

**REIGATE PARISH CHURCH WITH THE HEATH CHURCH
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Monday 28th April 2025 in the Church

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO APPOINT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Introduction to those standing for PCC
3. Election of 10 members to the PCC
4. Minutes of APCM 2024 (taken as read)
5. Matters Arising
6. Vicar's Report – Richard Wilson
7. Youth Work Update – Emily Irving
Prayer for Youth Work
8. Treasurer's Report & presentation of audited accounts for the year ending 31st
December 2024 – Mark Randall
9. Questions / Discussion
10. Churchwardens' Report – Leslie Jackson / Nick Rayner
11. Closing time of prayer

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Vicar's Report

Seeing God change lives

At St Mary's, through all our activities and groups, everyone on the team, through all our different services across our 5 congregations, at the Heath, the 8.30am, 10.30am, the 6.30pm, and the mid-week communion, our simple vision is to **see God change lives**. This is what we long to see happen as we follow Jesus faithfully together, anticipating his return. Our central task is being and making disciples – again and again.

Reflecting on how Jesus himself made disciples we have found it helpful to talk about us being committed to the following five activities – making sure that they are healthy:

- **Reaching out** to a world in need
- **Forming** people into a new identity in Christ
- **Developing** a culture of discipleship
- **Loving** each other as family
- **Giving** ourselves away for the sake of others

Our expectation is that with five of these in place, the natural consequence will be the making of new and maturing disciples again and again.

With this in mind, as we look back, and we look forward, it is against these 5 themes that I want us to evaluate and review our ministry and community life together – honestly taking stock of where God is at work and we are seeing blessing, and where we feel we are struggling or not thriving.

LOOKING BACK | FAITHFULNESS AND FRUITNESS

Although you will already find a version of my reflections in our audited Annual Accounts, this report is a little different. Reporting to the Charity Commission about how we are fulfilling our obligations as a charity they title this part, "Achievements and Performance". I am not so keen on this title – although I appreciate its sharpness – because Church life is way more complex and more interesting than a 'project' we might embark on as a secular charity. We are not doing things to and for people – we are a community of people building a life together. We are a family and just as when it comes to making a life, or making a family, achievement and performance are not really what we measure. How do we measure the impact of family meals, or the walks we've had, or the birthday celebrations we've enjoyed, or the funeral we shared in....?

So rather than achievements and performance, I prefer to speak in terms of **faithfulness and fruitfulness**. Have we been **faithful** in what God has asked of us? Have we **seen the fruit** – however small or hidden - that comes from abiding in Christ, loving one another, and bearing witness to his coming kingdom? These are the kinds of questions that help us discern how we're really doing as a church family. And they invite us to celebrate not only the visible signs of growth – like new people joining, baptisms, or expanding ministries - but also the quieter, deeper work of God in our lives: people finding healing, reconciliation, a deeper hunger for Scripture, or a renewed commitment to prayer and service.

So here are some of my thoughts and reflections on the year gone by in that spirit – looking not just for accomplishments, but for signs of life, grace, and transformation among us.

A Year of Stability, Strength, and Resilience

As I look back over this past year, the words that have shaped my prayers and reflections are **stability, strength, and resilience**. In a world still full of uncertainty, I've seen these qualities grow in our church family – not just as abstract ideals, but lived out in real lives, real relationships, and real worship.

It's been a joy to welcome **new staff** and **new members** into our community. Our family continues to grow and evolve – a living, breathing body that is held together by grace, by shared vision, and by love. We have said farewell to a number but also welcomed others, new to faith or the area.

At the heart of our community life is our **worship** – the offering of our lives to God. How wonderful it has been to see more people stepping up to lead and shape our gathered worship, not only at St Mary's but also at the Heath Church, where community life remains vibrant and rooted in faith.

One of the significant developments this year has been our decision to journey together across all our congregations using the same **teaching themes** and readings. This simple shift has brought a deeper sense of unity and shared purpose. Together, we've explored:

- The transforming power and relevance of the **gospel**
- Jesus' radical call in the **Sermon on the Mount**, as we live in anticipation of His kingdom
- The **exodus journey** – from slavery to freedom – and what it means for us today
- And what it means to **walk with Jesus** in the **everyday reality of life** – through its joys, its griefs, and everything in between

We are so grateful for the life and energy God continues to bring through our **children and young people**. Under the inspiring leadership of Emily Irving and Mandy Childs, our ministry to the next generation has flourished. Our **All-Together** services have developed and been particularly joyful – vibrant expressions of worship where all ages worship as one. We've taken important steps in supporting children with **additional needs**, seeking to become ever more inclusive and attentive.

Youth ministry has grown significantly in depth and reach. We've seen new leaders step forward, a new Sunday morning youth group launch in the Vicarage, and our Sunday evening youth gathering – with post-service TOAST – buzzing with energy and friendship. The Satellites summer festival was a real spiritual high point. And we continue to give thanks for the faithful work of our Girls' Brigade, led so passionately by Natalie Watson.

Though we didn't appoint a **0-5s Children's Minister** in 2024, our volunteer teams stepped up with remarkable commitment and grace. And we're thrilled to have **Simon Russell join us as Associate Vicar for Discipleship and Leadership**. His wisdom and experience are already bearing fruit as he oversees and strengthens our ministry to children and youth. Following his review, we look ahead with hope to appointing a dedicated 0-5s Minister in 2025.

Discipleship remains the heartbeat of our vision – to make mature followers of Jesus. Through **spiritual direction** offered by Kate Capper, weekly Bible studies, Lent courses, marriage and parenting sessions, and the new *Seek First* course, people are growing in faith. Our network of small groups is expanding – homes and church spaces filled with prayer, conversation, support, and laughter. Wednesday is a highlight of our church life, with Jigsaw, Midweek Communion and Lunch, and Satellites all filling the Centre with life and welcome.

Behind the scenes, our **administrative and safeguarding teams** continue to serve with diligence and dedication. We are immensely grateful to Vineeta Chiles for her service, and we have welcomed a new staff member, Hannah Burton, into this vital role. Our safeguarding officers, Jane Melbourne and Leslie Jackson, led with care and commitment, and plans to expand the team in 2025 have come together well, with Vicky Hildreth and Lorraine Martin joining the team, to ensure we remain a community where everyone can thrive and feel safe. We are extremely grateful for all that Jane Melbourne has contributed as our Safeguarding Officer, as she hands over to Vicky and Lorraine, who will work with Leslie.

Maintaining our **buildings** might not grab headlines, but it remains essential to our shared life. We're so thankful for Tim Hyde, who has brought wisdom and care in overseeing our facilities. This year, we celebrated the **10th anniversary of our Church Centre** – a space so well-used and well-loved that it's no wonder we've had to invest more heavily in its upkeep. That special weekend in November, and the Christmas Market, reminded us just how central this space is to both church and community.

Mission and **outreach** remain core to who we are – giving ourselves away in love, both locally and globally. We continue to support and partner with charities, agencies, and mission partners. And with huge anticipation, we've begun inviting people to our first **Church Weekend Away** in over a decade, planned for October 2025 – a chance for our whole church family to reconnect, recharge, and rejoice together.

And finally, all of this – *everything* – is underpinned by **prayer**. It's been encouraging to see more people gathering monthly to pray at our Monday Prayer Meeting, and our Easter Prayer Week, the latter led by Emily and our young people, was a powerful time of seeking God together.

As we step into the year ahead, may we continue to be a people of **stability, strength**, and **resilience** – not because of our own efforts, but because of the One who holds us fast. Let us fix our

eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and keep walking together, joyfully and expectantly, into all He has for us.

FUTURE PLANS

Building on all that has taken place we continue to pray that 2025 will be a year of increasing momentum, where we see a growth in community, connection, mission, and formation as we embrace our identity as a community **consecrated** and set apart by God for his purposed.

We remain very mindful of our need to secure our **finances** going forward, raising income to be able to match our vision and sense of calling and we have implemented a 'Living Generously' Church Giving campaign for March.

In line with our strategic priorities, we want to:

Reach out to a world in need:

- Prepare for, and launch, a **'Begin Well'** group for expecting parents in collaboration with local agencies
- Build on and develop our outreach to families seeking to appoint a **Younger Children and Families Lead**.
- Work with other local churches to address needs around **debt and finance**
- Further embed our approach to social engagement and local mission around the issues of **isolation, special needs, and families**
- Teaching and training in **evangelism** enabling us to become more confident to share our faith with our natural networks.
- Further develop our series of **invitational social events** enabling deeper connection and relationship with neighbours and friends.
- Better connecting church members with **opportunities to serve** and engage in projects both within the church and in the wider community

Draw people into a new identity in Christ:

- Run **Alpha Courses** for adults and young people early in the year and induct people well who come forward for **baptism** and recommitment
- Teach on **identity** and belonging to church and supporting this further through our **weekend away**.

Develop a culture of discipleship:

- Continue to highlight the importance of **prayer** in every area of church life, sharing testimonies and running the 'prayer course'.
- Further develop our **small groups** seeing the level of attendance grow and the number of groups expand.
- Invest in leaders, developing our **leadership pipeline** and providing training opportunities
- Launch a **'Summer School' of theology**
- Hold a **Weekend Away for all ages**
- Develop our links with New Wine, hosting 'New Wine Network days'.

Love one another as family:

- Develop our **pastoral care** structures and adopting an **Anna Chaplaincy** approach

Give ourselves away for the sake of others:

- Strengthen our partnership with **Merstham** as they continue to see God bless the mission of the Merstham Team Ministry.
- Continue to develop our relationships with other Churches and networks as we seek to grow resilient disciples in our secular age.

Gratitude and thanks

As I look back over this year at St Mary's and the Heath Church, I find myself giving thanks again and again for the deep strength and steady resilience that flows through our church family. I am very grateful for you all. In a time when much in the world feels uncertain or shifting, I have seen in us a faith that holds firm, a love that keeps going, and a hope that refuses to let go.

This past year has called for real stability and so many of you have shown it. Our wonderful warden team, Leslie Jackson, Nick Rayner and Esther Lyth, have been so supportive, wise and encouraging. They are so important to me. Mark Randall has done an amazing job, along with Ian Capper and Laura Juden-Wills in the office, overseeing our finances. As Mark hands over the role, we give thank for all that he has given over the last few years, and especially in stepping in for Nick Pettitt last year.

I want to give thanks for every one of you who serves on a rota of some kind, a team of some kind. Serving the church on a rota along with others isn't glamorous, but it all matters! And we have loads of rotas keeping us going -

I am constantly grateful for our staff team who give so much of themselves each day and support me in a thousand ways making up for my lack. It is a joy to work with you – Catherine, Amanda, Louise, Laura, Hannah, Graeme, Mandy, Emily, Simon, Ben and Josh. Thank you!

Serving the church isn't always very visible but it all matters and every one of your gifts and contributions is valued. Thank you for all the faithful service, patient prayer, and the way you've supported one another and stood together. It moves me as I think it, as I have seen the quiet strength of Christ working through you and as a result, the church has grown deeper in love, is more rooted in purpose, and is stronger in grace.

As a church family, I have been struck by your resilience - not displayed in flashy or dramatic ways, but in the most beautiful, Christlike ways: turning up when it's hard, reaching out when it costs, choosing to believe when it would be easier to drift. From the Sunday teams to the pastoral visits, from hosting meals, and washing up, from posting leaflets around the parish to manning carparks in the dark, from acts of kindness to those ill and isolated to the unseen prayers as you have held the hands of others. You have poured yourselves out again and again. I am so grateful.

There are so many of you all, too many to mention, but here is a list of how everyone serves - Additional Needs Team, Administration support, Alpha Teams, Beacons Team, Bell Ringers, Bereavement Friendship Team, Bereavement Journey Team, Buildings Team, Carers Support Team, Christmas Market Team, Cleaning, Decorating, Garden, Maintenance Helpers, Communion Servers Team, Cranston Library Team, Creche Team, Cuppa Club Team, Dementia Cafe, Events Teams, Finance Team, Fireworks Team, Flowers Team, Foodbank Drop Off Team, Friday Toddler Café Team, Girl's Brigade Team, Heath Church Team, Holiday at Home, Hospitality Team, Lasers Team, Life Group Leaders, Lighthouses Team, Jigsaw Team, Men's Breakfast Team, Midweek Communion Team, Organists, Pastoral Visiting Team, PCC, Prayer Ministry Team, Prayers, Readers, Reception Volunteers Team, Safeguarding Team, Satellites Team, School Governors, Service Leaders and Preachers (Heath and St Mary's), Sparklers Team, Stewards Team, St Mary's Global, St Mary's Local, Tea & Coffee Teams, Tots Praise Team, Totzone Team, Verging Team, Welcome Team, Worship and Tech Teams! Amazing isn't it!

And underneath it all, I have seen the steady hands of God holding us — the one who is our rock, our refuge, our strong foundation. As **Psalm 125** reminds us:

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.”

So, thank you – for your generosity, your presence, your encouragement, your forgiveness, your faith. Thank you for all the hours of service and all the hidden sacrifices that no one but God sees. Thank you for your resilience in the face of weariness, your stability when things have changed around us, your strength when others have needed to lean on you.

I often find myself echoing Paul's words in **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**:

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your **work produced by faith**, your **labour prompted by love**, and your **endurance inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ."

That's what I see among us: a church standing firm, not because we are strong in ourselves, but because we are held and sustained by Christ. And as we look to the future, we do so not with anxiety, but with expectation – because God is faithful, and he is at work among us.

So let us keep walking forward together – rooted in Christ, resilient in hope, and strong in love – as we play our part in the great unfolding story of God's mission to the world he loves so much and gave himself up for.

With love and every blessing,

Richard

PS. One last thing, and that is to thank Tory. I am so grateful to God for you in a thousand ways. Your encouragement, wisdom, listening, processing, prayer, laughter, care, protection, and companionship mean everything to me. I love you. x



Rev Richard Wilson | Vicar

TREASURER'S REPORT

The finance team at St Marys continues to go from strength to strength. Laura Juden-Wills is our part time finance assistant in the church office and handles all the day to day finance activity. Ian Capper has been instrumental across a range of finance activities from sorting out bank mandates (not an easy task!), supporting our year end activities and approving payment runs. Church investment reviews have been led by Alastair Rubie and the '4 wise men'. Deirdre Hucklebridge continues to give her time so generously to support the Heath Church finances. We wish Nick Pettitt our very best wishes as he continues his treatment

The finance team administer the day to day running of the Church accounts. They also provide information to the PCC in the form of management accounts, the annual budget and updated forecasts to ensure the PCC can meet their governance obligations as Trustees of the Charity are maintained.

The annual accounts for 2024 have been audited and will be presented at the APCM. A copy is posted on the Church website called 'Annual Accounts 2024'. May I refer you particularly to the 'Financial Review of the year' on pages 7-8, which is summarised below.

- In our budget projections for 2024 we anticipated that our expenditure would exceed income by £61,105 (Unrestricted funds) therefore creating a budget deficit. The actual 2024 deficit was £55,000 (Unrestricted funds) so a small improvement against the budget. At the end of the year our general reserve was at a healthy £253,244
- Our total income for the year was £735k compared to £802k in 2023. The decline is largely explained by our legacies income which was £84k in 2023 and £10k in 2024.

Planned giving and donations were down 3% from 2023 levels, a likely reflection of the wider economic headwinds and cost of living pressures.

Our rental income from bookings from the church and Church Centre were up by c. £6k.

- Our largest expense continues to be the Diocesan Share to which we contributed £262K or 34% (2023 34%) of our total expenditure. Total staff costs took up £213K, £26K more than in 2023, largely a reflection of more resources being put into the children's ministry and community life.
- Payments to mission partners, missional organisations and other donations amounted to £71K (2023, £81K).
- The Investment Funds, largely the Peggy Caffyn-Tees legacy, continue to be invested with CCLA. Their market value on 31st December showed £368k up from £358k in 2023. We also hold reserves for fabric work on the church and Church Centre of £72K.

For 2025, we are budgeting for a deficit of £58k, this reflects a cautious approach to our planned giving income coupled with cost increases due to additional staff resources.

I would like to finish with a huge thank you to everyone who has given, and continues to give, so generously.

Mark Randall | Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

It's wonderful to take these moments to pause and reflect back over the last 12 months. There is so much to thank God for.

This time a year ago, we were looking back over a period of much transition and change. Mandy Childs, Emily Irving and Ben Forbes had joined Josh Brown and were relatively new in their roles. Nigel and Gen Griffiths had made the move to Merstham along with a number of the congregation to graft into the ministry there. Kate Capper continued her role in Spiritual Direction, having stepped forward earlier to support the team during Richard's sabbatical. A new leadership and ministry team was shaping and forming around a renewed vision and the Gospel of Hope. In contrast, 2024 has been characterised by a season of consistency, stability and consolidation. It's been fantastic to welcome Simon Russell, together with Hanna and their children. Simon joined in July as Associate Vicar – Discipleship and Leadership. Alongside Ben Forbes's role for Community Life and under Richard Wilson's leadership, this completes the shape of the team ministry, that the PCC has been working towards.

It's wonderful to begin to see the fruit of this as new areas of ministry opened up, while ongoing ministry is well supported and continues to flourish. We are excited to pray and to dream and seek after God for His purpose, direction and power, as we plan ahead for the coming years.

We continue to be equally humbled and inspired by the extraordinary acts of love and service that are displayed across our church family as we reach out to our community in Reigate and seek to follow Jesus as His disciples. The Vicar's report elaborates more on the depth, breadth and significance of ministry across the life of St Mary's and The Heath – both in the big events and the smaller everyday things. We are immensely grateful for the passion, vision, resilience and perseverance that so many of you pour into praying, putting on events, leading groups, looking after our buildings, looking after each other, studying God's word, acts of service, acts of worship, working hard in our wider community and speaking out the Good News week after week after week. Thank you.

As Wardens, we are particularly grateful to the PCC for their commitment to the governance of St Mary's and The Heath, and their support of Richard in church leadership. This includes PCC members, the Deanery Synod team, our treasurer, clergy and Standing Committee. It is wonderful to serve together with Esther Lyth as Deputy Warden, as she brings amazing insight and passion. We give thanks for Sally Bertlin and her faithful and diligent service as PCC secretary (as well as other acts of service that happen quietly but don't go unnoticed). We would particularly like to thank Andy Prestwood who leads the amazing stewarding team. He is at most of St Mary's services ensuring they happen smoothly. And we are so grateful for the welcome Dave and Judith Littlemore and their team give on Sunday mornings.

There have been some important points of discussion and decision this year around 'Living in Love and Faith', our relationship with the Diocese as we partner in mission, the appointment of staff and ministry teams, and with budgets and finance.

We don't yet know the full outcome of last month's call towards Living Generously, when we were invited to review our giving in light of all that God has abundantly provided for us. The Treasurer's Report sets out the detail and shows that we continue to manage a deficit budget position. Our expenditure exceeds our income, which means we are gradually spending down our savings year on year. The PCC and budget holders continue to make difficult decisions, so that spending is aligned with tightened budgets, and the finances are responsibly managed. The ministry of our church is vibrant, diverse, active and broad - and yet there is more we would love to be able to afford to do.

Thank you so much to all who have responded to the call to Live Generously – we appreciate that this comes with sacrifice and cost to us and our families. If you have renewed your pledge for giving, then please ensure you have amended your bank standing order if there is a change. We have been hugely blessed in recent years by people who have left legacies to the church in their wills. Please do prayerfully consider if you would like to make that a part of your legacy and to include St Marys in your will. If you heard God speak to you about Living Generously in the light of all that He has poured out for us and intend to give, then please do act on it. We do indeed thank you for all that you give, and that it is given humbly and cheerfully.

Nick Pettitt ran the London Marathon a year ago. He had taken on the role of Treasurer two years earlier. However, in the week after when recovering from the marathon, Nick became seriously ill and he has had an extraordinary year of significant surgery, treatment and amazing recovery. Mark Randall stepped forward to become treasurer and we are so grateful, for all that he has put into the role this year, supported by Ian Capper and Laura Juden-Wills. It is an immense commitment of time, energy and expertise. Thank you, Nick and Mark, for all the work you have done.

We are so excited to see the breadth and significance of so many aspects of ministry and service that make up our church life at St Mary's and The Heath. This speaks of the depth of faith, commitment to discipleship and love for Jesus. Many in our church family are committed to serving and loving one other in the church and within our community and pointing people towards Jesus. The Vicar's report will expand more on this, covering many more aspects of our church life. We'd like to mention just a few:

Our worshipping life together takes many forms across the services and events throughout each week and across the year. Our many musicians and teams lead us into a place and posture of worship, whether that's a pianist at The Heath Church; Gina Eason playing the organ at the 8:30 service; a Unite service led by our young people; the Christmas carol services led so wonderfully by Debbie Jackson with David Greig this year; a praise session with groups of children on a Sunday morning; preparing the music for midweek services; or the many teams that lead in our Sunday services. We are hugely grateful to Josh Brown for heading up our Worship Culture, for leading by example, for the many days of early starts and late finishes, and for the investment of his own skills and talents in training others. Our times of worship are prepared thoughtfully and prayerfully to enable us to enter God's presence and encounter Him as we bring our thanks and praise. Thank you, Josh and all who lead us in our worship.

Thank you to Liz Gregson and James Bunch for maintaining our focus on working with mission partners both globally and locally. It's amazing to hear the news of what God is doing through the individuals and organisations that we support around the world. It is also a wonderful encouragement to hear our own stories and testimonies of God at work through us in our local community, and as church members serve as Street Pastors, or support the food bank, or take our faith in Jesus into other roles such as school governors or into community groups. We look forward to hearing more in the coming year.

We are a church family of many generations. As a family, we mourn the loss of a number of our congregation who have died over the past year. We pray for their families and friends and give thanks to God for their witness among us. We are hugely blessed by our children and young people, and it's wonderful to see their groups flourishing under Mandy Child's and Emily Irving's leadership. Thank you to all who volunteer to lead and support those groups on Sundays and mid-week – especially those working with Simon among the groups of younger children. Thank you to all who commit to many mid-week activities including Holiday at Home, the Wednesday Lunch and Life Groups, which are the engine room of discipleship. It's fantastic to worship at The Heath church, and to be among the steadfast and faithful disciples who gather there. Thank you to the team working alongside Ben in leadership at The Heath: Freda Handley, Chris Freeman, Mary Lambell and Liz Tidey and all those who lead services and preach. We are hugely looking forward to

the Big Weekend in October when there is the opportunity to gather as a church family to encourage one another and meet with Jesus together.

Finally, we give thanks to God for the amazing clergy and ministry team that He has blessed us with at St Mary's and The Heath. Thank you to Mike Fox, Kate Capper, Helen Fraser, Danielle Robinson as well as to Richard, Simon and Ben. Thank you for hearing God's call on your life to seek after Him and to follow Him closely. Thank you for your willingness to bring the gifts and passion that He has given you and for offering them up time and again as you lead us and share your ministry in this church and our community. We are blessed by God through you. Thank you so much.

Leslie Jackson and Nick Rayner | Churchwardens

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Last year, there were 552 names on the Electoral Roll. As part of the 6-yearly timetable, 2025 is a year in which a completely new Electoral Roll has been prepared. There are 335 names on the 2025 Electoral Roll; [125/335] 37% of people on the roll live within the parish and [210/335] 63% outside it. If you are considering standing for election onto next year's PCC, please make sure your name is on the electoral roll by the end of September 2025.

Catherine Farrow | Electoral Roll Officer

PCC REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/5

The PCC met six times from May 2024 to March 2025 and for one Saturday morning.

There are several sub-groups which have continued to meet as appropriate. These are:

- Finance
- Heath Church
- Fabric and facilities
- St Mary's Global
- St Mary's Local
- Deanery/Diocesan Synod
- Standing Committee
- Eco Church
- Safeguarding
- Centre Management

Regular PCC subgroup updates were discussed at PCC meetings. St Mary's finances are always a key component, as the PCC discussed the giving campaigns, the Parish Share, the budget and the finance reports. Mark Randall was co-opted as Acting Treasurer, when Nick Pettitt sadly stood down because of health reasons. Our support for and link with the work of the Merstham and Gattton Team Ministry was also reviewed.

Planning for the Church Weekend Away progressed during the year, with the PCC giving their agreement to go ahead with the proposal, so that contracts could be signed. There was encouraging feedback on other areas of community life, including 'Spotlight', the accessibility audit and the various social events. Staffing updates, which included the recruitment of a new Associate Vicar, a part-time administrator, a potential team leader for the 0-5s, were reviewed. Time was also spent looking at the Church of England's proposal for Prayers of Love and Faith and our own response.

Safeguarding is regularly considered at meetings. Vicky Hildreth and Lorraine Martin have taken over from Jane Melbourne, as safeguarding officers for the church and they are now part of our safeguarding team, along with Leslie Jackson.

The approved minutes of PCC meetings are available for all to read in the folders in the chancel in church and at the back of the Heath Church, and they are available on request to the office.

PCC Members 2024/2025:

Clergy

Richard Wilson
Kate Capper
Ben Forbes
Helen Fraser
Simon Russell (from September 2024)

Churchwardens Leslie Jackson
Nick Rayner

Deanery Synod Sally Bertlin
Vron Booth
Gareth Evans
Philippa Parry
Nicola Peck
Andrew Prestwood

**Diocesan and
Deanery Synod** Leslie Jackson

Elected James Bunch
Ian Capper
Heather Chesterton
Tim Collins
Zach Downie
Debbie Jackson
Esther Lyth
Lorraine Martin
James Norman
Nick Pettitt

Treasurer Mark Randall (co-opted September 2024)

Sally Bertlin | PCC Secretary

HEATH CHURCH REPORT

The Heath Church continues to be a community deeply rooted in faith and fellowship. This past year, however, has brought its share of challenges. A longstanding parking arrangement with a neighbouring property came to an end when the house next door was sold, and permission to use its large driveway was revoked. In true Heath spirit, the congregation responded with characteristic pragmatism and generosity—many have begun sharing lifts to navigate the new accessibility challenges.

Despite these hurdles, the Heath community has remained committed to supporting its partners. A special gift day was recently held to support All Saints Merstham, reflecting the congregation's ongoing generosity. Worship at the Heath has also evolved: an updated service pattern now welcomes Richard, Ben, or Simon to lead and preach on the first Sunday of each month, bringing a new sense of consistency and presence.

The church continues to offer a rich variety of worship styles to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. With services drawn from Common Worship, the Book of Common Prayer, and Services of the Word - each offering a distinctive way to encounter God, rooted in tradition and scripture.

Looking ahead, there is excitement about the future. Thanks to the generosity of a legacy left to the church, the Heath team is working closely with the Fabric Committee to advance plans for installing sound insulation in the annex. This improvement will make the space far more comfortable for hosting larger gatherings and events.

We are deeply grateful to all who serve the Heath Church – whether seen or unseen – in so many ways. Your time, energy, and faithful commitment make everything we value and celebrate about the Heath church possible. Thank you.

Freda Handley | Ben Forbes

BUILDING AND FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Building and Fabric Committee has met regularly through the year to plan maintenance works and projects for our buildings. Tim Hyde has led the group and procured much of the work done by a wide variety of trade contractors and volunteers. He has also given much of his own time and organisational skills to resolving many of the matters that arise through the course of a year.

Catherine Farrow and the church office team play a huge role in managing and administrating a multitude of tasks and projects with Graeme Golightly's practical assistance. The team looks after The Heath Church, four clergy and ministry team houses, St Mary's church building and the Church Centre. Looking ahead, the team is planning refurbishment of the church toilets and kitchen, and, together with the Eco-Church group, putting careful thought into solar roof panels for generating electricity.

Thank you so much for all you do.

Nick Rayner

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/5

The Deanery Synod met twice during the year in-person and once on zoom. The Area Dean is the Rev Martin Colton (St Mark's Reigate) and the Lay Chair is Leslie Jackson (St Mary's Reigate). Regular reports are received at the meetings outlining the work of Welcare in East Surrey and RASJF (Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus). The deanery organises in-person safeguarding training for the various churches in the diocese. Deanery Synod members represent their congregations in making and voting on plans within the Reigate Deanery and Southwark Diocese.

The meeting in June 2024 took place at St Bartholomew's Horley. The Venerable Moira Astin (Archdeacon of Reigate) provided a brief history of the Church Commissioners which supports the Church of England's ministry, particularly in areas of need and opportunity. The Church Commissioners is accountable to Parliament, General Synod and, as a registered charity, the Charity Commission.

The following clergy were elected to the diocesan synod: Rev Sarah-Louise Alexander, Rev Aneal Appadoo, Rev Martin Colton, Rev Hannah Gordon, Rev Nigel Griffiths and the following laity were elected: Christopher Elliot, Ruth Inwood, Leslie Jackson and Lesley Nicholson

The meeting in October 2024 took place at All Saints Merstham, which also gave opportunity for the Rev Nigel Griffiths to share some of the work going on in the Merstham and Gatton Team ministry.

The focus of the meeting was on housing and homelessness with presentations from Jenny Hawes (Housing Projects Manager YMCA East Surrey) and Richard Robinson (Head of Housing Reigate and Banstead Borough Council). Jenny Hawes manages the NextStep project at YMCA East Surrey, which assists people into sustainable housing. Richard said that the demand for housing on the housing register is high, therefore the Council is keen to know of suitable buildings which could be made available for housing.

There was a short meeting on zoom in **February 2025** when the Ven Carol Coslett spoke about the opportunities for Lay Ministry and ministry training within the diocese. Some of the initiatives in youth and children's work were shared in the meeting, as well the regular reports on finance etc.

On 12th April the Deanery hosted a Quiet Day at Wychcroft, Bletchingley, the diocese's retreat centre. This was an excellent day open to all, looking at some of the prayers of Paul in Philippians, Ephesians and Thessalonians. The speaker was the Archdeacon of Croydon, the Ven Greg Prior.

Sally Bertlin

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SYNOD

Leslie Jackson was elected onto the Southwark Diocesan Synod. The Synod meets three times a year in March, July and November. At every Synod, Bishop Christopher gives a presidential address, which is available on the Southwark Diocese website. These are always interesting and give a flavour of the direction in which the diocese is travelling. There are presentations on the wider work of the diocese and there is always a rousing worship session followed by communion. More information can be found here: <https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/governance-synods/>

Leslie Jackson