, Mary Constable led a Lent poetry series. Together these courses offered depth, creativity and space for spiritual growth.

Our ongoing relationship with St James' Primary School remains a joy. With guidance from Mary Lawrence, we developed further 'Experience' activities offering Experience Easter, Experience Pentecost and Experience Church to children from the school and to those attending Holy Trinity's Creative Church. Each session used interactive stations to combine storytelling, reflection and prayer. As a school governor, I also value the regular assemblies, and it is always a pleasure to welcome pupils and families into the church throughout the year.

Holy Saturday brought a special moment at Worcester Cathedral where I presented Angie Richardson from Holy Trinity and Mark Dodge from St James' for Confirmation. In July, I officiated at my only wedding of the year, Mark's marriage to Julie Scurlock, at St James'. It was a beautiful celebration made all the more meaningful because of their involvement in both churches.

Our two major projects continue steadily. At St James', work on the Orchard to create a 'Pilgrim Path' has progressed with volunteers helping to tidy the area and care for the trees. At Holy Trinity, we received permission to re-order the back of the church creating a more flexible space alongside a larger kitchen, an extra toilet and improved storage. Both projects now move into important fundraising stages.

St James' enjoyed a full and vibrant summer with the Well Dressing, annual Memorial Service, VE Day service and the visit of the Church of England Guild of Vergers. In the autumn, with support from the WI and many local knitters and crocheters, over 1,000 poppies were created for a striking Remembrance cascade.

Holy Trinity also enjoyed a lively year with a successful Summer Fete, a concert by the Malvern Male Voice Choir and varied "Trinity Talents" fundraising events, including a BBQ at the vicarage. This year we also said farewell, with gratitude and affection, to Rev'd Sylvia Coke Woods who

retired to Lincolnshire in June, and to Rev'd Canon Clare Griffiths who moved to new ministries. Their ministries enriched Holy Trinity and they will be much missed - although we look forward to having Clare back when she's not too busy. A personal highlight for me was preaching at St Joseph's Catholic Church's "Mass on the Hill" in August even in the midst of torrential rain!

As we moved into autumn and winter, we entered our familiar rhythm of Harvest Festivals, Remembrance services and preparations for Advent and Christmas. During this period, we completed the Inclusive Church Course reflecting on how disability, ethnicity, gender, mental health, poverty, and sexuality can affect people's experience of belonging. The course encouraged us to consider how we can continue to become a community in which everyone feels welcomed, valued and included.

Advent was beautifully marked by the Augmented Choir's Benefice Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity. Christmas across the Benefice was joyful and well attended with Christingle, carol and crib services enriched by thoughtful worship and excellent music.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who support the ministry of St James' and Holy Trinity: Rev'ds Sylvia Coke Wood, Eric Knowles, Clare Griffiths, Nicholas Menon and Rosemary Herbert; our Churchwardens - Rob Lawrence and David Matthews; our treasurer - Sally Colbourne; our JCC secretary - Ginny Pavey; the JCC; John Raine, Charles Pavey, Billy Colbourne and the choir; and the many volunteers who care faithfully for our buildings, worship and churchyards.

As is our tradition, we end this report by remembering and giving thanks for the lives of those who have died:

#### *Holy Trinity*

Michael Burgess, Margaret Evans, Susan Williams, Jennifer Shales, Bob Green, Audrey Elt, Brenda Pawley, Cecily Ross, Paul Burgis, Margaret Green, Jane Saunders, Edward Owers, Everlyn Mitchell, Brenda Carter, Samuel Maddy, Janet Green, John Wooldridge

#### *St James'*

Linda Cottrell, John Bennett, Reginald Williams, Pamela Hands, Michael Wilkins, Rachel Robinson Mallet, Claire Campbell, Graham Whitehead, James Ralph

**Rev'd Rebecca Elliott**

## **Churchwardens' Report - Holy Trinity**

The first thing to say is a big thank you for the partnership of Elaine Bevan and Jill Harmer as churchwardens for a number of years until the APCM in 2025. They were a source of knowledge as well as faithful examples of what it is to lead and serve.

With the departure of Jill and Elaine it was decided to cover the tasks of the churchwarden with a small group of people meeting once a month to deal with the organising of activities, the care of the fabric and any other matters not already dealt with by Rev. Becky. The group includes Becky, Sally Colbourne, Vicky McCulloch, Helen Brice, Rob Lawrence, Charles and Ginny Pavey. Some situations require a nominated person, so Rob agreed to be the named churchwarden for at least the coming year.

The members of the group between them also have several other roles: Rob oversees all aspects of looking after the church and Parish Hall building and grounds; as well as the considerable task of looking after the church's finances, Sally is a valuable resource in dealing with many forms of administration in dealing with parish life and is a considerable assistant to Becky; Charles leads the musical worship as Organist & Choirmaster; Ginny is JCC secretary; Helen contributes to both the Inclusive Church and Health and Sustainability Plan working groups; and Vicky is responsible for church cleaning (alongside Janine Summers), as well as preparing larger print copies of hymn words for services and keeping the outside services board up to date."

The churchwardens group has oversight of church keys and the weekday opening and closing of church - thanks must be offered to Linde Alexander as she opens and closes more than anyone else. We are also grateful to Rob and Ann Werner de Sondberg who kindly agreed to change the altar frontals at the appropriate times of the year.

The churchwarden duties, as well as general housekeeping and administration tasks, are shared across our very cohesive team to ensure the church and its people are there for its primary purpose - to worship. Although the group is a good size for the tasks it undertakes, if there is anyone who would like to be considered for inclusion, either because they have suitable skills to offer or because they would like to have more insight of what is involved, please speak to Becky or any members of the churchwarden team.

One very successful innovation this year has been the appointment of Vicky Colbourne as Communications Manager. She ensures that all events are properly advertised through social media, our website and printed notices.

The Faculty covering the project to re-order the back of church has been granted so the coming year will see a renewed effort to raise funds and set the project in motion. In preparation for attention being given to the vestry ceiling (see Fabric Report) a start has been made on clearing out unused items in the vestry. Thanks are due to Jane Lewis in the Main Choir for finding a suitable outlet where many old robes were lovingly welcomed and recycled.

Thank you to the leaders of the team system for the running of Sunday services which continues to function well, although there is a need for new volunteers.

There has been a renewed effort to run regular Thursday lunches in the Parish Hall thanks to some sterling work from Becky, Ginny, Sally and a small team of volunteers, including Janet Taylor and Shelagh Owen. As much as anything this is seen as a valuable project for the wider community beyond our own congregation.

One final thank you: to Becky for her leadership and inspiration, her care and compassion and for all her support in all that we aim to achieve in serving this church and its people.

**Rob Lawrence & Charles Pavey**

## **Churchwarden's Report - West Malvern**

Morning Service numbers are holding up and Compline provides something very special. The regular special services have been held during the year - Ash Wednesday this year was well attended and very moving.

I am extremely grateful for what Rosemary Herbert and Nicholas Menon do here, and I consider us well blessed to have Becky as our Vicar! Eric Knowles and Peter Nokes have also on occasion stepped into the breach splendidly.

The Carol Service was well attended and thanks go especially to John, who also plays the organ week in week out. I'd also like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to Richard who does so much to support St James' with fundraising and gardening work in the churchyard with such generosity.

And where would be without the expertise and enthusiasm of Jezz Ide! Sarah Brierley and Stephen Hartland have also been invaluable, as have Angela Williams and Rosie and David Stavert. We are a small congregation, but with all this help we can give West Malvern the church it does still need.

Rob Crawford has also helped us for many years now closing the church and keeping an eye on things, for which we are most grateful; when he and Chantal move to their new home, we shall need to find a new solution to this.

**David Matthews**

## **Joint Church Council 2024/2025**

### **Clergy**

Rev'd Rebecca Elliott

### **Churchwardens**

Mrs G Harmer (until April 2025)

Mrs E Bevan (until April 2025)

Mr R Lawrence (from April 2025)

Mr D Matthews

### **Treasurer**

Mrs S Colbourne

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Mrs S Fox

### **Representatives of the Laity to serve until 2026**

Mr B Colbourne (2023), Mrs S Colbourne (2023), Mr N Brown (2023)

### **Representatives of the Laity to serve until 2027**

Mr C Pavey (2023), Miss J Summers (2024) – resigned 2025, Miss V McCulloch (2024)

### **Representatives of the Laity to serve until 2028**

Mrs C Millar (2025), Mr I Brazier (2025), Mrs V Wilcox (2025), Mrs H Brice (2025), Mr S Hartland (2025)

### **Representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod until 2026**

Mrs E Shaw, Mrs S Brierley, Mrs M Lawrence

## **Co-opted members**

Mr J Ide, Rev'd R Herbert

## **JCC Secretary (Appointed)**

Mrs V Pavey

## **The numbers on the Electoral Roll are as follows:**

Holy Trinity - 94

West Malvern - 39

## **JCC Secretary**

My job is to prepare the agenda and minutes for the Joint Church Council (JCC) meetings. Approved minutes are available to read at the back of church. The JCC met six times during 2025. Attendance at the meetings was good with few apologies for absence. There was a good representation from both churches on the JCC.

The following items are placed on the agenda for each meeting: Safeguarding; Finance, Fabric, Health & Sustainability Plan; School and Eco Church. Other items are added as and when they arise.

I also prepare the agenda and minutes for the Churchwardens' Group which currently meets monthly.

**Ginny Pavey**

## **Parish Safeguarding - Promoting a Safer Church**

*The parish churches of Holy Trinity, North Malvern, and St. James', West Malvern have complied with their duty of care to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.*

As always, I would like to thank everyone at Holy Trinity and St. James for their continued support over the past year.

Whilst it has been a relatively quiet year for us as regards safeguarding, many of you will be aware of the major data breach which occurred at the end of last summer.

APCS, the company which was employed by the Diocese to carry out all of their DBS checks, reported that there had been unauthorised access to their data on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, which potentially included personal data submitted as part of the DBS application process. This raised the possibility that affected individuals might be open to identity theft.

The company acted swiftly to analyse the breach and take steps to prevent any future such incidents. The Diocese also acted promptly in providing information to parishes and their PSOs. Individuals who had submitted their data during the period of the breach, were all contacted and offered a year's subscription to Experian's credit and web monitoring service.

As far as I am aware, none of the people within our parishes who were potentially affected by this breach, have had any problems, which is a relief. However, the incident has led to a temporary pausing of all but essential DBS applications, while the Diocese decide upon a new provider for this service. I am aware that one or two people are waiting for a DBS, but unless they are working directly and unsupervised with young people or vulnerable adults, we should wait until that decision is made.

On another note, the Diocese has developed a new safeguarding portal to assist us in our safeguarding compliance. I have to confess that I have not as yet had chance to explore this in any detail but will do so very shortly, and let you know how it might affect us.

Finally, the usual reminder that safeguarding training needs to be kept up-to-date. If you log onto the training portal on the CofE website, you can check what you have already done and when any module needs renewing: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Thank you for your continued support in my role as PSO.

**Sue Fox**

## **Fabric - Holy Trinity**

The efforts to get quotes and an acceptable solution for the repair of the vestry ceiling has been ongoing. A Faculty was submitted but eventually turned down as the DAC were not happy with the proposed fix. A new Faculty application will be submitted in early 2026.

When the labyrinth was set out in the autumn it was realised that the names on the war memorial were indistinct. Professional cleaning is very expensive and some of the lichen cannot be removed so some cleaning fluid and judicious scrubbing made an improvement.

The light in the entrance lobby and two security lights in the car park have been replaced and some adjustments are still being made to correct the sensitivity and timings.

A broken drain was discovered near the south porch. Further digging revealed a second broken pipe and a soakaway which is not functioning properly so this will be reinstated and drains repaired in early 2026. Two other drains have been discovered to be clogged with roots and soil, and it is planned to clear these soon.

All gutters and downpipes have been completely cleared of leaves and debris.

A volunteer working party cleared a lot of vegetation in the summer, especially ivy which had been growing on and over the boundary walls. Special thanks must go to Rob Catton who regularly applies himself to the task of clearing leaves and such from the church grounds. Thanks also to Vicky McCulloch and Janine Summers who are responsible for weekly cleaning inside church.

The boiler was serviced in the autumn and continues to function well despite its age. Thanks are due to Billy Colbourne for his regular attention to setting the time controls each week in winter.

Thanks to two anonymous donations, Billy along with his father, Richard, installed two new remotely operated cameras and controls for streaming of services.

The fire risk assessment has been reviewed and updated and regular checks initiated on the emergency lights.

In 2026 the five yearly Quinquennial Inspection will be carried out but apart from the vestry ceiling there are no other obvious problems concerning the church fabric.

**Rob Lawrence**

## **Fabric - West Malvern**

- Mr Tank has done the basic maintenance and aims to tackle the ridge, which needs scaffolding in the better weather.
- There are some areas of stonework that need attention.
- The Boiler was repaired by Neon Heating late in 2025 and is fine so far. When this boiler next fails (hopefully not that soon!) we should not replace it but go on to a more modern system - in the meantime back-up heating and the heated pew-seats help.
- Graveyard and Orchard are not really part of the fabric, but much has been done and more is planned.

**David Matthews**

## **Finance**

### **Income**

The total income on unrestricted funds was £148,264 - of which £61,000 was from our various forms of regular giving. Included in this figure is the tax recovered under gift aid through both the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and gift aid envelopes. Most of our regular giving comes through the PGS - there are currently 59 members across both churches. I would like to thank everyone who gives through this scheme - regular giving improves the church's cash flow as it is a resilient and reliable funding stream. The PGS also gives an option for givers to increase their gift annually in line with inflation. This is a voluntary decision but it is one that can have a huge impact on the life and future of our churches.

Our other income totalled £59,000. This includes: £30,000 from Holy Trinity Parish Hall; a legacy of £22,000; and £10,200 from fundraising. The highlights of the fundraising were the Holy Trinity Fayres and the talent scheme.

The total income on restricted funds was £8,400. This includes a £2,000 grant for the Pilgrim Path at St James' and £3,700 received in interest.

### **Expenditure**

The total spent from unrestricted funds was £148,000. The main items of expenditure were:

- £66,000 on ministry share
- £16,600 on heating and repairing our churches
- £23,200 on running the Holy Trinity parish hall

This year's income was not sufficient to pay the ministry share so we had to use income from reserves. Long term this will not be sustainable. Ministry share is allocated to benefices based on

the number of full-time clergy that they have. If this is not paid then the vicar will be asked to take on additional work.

The total spent from restricted funds was £15,300. This includes: £5,000 of ministry share paid from the Salt Bequest income fund; and £7,700 was spent from the fabric funds on insuring both of our churches.

During the year we also donated to the following charities – Morogoro Bible College Scholarship Fund, Unicef Gaza appeal, Christian Aid, Leprosy Mission, Malvern Hills Foodbank, Royal British Legion, Children's Society, Acorns Children's Hospice and CMS.

### **Summary**

The result for the year was a net income of £14,746 on unrestricted funds and a net expenditure of £6,952 on restricted funds.

Looking forward, as our current income does not cover our expenditure, please can we all review our giving to ensure that both our churches can continue to be beacons in our communities.

**Sally Colbourne**

### **The Choir - Holy Trinity**

The Main Choir led the music at all of the main Sunday morning services unstintingly through the year.

Other musical highlights during 2025 which have involved the Main Choir and the Augmented Choir have included significant Passiontide services in March (using the music of Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man), a Choral Evensong, as well as the usual Carol Services. The morning service on Remembrance Sunday was also a musically bigger Sunday. This is not the full list, however, and does not fully convey the passion with which the significant times of the Christian Year are portrayed in the choir stalls. We have promoted bigger choir Sundays in months when the Augmented Choir is not singing and for which several influential singers join us when they can.

However, the core to the above are the ten members of the Main Choir who reliably and effectively commit themselves and are the foundation on which the music at our worship is built. I am grateful to the individuals who have enriched the life of the Choir both musically and non-musically. With particular roles, thanks must be recorded to Vicky McCulloch as the librarian and to Billy Colbourne as the Assistant Organist. And previously unrecorded thanks must go to Robert Catton for the weekly role of getting hymn numbers displayed on Sunday mornings.

The need to recruit is always there and, in the first place, it is to maintain the number of singers of the Main Choir. We welcomed one new voice to the Main Choir in 2025 and several new voices to the Augmented Choir which has maintained its strength and continues to move forward. During 2025 we have benefitted from the creativity of Vicky Colbourne who, particularly with use of social media, increased awareness of the Choir and occasions which it wished to promote. The positive spin which she added set us up for events into the New Year.

**Charles Pavey**

## **Benefice Eco Group**

In the summer of 2025, St James' had an Eco Stall at West Fest.

In June, there was a special, relaxed 'Care for Creation' service at Holy Trinity. The choir didn't wear robes. Their colour scheme was to wear something blue. There were poems and music. Julia Palmer-Price played her cello, and Charles Pavey played the piano. It was a celebration of Creation and Nature.

Now, we continue to have two Eco themed services per annum for each parish.

Between the two churches, we have twinned seven toilets. This means that we have provided toilets for people around the world who are living in extreme poverty. Holy Trinity has twinned three: one in church and two in the hall. St James' has twinned four: one each at the church, St James' school, the Brewers Arms and the Social Club.

Around the time of Remembrance, Holy Trinity had a Labyrinth in the churchyard, devised by Eileen Tomlin. It was a path made from branches on the ground, which led to the war memorial. There were poems, quotes, prayers and prose for reflection. The Labyrinth was opened by the Mayor of Malvern.

The Eco group had a stall at Holy Trinity Summer Fete. A coffee morning was held on a Saturday in October, which raised £250 towards the purchase of a water butt. There was an Eco Group stall at Holy Trinity Christmas Fayre. Items sold included beautiful craft items donated by the Colbourne family.

Vicky McCulloch continues to do sewing minor repairs and alterations for donations to the Eco Group fund.

All the time, we are working on improving our green credentials; to decrease our carbon footprint.

We work closely with the Diocese on our Eco journey. Cathy Millar and Sue Adeney continue to work as Eco Champions for the Deanery of Malvern and Upton-upon-Severn, to encourage other churches to become Eco churches.

Our two parishes hold the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award. To attain silver, both churches need to calculate their carbon footprint and work towards reducing it. This involves strategic planning, which is in progress, considering using buildings in a greener way (how efficient is your church hall, or its heating?) and land management, as well as individual parishioners learning how to reduce their carbon footprint. Everything is overseen by the Joint Church Council, with Eco matters as a standing item on each agenda.

Ali Marshall is doing planting in the flower beds by the south door of Holy Trinity church. These include rose bushes purchased from David Austin. She also may install some raised flower beds. These flowers can be used to decorate the church.

At St James', the Pilgrims' Path project, to establish a community orchard, is progressing well with circa £9,000 already raised through grant funding applications. The space is already used by the local school for Forest School Activities, and St James' has already introduced a monthly Worship in the Orchard Service, to which both congregations are warmly welcomed.

The Eco Group would like to thank parishioners from both churches for taking on board the Eco agenda and for their support of our social activities.

The Benefice Eco Group would welcome more members. This could include new pop-up members, who could help as a one-off- e.g., making tea and coffee at a coffee morning. If you would like to help, please see any one of us: Cathy Millar, Vicky McCulloch, Sue Matthews and Eileen Tomlin.

**Vicky McCulloch**

## **Anna Chaplaincy**

The ministry of Anna Chaplaincy has now spread to most areas of Britain, with well over 400 Anna Chaplains and many more Anna Friends being commissioned. We attend training sessions on Zoom; a new Anna Chaplain is hoping to be commissioned in Malvern, in the next few months and another is at the early stage of enquiry in Hanley Swan. The Malvern Team of Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends continues to work together in Care Homes, visiting 4 Homes monthly, Davenham, Cleeve House, Mowbray and Wishmoor, to take services on a theme, with Hymns, a reading, prayers and Holy Communion for those who want it. Perrins House staff are unable to arrange a service at present, so we visit several people in their rooms for a chat, a prayer and/or Communion as they prefer.

The Team meets 3 or 4 times a year to update each other, and also liaises by email, to make sure each Home is covered, usually by 2 people. Unfortunately, we have been hit with injuries and the aftermath of various operations during the past few months, but we've managed to maintain all our visits so far.

Before Christmas we visited Elgar Court to sing Carols, and Howbury to sing Carols and to take Communion for anyone who wished. The staff were very welcoming and indicated that they would welcome a regular service there, so we hope to reach out to them when all our Anna Chaplaincy Team are again in robust health. Howbury is in a rather secluded spot and not known by many people, but it is in Holy Trinity Parish so we feel it is important to include them in our ministry when we can.

Messy Vintage services continue in Holy Trinity Church, four times a year, with a simple service of hymns, readings and prayers with a craft and a bit of theology woven in to the service. This is our fifth year of arranging these services and one person has continued to attend most of them, despite his move to Kidderminster! It is hoped to compile our crafts into a booklet to share with other Anna Chaplains. Through Messy Vintage we have connected with Lansdowne Methodist Tuesday Group where we have run two Messy Vintage services, and also with Windsor Court Care Home where we will be running a service on March 17th – possibly with a St Patrick theme. A group from this Home often attends our Messy Vintage services at Holy Trinity church. The services are an opportunity to share God's love for all his people with those who are unable to attend church regularly and those who are uncertain about formal church services.

The Area Dean, Revd Gary Crellin, is very encouraging of our ministry, the Churches Together group is trying to make sure every Home is connected with a church, and the Archdeacon, Revd

Mark Badger, invited two of us to meet with him and clergy from Worcester Deanery, to discuss extending this ministry across the Archdeaconry. Ministry to older people is important as many older people are quickly forgotten by churches when they are no longer able to attend regularly, and this is especially true when people move to a new area to be near family.

Some of the people we meet have very moving stories to share when we sit and listen to them. We aim to bring some joy and hope to these people and to help them engage with the world outside their walls. God loves all his people and we believe that those who are vulnerable, alone, lonely and who need extra support are very close to his heart and to our ministry.

**Eileen Tomlin, Valerie Willcox & Elaine Bevan**

## **Malvern & Upton Deanery Synod**

There have been two meetings this past year but Deanery activities were supplemented with a focus day for Children Youth and Families and a Deanery Social/Prayer walk. In February, an online meeting considered the Anna Chaplaincy movement with a speaker from the Bible Reader Fellowship that provides Anna Chaplaincy training and parish support to care homes and older members. From this, the Deanery has developed a modest support programme for care homes across Malvern with each church having responsibility for liaison and support. In April, a gathering of Children, Youth and Family (CYF) workers was convened in the Upton Church Rooms. The event was chaired by the Area Dean and after an inspiring introductory talk from the Diocesan CYF Lead, Simon Hill, CYF workers (resourced or voluntary) were tasked to understand what works well in this ministry and what can be shared. After a Prayer Walk and shared Picnic, hosted by Rev Canon Julie James and the Welland PCC at Welland's community orchard in June, the next Synod was held in November at St Mary's Church Hanley Castle, who have recently achieved their Eco Gold award. It was a cold day, the church was cold but the new infrared heaters in the chapel area were surprisingly effective. We had a Q&A session about the Eco Gold award. Rev'd Sue Adeney described her journey to ordination, shaped by gradual "nudges" and a growing awareness of social responsibility in faith. She also highlighted the importance of Deanery Synod, particularly in electing representatives to General Synod this coming year. Looking ahead to 2026, proposals aim to strengthen mission and support across the Deanery. These include funding a school chaplaincy post, sharing ministry resources between churches, and creating central administrative roles to support clergy and communication. Environmental responsibility was another focus, with encouragement for all churches to achieve at least a Bronze Eco-Church

Award by 2027, stressing culture change over box-ticking. Finally, updates were given on synod membership reviews and upcoming leadership changes, including the need to appoint a new Lay Chair and Secretary.

***Based on the report prepared by Robin La Fontaine from Great Malvern Priory***

# THE JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL BENEFICE OF HOLY TRINITY MALVERN AND WEST MALVERN

In the Diocese of Worcester

Registered charity number: 1205276

## **Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

Incumbent:	Rev'd Rebecca Elliott
Churchwardens:	Mr R Lawrence - Holy Trinity Mr D Matthews - St James'
Treasurer:	Mrs S Colbourne
Bankers:	The Co-Operative Bank
Independent Examiner:	Mr C Boyd MA BFP FCA

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

		<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2024 Total funds</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	2a	94,480	4,320	-	98,800	87,664
Income from charitable activities	2b	6,182	-	-	6,182	3,350
Other trading activities	2c	43,101	373	-	43,474	46,465
Investments	2d	4,501	3,724	-	8,225	6,019
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>148,264</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,681</b>	<b>143,498</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	3a	2,091	401	-	2,492	2,117
Expenditure on charitable activities	3b	131,427	14,968	-	146,395	165,343
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>133,518</b>	<b>15,369</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>148,887</b>	<b>167,460</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources</b>		<b>14,746</b>	<b>- 6,952</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,794</b>	<b>- 23,962</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>						
Gains / losses on investment assets	-	1,902	- 2,277	- 2,901	- 7,080	3,964
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>12,844</b>	<b>- 9,229</b>	<b>- 2,901</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>- 19,998</b>
Total funds brought forward		<b>104,479</b>	<b>158,775</b>	<b>72,581</b>	<b>335,835</b>	355,833
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>117,323</b>	<b>149,546</b>	<b>69,680</b>	<b>336,549</b>	<b>335,835</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
Holy Trinity		4,326	-	-	4,326	6,084
West Malvern		27,339	-	-	27,339	30,043
<b>Designated</b>						
Holy Trinity		85,605	-	-	85,605	68,299
West Malvern		53	-	-	53	53
<b>Restricted</b>						
Holy Trinity		-	117,269	-	117,269	126,790
West Malvern		-	32,277	-	32,277	31,985
<b>Endowment</b>						
Holy Trinity		-	-	69,680	69,680	72,581
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>117,323</b>	<b>149,546</b>	<b>69,680</b>	<b>336,549</b>	<b>335,835</b>

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Investments	4		170,052		177,134
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	5	4,878		4,774	
Cash at bank and in hand		22,609		36,427	
Short-term deposits		157,253		127,686	
			<u>184,740</u>		<u>168,887</u>
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	18,243		10,186	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<b>166,497</b>		<b>158,701</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u><b>336,549</b></u>		<u><b>335,835</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	7	117,323		104,479	
Restricted Funds	7	149,546		158,775	
Endowment Funds	7	69,680		72,581	
			<u><b>336,549</b></u>		<u><b>335,835</b></u>

Approved by the Joint Church Council on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Rebecca Elliott



Sally Colbourne

The notes on pages 16 to 20 form part of these accounts

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Joint Church Council of Holy Trinity Malvern and West Malvern

I report to the JCC on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

## **Respective responsibilities of the JCC and the examiner**

As the members of the JCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements on the Charities Act 2011.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the JCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by C Boyd on



Mr C Boyd

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom, including Financial Reporting Standards 102(FRS102). and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are measured at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on the accrual's basis.

The following table shows the Restricted, Designated and Unrestricted funds.

The JCC is not able to designate restricted funds for any other use than the original purpose for which the money was given without the permission of the donor.

The JCC could if it so wished change the purpose of the designated funds.

The unrestricted account is the General Fund of Holy Trinity and the General Fund of West Malvern where all the day to day running expenses and income is received.

<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Designated and Unrestricted funds</b>
Fabric Fund - Both	Parish Hall Account - Holy Trinity
Pilgrim Path - St James'	Children's Church - Holy Trinity
Music Fund - Holy Trinity	Thursday Coffee - Holy Trinity
HTW - Holy Trinity	Vicar and Churchwardens Discretionary Account
Salt Bequest Income Fund - Holy Trinity	General Fund- Unrestricted account - Both

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

No value is included in this statement in respect of the Church Building or its contents. Similarly, no value has been placed on the Vicarage as it is held by the Diocesan Trust as Custodian Trustee and if sold the funds cannot be used for any other purpose but to purchase another property for the same purpose. All other assets held are considered to be written off for accounting purposes (including the Parish Hall) and the funds received from any asset sold will appear in the statement for the year in which it is sold.

**Reserves policy**

It is JCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) which equates to approximately 3 months payments to cover emergency situations that can occur from time to time. The balances of unrestricted and designated funds are currently sufficient to meet this requirement.

The Balance held in the Fabric fund is being retained towards meeting the costs for the work detailed in the quinquennial inspection.

## Legacy policy

It is the policy of the JCC that should a legacy be received for general purposes it is placed within the Vicars and Churchwardens discretionary account until a suitable need is identified.

### JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

<b>2 INCOME</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Fund £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
<b>2a Donations and legacies</b>					
Planned giving	40,518	510	-	41,028	44,656
Loose collections at services	6,318	195	-	6,513	5,496
Gift Aid	2,785	380	-	3,165	4,134
Income tax recovered gift aid	11,271	125	-	11,396	18,512
Donations	11,181	1,110	-	12,291	9,434
Memorials	22,407	-	-	22,407	5,194
Grants	-	2,000	-	2,000	238
Other funds generated	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,480</b>	<b>4,320</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,800</b>	<b>87,664</b>
<b>2b Income from charitable activities</b>					
Fees	5,197	-	-	5,197	2,062
Magazine income	985	-	-	985	1,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,182</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,182</b>	<b>3,350</b>
<b>2c Other trading activities</b>					
Fund raising	10,164	-	-	10,164	12,671
Rent of church buildings	2,494	-	-	2,494	1,884
Rent of hall	30,032	-	-	30,032	30,154
Thursday coffee	-	-	-	-	623
Babies and toddlers	162	-	-	162	237
HTW	-	373	-	373	419
Photocopier	249	-	-	249	477
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,101</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,474</b>	<b>46,465</b>
<b>2d Investments</b>					
Investment income	4,501	3,724	-	8,225	6,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,501</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,225</b>	<b>6,019</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>148,264</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,681</b>	<b>143,498</b>

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**  
For the year ended 31 December 2025

<b>3 EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
<b>3a Fundraising costs</b>				
Church fundraising	1,769	-	1,769	1,439
HTW	-	401	401	449
Magazine costs	53	-	53	52
Babies and Toddlers	269	-	269	132
Thursday coffee	-	-	-	45
	<b>2,091</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>2,117</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>				
<b>3b Ministry and administration</b>				
Ministry share	65,959	5,000	70,959	77,550
Vicar expenses	1,769	-	1,769	1,734
Parish administrator	2,744	-	2,744	2,955
Upkeep of services	623	-	623	512
Church music	11,413	354	11,767	11,829
Dues	45	-	45	45
Website and streaming costs	733	-	733	751
Alterations to back of church	-	1,909	1,909	11,895
Mission giving	2,237	-	2,237	3,009
Printing, stationery and photocopier	2,709	-	2,709	3,289
Flowers, floral tributes and gifts	2,118	-	2,118	1,606
General expenses	1,295	-	1,295	436
	<b>91,645</b>	<b>7,263</b>	<b>98,908</b>	<b>115,611</b>
<b>Church running costs</b>				
Heat and light	10,277	-	10,277	9,886
Insurance	-	7,705	7,705	7,391
Church maintenance	3,808	-	3,808	7,930
Churchyard maintenance	800	-	800	593
Cleaning	1,705	-	1,705	1,513
	<b>16,590</b>	<b>7,705</b>	<b>24,295</b>	<b>27,313</b>
<b>Hall running expenses</b>				
Wages	11,773	-	11,773	10,278
Insurance	1,103	-	1,103	1,707
Utilities	6,341	-	6,341	6,754
Repairs and renewals	2,442	-	2,442	2,352
Cleaning	793	-	793	880
General expenses	740	-	740	448
	<b>23,192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,192</b>	<b>22,419</b>
Total expenditure on charitable activities	<b>131,427</b>	<b>14,968</b>	<b>146,395</b>	<b>165,343</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>133,518</b>	<b>15,369</b>	<b>148,887</b>	<b>167,460</b>

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024		
	£	£		
<b>4 Investment assets</b>				
1340.70 C B F Investment Fund Shares(£13000)	29,761	31,001		
1969.29 C B F Investment Fund Shares (£25000)	43,715	45,535		
3138.97 C B F Investment Fund Shares (£45607)	69,680	72,582		
1211.64 C B F Investment Fund Shares	26,896	28,016		
	<b>170,052</b>	<b>177,134</b>		
<b>5 Debtors</b>				
Income tax recoverable	2,631	2,517		
Prepayments and accrued income	2,247	2,257		
	<b>4,878</b>	<b>4,774</b>		
<b>6 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Accruals	<b>18,243</b>	<b>10,186</b>		
<b>7 Analysis of funds</b>				
	<b>Holy</b>	<b>West</b>		
	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>Malvern</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	4,326	27,339	31,665	36,127
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Discretionary fund	60,872	53	60,925	46,999
Parish Hall	24,170	-	24,170	20,023
Babies and Toddlers	68	-	68	175
Eco fund	304	-	304	-
Childrens Church	190	-	190	199
Thursday coffee	-	-	-	956
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>89,930</b>	<b>27,392</b>	<b>117,322</b>	<b>104,479</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Fabric fund	84,233	30,129	114,362	122,901
Music fund	5,959	-	5,959	5,786
HTW	830	-	830	858
Pilgrim Path	-	2,148	2,148	-
Salt bequest income fund	26,247	-	26,247	29,230
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>117,269</b>	<b>32,277</b>	<b>149,546</b>	<b>158,775</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>				
Salt bequest	69,680	-	69,680	72,581
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>69,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,680</b>	<b>72,581</b>

**8 Trustee remuneration**

During the year Holy Trinity has paid three trustees remuneration as detailed below:

Charles Pavey has received remuneration of £6,432 for his role as Organist and Choirmaster.

Billy Colbourne has received remuneration of £2,700 for his role as Assistant Organist.

Vicky McCulloch has received remuneration £1,287 for church cleaning.

**JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY AND WEST MALVERN**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**8 Movement in funds**

Net movement in funds are as follows

	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Transfer between funds £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund - Holy Trinity	69,795	72,509	956	- -	1,758
General fund - West Malvern	20,598	22,434	- -	868 -	2,704
	<b>90,393</b>	<b>94,943</b>	<b>956 -</b>	<b>868 -</b>	<b>4,462</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Parish Hall	30,082	23,191 -	2,744	-	4,147
Discretionary fund - Holy Trinity	26,893	14,677	2,744 -	1,034	13,926
Discretionary fund - W Malvern	-	-	-	-	-
Eco Fund	733	429	-	-	304
Babies and Toddlers	162	269	-	-	107
Childrens Church	-	9	-	-	9
Thursday coffee	-	-	956	-	956
	<b>57,870</b>	<b>38,575 -</b>	<b>956 -</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>17,305</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fabric fund	1,408	6,065	- -	2,025 -	6,682
Fabric Fund - West Malvern	1,944	3,549	- -	252 -	1,857
Pilgrim Path - West Malvern	2,148	-	-	-	2,148
Music fund	527	354	-	-	173
HTW	373	401	-	-	28
Salt bequest income fund	2,017	5,000	-	-	2,983
	<b>8,417</b>	<b>15,369</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>2,277 -</b>	<b>9,229</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Salt bequest	-	-	- -	2,901 -	2,901
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>2,901 -</b>	<b>2,901</b>
	<b>156,680</b>	<b>148,887</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>7,080</b>	<b>713</b>

**Endowment Funds**

**Salt Bequest**

The Salt Bequest is a permanent endowment fund from Miss Salt created in March 1965. The fund can only be used for the augmentation of the stipend or living of the Incumbent of Holy Trinity Church North Malvern.

## **MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, MALVERN**

Becky opened the meeting with a prayer.

Gifts were given to the outgoing churchwardens, Jill Harmer and Elaine Bevan.

Becky explained that we will have a Churchwardens' Group which will share the work of the churchwardens. Rob Lawrence has agreed to be the named churchwarden for the coming year.

Clare Griffiths has left the area and Sylvia Coke-Woods will be retiring. We have a plan which will enable us to keep the same times for Sunday services with cover from Peter Nokes, Eric Knowles and Eileen Tomlin.

We are moving forward with the plan for the orchard at St James' and the re-ordering the back of church at Holy Trinity. These projects are taking time as we navigate the legal processes. We will need to do some fundraising towards these projects. Becky thanked everyone for their commitment to the life of the church.

**Apologies for** absence were received from Janet Burley, Janet Dudley, Linde Alexander, Catherine Harris, Janine Summers, Valerie Willcox and Anna Brazier.

### **Appointment of Minutes Secretary**

Ginny Pavey was nominated by Mary Valpy and seconded by Jane Millwood. All were in agreement and Ginny duly appointed.

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting minutes held on 28th April 2024** – the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

### **Election of Churchwardens 2025/26**

Rob Lawrence was proposed by Elaine Bevan and seconded Sally Colbourne. All were in agreement and Rob was duly elected as churchwarden.

## **MINUTES OF THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MALVERN ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**Acceptance of the minutes of the APCM held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024** were accepted and signed as a true record.

### **Matters arising**

Jane Millwood thanked Vicky Colbourne for taking over the Parish Magazine. The Men's Breakfast group has been put into abeyance.

### **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

Elaine Bevan presented the electoral roll. Numbers have dropped and we currently have 94 people on the Roll. Becky thanked Elaine for all her work in compiling the electoral roll.

## **Financial Statement**

Financial reports are included in the Annual Report. St James' and Holy Trinity's accounts are now combined. Sally talked through the different funds of both churches. The most income is from the Parish Giving Scheme. Sally thanked those who give and encouraged people to join the Parish Giving Scheme. We have paid our ministry share in full. Becky thanked Sally for all her hard work.

## **Reviews and Reports**

Money raised for the Children's Society is included in our mission giving.

## **Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

Christopher Boyd proposed by Rob Lawrence and seconded by Elaine Bevan. All were in agreement.

## **Election of representatives to serve the JCC**

Helen Brice was nominated by Heather Catton and seconded by Sally Colbourne. All were in agreement.

Cathy Millar was nominated by Jill Bradshaw and seconded by Jane Millwood. All were in agreement.

Valerie Willcox was nominated by Elaine Bevan and seconded by Jill Harmer. All were in agreement.

There is one remaining space available on the JCC.

## **Election of representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod**

Deanery Synod representatives automatically serve on the JCC. Mary Lawrence and Elaine Shaw are willing to continue as Deanery Synod reps leaving space for one more.

**Date of the next APCM** - Becky proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 for the next APCM.

## **Any other business**

Zena thanked Becky for her work and ministry.

There being no further business the meeting ended with the Grace at 12.35pm.

# **MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD AT ST JAMES' CHURCH WEST MALVERN ON SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

## **Present**

Revd Becky Elliott (Chair), David Matthews, Ian Brazier, Julie Brazier, Sally Colbourne, Revd Rosemary Herbert, Revd Nicholas Menon. David Stavert, Rosemary Stavert, Angela Williams, Jez Ide, John Raine, Sue Matthews, Sarah Brierley, Stephen Hartland, Mary Constable, David Constable.

Becky opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Nick Brown, Richard Hammond, Gwyn Klee and Bridget Halliday.

### **Appointment of Minutes Secretary**

Jamie Elliott was proposed by David Matthews and seconded by David Constable. All were in agreement.

### **Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Revd. Becky and seconded by Jez Ide. All were in agreement.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Election of Churchwardens 2025/26**

David Matthews had been nominated to stand as Churchwarden by Angela Williams and Rosemary Herbert. All were in agreement and David was duly elected to serve as Churchwarden for 2025/26. Becky thanked David for all his hard work and support.

## **MINUTES OF THE ST JAMES' CHURCH WEST MALVERN ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

### **Acceptance of the minutes of the APCM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Ian Brazier and seconded by Mary Constable. All were in agreement that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2024 APCM.

### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

Becky thanked David Matthews for compiling the Electoral Roll. There are currently 39 people on the Electoral Roll a drop of 2 from the previous year, however David was hopeful two more people would soon be joining.

### **Financial Statement**

Becky thanked Sally for her time and work as Treasurer. Copies of the accounts are available to read as part of the Annual Report. Sally thanked people for their continuous giving.

### **Reviews and Reports**

Becky asked for questions on the report but none were asked.

David Matthews noted that there was a significant number of people who used the church and churchyard for quiet reflection and although they were not on the electoral roll did show how important the church was to the community.

Thanks were given to Sarah for helping with the poetry course from David and Mary Constable. Becky also thanked the Constables for running the course. Mary expressed a desire to do something similar next year.

Becky explained that the benefice would be looking into how to be more inclusive in the coming year.

Becky thanked everyone who gathers and worships at St James'.

#### **Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

Chris Boyd was proposed by David Matthews and seconded by Sue Matthews.

#### **Election of representatives to serve on the Joint Church Council**

Ian Brazier was up for re-election and was proposed by Rosemary and seconded by David Matthews.

Stephen Hartland offered to join the PCC and was proposed by David Matthews and seconded by Mary Constable.

#### **Election of representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod**

No elections needed.

Jez Ide suggested that the photos of the church representative be added to the Annual Report.

**Date of next APCM** - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

#### **Any other business**

Mary Constable is interested in gathering poems and quotes for the Pilgrimage Path, please send any suggestions to her.

David Matthews recognised the eco-church activity taking place and thanked the team working for the benefice.

Rosmary thanked Becky for her work, Becky thanked all the volunteers who helped in St James' and its community.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace.

# Additional Reports - Holy Trinity

## Communications

Throughout 2025, the notice sheet continued to be produced weekly and shared both via email as well as paper copies being available in church on Sunday mornings. In October, I took over from Sally Colbourne as being responsible for compiling the notice sheet. Thank you to Janet Burley for writing prayers each week, and to Charles Pavey and Billy Colbourne for sharing their voluntaries and the communion music.

There were 10 editions of the Parish Magazine in 2025. After six years, Jane Millwood decided to step back from her role as editor in March and I took over with my first magazine being the April issue. To thank Jane for all her hard work over the years, Becky presented her with two hellebores during a morning service. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine and continues to make it an interesting publication to read. Finally, thank you to Mary Valpy for everything she does as Magazine Secretary and to all the distributors - particular thanks goes to Janet Burley and Doreen Farrier who deliver a significant number of magazines all over Malvern.

In November, I started in the new role of Communications Manager. In addition to editing the notice sheet and magazine, I was also tasked with improving our online presence. I started by updating our A Church Near You page. I also worked alongside Billy Colbourne to make sure our own website was up-to-date with upcoming special services and events.

The next step was increasing our presence on social media. I created a new Instagram account and used both Instagram and Facebook to share both regular and special services/activities going on within our church community. One particular success was a reel (short video), that I created to show people who had never been to church before what happens when you first arrive. At the time of writing, this has had nearly 14,000 views! These videos have also been shared on YouTube for those who don't use other forms of social media to enjoy.

In December, I created an online advent calendar where I shared a post everyday around the Church of England's theme of joy. Posts ranged from bible quotes and prayers to Christmas decorations and people within our church community sharing their Christmas joys. We also had a "tree of joy" in church where people wrote on hearts what brings them joy at Christmas.

Social media was also a useful tool to promote our special Advent and Christmas services and seemed to lead to more people attending church. Compared to the previous year we saw a ~20% increase in congregations at major Advent and Christmas services, and a 45% increase in under 16s at the Christingle and Crib services.

Thank you to everyone who is willing to be photographed and filmed for social media and to those who like, comment and share posts.

Finally, I created a communications survey at the end of year to review what was working well and what we could improve. We had a good response rate of 40 and I will use this information to make improvements moving forward into 2026.

**Vicky Colbourne**

## **Parish Hall**

The turnover for the Parish Hall has remained consistent with last year at just over £30,000. Both halls continue to be in great demand and there have been some new regular bookings during 2025.

Overheads have risen slightly mainly due to the increase in PRS fees – this is the licence that allows music to be played in the hall. All routine maintenance has been carried out. The programmers for the boiler have had to be replaced and the control valve in the lower hall. There have also been a couple of roof leaks which have been repaired. We are very grateful to Rob Lawrence and Nigel Blake who oversee all the maintenance work, often completing it themselves.

Due to the increased overheads the hall profit has fallen slightly this year to £6,891.

We would like to thank Janine Summers and Nigel Blake for all their work during 2025.

**Sally Colbourne**

## **Babies and Toddlers**

The whole purpose for Holy Trinity's Babies and Toddlers group is to love and support carers of pre-school children in the community whether that is through provision of play opportunities, a chance to chat with other adults or a welcome cup of tea.

We meet in the lower hall from 1pm - 3pm Thursday afternoons during term time. We have a rota of much appreciated voluntary helpers who give their time to help put out toys and promote imaginative play. We provide a welcome cup of tea for all mums, dads, grans, grandads and carers and a healthy snack for the toddlers. The children have free play until the last fifteen minutes when we sit in a circle to sing, which is led beautifully by Julia Price-Palmer at the piano. The last song is generally a rousing rendition of the Hokey Cokey. The children and adults really appreciate this element!

Several children have moved on to their schools or nursery places and because of the change in the government funding provision for nursery care numbers have fluctuated during the year. Nevertheless we have great fun. All the voluntary helpers are really appreciated and those who access the group are given welcome respite and a chance to chat to other carers and adults. Anyone who enjoys the joyful and life giving company of pre-school children would be most welcome to join in. We are keen to make sure this is a well-run and safe environment for all those who access this resource and so ensure that appropriate training is given.

Relationships built up at Babies and Toddlers also lead to other opportunities to be involved in church life including Messy Vintage, family creative Church and significant church services throughout the year.

It is always life affirming and a privilege to share the joy of children and support those who are on the front line!

**Jill Harmer**

## **Creative Church**

One of the special features of Creative Church is its intergenerational nature. Although it is designed for young children, it is also a special time of fellowship and worship for people of all ages. Throughout the year, Creative Church has offered a warm and welcoming space where families can spend time together, build friendships and explore faith in a relaxed and joyful environment.

In 2025, we enjoyed exploring Candlemas, Easter, Ascension and some special activities based on the stained-glass windows at Holy Trinity Church with the 'I am' sayings of Jesus depicted on them. We shared a wide range of crafts, storytelling, music and interactive worship that helped children and adults alike engage with the themes in imaginative ways. It has been wonderful to see both regulars and newcomers joining in with grandparents, parents, and children taking part side by side.

In the early autumn, we held a special service on creation during which we enjoyed exploring the Eco Church Labyrinth. We look forward to continuing to grow as an intergenerational community in 2026 discovering more festivals, Bible stories and creative expressions of worship together.

**Rev'd Rebecca Elliott**

## **Young Chorale**

YOUNG CHORALE is the choir for young voices that was founded in 2022 and as the singers have got older so the age range increased. Indeed, as we entered 2025, we welcomed two capable six-year-olds as we attempted to maintain 12 singers in the Choir - there had been a number of significant departures at the end of 2024. The Choir continued to practise every week on Friday evenings during term time with changed times of 6.15pm to 7.00pm.

Performances during 2025 were in March, at the Summer Fayre and at the Christingle Service. However, the Choir never really recovered from the loss of singers at the end of 2024 and, for every performance, we enlisted the support of a few adults to support the singers and bolster the volume. We felt that, unless numbers increased during 2025, the Choir could not offer the beneficial and positive experience that it had previously. Sadly, as numbers didn't increase, the decision was made to bring things to a close.

Although it was a choir that meets in church, it was intended more as a choir for the community and certainly its singers lived both in the parish but also some distance away. Encouraged by its initial success the Choir could justifiably aim to increase its size further. However, having to let go of a choir that promoted younger voices singing in church is a significant loss. The hope is that, in time, demand for it may return locally.

**Charles Pavey**

## **HTW - The Meeting Place for Women at Trinity**

HTW began the year with 15 members and there was an average attendance of 11. In the summer we said goodbye to Elaine Shaw who moved away.

In April we were delighted to wish Mary Valpy a very Happy 90th Birthday and one or two more members will reach that milestone in the not too distant future emphasising that HTW is a Group for all ages!

We again had termly Communion Services in Church and Evenings of Board Games when Scrabble and Rummikub are keenly contested.

Following a chilly summer evening in 2024 we moved the Garden Meeting to the earlier time of 5.30pm and it became a Bring and Share Supper - most enjoyable and now a new fixed time on the calendar.

Carols by Candlelight, with the theme 'Questions' was enjoyed not only by members but by visitors from other local Churches and our own congregation.

We continue to help with refreshments at the Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre and to provide flowers for Mothering Sunday. We have donated to or raised money for St Richard's Hospice, Acorns Hospice and Sight Concern Malvern.

Highlights of other meetings were a visit from an Ambassador Guide Dog along with two members of Ledbury and Malvern Guide Dogs Group and a talk 'Following Alice down the rabbit hole' by Karen Argent who collects 'all things Alice'.

Our 'sharing evenings' saw us talking about our favourite gardens enjoying a celebration of VE Day with reminiscences from those who remembered it and discovering how talented many of us are when it comes to crafting.

Yes, we meet as a Group fortnightly and enjoy the activities but maybe, more importantly, we support and encourage each other through difficult times, we celebrate with each other at good times and are always ready to lend a hand at meetings.

It is a very special 'meeting place for women at Trinity' and we extend a warm welcome to any ladies wishing to join us.

**Janet Burley**

## **Thursday Coffee – A Place of Welcome**

Thursday Places of Welcome coffee morning rumbles on. Looking back over decades our numbers are smaller but we have a jolly time with the mix of church members and visitors. Usually about a dozen souls come over the morning. A loyal core of seven church members come every week.

Karen does drinks duty. Roger washes up and lugs in the sign boards. Linde does the background work, the furniture shifting and the pastoral connecting. Anna keeps the cake and bric-a-brac stalls supplied.

Everyone is most welcome. Please do come along and join us for a free mug of tea or filter coffee. We are in the Lower Hall from 10am - 12pm every Thursday, 50 weeks of the year.

**Linde Alexander**

## **Thursday Lunches**

The Thursday lunches continued during 2025 to offer a variety of lunch choices. There were regularly over 50 people attending and enjoying fellowship together. A further half a dozen lunches were delivered to people who were unable to get to the hall. Financially they usually raised over £300 for church funds and have contributed over £13000 since they started in 2017. This has been possible by having a dedicated team of helpers and a chief potato masher (Elaine Shaw) Many Thanks to Reverend Eric Knowles, Valerie Knowles, Ginny Pavey, Heather and Robert Catton, Ruth Garth, Jacqui Merrick, Vicky Colbourne and Jane Smith.

**Richard Garth**

I am hugely grateful to Richard and the team for all they have put into the Thursday Community Meal over the years. These meals are more than just nutritious food, and money for the church funds, they are an opportunity for people to gather socially, in a warm place. They are such an important part of our church life that we felt it was important to keep them going once Richard and his team retired. Despite lacking Richard's culinary skills, in the last few months we have enjoyed homemade quiches, baked potatoes with a range of fillings, meatballs in a tomato sauce with pasta and a sausage casserole, with some delicious cakes and puddings. I would like to give my sincere thanks to the team who make this possible; Sally Colbourne, Ginny Pavey, Shelagh Owen, Janet Taylor, Rob Lawrence, and Julie and Mark Dodge.

**Rev'd Rebecca Elliott**

## **Additional Reports - West Malvern**

### **Friends of St James'**

We have said a reluctant farewell to Norman Bennett, a much-valued founding member of The Friends, with many thanks for his sterling contribution and generosity over the years. We all wish him well for the future. Many thanks also to Nick Brown for his contribution as vice chair as he juggles his many other commitments.

It has been agreed that the Choir Vestry at the rear of church, down the stairs, will become the village archive and a clear out has commenced! This will be an ongoing project.

We have further agreed the need for new Friends of St James' leaflets. These will be in a trifold format. An historical summary was circulated for agreement and photographs are being gathered. A donation QR code will also be included. It is intended to distribute in the village and have leaflet stands in the church and The Brewers. We hope to increase both membership and contributions from this. As a further option a Go Fund Me page has been set up for St James and The Friends. It is a very sobering experience to see the rising costs of building materials and heating for the church.

Support for the development of the Church Orchard was also agreed. This is to provide a "Pilgrim Path" around the orchard to improve access and the utility of the orchard by the community and the school. It will include some eco initiatives such as a small pond and, of course, the care of the fruit trees! We are applying to the National Lottery for a grant to help support the project.

We continue to look at fundraising options and have discussed a possible event with the Roget Society and a "Murder Mystery" evening. All suggestions and any support is most welcome!

Thank you to those existing members who have donated a little more as a result of the Christmas update. With a fair wind from the National Lottery we hope to be able to make some significant progress this summer.

If you are interested in joining The Friends or care to donate towards the maintenance of the church or the orchard (Pilgrim Pathway) please do not hesitate to contact me at: [ian.brazier01@gmail.com](mailto:ian.brazier01@gmail.com).

**Ian Brazier**