



PARISH OF HERNE HILL REPORTS FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING APRIL 26TH 2026



***Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus
to the centre of our lives
and to the heart of our community.***

Charity Registration number: 1134045

VICAR'S REPORT MAY 2025 – APRIL 2026

Dear Church Family,

In the last 12 months we have been focused on our Mission Action Plan (MAP)
Goals below:

MAP GOALS 2024-2026



Jesus said: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' Matthew 28:19-20

The reports in this document show how we've been trying to do this, and if you have any questions about anything, do speak to me or the leader of the activity. There will be an opportunity to do that at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on the 26th April, at St Saviour's, after our joint service together (Service 9.30am, APCM 10.15am).

At the APCM I will be sharing some video highlights and giving updated figures on where we have got to in achieving these goals. I will also be sharing about where I sense God is asking us to focus as a Parish as we create a new MAP for the next 3 years.

The passage God has put on my heart is Acts 2:42-47 where it gives a picture of the early church, post Pentecost:

*⁴² They **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were **together** and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ **Every day** they continued to meet **together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate **together** with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved.*

I will be preaching on APCM Sunday about church being **devoted – together – daily**.

Please do prioritise being there on the 26th April for the service and APCM to celebrate with us, hear what God has been doing in the Parish and where we are heading, to thank God, and to ask questions and elect PCC, Wardens and Deanery Synod members.

We are blessed in the Parish of Herne Hill with so many people who give generously of their time, prayers and income. It is really appreciated and it is all part of our worship to our generous God. Thank you!

Lastly, I want to say we are here for you. 2026 continues to be difficult for some of us. If you need help or prayer, please ask myself or another member of the team. We have debt help through CAP and other ways to help people financially and practically. We do not want anyone to be in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'B' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Ben Goodyear, Vicar

May the LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face towards you and give you peace. Amen.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY, FOR 2025

Ben Goodyear

In 2025 we worshipped together in Sunday services every week in person, as well as our virtual services for those unable to attend. Most Sundays included services at 8am, 11.15am and 5pm at St Paul's and 9.30am at St Saviour's. Messy Church is held monthly, at St Saviour's. We ran Children's Church weekly, except for our monthly 'All Age' services and during school holidays, with a new and well thought out curriculum.



We opened St Paul's up on Thursdays for private prayer and Hope Café. We run our café on customer donations, so everyone can enjoy it regardless of their financial situation. We often serve more than 50 lunches every Thursday, plus drinks and home-made cakes.



In March, twelve people from both churches were baptised (in a baptism pool) or reaffirmed their baptismal vows, at St Saviour's. There was much rejoicing! In May our Whoosh riders cycled from Lindisfarne to Iona raising £23,408 for Tree Aid.

Our pioneer Prison Curate, Andy Blacknell, ministers in both Brixton Prison and in the Parish. A lot of men are coming to faith in Jesus and getting baptised in prison.



Winnie Obese-Bempong, an ordinand in the Parish, was ordained as deacon in June and became Curate in the Parish. Winnie has taken on leadership of the Discipleship Team and is working with them to encourage everyone to be part of a Discipling Community.



The Youth Faith Collective (YFC) youth group continued to happen weekly for younger youth and YFC+ happens monthly for our older youth. In the Summer some youth went away to David's Tent Festival.

We ran our Milkwood Summer Programme for a week in August in Milkwood Community Park, serving 50 children and young people in our locality. We also continued our weekly Milkwood Kick Football Academy with the under 16s, winning the London Churches competition! The under 11s won the plate at the London Kick Academies competition!!

Beckee Lewis, our CAP (Christians Against Poverty) & Community worker, along with a team of volunteers, was effective in helping people out of debt, budget better, and find jobs through our CAP Debt coaching, Money courses and Job clubs.

Over 100 people went on our 'Parish Weekend Away' in September, where we enjoyed teaching, fellowship and fun.



As always, we continued our work with racial justice, green and Fairtrade initiatives (St Saviour's Church received the silver Eco church award) and supported overseas and home missions and ministries.

We thanked Beckee Lewis as she stood down as churchwarden at St Saviour's. We appointed Lilly Immanuel and Wendy Firman as churchwardens at St Saviour's. We thanked Geraldine Garner as she stood down as churchwarden at St Paul's. Harriet Bukata & Juane Fuller were appointed as churchwardens at St Paul's.

We thanked Cas Moyo and Ruby Wild as they stepped down as our Children and Youth Ministry leads. We are recruiting in early 2026 for a new Children and Youth Ministry Lead.

We kicked off the Christmas season in style with our 'Walking Immersive Nativity' across the streets of Herne Hill, brilliantly directed by Sara Bredemear. Our Nativities, Carols, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services had lots of visitors, with over 1,000 people coming to our Christmas services and Nativities in total.



In 2025 we carried out various building works including:

· St Paul's

- The terraced wall on the boundary next to the hall has had 16 courses of bricks removed at one section to prevent further movement and damage. We are exploring next steps
- New carpets were installed in the creche, meeting room and welcome space
- Roof repairs have been done

· St Saviour's

- Railings have been repaired
- New noticeboards have been installed inside the church
- The Creche and Billington Room had new carpets installed
- The upper room has been decorated and carpeted
- An outside tap was installed near the Finsen Road exit

As always, during the year, the PCC gave its time and attention to many other issues that contribute to spiritual growth and development in the Parish, including financial, buildings, staffing, social, community, worship and mission issues. These were all focused on furthering the fulfilment of our parish aim statement, "Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and to the heart of our community". We look back on 2025 with praise to God. We have much to give Him thanks for - as we also thank the many faithful people in both churches who serve this Parish and Him.

DULWICH DEANERY SYNOD – ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Trevor Tayleur – Deanery Synod Representative

The Dulwich Deanery Synod met three times in person at churches in the Deanery on 16th February, 23rd July and 26th November 2025. Across the year, Synod has engaged with matters of justice, safeguarding, national church developments and the flourishing of parish life.

Modern Slavery and Justice

Modern Slavery has been a consistent focus. In February, the Diocesan 'Justice, Peace and Integrity (JPI) Team' delivered a powerful presentation on the scale of exploitation in London. In July, Synod received updates on practical steps taken.

The Diocesan November Jubilee Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Conference reinforced this commitment, highlighting ongoing inequalities affecting Global Majority Heritage communities and showcasing parish initiatives addressing social need.

Racial Justice

The November meeting focused in depth on racial justice. The main speaker, Reg Amoah, Diocesan Racial Justice Trainer, outlined his role in supporting parishes through training, dialogue and inclusive practice. He explained the aims of the Diocese of Southwark's Anti-Racism Charter and described the diocesan framework and available resources.

Safeguarding and the Makin Review

Safeguarding has remained central to Synod's concerns. In February, members received reports on the Makin Review into the Church of England's handling of allegations of abuse by the late John Smyth QC. The gravity of these findings prompted sober reflection and prayer.

In November it was suggested that parish safeguarding officers might meet together for mutual support and shared learning.

Diocesan and General Synod

Throughout the year, Synod received regular reports from Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

A significant theme at diocesan level has been Living in Love and Faith (LLF) and concerns were expressed about the lack of progress on the approval of same-sex marriage ceremonies at General Synod level.

Parish Life and Mission

As always, reports from parishes reflected both challenge and encouragement. Provision for children and young people varies across the deanery: while a small number of parishes do not currently run Sunday schools or children's church, many offer creative ministries such as playgroups, Messy Church, choirs and youth clubs. Updates were shared on community outreach, building works, confirmations and volunteer initiatives, including Robes. Parishes reported progress with Eco Church awards and preparations for major festivals, particularly Christmas.

REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

Isobel Finn - Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll is the list in every parish of all those registered and entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. In simple terms, if you are on the electoral roll for a parish, you are able to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the parish. It also acts as a very good understanding of our adult congregations who are baptised and over sixteen.

Below are the numbers for our current electoral roll for the Parish as well as how those numbers are distributed across the two Parish churches. As is the nature of communities, there is always a flux of new people joining, a few moving away and the sad loss of members of our congregation as well as the newly baptised and those turning sixteen.

No one is obliged to register for the Electoral Roll, so these numbers are not necessarily an indication of our full congregations, and of course they do not include the wonderful children's and youth church numbers. Every parish is required to reset its figures every six years to keep the numbers accurate and up to date. 2025 was the reset year for the whole of the Church of England so 2026 is purely a year on year update of new names to be added and others to be removed.

The results show that the combined total on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Herne Hill has increased by 6 new registrants to a total of 234. The balance on the St Saviour's congregation is down by 1 and 7 joining St Paul's.

128 members of the Electoral Roll are resident in the Parish, and 106 are non-resident. Due to the unusual boundaries of our Parish, St Paul's typically shows a greater number of non-residents. The details for each church are as follows.

2026	2026	2025
Parish of Herne Hill electoral roll total	234	228
Resident in Parish	128	126
Non Resident	106	102

Distributed across the two Parish churches as below

St Paul's electoral roll	132	125
Resident in Parish	62	61
Non-resident	70	64

St Saviour's electoral roll	102	103
Resident in Parish	66	65
Non-resident	36	38

BUILDING AND FABRICS REPORT ST SAVIOUR'S 2025

Wendy Firman & Lilly Immanuel – Church Wardens

Fire Safety

After a lot of preparation and planning, emergency lighting and a fire alarm system were installed in January.

Windows

A pane of glass in one of the top Dorma windows had slipped. This has been made safe and the Building and Fabrics committee are looking at cost effective options for replacement.

The Upper Room

The Upper Room has been given a face lift and been redecorated, thanks to donations from the congregation. It is now a welcoming place for our young people to meet on a Sunday morning.

Warner Room

This has been cleared out and can now be used as a room rather than just storage! Children's church had their first session there on 15th March. The adjacent toilet has been stripped and is having ongoing checks for leakage.

The notice boards have been replaced with boards that match the décor and do not require any sharp pins or blue tack to put things up. These have been restricted to the back of the church so as not to detract from the church sanctuary.

Heating

We have managed to mend and maintain the current system to warm more efficiently and the church has been kept warm enough during Robes and winter services. We have temporary blowers and blankets to help on cold days.

Long term options for heating that are more environmentally friendly are being kept in mind following the Retrofit Pre-Feasibility Report in June 2023 but there are no plans to pursue these at St Saviour's currently.

The Featureful Garden and Rebecca Graham memorial bench



This has been completed and there was a wonderful ceremony and outdoor service with the Archdeacon to honour Rebeca, on 11th May 2025. Huge thanks to Jim Belben who worked so hard on this.

Outdoor tap

An outside tap has been installed to assist with gardening of the allotment and the front garden.

Garden

The garden side of the church has been tidied and done up by Derek and is looking lovely.

Many thanks to everyone on the Building and Fabric Committee for devoting their time and expertise, and particularly to Ben Goodyear who has assumed responsibility for chairing the meetings. We are very grateful to Kelly for her capable management of our buildings and for attending our meetings and keeping us up to date.

St Saviour's Church Wardens, Lilly and Wendy, would like to thank all the volunteers who are involved each week to make St Saviour's welcoming and ready for worship. You are all greatly appreciated! This includes our fantastic welcome team, those on the chair rota, the refreshments, flowers (Jennie!), gardening and cleaning.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2025

Juanne Fuller & Harriet Bukata – Church Wardens

It was another busy year for the Buildings and Fabric Committee. At St Paul's the main projects this year were:

The retaining wall

Although this project is still ongoing, we are now working to make the wall safe. We want to say thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project and we are excited to see the result, a wall being built.

Slats on the roof

Numerous slats on St Paul's roof have been repaired, fixing/stopping recurring leaks in the church.

St Paul's Quinquennial Report

The quinquennial report was done in 2025 for St Paul's church. We are forever grateful for this report, as it helps us keep our Grade II listed building in good condition. This year we were able to carry out some of the projects highlighted in the report.

St Paul's Church Wardens, Juanne and Harriet, would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who continue to give their time at St Paul's. Your service is always appreciated, valued, and never taken for granted.

To all the people that help out at Hope Café or Lunch Club, Messy Church or Choir, arrange flowers, clean or do odd jobs as and when required, we thank you.

We would also like to thank the assistant wardens and our lovely helpers serving drinks after our services on Sundays and at other services throughout the year. The time and effort you all put in does not go unnoticed and helps to keep St Paul's as beautiful and welcoming as it is.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Parish of Herne Hill

Lucy Williams, Parish Safeguarding Lead, St Paul's

Jennie Brindley, Parish Safeguarding Lead, St Saviour's

We meet at least once a term with the Safeguarding Team, currently Ben, Gill, Winnie and Beckee, to discuss any safeguarding concerns and to review our safeguarding procedures, in the light of any new guidance from the Diocese. At these meetings we also discuss risk assessments throughout the Parish. We also meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss and deal with any issues as and when they arise.

This has been a busy and productive year. It is gratifying to see how, especially with our regular focus on Safeguarding in PCC meetings and in the month of November, it is integral to everything we do. Clergy and volunteers have also been completing online or face-to-face courses in Basic and Foundation Safeguarding, and Safeguarding aspects of Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Recruiting and Human Trafficking, as required according to their roles. If you're asked to complete training, please do not hesitate as the courses are invariably interesting and helpful.

Please remember that everyone who volunteers in a role where they require safeguarding training (children's church, drivers, PCC members etc) will need to refresh their training at least every 3 years.

ChurchSuite is now proving useful for keeping a record of when DBS (Criminal Records Bureau) checks and/or training are up for renewal. Following a data leak, our Parish now has a new provider for helping us with DBS checks, Thirtyone:eight. Their input is proving very helpful, for example in developing volunteer role descriptions.

Most recently Lucy has been coordinating preparation of a Safeguarding Dashboard. This is an initiative by the Diocese to maintain an ongoing rather than a periodical audit of Safeguarding within the Parish. Setting this up has involved tracing back some of our Safeguarding resolutions passed at PCC or APCM over a number of years. Actions arising from the Dashboard include sending a link to A Safer Church to all new volunteers, PCC members, etc.

We and the clergy really appreciate the trust you show us by mentioning to us any child, young person or vulnerable adult you have observed to be at risk. Even if just to seek reassurance please do not hesitate, we are very discreet.

You never know when your Safeguarding awareness will be useful. We were especially appreciative of the care and concern members of St Paul's showed when someone reported a missing child, who thankfully was found shortly after.

CAP & COMMUNITY REPORT FOR 2025

Beckee Lewis, CAP & Community Worker

CAP Services

Over the past 12 months demand for debt support has steadily increased. Beckee Lewis and Jon Taylor have supported an average of six new clients per month, and with the addition of a new volunteer Debt coach, Paula Thomas, the team now assists between seven and eight new clients every month. During this period over 20 clients became debt-free through Debt Relief Orders and 10 clients successfully managed their debt through structured repayment plans.

In late 2025, Beacon CAP Partnership recruited Lorna Smith as a volunteer Life Skills Manager to lead a new Life Skills course with a team of volunteers. The first course was hosted at St Paul's Church. The course is 8 weeks, with each session focusing on a different life skill like budgeting, cooking and CV writing. Three Life Skills' courses are scheduled for each year at different venues provided by the partnership. Across the year three Job Clubs and one Money Coaching course were delivered, with more than 60 participants attending. Many of those who took part went on to secure employment or began volunteering opportunities. Beckee continues to develop relationships with DWP, Orange Bow, INGEUS and MI Skills, all of whom offer accredited courses for the unemployed.



Community

Parish Playgroup

St. Paul's Playgroup, hosted by Beckee on Tuesday mornings during term time, welcomes over 30 children and their caregivers each week. The sessions have a Christian focus, featuring children's worship songs, a Bible story and concluding with a song time. At the end of each half term, instead of the usual £2 donation, we invite families to bring an item for the local food bank. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about demonstrating God's love in practical ways within our community.



Hope Café

Hope Café continues to thrive as a welcoming community hub, attracting over 100 guests each week and serving approximately 40 to 60 lunches. Many attendees are connected through other ministries, such as CAP services, Seniors' Lunch, Milkwood KICK and the playgroup. The café is co-led by Beckee Lewis and Rachel Goodyear, with dedicated support from volunteers across the congregations. A weekly Bible study also meets at the café, with attendance steadily growing to around 8 to 12 participants. We have also welcomed Sophie, a wise advisor for Lambeth, assisting the over-65s with housing and benefits queries.

THE FIVE REPORT FOR 2025

Naomi King, Geraldine Garner

The 5 this year has gone from strength to strength - growing deeper in faith as a family, and enjoying fellowship with each other as a community. We have studied the Book of Acts for much of the year, followed by Galatians, the Lectio course, and now the Lent course!

There's always lots of fun to be had as it's such a dynamic and interesting group of people. Discussions are always hard to stop and worship is always hard to leave. We've enjoyed time eating and drinking together too, and have also been on a journey of raising up new leaders in our team! We're very grateful to have such an incredibly gifted and loving team around us. The most powerful thing is seeing how much people are growing in their relationship with Jesus, with some people discovering faith for the first time, some on a journey, and some returning to church! We always enjoy providing prayer ministry and really believe in leaning into and nurturing our spiritual gifts - whether that be gifts of encouragement, faith, prophecy, prayers for healing, or others! It's been amazing to see God at work, particularly through prayer.



We have seen a real increase in the flow of the Spirit since January, with our average attendance being in the mid-twenties, when prior to Christmas it was the mid-teens. We're also looking to grow our worship ministry with more worship nights! It's a joyful place to be and the evening is never complete without The Greatest Showman soundtrack playing as people leave! We're excited for what God's got in store for the next year.

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2025

Peter Calderbank, Parish Treasurer

The accounts for the Parish have been reviewed by our independent examiner, Stewardship. The signed accounts are available separately for review. However, the results are summarised below:

<u>£'000</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Community Engagement Fund</u>	<u>Buildings & Capital Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	2025 Total	<i>2024 Total</i>
Income	375.5	0.0	0.0	24.5	399.9	389.7
Expenditure	<u>(396.4)</u>	<u>(70.1)</u>	<u>(26.2)</u>	<u>(35.7)</u>	(528.5)	<i>(555.8)</i>
Surplus	(21.0)	(70.1)	(26.2)	(11.2)	(128.5)	(166.1)
Funds c/f	3.2	121.5	23.8	1,543.0	1,570.1	375.9

The income for the year totalled £399.9k which was up compared with 2024 by £10.2k. However, the current year included income and donations of £18.9k towards the Parish Weekend Away which took place in September 2025. Of the income for 2025, giving accounted for £235.7k including tax recovery of £21.7k, which was slightly up when compared with 2024. Rental and lettings' income was £122.2k which was slightly down on 2024. Rental income for 8 Ruskin Walk and the St. Saviour's flat totalled £82.3k in the year. Lettings generated income of £39.9k and was made up as follows: St. Saviour's (£6.6k) and St. Paul's hall (£33.4k).

The Parish's contribution to the Parish Support Fund was £158.2k for the year compared with £148.0k in the previous year. Employment costs of £149.0k included the pay of the office team (Kelly and Sharon), our Children's and Youth Workers during the year (Cas and Ruby) and our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) worker (Beckee). The CAP work and other community projects are being funded from the Community Engagement Fund. This includes Hope Cafe, although the costs of running the cafe continue to be covered by donations received.

Our missionary and charitable giving for the year totalled £26.1k. This included our home and overseas giving of £20.2k based on 10% of general giving. We also used the Churchwardens' Hardship Relief Fund to support individuals in need, along with the Cost of Living Fund which was established in 2022 to support those affected by the cost of living crisis.

During the year £108.4k was spent on the buildings across the Parish which was lower than the prior year's spend of £156.6k. However, the previous year included the redecoration at St. Saviour's which cost £46.1k. Ministry, fellowship and worship costs were £148.7k which was higher than the 2024 figure of £135.4k.

The net result for the year was a total deficit of £128.5k, with the General Fund showing a £21.0k deficit. Looking forward to 2026, we continue to encourage people to consider using the Parish Giving Scheme for their individual giving. If anyone would like to know more about this, then please speak to me. The budget for 2026 shows an expected surplus in general funds of £6.7k.

Total funds now include an estimate for the value of 8 Ruskin Walk (approximately £1.4 million) following Stewardship's recommendation that we include it in our accounts at an estimated valuation rather than cost less depreciation. As a result of this change, total funds are £1,570.1k at the end of the year.

Thank you for your giving and support in 2025.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S REPORT 2025-2026

Ruby Wild, Children & Families Team Leader

Cas Moyo, Youth Team Leader

Beckee Lewis

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Church

Both St Saviour's and St Paul's Children's Church usually meet on the first three Sundays of each month. We follow our own curriculum, which includes the Old and New Testament and understanding our Christian faith. We focus on helping children and young people develop their own personal faith and their relationship with God. We mostly use the online resource, Energize, to help us plan sessions. For the spring term the older groups have been using a new series, Youth Emmaus.



St Paul's children's church has a committed team of volunteers who help the children and young people grow in faith and understanding and feel part of the church, in a safe and happy environment. Over the year, weekly attendance for the younger group (age 4 to School Yr 5) has averaged at about 10 children each week and for the older group (School Yr 6+) about 4 or 5 young people, but numbers can be very variable. Highlights over the past year have included a "walk through Holy Week", a cake sale to raise money for the Rock of Joy Children's Centre, and the Nativity. New volunteers would be welcome. Both children and volunteers have risen to the challenge posed by changes to the hall where we meet, and our storage; we have been able to share with children that God is always with us through times of change and will continue to guide us.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly service at St Saviour's Church, held from 3 pm to 4:30 pm on the second Sunday of each month. It's designed especially for primary school-aged children and their families in the local community. Each month, we offer up to six craft tables, indoor and outdoor games (weather permitting), lively Christian sing-along songs, and a short interactive talk based on a Bible story or theme, finishing with snacks and juice.



Messy Church takes the lead at the 9.30am St Saviour's service, 22nd June 2026

Attendance ranges from 16 to 45 people each month. Jo Alexandre leads a dedicated team that provides an engaging session every month. Jo plans the sessions to make sure they are fun and engaging. This year, we continue to reach more local families through marketing efforts via WhatsApp, Churchsuite, and email, keeping families informed and inspired.

SCHOOL MINISTRIES

St Saviour's School

We have done collective worship at St Saviour's School and Ben has been a chaplain to the staff. Some church members are going into the school to help children with reading. We also have church members on the governing board.

Herne Hill School

Herne Hill School held their Harvest, Christmas and Easter end of term assemblies at St Paul's Church.

SUMMER MINISTRIES

Milkwood Summer Programme

This year, we continued to offer an extensive range of activities, including sports provided by KICK, drama and arts & crafts. We adjusted the timings and duration of the sessions to create a more intensive week, running daily from 9 AM to 5 PM, which provided parents with a full week of free childcare during the six-week school holiday. Over the course of the week 50 children participated at least once, with an average of 35 children attending each day. The group included regulars from MSP and Kick, children from the church, and many new faces. Highlights of the week included a weekend trip to Go Ape and a joint service at St. Saviour's, followed by a BBQ and games in Ruskin Park.



The Milkwood Summer Programme continues to be highly valued by both children and their parents. Supported by a fantastic team of volunteers, it has a significant missional impact in the Milkwood area, providing meaningful opportunities for young people and families to connect with our church community.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Faith Collective (YFC)

At St. Paul's Church in Herne Hill, the Youth Faith Collective (YFC) provides a welcoming space for young people to come together, socialise, and engage in fun activities. Participants also develop regular spiritual practices, such as prayer and journaling. YFC is more than just a youth group; it has become a place where young minds are learning what it means to walk with Jesus in their everyday lives.

Over the past year, we have consistently welcomed 8 to 10 young people per session, with a core group of regular attendees, and those numbers are increasing. The young people have formed strong relationships with staff and volunteers, fostering a genuine culture of community and belonging.



MILKWOOD KICK 2025

Gavin Kamara and Ben Goodyear

Milkwood Kick runs every Saturday (term time) from 10-11:30am in Ruskin Park. Attendance ranges from 5-15 young people between the ages of 8 and 15. Each session includes a warm-up, drills and games, a discussion centred on the "value of the week", and a football match.

What has been most pleasing from the past 12 months is the engagement of the young people with our values and discussions. We've moved from a place of the kids wanting to race through this part of the session to get to the match, to actively engaging with the value (such as hope, joy, perseverance, love, patience etc.) and discussing how it can be applied in football and in their day-to-day lives.

In 2025, Milkwood Kick proudly participated with great success in the annual Ambassadors London Churches tournament and the annual Kick competition. The under 10s won the plate at the Kick competition and the under 16s won the Ambassadors competition, with the under 14s making the semi-final. We took over 20 kids to both competitions.

Two of our players were also awarded Jack Petchy Awards this year.

We are always on the lookout for more coaches and players, so please get in touch with Gavin Kamara, Ben Goodyear or Paul Ladbrooke if you are interested.



MUSIC 2025

Ben Goodyear

We hosted Choral Evensong at St Paul's as part of the Herne Hill Music Festival and the Youth band lead worship at Southwark Cathedral during the Archdeacon's Visitation Service.

We have a great team of musicians and singers across the Parish providing both choral and worship band led styles of musical worship. We are grateful to everyone who serves in this area. Do let us know if you want to join the team or have any hymn or song suggestions.

Special thanks to all who lead the bands and choir including Joel Goodyear, Ben Hughes, Dave Mudie, Rita Tam, Ella Raper, Noël Tredinnick, and Penny Whittingham.

SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB 2025

Julia Kirby-Jones

The Seniors' Lunch Club is as popular as ever, catering for 40 every month, with a short waiting list (as space is limited). Guests meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the Welcome Area of St Paul's where the tables are laid up and decorated with fresh flowers. The group of volunteers then serve a two-course meal and sit down to eat and chat with the guests. Many who come live on their own, so this is a good opportunity to meet up for a chat and eat a hearty meal together. After the lunch and a cup of tea or coffee, all are invited to a short service - 'A Hymn at Lunchtime' - in the church.

In December the Christmas dinner ensured a 'full house'. We provided a traditional Christmas roast dinner followed by entertainment from the children in Year 6 at St Saviour's School. The children's enthusiastic carol singing was led by Noël Tredinnick and was greatly appreciated by all. As each guest left, they were handed a small gift that had been hand-made by the volunteers. Any extra gifts were given to Gill to take to the housebound or hospitalised.



Seniors' Lunch Club totally relies on the assistance of a brilliant, hardworking team of volunteers, who contribute by providing transport, laying tables, arranging flowers, preparing vegetables, laundering the tablecloths, washing up and clearing away. Some also offer to make a dessert for that month, from a given recipe. If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers or know someone who would benefit from being added to the guest waiting list, then please speak to either Gill or myself. *Julia Kirby-Jones*

ST SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL 2025

Mary Ollard, Chair of Governors

The context for primary schools in 2025 continued to be challenging, and St Saviour's was no exception. Declining pupil numbers are making themselves felt throughout the sector (and now beginning to impact secondary schools also). The consequences for school budgets are severe, and governors have had to make difficult choices.

In the Spring, a restructure of support staff was undertaken to align better with current pupil numbers and needs. No compulsory redundancies were necessary, but the school said farewell to some very longstanding members of staff. During the transitional period, the school benefitted from sharing resources with the two other schools in the South London Saints Partnership, St Jude's and St George's. In September, the school moved from 7 classes to 5, with mixed age-group teaching for Years 1 and 2, and Years 4 and 5. Taking advantage of previous teacher mobility, and staffing decisions taken to maximise flexibility, this change was achieved without redundancies. Vertical alignment of classes in this way has been common in schools outside London, and in many other countries; it is now becoming more usual in London, and St Saviour's benefitted from the experience of its implementation previously at St Jude's.

Despite the pressures, the school is strongly supported by the local community. Families value the school's Christian ethos, the level of pastoral care and emphasis on every child's individual experience and achievement. To secure the school's future, governors are focused on seeking to attract new entrants; to increase income by letting under-used premises; and to ensure the most efficient use of the budget.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2025

Gill Tayleur

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT REPORT 2025

Gill Tayleur

The Bereavement Support Team met 3 times during the year and continued to consider and take action on the 12 areas of being a Bereavement Friendly Church (see the Loss and Hope website).

In the summer term, The Bereavement Journey course was run (for the 6th time) by Alison Makower and me, with 6 people attending. The course provides a safe place and support for people in their grief, with 7 in-person sessions of films and discussion

groups which guide bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps. Once again feedback was very positive. I've also met with other individuals who've been bereaved, and a few who have made contact from the bereavement support page on our website.

Jennie Brindley and others sewed Feelie hearts for each person on the course (and some other pastoral situations), which have been much appreciated.

When representing our bereavement friendly church at Hope Café, Alison Makower and Stephanie White are available to offer a listening ear and conversation about grief at the Grief Talk Table, advertised at the food counter. There has been little take up of this service but we recognise its importance nonetheless.

Our annual service for the bereaved, In Grateful Memory, held during the evening of Remembrance Sunday, once again had very positive feedback, with good attendance (38 people). Resources for people who've been bereaved, and for others supporting them, are displayed and available in both church buildings.

Bereavement support, and pastoral care more generally, continues to be provided by LOTS of people in ALL congregations who are caring for others. And of course ALL the staff care for young and old and community contacts in all our roles. So we thank God for his incredible love, mercy and peace, that we can share with one another!

DISCIPLESHIP REPORT FOR APCM 2026

Winnie Obese-Bempong and Gill Tayleur

One of our MAP goals for 2024 to 2026 is for “everyone to be part of a discipling community”. The Discipleship Team has been meeting regularly to pray, discuss and plan how to encourage people in their discipleship to Jesus as individuals, and together. We have considered:

What is discipleship?

Growing as a follower of Jesus and helping others do the same. Being a disciple involves all aspects of your life – head (using our minds to learn and understand more of God), hands (service and relationships with others), and heart (devotional life and relationship with God).

What's a discipling community?

A discipling community might be a physical or a virtual small group, a regular prayer group set up on a particular topic, a group getting together over a course, a book group, a prayer triplet, or some other structure, but it has the following qualities:

- Small enough and longstanding enough for people to get to know each other and develop trust
- A safe space - with shared understanding of basic ground rules such as around confidentiality, showing respect to each other
- Learning - about God, His work in the world and our own faith
- Prayer - for each other, for aspects of our lives, our service or witness
- Accountability to each other – an expectation that participants will challenge and support each other in love

- Leader/contact name - If it is a parish group (ie open to wider members of the congregation and not just a pair or a triplet) a named person who is a contact for the Parish Leadership team.

One of the ways people are growing and deepening in their faith is in small groups. There are currently 9 small groups meeting, in church and in people's homes, some weekly and some less often, with up to 59 church members taking part. A variety of approaches is taken, with reading the Bible, prayer and fellowship playing an important part of every group. If you would like to find out more about small groups, get in touch with us.

Other encouragements to discipleship were offered throughout the Parish during 2025. These included The Bible Course, the Advent blog series and a Spiritual Reflection. This year, the Lent focus on learning from the Desert Mothers and Fathers with Lectio 365 seems to have been widely received as helpful. If you have any thoughts about how we can deepen our faith, please let us know; all ideas welcome. And do take a look at our parish website for more information about what's going on.

Of course, there are many other ways in which our discipleship to Jesus is encouraged and supported, by many people across all our congregations and communities. We look forward to seeing how God is going to deepen our faith in the coming year.

GREEN & FAIRTRADE GROUP REPORT - 2025 (GO FAR, GO FAIR, GO GREEN)

Trevor Tayleur

One of our MAP Goals as a Parish is to care for God's people and planet by being a Fairtrade Parish and pursuing a positive environmental impact. The Green and Fairtrade Group has continued to encourage the Parish to meet this MAP Goal.

Significant events during the year have included:

Eco Church Progress

A major milestone was reached when St Saviour's was awarded Silver Eco Church status on 26th September. This represents sustained effort across worship, teaching, buildings, land use, community engagement and lifestyle.

We are now focusing on securing Silver status for St Paul's. St Paul's already meets the Silver threshold in four of the five areas assessed by the Eco Church survey. The remaining category requiring further development is Land and Nature and attaining Silver level is proving challenging.

Fairtrade and Ethical Consumption

Fairtrade remains central to our mission of promoting justice in global trade. During Fairtrade Fortnight (22nd September – 5th October 2025), we actively supported the Fairtrade Foundation's Do It Fair campaign, encouraging parishioners to consider the impact of everyday purchasing decisions and to support producers through fair trade practices.

Fairtrade stalls have been held at St Paul's and St Saviour's. These events provided opportunities to raise awareness, sell Fairtrade products and engage parishioners in conversation about ethical consumption.

At the group's request, Rev. Gill Tayleur conducted an audit confirming adherence to the Parish Buying Policy promoting ethical and responsible procurement.

Advocacy and Engagement

In July, members of the Parish took part in the ACT NOW CHANGE FOREVER mass lobby of Parliament. A group of constituents from Dulwich and West Norwood, including Trevor Tayleur, met Helen Hayes MP. She responded positively to most of the concerns raised and there is potential for further engagement between participating groups and the MP.



We also circulated details of the Southwark Diocese Green Week Eco Pilgrimage (8–13 June). Despite significant publicity, only two parishioners participated. This highlights the challenge of sustaining engagement and suggests that we may need to explore new ways of encouraging wider involvement.

ROBES PROJECT 2025

Mary Ollard and Sophie Corlett

We ran the Robes shelter again in 2025, hosting up to 15 guests on Tuesdays as part of a circuit of churches offering hospitality each night of the week. The guests, who were all selected by Robes, the organisation overseeing the project, would all otherwise have been on the street. We offered a hot, home-cooked dinner, a safe and warm bed and a cooked breakfast one night a week between New Year and the end of March. We used St Saviour's as our venue and had a wonderful group of volunteers from our own congregations and the wider community who shopped, cooked, assembled and disassembled camp beds, welcomed guests, washed up or slept in overnight. Apart from building and heating costs, we were able to run the shelter at no cost to parish funds due to the generosity of our volunteers who donated food and other goods. By the end of the period, half of the Robes' guests had been found settled accommodation by the Robes' advice workers, and a further quarter had been found hostel or other temporary housing. We had feedback from the guests saying how much they valued the welcome and the dignity of being hosted in this way. For more information about the great work of Robes, check out their website.

PARISH WEEKEND AWAY 2025

Winnie Obese-Bempong

The 2025 Parish Weekend Away was a joyful and enriching time for our church family, with feedback overwhelmingly positive across all areas. Participants especially valued the sense of fellowship and community, frequently mentioning how good it was to spend relaxed, meaningful time together. The teaching on the book of Jonah was highlighted as engaging, interactive and memorable. Many people commented on how well the speaker connected with the church's needs, meeting us where we were and guiding us forward in a way that felt sensitive, thoughtful, and spiritually encouraging.



There was also strong appreciation for the extended prayer ministry and the opportunities for morning and evening prayers. Several respondents noted how valuable it was to have dedicated, unhurried space for prayer, both individually and together, and how this contributed to a deep sense of spiritual care and attentiveness throughout the weekend. These moments of prayer were seen as an important and welcome part of the retreat's overall rhythm.

Practical aspects of the weekend received strong approval as well, including accommodation, food, and the range of activities offered. Only a few concerns were raised, mostly about venue noise and minor logistical details, but they did not detract from the overall experience. Many encouraging suggestions were offered for the future, including more creative activities, the possibility of Taizé-style worship elements, and interest in extending the weekend or holding it annually. Overall, the weekend clearly continues to play a vital role in strengthening relationships, nurturing faith, and building up our parish community.

HMP BRIXTON 2025-2026

Andy Blacknell

Another year has passed without an Anglican chaplain in place in the prison (employed by the Ministry of Justice). The diocese and our parish continue to support and send our curate Andy to fulfil some of this role for the three days each week he is in prison. The ministry in the prison saw 6 men baptised, an average of forty attending bible studies on each of the four wings during the week and about 30-40 in church on Sundays. Eight local churches send in teams of volunteers to disciple the men, support the bible studies and Sunday services as well as to help run courses such as Alpha and Kidsmatter (a parenting course). The prison, like most others, is lacking resources and experienced staff, and this makes it a challenging place to be, but the darker the place, the brighter Jesus shines.

Parish of Herne Hill Annual Parochial Church Meeting
10.15am, 26 April 2026, St Saviour's Church on Sunday
Agenda

10.15 am The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2025 APCM Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens (*attached below*)
3. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens
4. Prayer for Churchwardens

10.25 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Vicar's opening remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the previous APCM (*attached below*)
4. Elections to the Parochial Church Council & Deanery Synod
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Annual Reports –
 - Vicar's Report & Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally for 2025
 - MAP & Ministry reports - 5 minute spotlight – Robes
 - Q&A for any non-financial questions re the reports and presentations
 - Operational reports including a financial presentation from our treasurer
 - Q&A for any financial questions re the reports and representations
7. Any Other Business (*Please let the chair know beforehand if you have AOB items*)
8. Date of next meeting – 12 noon, 25 April 2027, St Paul's Church Herne Hill
9. Sing In God's Strength
10. Closing Prayer

Parish of Herne Hill Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Minutes 11 May 2025, 11.30am St Saviour's Church

The meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

Present:

Adeyinka Akinwande, Jason Alexandre, Amit Atwal, Rajni Atwal, Sarah Baldwin, Jim Belben, Jennie Brindley, Simon Brindley, Harriet Bukata, Peter Calderbank, Sharon Calderbank, Kate Chambers, Sharon Crooks, Irene Davison-Aitkins, Eunice Enaroseha, Sylvia Filip, Isobel Finn, Andrew Firman, Wendy Firman, Juanne Fuller, Geraldine Garner, Derek Gibson, Ben Goodyear, Rachel Goodyear, Esther Hughes, Isa Jackson, Alan Jones, Julia Kirby-Jones, Adrian Lapadatescu, Bryan Lovell, Jeremy Moore, Clare Mudie, Dave Mudie, Winnie Obese-Bempong, Lorna Palmer, Adrian Parkhouse, Anne Parkhouse, Jane Peters, Dorothea Smartt, Kelly Stevenson, Gill Tayleur, Trevor Tayleur, Robyn Teare, Kirsten Tedder, Guy Thompson, Lucy Wainwright, Hazel Watson, Aileen Webb, Stephanie White, Lucy Williams, Jill Wilson, Jonathan Wyles

Apologies: Andrew Makower, Lilly Immanuel

Chair: Ben Goodyear (vicar),

Minutes: Sophie Corlett

1 **Opening prayer** – Ben Goodyear opened the meeting in prayer

2. **Approval of Minutes of the 2024 APCM Meeting for the Election of Church**

Wardens

Approved

Ben thanked church wardens, Beckee Lewis, Wendy Firman, Geraldine Garner

and Juanne Fuller for all their faithful work. Geraldine and Beckee were both finishing this year, and we thanked them particularly for their service.

3. **Nomination and election of Churchwardens**

Our Churchwardens were elected unopposed:

St Saviour's: Wendy Firman and Lilly Immanuel

St Paul's: Harriet Bukata and Juanne Fuller

4. **Prayer for Churchwardens**

Ben led a prayer the Churchwardens.

APCM

Adeyinka Akinwande, Jason Alexandre, Amit Atwal, Rajni Atwal, Sarah Baldwin, Jim Belben, Jennie Brindley, Simon Brindley, Harriet Bukata, Peter Calderbank, Sharon Calderbank, Kate Chambers, Sharon Crooks, Irene Davison-Aitkins, Eunice Enaroseha, Sylvia Filip, Isobel Finn, Andrew Firman, Wendy Firman, Juanne Fuller, Geraldine Garner, Derek Gibson, Ben Goodyear, Rachel Goodyear, Esther Hughes, Isa Jackson, Alan Jones, Julia Kirby-Jones, Adrian Lapadatescu, Bryan Lovell, Jeremy Moore, Clare Mudie, Dave Mudie, Winnie Obese-Bempong, Lorna Palmer, Adrian Parkhouse, Anne Parkhouse, Jane Peters, Dorothea Smartt, Kelly Stevenson, Gill Tayleur, Trevor Tayleur, Robyn Teare, Kirsten Tedder, Guy Thompson, Lucy Wainwright, Hazel Watson, Aileen Webb, Stephanie White, Lucy Williams, Jill Wilson, Jonathan Wyles

1 Apologies: Andrew Makower, Lilly Immanuel

2. Vicar's opening remarks

Ben summarised the year outlining several aspects touching our MAP goals. He noted

- MAP Goal 1(60 confirmations or baptisms for people aged 11 or over): We have had 10 baptisms and 4 confirmations, and we've had an increase 59 adults and 35 children worshipping with us at least once a month
- Goal 2: everyone (or nearly!) being part of a discipling community: we have 57 people (23%) in small groups or fellowship groups of some form or another and we have a small group now meeting to think about how we can increase opportunities for people to grow as Christians
- Goal 3 (50 new youth and children) We've seen 35 new children join the congregation and 10 baptisms.

Ben encouraged us to use the little cards to invite people to church, and he encouraged us to be generous in our giving.

3. Approval of previous APCM Minutes

APCM minutes for 13 May 2024 were approved.

4. Elections to Parochial Church Council & Deanery Synod

Ben thanked the members of PCC from last year and Lucy Wainwright, Ade Akinwande and Sarah Baldwin were elected to the PCC.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Stewardship was re-appointed as independent examiner.

6. Annual Reports

6a Vicar's Report and Report on proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for 2024/5

The following questions were raised:

- Whether there are enough volunteers to support YFC – yes, currently, but we will need more from September. However, we urgently need more volunteers at St Saviour's for youth and children's church on Sunday mornings, even if just every now and then. There is also a (lesser) need at St Paul's
- We've seen lots of new people coming in – are these absolute increases or a net gain? (ie, have we also seen people leave?). The numbers above are new people who have come. In the same period we've had 14 people and 5 children who have left, moved away or died. This means the net gain is slightly less.
- What is most on Ben the Vicar's mind that we could support him by praying for? Ben to sleep well; people to step up to lead things so that he doesn't have to worry about them.
- How has CAP been this year? We are now averaging 4 job clubs a year and get between 10 and 15 people and because we have referrals from the Job Centre we don't have to do much promotion. Money courses are less well attended – people sign up but don't come, so we are trying new things, such as running it on different days. Beckee has helped 5 people go debt free in the last 12 months and help many more begin the journey to being free from debt. If you are connected in the community somewhere, please be in touch with Beckee so that we can promote the CAP activities. There is social prescribing from the GP surgeries so those are good places to have information about job and money courses.
- Do we plan for more shared meals? Yes! We aim for 4 or so shared lunches every year and the next is on 29 June at St Paul's. We haven't done a progressive supper for several years but if anyone wants to run one that would be great!

Ben thanked everyone who had written reports.

6b Financial report

Peter Calderbank spoke to the financial report – he can provide copies of the detailed accounts on request. He thanked all the people at both churches who contribute to making his role easier, in particular Andy and Emmanuel. He would like more volunteers from St Paul's to help – Jeremy volunteered. He also thanked Derek, Anne and Alison, who help with banking and money, and Kelly who deals with the accounts throughout the year, which allows us to clear and immediate answers to any queries raised by Stewardship, the Independent Examiner.

Peter ran quickly through the numbers which are all in his report. He outlined our income and recommended the Parish Giving Scheme as it really helps especially with Gift Aid. He noted our expenditure, which is higher than our income as part of an active and conscious decision to use our community engagement fund in particularly on our CAP activities. We have also spent a bit more this year because of the organ restoration and the redecoration of St Saviour's.

In the long term, however, we can't continue to spend more than comes in so PCC is already starting to think about what to do – broadly, we can see if it is possible to increase our income considerably, or, alternatively, whether we cut back on what we do.

Peter thanked everyone who gives of their time and money as it has enabled us to do a huge amount in the parish and beyond.

The following points came out during questions:

- Why are we choosing to spend outside of our income? Peter noted that we didn't want to have money sitting in a bank account not doing anything useful, and this was better when you apply for grants too (as people are less keen to grant funds if they think you've lots of money stashed away)
- How can people help with the decision PCC has to make about income/expenditure? Please pray as PCC make this decision. PCC is looking carefully at all the activities we are doing and whether anything that is a lesser priority might be stopped and the clergy especially are praying and looking at this. Please also think about your own giving, and also how we might increase our income in other ways so we can continue what we do.
- The St Paul's boundary wall repair fund is £50k which seems a lot. Yes, it might cost this or more and will probably be used this year. We already have planning permission and are out to tender for quotes. A quantity surveyor has looked at it recently and has said there is no immediate danger but the work remains urgent and the wall is moving slightly each year.
- Do we have to give funds to the diocese? This is also something PCC will be considering.
- The outline of the accounts had been extremely clear and Peter was thanked for his excellent work throughout the year and his clear explanations at the meeting

Ben thanked Peter for his report and his work.

7 AOB

Geraldine gave a vote of thanks to Ben for all his work, his inspiring and Christ-centred leadership and the huge amount he does and helps the Parish to do, from which so many people benefit. Wendy added thanks for the wider team - to Gill and Ben H, curates Winnie and Andy and lay readers Adjoa, Adrian, Simon and Trevor all of whom so faithfully lead and serve. And Wendy noted the huge number of people who volunteer and serve and step in when needed – massive thanks to all!

Ben thanked Sophie for being secretary and taking the minutes.

8 Date of next meeting 26 April 2026

9 closing prayer

Wendy led a prayer of thanks for the blessings of the past year and prayed for the coming year and the decisions to be made and the activities planned.