



**Bathampton Parish Church**

# **Annual Review 2025 (for APCM 2026)**



**St Nicholas Church  
Church Close Bathampton BA2 6TU**

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**Background:** St. Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operation with the Revd. Jonty Frith, Incumbent, in promoting our Mission Statement that “We are a church focused on Jesus so that we love one another, serve the whole parish and touch the world.”

**Charitable Status:** The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity number 1214374). The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

**Bankers:** Current account held with National Westminster Bank, Bath. Deposit and Investment accounts held with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England (CFB), London.

**Independent Examiner:** Andrew Morrison

**Financial Review:** The full financial report is presented separately.

**Reserves Policy:** It is PCC policy to balance general income and expenditure each year and to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. The PCC policy is to maintain, if possible, a balance of unrestricted funds equal to six months’ unrestricted payments to cover any emergency that may arise.

The PCC has three Charitable Trusts which donate money to the work of St. Nicholas Church, for which the rector and churchwardens act as Trustees:

- The Barlow Trust for the benefit of the sick and poor of the parish.
- The Ramsbottom Trust for the maintenance of the churchyard.
- The Rhodes Trust for Sunday School work in the parish.

## PCC Members April 2025- April 2026

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All elected PCC members are volunteers.

The following people served during 2025/26.

*Ex officio:*

**Rector:** Rev'd Jonty Frith

**Churchwardens:** Ian White  
*(elected annually)*

**Diocesan Synod:** Phil Edge  
Barnaby Frith  
*(elected by Deanery Synod Laity 11/3/2026)*

**Deanery Synod:** Tim Laver  
*(to 2026)* Peter Hunt

*Elected Members:*

To 2026: Carl Fullaway *(since 2020)*  
Anne-Marie Conn *(since 2023)*  
Peter Hunt *(since 2023)*

To 2027: Sally Magee *(since 2023)*  
Charles Laurie *(since 2024)*  
Jane Buckley *(since 2024)*

To 2028: Ian Williams *(since 2025)*  
Nigel Shepherd *(since 2023)*  
Helen Williams *(since 2023)*

**Co-opted April 2024:** The Revd Ian Lewis

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**Chair** The Rector  
**Vice Chair** Ian White  
**Secretary** Peter Hunt

**Treasurer:** Rita Warboys

**Safeguarding Officer:** Jane Buckley

**Paid Staff:**

**Benefice Administrator:** Natalie Mills: 12 hours per week

**PCC Review of the Year:**

PCC met formally seven times during 2025. Besides the regular items (including safeguarding and sub-committee reports), the PCC has discussed a variety of matters:

- We adopted new Standing Orders and a Code of Conduct as a PCC and we reviewed and approved our Terms of Reference.
- We agreed that a 50% bursary would be provided for children in the church and their invited friends to go to Lakeview Venture camp.
- The Church was registered with the Charity Commission with the PCC members as trustees.
- We agreed that there would be a moratorium on taking faculty applications for grave reservations.
- We approved the 'Purpose & Goals for the Church, 2025-2030' document.
- We approved the job description and the commencement of fundraising for an Assistant Minister (Children, Youth and Young Adults).
- We approved a Safeguarding Action Plan and the Safeguarding Hub Service Agreement, the latter with extra restrictions on access for confidentiality.
- We received regular updates on Phase 1 of Re:Generations and repeatedly noted our thanks to Ian Williams and Paul Bryant.

- We revised World Mission Support, such that 10% of church giving would go to Mission Partners by 2030, that we would pray for all partners across the year and that our 2026 partners would be: the Delhi Bible Institute, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Dan Mak, Innovista, the U.C.C.F. and Incoming Ministries.

*Peter Hunt, PCC Secretary*

### **Finance:**

See the Accounts published separately.

*Rita Warboys*

### **Churchwarden's Report:**

We give thanks to God for His many blessings to us at St Nicholas Church over the past years through good times and hard. He has blessed us in many ways over a year which has seen significant developments in different ways. Praise the Lord!

We are grateful of course for the ministries of many across the church family. We remain grateful for that of our rector Jonty Frith and his wife Rebecca. Their witness, care and love has meant much. We are also so grateful for those who have organised, led, preached, led the music and played other roles in our services, prayer meetings and special events. The work of the Worship Committee has been deeply valued. We are grateful for those involved in group ministries, in particular junior church and homegroups. Their pastoral concern and desire to share the Gospel is so important.

We are of course also grateful to Natalie (Benefice Administrator) for all the work she has done in a year where many things have been happening, and for having such impact in external relationships, in particular with Bathampton Primary School. I am also grateful of course to those who help with so many practical aspects of keeping St Nick's running, especially the Stewards, Fabric Committee, those on the tech,

cleaning and flower rotas.

The year started with a major challenge in respect of the church building itself given the decision to install infrared heating. We are so grateful to those from the church who made generous donations, and other donors, in particular the Medlock Charitable Trust, which meant that we were able to install a new electricity supply and heaters in time for the Christmas services. The blessing of having services in church through the coldest part of the winter was greatly appreciated. Particular thanks go to Robin Donald and his fundraising colleagues for their sterling work in fundraising and for the amazing work of Ian Williams and Paul Bryant in obtaining all the required approvals, commissioning the work and acquisition of the heaters, and overseeing the heating installation. This was so demanding and their witness throughout was clear to all involved. We were also so grateful to the Fabric Committee in procuring major works required by the Quinquennial Inspection and for their wider care of the building.

We hope to progress further work on the building within the next phase of the Re:Generations project, and I am so grateful to Rebecca Bragg and members of the Re:Generations Steering Group for their hard work in considering future options for the project for consideration by the wider church and later decision by PCC.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the church for their kind and helpful advice and guidance over the past year and for their forbearance when there have been challenges. Their grace has been a wonderful witness to Him from whom all good things come.

*Ian White*

**Rector's Report:**

*<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13*

Our Theme Verse 2025 encouraged us to value being with Jesus, and see the impact of this on our boldness in living and speaking for him. During the year our Sunday services developed with a greater sense of joy at being with Jesus together. The atmosphere was greatly helped by the progression from cosy exile in the Miller Room at the start of the year to the radiant blessings from above of warmth in church by the end of the year.

With an encouraged on-the-up feel, we have indeed seen a growth in courage and need to keep praying for more boldness, as the Apostles did. A new Vision for St Nick's for 2025-30 was approved by the PCC and shared with the church family, grounded on being with Jesus, formed by him and loving like him as we experience his love. This finds expression in the key areas of devotion, discipleship, fellowship, growth, compassion, and generosity.

In 2026 we will see a restructuring of the way we work together in our various ministries, organised in three umbrella Teams:

- **Worship**, covering those areas primarily serving our devotion and discipleship
- **Fellowship**
- **Outreach**, for the ministries aiming for increase in growth, compassion and generosity.

I am grateful to God for the gifts, clarity of vision, and commitment of Ian and Margaret White injecting contagious energy into these things. (Mention of the highly significant AD2026! Lent Course is beyond the scope of this 2025 report, and will follow next year!) Margaret's highest-profile role, universally appreciated, is skilfully leading our sung worship with the piano. We are very blessed not only with her extraordinary gift there, but with the inclusion and development of other musicians and a richness she organises. Behind the scenes, Margaret resources all the service-leaders with well-thought-through coordinated suggestions that

are greatly helping our times of being gathered together with Jesus. She has also pioneered our new format of evening Reflection events.

Ian has carried a heavy load, humbly and without complaint, as sole churchwarden, and the pair of them devoted a lot of time to tidying, cleaning, and setting up the church. Getting the lights, power and sound system working when things went wrong were invaluable. The *Re:Generations* Project is complex and it has been hard to give it momentum; Ian's guiding hand has tremendously helped those working to get the heating installed and paved the way for the next phase of improvements: I am excited by the prospect of the presentation and consultation we are about to see at the APCM.

Our sole current churchwarden has been generously supported by others, especially two ex-churchwardens. Both Paul Bryant and Ian Williams showed continued commitment to see through Phase 1 of *Re:Generations*; I am grateful that Ian Williams has not only served as *de facto* deputy churchwarden in countless ways, but is now also prepared to step up again formally in the role of churchwarden.

The Churchwarden's Report thanks many people, to which I will add a hearty "Amen!" rather than repeating all that I want to say. It is a blessing to be part of and serve this church alongside so many faithful, hardworking, dear brothers and sisters. I am grateful for all, and mention here a few who are more directly personally supportive to me. In this category I very much include:

- my staff colleague Natalie, who is a joy to work with and gives us great and increasingly expert administrative support. Last year I mentioned her development of social media; in 2025 this continued with the rise of an assistant (Barnaby Frith) setting up and running St Nick's Instagram
- my former mentor and valued senior ministry colleague Ian Lewis who, following his retirement, has brought with Linda in recent years so much to St Nick's including advice, support, a lead on

developing our prayer and world mission partnerships, and taking things forward towards funding and recruiting an assistant minister with special focus on younger people

- my dear wife Rebecca, who makes an immeasurable difference to me and has been quietly pastoring several women in the church and who talks things over with insight, as well as providing some of the fresh air that has noticeably blown through St Nick's buildings in the arrangement of furniture, literature, decoration and clutter-reduction that have helped to make it a more welcoming, peaceful, attractive and practical space.

A highlight of the year was the dramatic conversion and baptism (in the river, in November) of one totally new member, which is part of a bigger picture, we feel, of the wind of the Spirit blowing and breathing life into many. We pray that the "Quiet Revival" may indeed keep increasing and transform many lives throughout the country and especially in and through us. We rejoice to see significant numbers people new to church – especially young men – being drawn in. We are also boosted by the arrival of newcomers to the area getting stuck into St Nick's, which is a delight and joy, especially as they move into gaps left by others moving away.

Gowing together as disciples of Jesus is our vision, and we move into 2026 *in view of God's mercy, to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is our true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2*

*Jonty Frith*

### **Deanery Synod Review of the Year:**

The Bath Deanery Synod met three times during 2025:

- The March meeting was not able to be attended by the then reps.

- In the June meeting, we considered the Quiet Revival report and discussed how it was affecting our parishes and how we can ensure that young people are engaged most effectively.
- In the October meeting, we welcomed our new Lay Dean, received the Deanery Treasurers' Report and heard presentations from four local Christian-based charities: Life Project, LUX, Flourish Network and Hope into Action.

*Peter Hunt & Tim Laver, Deanery Synod Reps*

### **The Diocese and Bishop's Council**

As a member of Bishop's Council I find the work both challenging and rewarding. The teams at Flourish House work hard to support Parishes who ask for help, or are in most need of support financially, or with their work seeking new Disciples for our Lord.

My own work is twofold. First, as a member of Council, I attend the meetings and try to bring any skills and knowledge I may have to bear, within the discussions and for the many decisions that have to be made. Second, as a member of the Audit and Risk Management Group, I work with a small team to ensure that the Executive has recognized all relevant risks and that there is work in place to reduce and even remove those risks, over time.

There are some growth success stories in our Diocese and I encourage you to look at the web site, where is lots of information about the work being done.

I am grateful to know our Bishop Michael quite well, personally and know him to be a man that is working extremely hard, in a most difficult role. I encourage anyone to follow his work, on the web site.

If I can answer questions please ask via the Parish Office, or see me in church for a chat.

*Phil Edge – Bishop's Council Member*

# Worship, Teaching and Equipping

## **Homegroups:**

Both evening groups are following the Sunday series for our Bible Study and are important means of expression and growth of encouraging, prayerful friendships within the church. Change is coming to the way home groups are organised in 2026...

## **Wednesday Group**

Throughout 2025 I led the Wednesday group which meets fortnightly in the Vicarage. It is a small but encouraging group, helping one another think through the implications of God's word for our lives and supporting one another in prayer.

*Jonty Frith*

## **Tuesday Group:**

We normally meet in Jan and Ian's home at 7.30 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with the option of also meeting when there is a fifth Tuesday, perhaps for a social evening or to do something different. Once again we helped with the hot chocolate distribution at Halloween. Usually, we look together at bible passages following the sermon series and are encouraged by thoughts, suggestions and experiences shared between us. Discussion then turns to prayer for concerns shared by those present and often also from those absent. We have continued to grow in prayerful support of one another, and have been open to receiving new members, subject to practical limits of space.

*Ian Williams*

## **Faith & Friendship Ladies Group**

Faith and Friendship continued to meet fortnightly, in term time, during 2025 with eleven committed members. We have continued to develop our twin themes of deepening both our faith and our friendships. We spent most of the year continuing to work our way through the Gospel of Mark and once completed we have recently begun looking at various prayers in the Bible. We also, alongside our regular fellowship over coffee and cake at each meeting, have enjoyed a number of social

activities. These include a short Easter walk, a shared lunch, a coffee 'meet up' at the Holburne Museum café during the long summer break and our annual Christmas party. Our F and F WhatsApp group enables us to keep in touch outside of the meetings and has proved valuable in enabling us to share news and requests for prayer.

If anyone is interested and would like further information about F and F, please speak to Linda Lewis.

*Linda Lewis*

### **Music:**

*I will sing to the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

Psalm 104: 33

We continue to be blessed with the faithful service of a team of regular musicians, meaning that most weeks we are able to be led in song by voice and piano, with welcome contributions on guitar, horn, flute, cornet and cajon adding to our sung praises. We continue to be grateful to God for gifting members of the church family in this way, including bringing new musicians to join us, and for their generous willingness to share their time and skill for our benefit and to His praise and glory. We have been especially blessed by Annemarie Conn's leading of our singing and thank her for her faithful and willing service in this way. We were pleased once again to be joined by other members of the regular congregation, friends and family members for the church carol service and other special events.

We continue to sing a mix of old favourites and well-loved contemporary worship to express our praise and thanks to God for his many blessings. It is a joy to express through music our gratitude for his love, faithfulness and goodness to us in our creation, preservation and salvation, and the promised hope of the new creation. Once again, new songs have been added to the repertoire and have been warmly received; they help us to remember that we are part of the larger world-wide body of Christ, singing the praises of Him who one day will be acknowledge by all creation as its one true King.

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne  
Be blessing, honour, glory, power  
For the battle You have won*

*Hallelujah!*  
*With every tribe and every tongue*  
*We join the anthem of the angels*  
*In the triumph of the Son*  
*Hallelujah! Amen*

*Margaret White*

### **Prayer**

Prayer is central to the life of the Church. As we were reminded recently, the church leader Charles Spurgeon described the prayer meeting as the Powerhouse (or Engine Room) of the Church! It has been exciting to see a number of ways we have grown in our prayer life at St. Nick's.

*Ian Lewis*

### **Prayer Ministry**

Prayer Ministry continues to meet an important need on Sunday mornings and we are grateful to those who serve us in this ministry. While only a few people make use of the opportunity to pray with the team each Sunday, the number is increasing. This is such an encouragement as it shows that we are responding to the Lord as we meet together, and that we are more aware of our dependence on him. In practical terms, we moved the site of Prayer Ministry from the font to the Australia Chapel so that it is more visible. Do make use of this opportunity to pray with others for anything on your heart.

*Ian Lewis*

### **Week of Prayer**

We had two focused weeks of prayer in the last year and, although that is not the only time we pray, it enables us to try new ways of praying together as we concentrate on a few days. Amongst other things, we have used the WhatsApp Pause to Pray group which has been extremely helpful with four prompts to pray each day. This has now been extended as a group we can all use to ask the wider Church family for prayer. If you would like to join, send a message via the office to Ian Lewis on [office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk). We also had a really encouraging Prayer Breakfast as we met to bring our concerns to the Lord over

tea/coffee and croissants! Many of us have family and friends we long to see growing in their walk with Jesus, and so we had a particular time of prayer to enable us to do that together. We plan to have a Week of Prayer three times a year – the next from 14th to 24th May.

*Ian Lewis*

### **Pray from Ten**

We now have an opportunity every Sunday morning to pray together before the service from 10am to 10.30am in the Upper Room. Arrive and leave as we are able. Pray out loud or silently. Don't worry if we pray for the same thing more than once. This is not just for those involved in the service but for anyone who would like to join in prayer for our life as a Church.

*Ian Lewis*

### **Prayer Meetings**

The monthly Prayer Meeting continues on the first Thursday evening of each month. We have had some very special times of prayer in recent months, and we are looking to develop this prayer opportunity in the next couple of months.

*Ian Lewis*

### **Stewards**

The job of a Steward is very important - not only are they a help to the Wardens in making a service run smoothly, but they are usually the first people that visitors meet on entering the church for a service and therefore a bright cheery welcome is much appreciated. I think our Stewards fill that role well and we are grateful to them for their continued support. If anyone else would be interested in joining our team please let me know.

*Jane Buckley*

### **Worship committee**

The Worship Committee oversees our Sunday services and prayer gatherings. Service leaders and preachers have considered how well the

congregation is provided for, with refinements made to various aspects of service content and organisation as a result.

The Worship Committee has considered how we might respond in our services to the cultural moment and prevailing spiritual climate (widely described as ‘the Quiet Revival’). Responses have included: the greater inclusion of personal testimony and video; the inclusion of six weeks’ introduction to the Expressions of church life as the body of Christ, and Vision booklet; encouragement of the church to use prayer cards; the updating of service PowerPoint graphics; and greater use of posters and social media for publicity. There has been a goal of keeping *discipleship* as a component in every service, recognising the increasing need for helping believers, new and old to the faith, in their walk with the Lord – *being with Jesus, formed by Jesus and loving like Jesus*. To help be intentional in our service content and organisation, leaders and preachers have been sharing their reflections after each service, and this has resulted in some specific initiatives, such as welcome cards being introduced.

We are immensely thankful to God for his kindness to us, and for the extraordinary privilege of joining in the work of his growing Kingdom. We are living in exciting spiritual times; mindful of the tremendous responsibility this carries, we ask that the church join in prayer as we:

- ✓ Give thanks for the growing numbers of adults, youth and children we’re seeing on Sundays
- ✓ Praise God for new faces seen most weeks over recent months
- ✓ Rejoice in two baptisms and two thanksgivings last term and the forthcoming Confirmation service
- ✓ Thank God for his provision of faithful creativity in our Christmas and other Outreach services
- Seek means of ensuring a warm and personal welcome for all, that no one feels overlooked
- Ask for wisdom in responding to current spiritual need, and imagination and insight as services are planned

- Seek insight into what should be included in sermons and how best to use personal testimony and prayer times to support whole-life discipleship
- Look for the body of Christ to be united and effective in purpose, as together we long for God's Kingdom to grow in and through St Nick's

Finally, thank you to everyone who has taken part in services or the prayer life of the church in any way: offering welcome and refreshments; helping in practical ways; giving personal testimony; reading and praying; leading and preaching. Particular thanks to Tim Conn who has enriched us so much with his teaching and leading over recent years.

*Margaret White*

### **Pray-ers and Readers Rota:**

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to our services of worship this past year either by leading prayers or by reading the Bible in church (or both!). It would still be great to have more people willing to lead prayers, although we have had a few additions and have recently introduced Junior Church to lead intercessions periodically. Please let Jonty or me know if you would help in this way.

*Jan Williams*

### **The Re:Generations Project**

The *Re:Generations* project started the year with a major challenge, namely raising the required funding to allow the instillation of infrared heaters in the church as a priority, given the desire for the church to be used throughout the 25/26 winter, and ended with that milestone being achieved. Particular thanks therefore must again go to Robin Donald, and Ian Williams and Paul Bryant for their great work in fundraising and the phase 1 heating works. The church owes much to them. We are of course so grateful for the most generous donations from within the church and more widely that have made this possible, in ways that were truly answers to prayer.

2025 also saw the appointment of Rebecca Bragg as project coordinator and the creation of a Steering Group. Both have worked hard during the year to support decisions required for phase 1 heating activities, and also to consider options for future phase 2 works. We hope and pray that 2026 will be a year of continued progress.

*Ian White*

### **The Re:Generations Appeal for £500,000.**

The above was officially launched in September 2024, and we have raised just over £100,000 to date, from the Electoral Roll, the village, and the Medlock Charitable Trust. This has enabled us to install Infrared heating by bringing in a 3 phase Electrical supply, and carry out appropriate rewiring. As at the end of December, we had £23,207.35 in the Bank, with a further £8,805.36 contributed in January 26. We are still in the process of preparing drawings and estimations for all those projects planned, and we expect to re- launch the next stage of the Appeal in March, when we will be making contact with potential Donors and Trusts with all the information they require to make informed decisions. Everything we plan to do, is for the benefit of the Church and the Community.

In the meantime we have been writing to a number of contacts in Australia with a request for help pay for specific projects, such as Disabled access to the South Door, Glass doors into the Australian Chapel, plus updating and modernising the Arthur Phillip Display.

*Robin Donald*

### **Re:Generations Project Phase 1 Implementation:**

The enabling works in the churchyard for provision of the new 3-phase electrical power supply, along with installation of the new CT panel, 3-phase meter and distribution board for the whole building, were carried out in August and September. The old supply was disconnected at the end of September, and the far-IR heaters were installed in church during November. We have received a Green Business Grant from the West of

England Combined Mayoral Authority towards the cost and we also expect to have the VAT refunded. Some issues remain to be resolved with our electricity supplier, and at time of writing it is too soon to report on whether our overall energy consumption will be any lower than it was before the old heating system failed. The total cost of Phase 1 will have been about £72K.

*Ian Williams*

## **Getting to Know and Care for One Another**

### **Men's Group:**

This is perhaps a little known and assorted band of men, meeting together through their friendship and membership of St Nicholas. We meet on the third Monday of the month in each other's homes with the host suggesting topics for discussion. Like Pandora's box, once the discussion is opened, all sorts of unforeseen and unusual questions are generated, and sometimes put back in the box.

The Group continues to maintain a level of participation achieved at its launch some 30 years ago with around 10 members. We welcome newcomers to join us for a relaxing evening in good company. So if you are curious and want to 'open the box' please join us.

*Ray Bennett*

### **Coffee Rota:**

The number of people on the coffee rota this year has remained stable. There are 5 people on the rota who are dedicated and efficient. I am hoping to recruit more people to the rota this year but it is not easy because so many people are involved in other activities.

The place where the coffee is served in Church was changed this year. Whilst completely understanding the competing demands for space in the church, the original change resulted in an inferior experience for the people serving coffee and fellowship after the service. A new space has now been found by the font and this is working well.

The price of the coffee has increased again this year. We are also using more coffee because of increased occasions when it is used for events in the Miller Room. We have several people attending church now who are gluten free. We are mindful of this and are providing gluten free biscuits for them.

Providing refreshments after the Sunday service and at other services and events continues to be a vital part of our fellowship and outreach.

*Helen Williams*

### **Pastoral Visiting Team:**

The Pastoral Visiting Group forms part of the caring community of our Church. Mike Peddar and I enjoy doing visits, and having a chat, to people in the village who are kept in their houses by ill health or disability. Often someone has been bereaved or is lonely. Many of them like us to pray with them.

Sadly, several elderly people who we visited regularly, have died during the last year. We had formed friendships with them and miss their smiling welcoming faces. We always like to hear from other church members who know someone who would like a visit.

*Angela Donald*

## **Outreach**

### **Parish outreach**

Our vision is to love and serve the people around us through sharing the Gospel. We desire to grow through more people entering the Kingdom. Our outreach strategy aims to get people hearing and engaging with the message, with courses for that purpose as a focal point. We offered small courses for *Hope Explored* (Jan-Feb) and *Christianity Explored* (Sep-Nov) as part of a wider programme of outreach activity that included:

- inviting people to events and services
- including the development of three new annual Saturday evening events that take something of the ethos (readings, music and reflection) of a Christmas Carol Service into the seasons of Easter, Pentecost and Harvest
- delivering to every home in the parish cards containing a Jesus-focused message and invitation to seasonal events at Christmas and Easter
- Setting up stall at the Village Show – this year we invited people to use a chart to express their opinions on some stimulating questions, and chatted with many to develop connections
- Partnering with Genesis Trust to offer free coal to those living on the canal who would struggle to heat their boats
- Hosting “Stay and Play” with the Friends of Bathampton Primary School, open to all, with tea and cake provided by a lovely team of St Nick’s volunteers

These organised activities are all intended to support and supplement our basic means of outreach which is daily lives of discipleship to Jesus in and amongst the world around us, personally sharing the good news and inviting those we know to take a step towards him.

*Jonty Frith*

### **Marriage Ministry:**

We had no weddings in Bathampton in 2025, although one church member (Samuel Frith) got married elsewhere. Several weddings were booked early for 2026.

*Jonty Frith*

### **Funeral Ministry:**

We had twelve Bathampton funerals: eight at St Nicholas’ and four at crematoria. In addition we held six burials of ashes. These are important

opportunities to minister God's grace to families at a time of real felt need, and give people an experience of church at St Nick's.

*Jonty Frith*

**World Mission:**

The PCC has made a number of changes to the way we support our mission partners at St. Nick's. We have now committed to give a percentage of our PCC income to World Mission in addition to any specific gifts made by members of the church. This will begin at 2% of income for 2026 increasing by increments to 10% of income in 2030. This represents an important commitment to the Church Worldwide.

Alongside this, we have moved away from praying for each mission partner for a two-month period to praying for all our partners regularly throughout the year. That way we keep them all in our prayers at all times and can respond in prayer to their changing needs month by month.

We are continuing to support the following both in prayer and finance: Delhi Bible Institute, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Dan Mak (in his final year at Moore College, Sydney), Innovista (equipping church leaders in challenging situations including Ukraine, UCCF (supporting Christian students in the UK). We have begun to support Incoming Ministries in prayer and finance as they work with young adults in the Bath area. We continue to support Samaritan's Purse in prayer and through shoe boxes at Christmas. We partner with Genesis Trust in providing coal for those living on the canal, and we are currently in conversation about supporting a Christian ministry to the Indigenous Peoples in Australia.

These links help us identify more fully with the Worldwide Church, of which we are a part.

*Ian Lewis*

# Engaging Children and Youth

## Junior Church:

It has been a joy to lead Junior Church over the past year. We have used Mustard Seeds materials to support leaders with the planning of Junior Church sessions. Through this, in addition to thematic Easter and Christmas series, we have also looked at the books of Matthew, Acts, John and Genesis.

Currently, Junior Church have c.13 children on the Register; pleasingly a few new children and families have joined this year. We have four leaders: Sally Magee, Carl Fullaway, Peter Hunt and me, as well as four helpers: Emily Purpuri, Natalie Mills, Pippa Dowsett and Waynette Fenton. In order to cultivate relationships and provide consistency, Peter and I tend to lead every second week with Sally and Carl alternating between every other one.

Since the last APCM, we have started a termly Junior Church Update presentation, so parents / grandparents know what their children are studying in Junior Church, as well as how to be praying for it. Junior Church has also been put on the termly prayer rota and has started leading intercessory prayers. Although the Christmas one did not work due to illness, Junior Church socials will begin shortly, so that the children can further develop their friendships and more easily invite their friends to events at church.

While Junior Church has been blessed with more children and sufficient leaders / helpers to run it, some challenges remain. Most children attend irregularly, which makes planning and children's learning more difficult, while the large range of ages mean that provision for 11-14 year olds is increasingly necessary.

*Hilla Hunt*

## Story Club:

The after-school club kept going without Rachel until Easter 2025, when shortage of volunteer help led us to take the decision to close Story Club,

for a time at least, and focus instead on the new *Stay and Play* Friday afternoons. Children who had attended Story Club were invited to Junior Church.

*Jonty Frith*

**Bathampton Primary School:**

A warm relationship with the community school was maintained as the new Head, Ms Komilla Dotta, showed enthusiasm for local community engagement. This was particularly evident in the Leavers' Service, Arthur Phillip service, Armistice Day, and Christmas Performances. I accepted all invitations to take assemblies and the Friends of Bathampton Primary School were very grateful to come into the Miller Room for *Stay & Play*.

*Jonty Frith*

## **Support Ministries**

**Administration:**

During 2025, the administrative systems and processes introduced in previous years have continued to function well and have required no significant changes. I have continued to work 12 hours per week, which remains appropriate for the current demands of the role.

The VOIP phone system continues to operate effectively, with calls redirected to the Benefice Administrator's mobile during working hours, ensuring continuity of communication. The printer upgrade has continued to prove reliable and cost-effective, and the wireless access points remain an important support for day-to-day administration and church activities.

Work has continued towards maintaining accurate records and supporting the wider life of the church. Plans to improve communication

within the church community, including the development of a church contact list separate from the electoral roll, remain an important focus in helping the church family stay connected, particularly during times of need.

My role continues to be made significantly easier by the dedication and support of the Churchwarden, Jonty the Vicar and his wife Rebecca, together with the many volunteers who give their time and skills so generously across all aspects of church life. Their help remains invaluable and very much appreciated.

*Natalie Mills*

### **Safeguarding:**

Safeguarding remains a central priority in the life and ministry of our church. We are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children, young people and vulnerable adults in accordance with the policies of the Church of England.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Jane Buckley who works closely with Jonty, the PCC and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Contact details for safeguarding concerns are clearly displayed in church and on our website. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we must ensure that our church is a safe and welcoming place for all. Please speak to Jane if you require any further information with regard to all aspects of our safeguarding policies.

*Jane Buckley*

### **Church Cleaning:**

For the past four years, the church has continued to use Rachel Leonard to provide professional weekly cleaning for the extension. This arrangement continues to work extremely well, ensuring that all rooms are maintained to a high standard for both church activities and external users. Rachel is kept up to date with the church calendar and continues to work flexibly around events held in the Miller Room when required.

The church building itself continues to be cleaned by volunteers, whose ongoing commitment and reliability are greatly appreciated.

*Natalie Mills*

### **The Flower Team:**

The flower arrangers have come up trumps again this year and although less of us, I am happy to say we have managed to put flowers in church every weekend including the big Festivals of Easter and Christmas etc. (None during Lent). Thank you to everyone who has helped tirelessly, especially those who have carried on even although they have reached 90 years of age! Even if you can manage to help only 2 or 3 times a year that would be really helpful to have the offers.

Andy Lloyd Williams 01225 465454 or email: palw@talk21.com.

*Andy Lloyd Williams*

### **Tech Team**

The tech at St Nick's continues as before. I'm grateful to Ian White for consistently setting up the trolley, Chris for taking over in my absence and Paul for his wisdom with all things audio. Numbers on zoom are small, but the marginal work to set zoom up is low. As always, increasing the number of people willing to join the team would be amazing. I might have heard a few murmurings of DofE volunteers towards the end of my time at St Nick's.....

*Tim Conn*

### **Bellringers:**

With the continuing help of Bellringing Tutor Maggie Willans – of Bath Abbey- we have trained up a group of learners and as well as ringing for events and festivals and we have been ringing for at least one Sunday morning service each month, from 10.15 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. We hope to be able ring every Sunday when we have trained a full team. We have recruited another local ringer who is being prepared for solo ringing.

Thanks to a generous donation we have been able to replace a set of six rope 'ends' which enables easier ringing in damp weather. To address the issue of stiff ropes during damp weather we now hold ends of the bell ropes in a container loaded with silica desiccating material. This keeps the ropes dry and flexible. As the church stands on low lying ground between the river and the canal, the humidity can be high. We are always looking for potential ringers and extend a welcome to anyone might be interested in finding our more. Bathampton has two of the oldest bells (from 1540) in the area and we intend to keep ringing them until these bells celebrate their 500th birthday! And beyond. Contact Stuart Burroughs via [director@museumofbath.org](mailto:director@museumofbath.org)

*Stuart Burroughs, Captain of the Tower*

### **Church Rooms Bookings:**

On a very similar note to last year, there has been a steady, if only moderate, usage of the church rooms during 2025. There have been occasional bookings from external organisations, as well as a number of post-funeral events.

The Miller Room continues to be regularly used for Children's Church, and this year we were pleased to welcome Stay and Play, with families from Bathampton Primary School attending after school on Friday afternoons. Stay and Play has been very successful and has become a valued addition to the church's outreach to local families.

The heating in the Miller Room was extremely useful while we held services there earlier in the year, and from the end of November 2025 it is now fully functioning, meaning we no longer need to hold services there for warmth.

*Natalie Mills*

### **Fabric Committee:**

The Committee is responsible for the day to day upkeep of the church building, the churchyard trees and boundary walls to maintain safety and appearance. Also to progress the repairs and professional surveys listed

in the Quinquennial Inspection reports.

Routine repairs and redecorations are carried out using in-house effort where possible but calling in contractor assistance as appropriate when funding is available.

The Fabric Committee has a team of professional members who individually look after separate aspects of our work according to their expertise.

The 2024 Quinquennial Inspection was carried out on 4th July 2024 but was not reported until 20th December 2024. This delayed the Fabric Committee from planning and executing the recommended works. The most important recommendations were carried out during 2025 with lower urgency work spilling into 2026 for PCC budgetary reasons. The biennial churchyard tree survey was carried out in December 2024 and the recommended works were completed in early 2025.

A part-time churchyard gardening contract is in operation with agreed standards of performance. Our regular gardener's efforts have been supplemented by enthusiastic volunteer efforts on three occasions in 2025. There are now uninterrupted vistas across the churchyard. With continuing volunteer effort this standard can be maintained.

Regular tomb safety inspections and repairs remain ongoing. The historic tombs are listed within the church's Grade 2 listing. The gullies, hoppers, drains and ground gullies continue to be cleared quarterly to keep the church dry.

*David Lascelles, Chairman*



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