

## Church Report from APCM in 2025 to APCM in 2026

### Objectives and Activities

The PCC aims to cooperate with the ordained clergy in providing and promoting the whole Christian mission of the church, through worship, pastoral, evangelistic and social activities, and to support and draw others to the love of God.

Our vision prayer for St John's is:

Lord God,  
fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
that we may be a Christ-centred church,  
growing in numbers, faith, fellowship and mature Godliness.  
Help us to share  
His hope for our hurting world  
and His love for all creation.  
Grant that we may take an active part  
In building a flourishing and inclusive community in Grove.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The full PCC met six times during the year. To aid it in its responsibilities, the PCC has sub-committees for: GROW, Finance, Deanery Synod, Data Protection, Accessibility Children, Youth & Families, Mission, Environment and Pastoral Support.

The standing committee meets monthly between PCC meetings, to deal with tasks delegated to it by the PCC, such as agreeing volunteer role descriptions and church bookings and creating proposals and plans for the PCC to discuss and decide on.

In carrying out the activities of the PCC in the year under review, the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the activities mentioned above have all been for the public benefit.

	Name	Status	Elected	Re-election	Stepping down	Lay member
	Rev Alec Gill	Vicar ex-officio	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
	Rev Miriam Jones	Associate Vicar, ex-officio	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
	Sarah Shackleton	LLM/Deanery Synod	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
	Nick Terrill	Church Warden – ex-officio	2020	N/A	2026	Yes
	Colin Moulds	Church Warden – ex-officio	2023 Member 2025 CW	N/A	2028?	Yes
	Helen Harwood	Deanery Synod (Required)	2016	2026		Yes
	Johanna Fadipe	Deanery Synod (Required)	2023	2026		Yes
	Anne Cheeseman	PSO – Co-opted	2017	N/A	N/A	Yes
	Frank Parnell	PCC Treasurer – Co-opted	2015	N/A	N/A	Yes
1	Georgina Cook	PCC Member & Secretary	2023	N/A	2026	Yes
	<del>Rachel Hutchin</del>	<del>PCC Member</del>	<del>2023</del>	<del>N/A</del>	<del>2025</del>	<del>Yes</del>
2	Chris Franklin	PCC Member	2024	N/A	2027	Yes
3	Chris O'Neil	PCC Member	2024	N/A	2027	Yes
4	Frances Hobson	PCC Member	2024	N/A	2027	Yes
5	Noel Baker	PCC Member	2024	N/A	2027	Yes
6	Bev Rolls	PCC Member	2024	N/A	2027	Yes
7	Lorna Swanton	PCC Member	2025	N/A	2028	Yes
8	John Culverwell	PCC Member	2025	N/A	2028	Yes

## Overview

We currently have two services every Sunday: an 8am BCP service and a 10:15am Common Worship Service, communion or morning worship on alternate Sundays. Alongside this service are by children and youth groups, and we continue to live-stream the 10:15 service, as a support for those who are not able to attend in person.

Our 6pm informal service is in hibernation. We hold a monthly 10am informal Communion service on the first Wednesday of each month in the St John's Rooms, followed by refreshments. Recently, we have had two evening worship celebrations that have been well supported.

Last September, we welcomed Rev. Miriam Jones as our Associate Vicar. Miriam and family, have been settling into the parish and benefice.

We continue to be blessed by retired clergy and congregation members helping to lead and deliver services throughout the year.

During the year, we have benefited from Sarah Shackleton, our LLM, continued ministry, leading services and organising our Messy Church, which has met three times, with great support from both the church community and local community.

We have had a Summer Fete, Harvest lunch and an Advent/Christmas fair. Members of the church community have been involved in a Christmas joint churches service on Wellington Gate, and a Good Friday open-air service.

Festival services across the year included a public Service of Remembrance (including local uniform groups and dignitaries), a Christingle service arranged with local uniformed groups (which was split into 2 services due to the number of people who came), a Carol Service and a Crib service.

The link with our church schools remains very strong. We welcome Grove CE Primary school to church for a service every term. A very dedicated Open the Book team goes into Grove CE school each week to present a Bible story. In February 2026, the church hosted and led a prayer space for

Grove Primary School in the church building. Currently, three members of the St John's church community are school Governors.

Our newest church school, St John's Academy, continues to develop well while it awaits the opening of its new secondary school building. Clergy have attended the school's festival collective worship for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. One member of the church community is a foundation Governor, and there are ongoing discussions about how to develop the relationship between the church and the school.

We have also been able to renew our connection with Millbrook school, with Rev. Miriam developing that relationship going forward.

Throughout the year, we have supported different mission charities, while continuing our support of The Cornerstone and The Wantage Street Pastors, with members of these groups speaking during our services.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is now 135, of whom 79 are resident in the parish, and 56 are from outside the parish. Two people have been removed from the Roll as they are moving away and requested that their names be taken off. 13 people have been added to the Roll, resulting in a net gain of 11. We have seen several families, couples and individuals join our church community.

Over the last twelve months, there were: 11 baptisms, 1 blessing and thanksgiving for a child, 1 dedication of a child in a Communion service, 17 funeral services and 4 internments of ashes in the church graveyard.

We are fortunate to have the church, the church hall and St John's room. These are in a good state of repair and are extensively used by local community groups.

During the year, we have been developing our vision for St John's. Through the work of the ministry and during two PCC away days, we have developed a vision context, vision statement and vision collect. Following Ascensiontide, we will develop a revised vision prayer and a vision strategy, with action points for us to focus on over the coming years.