

St Christopher's Church Saffron Lane, Leicester Report on 2025



Presented at the
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 22nd March 2026

Our Mission

St Christopher's Church -Mission Statement

We, the people of St Christopher's, believe that Jesus Christ has called us to share our faith by carrying out God's mission to serve our neighbouring community, by word and deed.



To fulfil our mission we will need:

- To be effective Christians who are open, welcoming, caring and committed to working and praying together as members of the body of Christ;
- To identify, affirm and bring to fruition the gifts of each member to encourage all in service and witness.

This service should spring from corporate worship and growth in our personal relationships with God.

St Christopher's Church -Mission Action Plan

We believe that God wants us to reach out with His love to:

- 🕒 children and young people
- 🕒 parents, carers and families
- 🕒 staff of the Academy
- 🕒 older and isolated people

by **being** a reliable community who can be trusted;

by **welcoming** people, treating them with love and respect;

by **encouraging** growth and enabling change in people's lives;

by **befriending** people and providing a safe place for all;

by **sharing** our love for Jesus and putting him first in our lives.



Index

| | |
|--|----|
| Our Mission | 2 |
| Index | 3 |
| Agenda for the 96th Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 | 4 |
| Minutes of the 95th Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024 | 5 |
| The Parochial Church Council's Secretary's Report | 8 |
| The Churchwarden's Report | 12 |
| Safeguarding | 14 |
| Music Report | 14 |
| Statement of Accounts | 15 |

Reports of Church Activities

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Schools Ministry | 19 |
| Door to Door | 19 |
| Craft Café | 19 |
| Foodbank | 19 |
| Prayer triplets/quads | 21 |
| Scouts | 21 |
| Investigators | 23 |
| Little Angels | 23 |
| Mission | 24 |
| Tea, Chat and Pray | 25 |
| Deanery Synod | 26 |

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## 2026 Annual General Meetings

to be held on Sunday 22nd March 2026

Opening Prayer

**Numbers present**

**Apologies**

### Agenda for the Parishioners' Meeting

1. Minutes of the Parishioner's meeting held on 6th April 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. Confirmation of Rob Pike as churchwarden.

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Agenda for the 97th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 6th April 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. Electoral Roll Report - Mike Early
4. Secretary's Report - Mike Early
5. Vicar's Remarks - Mr Chris Collins
6. Churchwarden's Report - Rob Pike
7. Safeguarding Officer's Report - Neil Tansley
8. Treasurer's Report - Mike Early
9. Reports of activities
(for full list see contents page)

Time of prayer for these activities

Appointments and Elections

10. Appointment of Examiner for 2026 Accounts
11. Election of Deanery Synod Rep
12. Date of next APCM (2027) - Suggested date: Sunday 21st March or Sunday 11th April (note Mothering Sunday is 7th March and Easter is 28th March).

Closing Prayers

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## Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Chris opened in prayer.

### For both meetings

**Present:** Chris Collins (Minister and Chair)

**Electoral members:** Roger Burdett, Mike Early, Sarah Collins, Peter Evans, Omowoleola Ewebajo, Oyeseye Ewebajo, Diane Foster, Paul Robinson, Jenny Mann, Louise Warner and Rita Early (Minutes).

Neil Tansley and Jayne Tansley arrived after item 8.

**Apologies:** Rob Pike, Chantal and Manni Griffin

### PARISHONERS' MEETING

**The Minutes of the Parishioners' Meeting** held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were accepted as accurate and signed by the chair.

**Matters Arising** - none

**Confirmation of Rob Pike as church warden.** All were in favour that Rob should be re-appointed as warden.

It was felt no second warden was necessary at present.

Signed.....

Date.....

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were accepted as accurate and signed by the chair.

**Matters Arising**- none

**Electoral Roll Report** - Rita Early

This year there had been a full revision of the Electoral Roll. (This happens every six years.)

Four people had been added to the roll - Helen Cooper, Omowoleola Ewebajo, Oyeseye Ewebajo and Sheila Jeffery, but six people had been deleted - Karen Cullimore, Netta Lee, Olive Okan, Pauline Ndigirwa, Terry Needham and Stephanie Spiby.

This makes a total of 30.

**Vicar's Remarks** - Chris Collins

Chris felt that at present there was a lot of uncertainty:

There was a lot of uncertainty of where St Christopher's would be in 5 years' time.

There was uncertainty of our relationship with TGSA.

There was a lot of uncertainty of how the Minster Communities would develop. In our current Lent group we were following the acronym P.R.A.Y.E R. The A had stood for ASK and we needed to increase our dependency on Jesus and ASK more. He gave examples of how we had prayed more specifically at that meeting. We need to be a praying church and Chris highlighted the two half hours that he was praying each week, usually on a Wednesday. He said it would be wonderful for people to join him. It is not about numbers, but about the depth of our prayers. Fruitfulness was about being connected with the vine and without this we can do nothing.

#### **Secretary's Report - Rita Early**

The PCC had met seven times; there had been six ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting, when we discussed maintaining CPAS as our sole patron and its implications to joining a Minster Community.

Our main discussions had been about:

- Minster Communities
- Distribution of communion
- Intercultural Worship Church
- Activities

Chris elaborated on how Minster Communities were progressing.

**Churchwarden's Report** - In the absence of Rob, reference was made to his report and that all valuables were accounted for. He had also mentioned what a big hole the leaving of our curate Charles and his wife Pauline and Kisha had made to our church fellowship. Chris mentioned that he would be asking Charles back to preach in the summer.

**Safeguarding Officer's Report** - Neil was absent, but Louise the diocese Safeguarding Training Officer referred to the new legislation which was coming out and would have to be discussed at our PCC meetings. All PCC members would have to retake some of the modified training modules.

Louise mentioned that Safeguarding needed to be on the first page of our web site.

A recent sermon on Safeguarding had connected Safeguarding and God's love for people.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Mike Early**

**Receipts** - are slightly up and that some giving is now given on-line.

**Payments** - we had increased our parish contribution slightly from £17,000 to £17,600, but not as much as the diocese would have liked.

TGSA has not increased our payment for cleaning, gas and electricity.

Church running expenses are up - this includes money spent on posters.

However, we are saving money by not having a service plan on our copier.

Sundries - include topping up our Food Bank.

**Summary** - We had expected a deficit of around £3,000 but in the end this had been £1,329. Two ex-members continue to give and without their help we would be further in the red.

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Reports and prayer for our activities

These had been duplicated and posted around the church. People were encouraged to circulate around the church and pray for the activities.

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### **Appointments and Elections**

#### **PCC Appointments**

There were three vacancies on the PCC, as Jenny Mann, Steve Joyce and Linda Halaczkiwicz had completed their three years of service.

Two people had been nominated to the PCC and as there were no more nominations an election was not needed and these two people were duly appointed:

Neil Tansley  
Chantal Griffin

This meant that there was still one vacancy on the PCC.

#### **Appointment of Examiner for 2025**

Rosemary Hall had examined our accounts for 2024. It was agreed that Rita would write to thank her and ask if she was willing to examine them again for the coming year.

#### **Election of Deanery Synod Rep**

Rob was our rep until 2026.

**Date of next AGM** - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

**The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.20pm**

It was followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch.

Signed.....

Date.....

## **Secretary's Report on 2025**

St Christopher's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, **Mr Chris Collins** in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Christopher's Church has been located within The Tudor Grange Samworth Academy since September 2007. The church serves both the local community and the children and staff of the Academy.

**Standing Committee:** this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC, between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

**Members** - Chris Collins, Rob Pike, Rita Early and Steve Joyce. It had met 6 times, mainly to plan for the next PCC meeting and to review the action points and what matters arising should be discussed. All meetings have been by Zoom.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

**Safeguarding Officer** - Neil Tansley - issues raised are included in a separate report.

**DBS checks** - Neil Tansley is also responsible for keeping these up to date.

**Health and safety** - Paul Robinson.

**Disability** - Roger Burdett.

## **Proceedings of the PCC**

The PCC has met for six ordinary meetings and one Extraordinary meeting. Many agenda items were discussed at several meetings, and are recorded here under 'Recurring topics'.

**27/01**

Dominion City Church no longer meets in the Academy, so the problems arising from shared use do not occur. It was suggested that if another church located to the Academy, we could get to know them by sharing a lunch together.

**24/03**

**12/05**

Mike Early was co-opted on to the PCC.

**02/07**

The Diocese was hoping for a 10% increase in individual Parish's Contributions in 2026. This would mean a PC of £20,350 for us which was thought to be too high. An increase to £19,500 was agreed,

**08/07** Extraordinary meeting

As well as several of the recurring topics listed below, the inter-generational aspect (ministry to children in church) of Minster Communities was discussed., Linked to

this, there was a possibility that one of the Growing in Faith pilot projects could be based at St Christophers, given its association with the Academy. Neil Tansley thought it vital for the Trust (TGSA) to be on-board with the project and not just the school. To this end, he and Chris had written to the Bishops asking for their support, and Bishop Saju was arranging a visit to the Academy.

## 23/09

Due to illness, Rita Early resigned from the PCC (& secretary role). Mike was willing to act as secretary on a temporary basis.

PCC was asked if St Christophers could accommodate an Explorer Scout group, meeting possibly on a Wednesday night. PCC looked favourably on this.

## 11/11

The treasurer presented the Budget forecast. This was similar to the current year, except for an increase of £1,000 in Parish Contribution. Mike Early said he would fulfill the Secretary's role up to and including the AGM, but that the Annual Report would be compiled in a simpler format than of late.

A team from the Inter-cultural Worshipping Community was available to visit schools. It was planned to have a visit to TGSA Primary School in the new year.

The content of an email to relevant members of staff at TGSA was agreed, which addressed safety and security issues arising from use of the church premises during the school day.

## 20/01

### Recurring topics

**Away day** Originally conceived as a weekend away, a poll of church members resulted in the choice of just a Saturday, being 13<sup>th</sup> September at Burton Overy village hall. The theme covered the inter-cultural and inter-generational aspects of worship together, with external input from Jessie Tang (Diocesan Intercultural Ministry Director). The choice of games, quizzes and food continued the theme, the day being concluded with an evening camp fire.

**Mission support** It was questioned whether St Christophers should continue to support two particular causes, namely Christian Vision for Men (Paul Gask) and St Christophers Scouts. The first because we had little continuing contact with Paul Gask, and the second because support was started to help during the Covid 19 period. It was decided to replace the CVM commitment with support for Kat Gibson, working locally for Interserve (asylum seekers) and Saffires (sex workers). 'One-off' gifts totalling £450 were given towards Kat's work in 2025. Following a conversation with the scouts leader, it was decided to continue the financial support for scouts.

**Chris' relationship with School** Chris kept the PCC updated on this issue, which is described in the 'Schools Ministry' report. One consequence is that Chris is no longer a School governor.

**Leadership of Investigators and pattern of Sunday Services** The number of people willing to lead Investigators had dropped, and now Louise Warner (once a month) and Sarah Collins had to lead all sessions, with a volunteer or parent as a second person. With the time needed to prepare the sessions (which can be quite long) and the need to arrive early to set up, Sarah was finding this commitment unsustainable. Over the year, various suggestions to address this were made and to some extent trialled.

So, for the foreseeable future, all services within school holidays will be All-Age. Otherwise, in any month, Investigators will be provided on two Sundays and there will always be one All-Age service scheduled. There will be one Sunday with a 'hybrid' service, partly All-Age, partly with an activity provided for children in the Junior Hall (with the partition wall somewhat open) with supervision by parents.

**Distribution of Communion** As previously agreed, this topic was on the PCC's agenda at six monthly intervals. Because of recent episodes of infection among church members, PCC thought it unwise to return to a shared cup at this time. A change to include filling the individual cups during the communion part of the service was introduced.

**Minster Communities** The Diocesan project to group parishes into Minster Communities had crystallised out with St Christophers and Holy Trinity churches forming one group by themselves. Two meetings between representatives from each church had been held, the first being a 'Get to know you' time. Topics for the second and subsequent meetings will discuss how we can work together on 'Discipleship & Mission', 'Growing Faith & Schools', 'New Communities and Pioneering' and 'People and Ministry'.

**Sabbatical leave** Chris would be away on Sabbatical leave for three months, which officially starts just after Easter on 10<sup>th</sup> April and ends on 7<sup>th</sup> July, (though General Synod starts that day). Visiting leaders/preachers had been arranged for many of the Sundays in this period, with St Christophers members covering the others. Other aspects discussed were liaison with TGSA over events which might impinge on church activities, support for Rob Pike as churchwarden, dealing with foodbank applications, reading of Banns and helping with Little Angels furniture moving. There would be no PCC meetings during this period, but the Standing Committee would meet to monitor the situation.

**Events** - one of the functions of the PCC is to plan for upcoming events and then to assess how they went.

**Lent/Easter group.** A six week course using the P.R.A.Y.E.R. acronym. These had been well supported by Stonesby Lodge, but by very few other church members.

**Thy Kingdom Come,** This period of prayer involved use of the prayer booklets and the All-Age Service on 1<sup>st</sup> June which was followed by the availability of Prayer Stations.

In June, Nia provided a Chinese meal and gave an update on her work in Beijing..

**Treasure hunt on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June.** Everyone who came enjoyed the activity. The move to a weekend rather than in the week to facilitate children coming had only attracted one family.

Summer book study- 'Crazy Busy' Only attended by a very few people (maybe self explanatory?!).

Summer BBQ - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August This had been a good event.

Away Day (see above)

Vocation-specific breakfasts On 4<sup>th</sup> September parents/grandparents of St C's children were invited to a breakfast-time meeting. Everyone contributed and comments were that it had been a very productive time. A similar meeting for other groups of church members would be considered.

Advent In 2024, both Times for meditation and Bible studies had been provided. In 2025, just the studies were provided as a poll of church members showed there would be little take-up of the opportunity for meditation.

Saff Christmas Fayre Flyers for the Carol Service had been given out and there had been a long conversation about faith with two pupils from TGSA. It had been 'A happy time'.

Carol service Although the move to a Sunday morning meant a loss of some of the atmosphere of a candlelit service, it was thought that the time and date were the right choice.

Fish & Chip supper & Quiz The usual great event, certainly to be repeated.



A reminder to our congregation was issued in the Spring to remind people that any issues with the building they need to speak to me about in getting them resolved. We are fortunate that the Maintenance team for the School do carry out some of the repairs for us. Although sometimes not as quickly as we would like. One of these in 2025 was the pull down blind in the meeting room which had broken and a new one was later supplied. Another was the amplification of the sound system in the meeting room which had broken. This is very useful for parents to take their children into should they be a bit noisy or restless and it allows the parent to still hear the service. At the end of 2025 this still hadn't been sorted. (However, it was repaired early in 2026 and is now working) There has, been from time to time unfortunately issues with the heating and the opening windows in the church so sometimes we have had it too hot in the summer with windows not opening and cold in the winter with windows opening. When the temperature is not right I will remind them on the Monday to sort. However, bear in mind that what may be too cold for one person may be just right for another! Temperature changes sometimes happen more at the end of school terms when the school is not operational. I just have to keep reminding them that we are still open if the school is not.

We have had to tighten up security as there was an incident at Little Angels where the outside door wasn't locked and someone entered and stole a bracelet that had been left out. Although we like to keep our doors open this is a reminder that we need to be vigilant should anyone enter the building for other than attending our services. We should also not let anyone enter the school part of the premises even though their request may seem genuine.

All valuable items are accounted for and stored securely in the vestry safe. A good spring clean with Pizza after was held in June and it looks like a similar event will need to be done in 2026

*Robert Pike - February 2026*

## **Safeguarding Report to APCM** by Neil Tansley

I hope we all agree that churches should be places where people find support and can explore faith within a safe, caring and loving environment. If we believe this it is also important to realise that safeguarding and the creation of that environment isn't just the responsibility of just one person, it's the responsibility of us all. Round the corner there is information simply presented on what to do if you are concerned about something you notice or witness in church - please take the time to read it - It's summed up there in 4 very simple steps.

So how are we doing at St Christophers? In terms of compliance with Diocesan guidelines we are currently operating at 88% (the target for the diocese is 85% although many churches struggle to meet this) Our response top safeguarding underpins the credibility of our whole mission as church. It's that that I remind myself of when I send off another DBS request or interview people who only want to volunteer under safer recruitment guidance or ask them to undertake safeguarding training.

Key to maintaining our compliance is that we keep up to date with training for key roles in the church - PCC members, Young Peoples leaders and myself as Safeguarding Coordinator. I am glad to report that we have DBS Certificates in place where needed and are in the process of starting annual review and support meetings for volunteers. Please complete your training if you have been made aware of the need to do this as this is crucial to our overall compliance.

Finally, If you have any concerns relating to potential safeguarding issues please don't hesitate to contact me even if you are unsure whether to do so is the appropriate course of action.

## **Music Report** by Neil Tansley

The past year has been a challenging one for Jayne and I and we want to thank you for your patience when we have haven't been able to attend on Sunday morning. We are grateful to Chris for the extra work he has had to take on in selecting and preparing music for services. We would value your continued prayers for new musicians to come forwards to lessen the impact of any absences in the future.

On a positive note, we have really enjoyed learning new songs in a variety of languages as we have engaged with the IWC team. It has also been good to hear the positive feedback from members who have appreciated being able to worship God in their first language. It would be good to extend our repertoire to include any first languages that are not currently covered as well as to have more options for those languages already represented.

As always, we remain willing to listen to suggestions about music that helps you to worship and will try our best to include these. Please bear with us though as the limits to our numbers and abilities sometimes means we are unable to meet every request.

# St Christopher's Church

## LEICESTER

### Statement of Accounts

2025

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#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025

|                          | General Fund     | Maintenance Fund | Mission Fund | Little Angels    | Building/ Equipment Fund | Total 2025       |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>            | £                | £                | £            | £                | £                        | £                |
| Current account          | 3,800.17         | 500.00           | 0.00         | 253.18           | 434.00                   | 4,987.34         |
| Board of Finance deposit | 22,900.20        | 1,708.68         | 0.00         | 9,850.52         | 7,532.75                 | 41,992.15        |
| Cash in hand             | 168.22           | 0.00             | 0.00         | 0.00             | 0.00                     | 168.22           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>26,868.59</b> | <b>2,208.68</b>  | <b>0.00</b>  | <b>10,103.70</b> | <b>7,966.75</b>          | <b>47,147.71</b> |

**Debtors**

**Liabilities**

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS 2025**

|                                           | 2025<br>£              | 2024<br>£              |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Offertories etc</b>                    |                        |                        |
| Sunday Services (GASDS)                   | 487.11                 | 439.31                 |
| Sunday Services (non-GASDS) +on-line      | 9.74                   | 583.14                 |
| Offertories at Marriages, Funerals etc    |                        |                        |
| Fees for Marriages, Banns, Funerals etc   | 74.00                  | 140.00                 |
| Non-Gift Aided planned giving             | 1445.00                | 1220.00                |
| Gift Aided planned giving                 | 16145.00               | 15690.00               |
| Other Tax efficient giving                | 440.00                 | 57.49                  |
| Income Tax recovered on Gift Aided giving | 4063.66                | 22664.51               |
|                                           | <u>22664.51</u>        | <u>3949.61</u>         |
|                                           |                        | 22079.55               |
| <br><b>Donations - for general use</b>    |                        |                        |
| Other Donations                           |                        |                        |
|                                           | <u>0.00</u>            | 0.00                   |
| Use of premises                           | 0.00                   |                        |
| Scouts                                    | 0.00                   |                        |
|                                           | <u>0.00</u>            | 0.00                   |
| Insurance claims                          |                        |                        |
| Other sundry receipts                     |                        | 215.81                 |
|                                           | <u>0.00</u>            | 215.81                 |
| <br><b>Interest from</b>                  |                        |                        |
| deposit with Central Board of Finance     | 763.82                 | 763.82                 |
|                                           | <u>763.82</u>          | <u>1115.74</u>         |
|                                           |                        | 1115.74                |
| <b>Total of above</b>                     | <b>23428.33</b>        | <b>23411.10</b>        |
| <hr/>                                     |                        |                        |
| <b>"Restricted" items</b>                 |                        |                        |
| Clergy/Organist fees                      | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| IWC grant for Awayday                     | 500.00                 |                        |
| Fees for diocese                          | 0.00                   | 392.00                 |
|                                           | 0.00                   |                        |
|                                           | <u>500.00</u>          | <u>392.00</u>          |
| <b>Total Receipts into General Fund</b>   | <b><u>23928.33</u></b> | <b><u>0.00</u></b>     |
|                                           |                        | <b><u>23803.10</u></b> |

M Y Early (Hon Treasurer)  
R A Pike (Churchwarden)

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS 2025**

|                                                           | 2025<br>£ |             | 2024<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Costs of raising funds</b>                             |           |             |           |
| applying for grants                                       |           |             |           |
| stewardship envelopes _____                               | 0.00      |             | 0.00      |
| <hr/>                                                     |           |             |           |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                              |           |             |           |
| PCC Mission Allocations                                   | 1000.00   |             | 1000.00   |
|                                                           |           | 1000.00     | 1000.00   |
| <b>Ministry costs</b>                                     |           |             |           |
| parish contribution                                       | 18500.00  |             | 17600.00  |
| wages/honoraria _____                                     | 18500.00  |             | 17600.00  |
| <b>Staff costs</b>                                        |           |             |           |
| allowances                                                | 0.00      |             | 867.45    |
| travel                                                    | 0.00      |             | 578.34    |
| phone _____                                               | 0.00      | 0.00        | 239.46    |
|                                                           |           |             | 1685.25   |
| <b>Church running expenses</b>                            |           |             |           |
| office, insurance                                         | 530.54    |             | 525.35    |
| Gifts                                                     | 0.00      |             | 404.74    |
| publicity, hospitality _____                              | 60.00     | 590.54      | 300.56    |
|                                                           |           |             | 1230.65   |
| <b>Church maintenance</b>                                 |           |             |           |
| repairs & renewals _____                                  | 28.94     | 28.94       | 110.53    |
|                                                           |           |             | 110.53    |
| <b>Upkeep of services</b>                                 |           |             |           |
| craft materials                                           | 309.00    |             | 26.18     |
| other items _____                                         |           | 309.00      | 612.72    |
|                                                           |           |             | 638.90    |
| <b>Utilities</b>                                          |           |             |           |
| cleaning, gas, electricity                                | 1989.96   | 1989.96     | 1989.96   |
|                                                           |           |             | 1989.96   |
| <b>Training &amp; Education</b>                           |           |             |           |
| Craft Cafe                                                | 105.00    |             | 136.20    |
| Evangelism _____                                          | 0.00      | 105.00      | 291.46    |
|                                                           |           |             | 427.66    |
| <b>Other payments - From General Fund</b>                 |           |             |           |
| Investments, deposits                                     |           |             |           |
| Sundries                                                  | 884.69    |             | 92.70     |
| Wireless microphones _____                                |           | 884.69      | 92.70     |
|                                                           |           |             | 92.70     |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                                   |           |             |           |
| PCC expenses                                              |           |             |           |
| <b>Major Capital expenditure</b>                          |           |             |           |
| Repairs / Redecoration / New building                     |           |             |           |
| <b>Total of above</b>                                     |           | 23408.13    | 24775.65  |
| <b>Other 'Restricted' payments - through General Fund</b> |           |             |           |
| Awayday food                                              | 290.06    |             |           |
| Awayday hall hire                                         | 206.50    |             | 0.00      |
| Fees to Diocese                                           | 0.00      | 496.56      | 357.00    |
|                                                           |           |             | 357.00    |
| <b>Transfers</b>                                          | -         | 53.87       | -         |
| <b>Total Payments from General Fund</b>                   |           | 23958.56    | 25132.65  |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>                   |           | -30.23      | -1329.55  |
| Held in current & deposit accounts 1st January            |           | 26898.81 ** | 27847.72  |
| Held in current & deposit accounts 31st December          |           | 26868.59    | 26518.16  |

\*\* Discrepancy due to unrepresented cheque £380.65 (see Notes)

## ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH 2025

|                                                             |                      | 2025          |                             | 2024          |                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
|                                                             |                      | £             |                             | £             |                              |
| <b>Missionary and Charitable payments from General Fund</b> |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| CrossLinks                                                  |                      | 100.00        |                             | 100.00        |                              |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)              |                      | 150.00        |                             | 150.00        |                              |
| Evangelical Alliance                                        |                      | 80.00         |                             | 80.00         |                              |
| Tearfund                                                    |                      | 150.00        |                             | 150.00        |                              |
| Arab World Ministries                                       |                      | 200.00        |                             | 200.00        |                              |
| Christian Vision for Men                                    |                      | 100.00        |                             | 100.00        |                              |
| Open Hands                                                  |                      | 120.00        |                             | 120.00        |                              |
| Scouts                                                      |                      | 100.00        |                             | 100.00        |                              |
| Interserve                                                  |                      | 250.00        | 1250.00                     | 1000.00       |                              |
| <b>Missionary and Charitable giving (restricted)</b>        |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| CrossLinks                                                  |                      | 52.00         |                             | 50.00         |                              |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)              |                      | 100.06        |                             | 72.11         |                              |
| Tearfund                                                    |                      | 201.76        |                             | 241.52        |                              |
| Arab World Ministries                                       |                      | 106.55        |                             | 101.00        |                              |
| Christian Vision for Men                                    |                      | 50.10         |                             | 61.22         |                              |
| Open Hands                                                  |                      | 40.70         |                             | 77.02         |                              |
| Scouts                                                      |                      | 55.73         | 606.90                      | 632.87        |                              |
| <hr/>                                                       |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| <b>Little Angels</b>                                        |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| Receipts                                                    | Weekly donations [R] | 160.03        |                             | 439.69        |                              |
|                                                             | Interest [R]         | <u>328.56</u> | 488.59                      | <u>479.93</u> | 919.62                       |
| Payments                                                    | Consumables          | <u>195.31</u> | 195.31                      | <u>547.79</u> | 547.79                       |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |               | 293.28                      |               | 371.83                       |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |               | 9810.42                     |               | 9438.59                      |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |               | 10103.70                    |               | 9810.42                      |
|                                                             |                      |               | <i>Restricted: £9850.52</i> |               | <i>Restricted: £9,521.97</i> |
|                                                             |                      |               | <i>Designated: £253.18</i>  |               | <i>Designated: £288.45</i>   |
| <hr/>                                                       |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| <b>Building/Equipment (restricted)</b>                      |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| Receipts                                                    | Donations            | 0.00          |                             | 0.00          |                              |
|                                                             | Other (Interest)     | <u>251.25</u> | 251.25                      | <u>367.01</u> | 367.01                       |
| Payments                                                    |                      | <u>0.00</u>   | 0.00                        | <u>0.00</u>   | 0.00                         |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |               | 251.25                      |               | 367.01                       |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |               | 7715.50                     |               | 7348.49                      |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |               | 7966.75                     |               | 7715.50                      |
| <hr/>                                                       |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| <b>Maintenance (Designated)</b>                             |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
| Receipts                                                    | Transfers            | 0.00          |                             | 0.00          |                              |
|                                                             | Other (Interest)     | <u>56.99</u>  | 56.99                       | <u>83.25</u>  | 83.25                        |
| Payments                                                    |                      | <u>0.00</u>   | 0.00                        | <u>0.00</u>   | 0.00                         |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments                            |                      |               | 56.99                       |               | 83.25                        |
| Held in current & deposit accounts                          |                      |               |                             |               |                              |
|                                                             | at 01 January        |               | 2151.69                     |               | 2068.44                      |
|                                                             | at 31 December       |               | 2208.68                     |               | 2151.69                      |

## **Reports of Church Activities**

### **Schools' Ministry**

2025 was something of a challenging year with regards to Schools' ministry in the area, specifically for Chris. Neil continued his involvement as Chair of the Local Governor Board as was involved in both the Easter & Christmas story trail for TGSA Primary, the Christmas one taking place in St.Cs. However, Jayne also stepped down as a volunteer reader at both TGSA & Marriott Primary in 2025, after a lengthy time of service in both schools.

Chris spent most of the year unable to minister in TGSA, due to a TGSA Governor disciplinary process he was subjected to after a brief disagreement with a TGSA member of staff. Amongst the results of this, the lunchtime faith exploration group for year 8 ceased (also because the staff member who ran it moved schools). He also did not do any EYFS Bible story times or TGSA Primary assemblies. However, this was lifted at the end of the year, and he was able to do Christmas assemblies with TGSA secondary pupils, which featured considerable response from many students - which was encouraging. He was also able to restart visits to Marriott Primary which was positive.

Also significant was the role played by StCs people following the tragic, sudden death of a member of TGSA staff at the end of the autumn term. In the days following, St.Cs building was used as a quiet space for staff to reflect on the passing of the staff member, which was much appreciated by the school during a very difficult time.

### **Door to Door**

This ministry did not feature during 2025.

### **Craft Café**

Although we maintain contact with many of our Craft Cafe local participants, this ministry was in abeyance during 2025. This is due to the large depletion of the StCs Craft Cafe team due to people either moving on, having other commitments or (in the case of one team member) a sense of awkwardness due to overlap with another role.

### **Foodbank**

There were troughs & peaks for our Foodbank during 2025. For much of the year, demand was very quiet and there was also a little tension with Open Hands central due to a communication breakdown following Charles' departure. However, after a conversation with the manager at Open Hands central, it was decided to re-advertise the Foodbank to local bodies in our parish. This resulted in an unprecedented demand for Foodbank services immediately before Christmas, with referrals coming from both TGSA & Marriott Primary. This meant a very busy few days! However, we were

able to serve all customers - including some who were interested in coming along to church. The team remained the same during 2025: Neil, Rob, Mike & Chris. At times the team's system of food replenishment was tested during the year - it is hoped we will be more efficient in 2026.

## Prayer triplets/quads ...

... by Michael Early:

Ours is now usually an on-line meeting, with Rita & myself and Jenny, this year being once a month for the first part of the year. Our topics cover both the personal concerns and commitments that we share with each other, and wider issues that we learn about from news media.

There has been a gap in our meetings, starting with holidays and continuing with Rita's illness and hospitalisation, but it has been good to know of mutual prayer support during this time and now following Jenny's accident. We look forward to resuming our meetings in the near future.

... by Linda Halaczkiwicz:

After four years our group is still going strong. We meet up approximately once a month on a Monday evening at my house. There are four of us who attend.

We chat, laugh and pray together. The group starts at 7.30pm and ends at 9.00pm (although most weeks it goes over).

We all value our group and look forward to our meet-ups.



## 51<sup>st</sup> Leicester (St. Christopher's) Scout Group

by Roger Burdett

(Reflecting on, as always, the previous twelve months to date to be most meaningful)

This year I thought I might firstly just list all our activity headings since the last report.....

**Out and About, Adventures and Overnight.**

**Cubs...**Planning, The Cub Law and Promise, Music Night, Easter Cards, Paper Aeroplanes, **Day at Bradgate**, Observation, Cub Pioneering, Potato Peeling, Bring a Friend Night, Find the Ball (?), **Group Camp at Ullesthorpe**, Community Map, Swedish Night, Fire Safety, **Garden Visit EM Community Centre**, What is Diwali, Teamwork Challenge, Christmas Label Production Line, Budgeting, Christmas Cards for Elderly, **Dick Whittington Panto**, Marble Run Problem, Quilt Covers and Pillow Slips....and lots of fun and games

**Scouts...**Planning Forums, First Aid Training, Plastic Kit Construction, **Wide Game at John's Lee Wood**, Who Dun It? Country Code Awareness, **Lightweight Stove Cooking**, **Bottle Rockets**, **Treasure Hunt**, Cooking Brownies, **Dingy Sailing At Foremark**, **Group Camp at Ullesthorpe**, Artist Night, **Ghost (History) Walk Aylestone**, Proper use of Knives, Care of Kit, Problem Solving, Sewing, Soap Carving, Codebreaking, Do it Yourself, **Dick Whittington Panto**, Camp Planning, **Collier Bunkhouse Camp Chef Badge**, Pioneering....and again lots of fun and games

Despite what we feel is a good offering our overall numbers have shrunk back so there is a need for more, importantly in being able to easily book some scout provided activities and in some of our own activities and games requiring bigger numbers, but mostly in providing a vibrant, fun social environment. Please do remember to commend us to families when the opportunity arises.

Leadership first however is the most critical concern, we have lost Amy from front line delivery and Chantal has indicated her intention to step aside in the summer. So only myself and Mark would remain. Scouting has made volunteering as an adult easier and we have been more proactive in talking to parents about involvement and there are promising signs. Please pray for this area in particular!

Financially we are ok and ended slightly in surplus last year. We have had hassle with the bank account though, through Lloyds institutional incompetence they could not operate our old account properly on their systems, their answer to this was to close the account, the letter relating to this could even be read to infer fault on our part and offered no remedy. Thanks are due to Rob and particularly Seye for overcoming some administrative issues to open an account with the Co-op.

Looking forward to getting out in the summer, remaining positive with what we hope will be a more adventurous strategy. Many thanks as always for your support.

## **Investigators** by Sarah Collins

We have continued to have an investigators group throughout 2025. Due to lack of leaders we have needed to have conversations about how we maintain children's work without overloading current volunteers. Sarah and Louise continue to lead sessions and we are grateful to parents and grandparents and other church members who volunteer to support.

The numbers can vary significantly from 2- 17. We have a regular core of 6-10 but love to welcome visiting children, grandchildren and occasional friends.

We try to learn through games, video, Bible study, discussion, drama and more. Many in our group love singing and dancing so we have enjoyed singing along to worship songs with actions and dances. We enjoy praying creatively and Louise is particularly good helping us to pray through lots of fun activities. Our group like arts, craft, Lego and playdough as ways to help us think through the themes. It can also give us time to have fun and relax.

We are grateful to the wonderful children in our church family. They are often insightful, wise and ask great questions. Though they might struggle to listen at times, they are full of energy, wonderfully creative and lots of fun.

## **Little Angels** by Sarah Collins

It has been a year of change for Little Angels. The Spring and Summer terms of 2025 followed normal programme with the group meeting on Monday and Friday. Rita led the group and was assisted by Seye on a Monday and Sarah on a Friday. There were the usual seasonal activities of planting sunflowers, Mother's day posies and activities to help the Children learn about Easter.

Over the Summer Rita became ill and was unable to continue leading the group for the Autumn Term. Sarah and Seye have continued with the Monday session of Little Angels but the Friday session has had to close. Rita has been so deeply missed by everyone who attends the group. Regulars continually ask after her, showing the huge impact she has had on the lives of so many families in our community. We have tried our best to continue. The children still enjoy our regular play activities, craft and singing time. We had a Christmas party in December and were pleased that Santa was able to come and bring presents. He looked strangely familiar...

## **Mission** by Rita & Mike Early

St Christophers supports a mission each month, which is explained in the monthly news sheet and on the mission noticeboard. Further contributions towards the mission are collected in the 'Pringles' Tin.

The PCC also gave a contribution of £1,250 to missions (see Statement of Accounts last page for details).

### **Home Missions**

Open Hands

Scouts

CVM (Christian Mission to Men)

CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)

### **World Missions**

Crosslinks

Arab World Ministries

Tearfund

## **This is a summary of our support in 2025**

AWM featured in January and April

CPAS Ventures in April, Falcons in August

Crosslinks in February

Tearfund in March, September & December

Scouts in May

Open Hands in June & October

& CVM in November

During the year, we also had a visit from Kat Gibson, who works in Leicester city centre for InterServe. She described her work amongst asylum seekers and sex-workers, and we have started to support her in prayer, financially and with practical donations. PCC has decided to provide on-going support by replacing CVM in the above list with InterServe.

There is a brief description of why we support these particular mission societies on our website, together with links to each society's own website, should you want to find out more.

## **Tea, Chat and Pray (TCP)**

The TCP event is scheduled for the second Sunday of every other month. Five meetings were held in 2025; what would have been the sixth was postponed till January 2026 because of busy diaries.

TCP had been hosted by Rita and Mike, but since Rita's illness, Linda has kindly provided the venue and tea, with Mike continuing to introduce topics for prayer. Both Nia and Fred & Jo & their children feature regularly, with our prayers informed by their regular letters (and occasional visits).

We will pray into any topic raised by somebody present which is felt to be of concern to us as Christians. As well as matters related to the wider church (diocesan, national and international), Tudor Grange Samworth Academy and local and national government issues do come to our attention, with Chris often providing information about these.

## Deanery Synod Report by Robert Pike



**City of Leicester Deanery**  
Supporting Church of England Parishes across the city

There have only been 2 meetings of the Deanery Synod in the past year in March and July. There was one planned to have been in November but that was cancelled..

### **18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

At this meeting which was held at St Christopher's there was a focus on Pioneer Ministry with discussions about opening up new church communities in areas which were new or not having a local church in the area. This was followed by a talk by one of the Street Pastors in Leicester and he was telling us about the work and experiences they encountered on the Streets in our city on Friday and Saturday nights. We then had a Minister from the Parish of the Resurrection talking about Pioneering work in India and also his plans for his church here across different faiths and religions, Then it was a talk about the Community Hub of St Pauls and St Augustines and how their work was badly affected by COVID19 and how they have had to work hard to build it up again since This was followed by a lady talking about a Ministry group for Women that met on a monthly basis and then a talk about a group called Beloved which was a new community group for families with additional needs. Finally there was a lady talking about Wonderful Walks in Western Park and enjoying Gods creation.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

Unfortunately I was on holiday when this meeting took place. However, from the Agenda it was looking at the Ministry of Healing. Amongst the speakers was an author of a book called Creative Repair based on Pastoral Care and Creativity. This was followed by a presentation on setting up a Healing Ministry in their Benefice. Following this there was a discussion looking at Hospitals, Home and Holistic Healing. Finally a couple of Case Studies one from a Evangelical/Charismatic viewpoint and the other from the experience of Healing Ministry at Walsingham.