

Bursledon Parish **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH REPORTS**



 www.bursledonparish.com

 St Leonard's & St Paul's
Churches

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Annual Parish Meeting & Parochial Church Meeting Minutes
Held on Sunday 27th April 2025 at St Paul's Church

- 1. A welcome and opening prayer** were offered by Revd John Pawson.
- 2. Churchwardens** – Bernadette Taylor, having served 3 years was stepping down. Huge thanks were given to her for all she had done over the years and for being a faithful servant to the church. Thank you gifts and a card was presented to Bernadette by Linda Burt.
Linda Burt, having served 7 years very kindly offered to serve another term. Huge thanks were given to her for all she had done over the years and for being such a faithful servant to the church. A bouquet of thanks was presented to Linda by Helen Pawson.
A round of applause was given in appreciation for all their efforts.
- 3. Election of Churchwarden**
Linda Burt – Proposer: Bernadette Taylor, Seconder: Ron Baker
All were in favour
Revd John Pawson commented that there is currently a vacancy for a Church Warden and invited attendees to be thoughtful and prayerful about serving in this role to support the ministry of the Church.
- 4. Electoral Roll**
Diane Anderson reported that this year is a completely new year for the Roll. The registration was open between 17th February and 31st March 2025. The number on the new Electoral Roll for 2025 is 126.
- 5. Apologies** – Bob & Hilary Bax, Jane & Dave Moyes, Sheila Ablett, Mike Watts, Lynne Falconer, Marie Clare, Lynne Watts, Sue Osmond, Suzanne Houston, Alice Street, Sarah Nisbet, Pam Baker and Tricia Pat.
- 6. Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2024 were accepted as correct. Proposer: Peter Taylor; Seconder: Andy Milchard; all were in favour.
- 7. Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.
- 8. Financial Statements** – Presentation of annual figures.
John Pawson reported on the financial statements. He thanked all those who give so faithfully and thanked God for his generosity to us all.
 - a) Vicar's Appeal**
John Pawson outlined why Christian giving is important as a spiritual discipline. The regular Parish Giving Scheme is down by £6K and he challenged us to have a fresh look at our regular giving.
 - b) Adoption of Annual Accounts**
Adoption of Annual Accounts – Proposer: Rhiannon Brook; Seconder: Ron Baker. All were in favour.
 - c) Appointment of Examiner for 2025**
Knight Goodhead Associates were duly appointed as Examiners for another year.
Proposer: John Pawson; Seconded: Linda Burt. All were in favour.
John Pawson thanked the Finance Team and Diane Anderson for all the good works that they have done throughout the year, week in and week out.
A round of applause of appreciation was given for all their efforts.

9. PCC Secretary – Roz Plain stepped down from the role after 5 years service. John Pawson thanked her for all her hard work and presented her with a gift. A round of applause of appreciation was given in appreciation for all her efforts.

John Pawson announced that there is a need to fill the role of PCC Secretary. Anyone interested should either contact the church office, Linda Burt, or John Pawson for more information.

10. Reports

A big thank you was given to Diane Anderson for collating the Reports Booklet and to those who enabled so many ministries to be undertaken. John Pawson encouraged us all to read the reports.

A big thank you was also given to the dozens of volunteers who served in church. However, extra volunteers are needed for jobs on a Sunday morning to alleviate the pressure on the existing volunteers. For more information either contact the church office or visit the website.

Adoption of reports: Proposer; John Pawson, Seconder: Tim Brook. All were in favour.

A video was shown outlining what the CYF Groups have been up to throughout the year.

11. Elections

a) PCC

Thanks were given to those retiring from the PCC; Lynne Watts, John Plain and Emily McColm for their faithful service.

Elected to serve were:-

- Rachel Westhorpe – Proposed Diane Anderson; Seconded: John Dunn
- James Still – Proposed: Linda Burt; Seconded: John Dunn

There were 3 vacancies on the PCC and 2 nominees.

John Pawson proposed that the 2 candidates be welcomed onto the PCC. All were in favour.

There is one vacancy to fill.

Diane Anderson gave an overview on the role of a PCC member.

Huge thanks was given to all members who serve on the committee.

b) Deanery Synod

Not due for renewal this year.

12. Vote of thanks

John Pawson once again thanked all the faithful church members who had given their time, finances and skills. Linda Burt led the tribute to John and Helen for their faithful leading, care and support to the church family.

The meeting closed with sung worship (In Christ Alone).

Electoral Roll 2026

Sheila	Ablett	Erica	Davison
Okey	Agwu	Barbara	Down
Diane	Anderson	John	Dunn
John	Armstrong	Lin	Essaye
Ann	Ashburn	Michele	Fairclough
Peter	Ashburn	Lynne	Falconer
Emily	Aston	Judith	Foster
Mark	Aston	Colynette	Freeman
Matt	Atkinson	Marilyn	Gilmartin
Elizabeth	Baker	Isabel	Goodison
Pam	Baker	Jenny	Gowers
Ron	Baker	Ralph	Gowers
Anna	Barber	Ronald	Grassie
Bob	Bax	Tricia	Green
Hilary	Bax	Kit	Grylls
Bev	Bennion	Anji	Hall
Jennie	Bentley	Pat	Hall
Jackie	Bevis	Joan	Hammond
Nigel	Bevis	Margaret	Hayward
Corrina	Bishop	Sharon	Heritage
Nick	Bishop	Nick	Hiscock
Brian	Bland	Sheila	Hiscock
Julia	Bland	Susanne	Hooper
Mary	Boulter	Suzanne	Houston
Richard	Boulter	Tony	Houston
David	Brice	Lin	Howard
Elizabeth	Brice	Roger	Hunns
Rhiannon	Brook	Anne	James
Tim	Brook	Sue	King
Linda	Burt	Yvonne	Kinsella
Anna	Cahill	Jenny	Leeves
Georgina	Cartwright	Issac	Lord
Laurence	Chorley	Jonathan	Lyne
Marie	Clare	Sally	Lyne
Andy	Collingwood	Ross	Maidens
Frances	Collingwood	Jo	Marriot
Alan	Cookson	Emma	Marston
Susan	Cookson	Pat	Martin

Alan	Mather
Emily	Mccolm
Abby	Milchard
Andrew	Milchard
Leah	Morris
Dave	Moyes
Jane	Moyes
Jana	Murray
Hallie	Neale
Scott	Neale
John	Nisbet
Sarah	Nisbet
Adrienne	O'dell
Rachel	Oliver
Susan	Osmond
Helen	Pawson
Beth	Pedder
Kathryn	Peet
Roy	Pharoah
John	Plain
Ros	Plain
Keith	Price
Linette	Price
Bernard	Quinn
Holly	Quinn
Laura	Quinn
Lisa	Quinn
Prue	Rossiter
Matthew	Routledge
Rob	Sanders
Anthony	Scammell
Karen	Scammell
Anthony	Seve
Mary	Shepherd
Clare	Shervington
Boma	Simon-Hart
Claire	Smith
James	Still
Rebecca	Still
David	Stone
Penny	Stone

Alice	Street
Bethany	Street
Greg	Street
Rob	Street
Daniel	Tabrett
Bernadette	Taylor
Helen	Taylor
Peter	Taylor
Pam	Tilbury
Colin	Waterman
Susie	Waterman
Lynne	Watts
Mike	Watts
Julie	Westhorpe
Rachel	Westhorpe
Claire	White
John	White
Sara	White
Sean	White
Theresa	White
Tim	White
Kat	Williams
Diane	Wilson

**140 on Bursledon Parish
Electoral Roll
6th April 2026**

Vicar's Letter

Welcome to our 2025/26 Reports Booklet. It's encouraging to look back and see the many people who serve so faithfully, and the wide range of ministries that express our love for Jesus and for one another. So much prayer, time and energy has been poured into our shared life as a church family.

As you read these reports, I invite you to be prayerful and open to how the Lord may be calling you to serve—perhaps in a new or different way—as we step into a fresh season of witness and blessing. A particular highlight of 2025 was celebrating 25 years of mission and worship in the new St Paul's, with Bishop Rhiannon joining us to give thanks for all God has done across the parish. It was a joy to combine this with our baptisms and confirmations, recalling the Spirit's outpouring at Pentecost.

This year has brought both exciting developments and steady consolidation of previous work. Two Alpha groups have flourished, forming new Life Groups and helping several people begin or deepen their relationship with Jesus. We are now preparing for baptisms and confirmations, and it's been wonderful to see Alpha participants joining us regularly in worship. We sense the Lord stirring new life, fresh hope and deeper faith and obedience among us.

Four church members have also joined me on the GROW course, helping us reflect on our ministries and renew our vision:

Following Jesus; Loving Radically; Building Community; Transforming Lives

We are committed to ensuring that our worship, ministries and direction reflect this vision, and that together we grow in purpose as we seek God's kingdom in our parish.

Many of our ongoing ministries continue to support this vision, including:

- TLG Make Lunch and Early Intervention Coaching
- Strengthening our Safeguarding systems, especially Safer Recruitment
- Children and families work: schools ministry, Messy Church, Little Gems, Sunday groups, Holiday Club, Light Party and more
- Youth ministry: Sunday and midweek groups, Christian Unions, residentials, Encounter worship nights, socials, Youth Band and more

We also celebrated the completion of the Organ Refurbishment in 2025 with a wonderful music evening in early 2026.

Looking ahead, we are aware of the need for improvements to the heating at St Paul's and significant roof repairs at St Leonard's. We remain deeply grateful for the generosity of our congregations in supporting the mission of the parish.

Finally, I would personally like to thank everyone who works with such willingness, joy and dedication, in their service of the Lord and the parish here. Your commitment to the mission is so greatly appreciated.

John

Rev John Pawson

Churchwarden's Report

As we look back on another year, we give thanks to God for His goodness, faithfulness, and provision to us as a church.

We are deeply grateful for each one of you and for all you do to make our services, and the many activities throughout the week, possible. Thank you for your faithful commitment and for the many ways you serve the church here in Bursledon. Special thanks to Bernadette Taylor, who stepped down as churchwarden at last year's APCM, for her faithful support and encouragement.

Serving alone this year has brought its own challenges, so please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your help, support, and encouragement. I truly could not have managed without you.

Two of my highlights from this year have been:

Celebrating 25 years of St. Paul's: It was a lovely celebration and great to be able to welcome back those who have worshipped with us down the years.

Music for a Winter's Evening: It was a wonderful evening of music celebrating the recent organ restoration. The organ sounded superb!

Thank you to all who were involved.

It has been a great privilege to serve as churchwarden for the past eight years. As I step down at this year's APCM my sincere thanks go to:

- John and Helen, for their leadership, teaching, care, and wise counsel as they continue to serve God and His church here in Bursledon.
- Our Staff Team - Suzanne, Alice, Diane, and John.
- All who serve on the PCC, especially Hilary Bax, Rachel Oliver, Rob Sanders, and Scott Neale, who complete their term of service at this APCM, and to Rhiannon Brook and Jenny Bentley, who have stepped down.
- Every member of our church family - THANK YOU.

Linda Burt

Alpha 2024

Alpha in 2025/6 has been very exciting, with some really encouraging responses as many of the guests have had wonderful and life-changing encounters with Jesus and as a result we have started 2 new Life Groups, as Alpha graduates continue to explore and grow in their Christian faith.

We ran 2 Alpha Courses – 1 in the spring term, the other in the Autumn term.

Both attracted a group of around 8-10 curious guests looking to either explore Jesus and the Christian faith for the first time, or to discover more about their existing Christian faith.

One of the highlights is always the Holy Spirit Day and on both occasions people had very real and significant experiences of God's presence and affirmation as we prayed for them.

If you would like to:

- experience the Alpha Course for yourself, or
- help deliver Alpha as part of the team, or
- have a friend you would like bring along,

please do have a chat with John, Suzanne, Becca Still or Emily Aston.

As we continue to explore and unpack our new Vision Statement...

'Following Jesus: Loving Radically, Building Community & Transforming Lives',

I encourage us all to think about who you might personally invite to come along to the next Alpha Course. It really is a no-charge, no-pressure, fun and effective way to share our faith with others.

I look forward to welcoming you and your inquiring guests onto an Alpha Course soon.

John Pawson

Café 2:4

With our wonderful team of around 12 we are now welcoming an average of 32 people both church family as well as from the community, including, thanks largely to Emily, more young mums and children as well as some from Alpha and sometimes youth from the estate.

Each time is different, and as the café evolves, we continue to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds, through craft activities, card making, table tennis and table football, as well as the free drinks, cakes and fruit.

We often have themed cafés depending on the time of year and at Christmas we had a handbell ringing group entertain everyone, which brought many extra people into the church building.

We continue to be a listening ear and company for people and have laminated bible verses available if and when appropriate. As we gradually develop deeper relationships, we pray and trust the Holy Spirit is working in many lives.

Mary Boulter

Children, Youth and Families

Children & Families Report

Seen, Known, Loved

I am writing this on Easter Sunday evening - it's been a busy Holy Week for us and our volunteers with the Kids and Families of our Community. On Thursday afternoon we packed away Wild West Backgrounds, hobby horses, inflatable cacti, bales of hay, gingham and hessian fabrics, dismantling the scene of our 4-day Holiday Club outreach. Followed by completing a grand re-set with 14 Easter themed activities for children to enjoy with their adults for Messy Easter! Phew...

In our Wild West Wilderness, we explored and contrasted iconic Cowboy stuff, Jessie from Toy Story, and the stories of Moses and the Escape from Egypt. On the Thursday we thought about how the Hebrew people escaped through the Red Sea, and how they celebrated every year since remembering God's rescue... this linked then to the last supper and Jesus own rescue plan unfolding for us.

The children had an amazing time, with crafts, stories, Bible verses, picnic lunches, songs and drama. Yet most important of all was having fun and being nurtured in small team groups by our fantastic helpers and teenage Deputies.

One of our memory verses (set to a Country style tune that's hard to get out of your head) was *Jeremiah 31 v3* "I have loved you with an everlasting love, with loving kindness I have drawn you to me" and through all our volunteers that's what we achieved! Loving and caring for them demonstrated their value to God in practical terms.

We are truly grateful to all our helpers, giving their time in service for Kingdom Values and Church Vision. Thank you for every conversation, sandwich buttered, line dance stepped, financial contribution and family greeted in Jesus' name.

We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to all those who continue support our mission week in week out with our Sunday groups, Toddlers and Messy Church – there is no way we could do it without you. We hope that other's reading some of this year's news may be inspired and nudged by the Holy Spirit to explore how to get involved on a more regular basis too. Please do talk to Alice and Myself further or arrange to attend or visit a group to see what it might entail.

Messy Church

Spaces for Messy Easter bookings flew this year, with many adding their name to a waiting list so they could attend. Festival occasions are always popular, and as engagement increases, we will need to be ready to offer more spaces so that whole families can explore the true meaning of these, in a consumer driven world. Our regular sessions through the year have also drawn new faces, and the warmth, welcome and acceptance they feel is apparent. Recently in a school Mental health week workshop activity we asked the children to tell us about places they feel they belong – one dear girl (who has been coming with her Mum since the last Holiday club) said in front of all her peers, "I feel that way at Messy Church". Huge Thanks once more to our current, small faithful team for all you do...

Schools

Talking to others at a recent learning day, I was reminded again just how special our links with Bursledon Infant and Junior schools are. Our involvement around the school for Lunchtime Club, Collective Worship and being trusted adults around the sites when involved in coaching sessions or activity days are anticipated by the children, and adults alike with a smile.

We are a regular part of their week, providing recognition, attention and listening in the small passing interactions on the way to focused activities too.

Whole school visits to St Leonards and alternating to St Paul's between Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Y2 Celebration and Y6 Leavers continue to be hi-lights for the children across the school year...

It is interesting how when engaging in conversation with some of the young teenagers who hang around outside St Paul's from time to time, it has been remembrance of such services or award giving moments during them that have been the key to a deeper level of interaction. We pray for the seeds planted with the rhythm of every year to continue to grow, and for the children and young people to be drawn by the Lord's Loving kindness towards them.

Please continue to pray for our schools, for the teachers, staff, and all the children. Pray particularly that those with a personal faith are equipped by the Holy Spirit to shine bright – including the new Infant headteacher (a former class teacher who loves both Jesus and the children!) who started the role in February.

Sunday Mornings

We love our Sunday morning crew – and so do they love coming! There is a true sense of belonging within the group and the youngest feel comfortable among the older children who continue to nurture and welcome them. Our group spans a rather large age group – as pre-covid we had adults enough to run an infants and juniors separately. They are such a lovely bunch of kids and growing in number. It won't be long before we gain another boost of 3-year-olds being ready to join us... planning the provision of more adult support will soon need addressing. We have some wonderful helpers who have served for many, many years alongside me. It would honour their faithful contribution to have a few more people to call on for the monthly rota to share the load...

Toddlers

Our Thursday and Friday Toddler and Baby groups continue to be a valuable highlight and place of support for many local Mums and parents. Seeing both children and adults settle into routines, comfortable company, familiarity and friendship is precious to see, and to God.

The welcome and warmth of the group continues to provide a place of listening, company and encouragement for the adults, and of acceptance and fun for the children. Links and friendships beyond the sessions are growing, and Mums are starting to co-ordinate termly gatherings 'out out' with each other. I love to hear some of our enthusiastic newest 'church mums' chatter about Sundays, Alpha or their own faith and encourage others to come and check it out. Their WhatsApp group is working well in linking parents, and Emily regularly shares church events and invites to occasions and sessions. If you would like to visit or get involved in this valuable ministry I would love to hear from you – or speak to Anna Cahill too, who regularly helps on a Thursday.

TLG

Alice and I continue to spend one hour a week of our school year supporting and spending time with designated children for coaching through our TLG charity partnership.

Just before Christmas I began to include easy cooking activities with my child – and we are having a great time every week. He loves it and is already chatting about wanting to become a baker! Such a simple thing is helping us to build increasing rapport and boost his esteem. I genuinely love taking time to meet him each week! Showing care and attention this way, has also had a noticeable effect on other staff – they seem as keen to savour the sights and baking smells that linger around their staff room when they come in for lunch as much as my child does telling his friends about his bakes.

Might you be interested in finding out more? We'd love to be able to reach more children and families by offering regular time with a matched adult, 'their' person to check in with on a regular basis. Please do chat to us further about what it entails.

NB/All our helpers and volunteering positions follow our safer recruitment processes, but we are glad to have Emily and Diane on hand to help support and guide people through it.

Thank you all for your ongoing support this year... and as always, please continue to pray for the children and families of our area, for God's Spirit to draw people to his loving kindness personified in us and that together we can help extend God's Kingdom here in Bursledon, one small interaction at a time.

Suzanne Houston

Youth Ministry Report

It's been a busy and rewarding year in the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) ministry; seeing our young people become more confident in their faith has been truly wonderful. Working primarily with those from Year 6 through to Year 13, I have observed the unique challenges and opportunities they face as they navigate questions of faith and belonging.

Alongside Suzanne, my goal has been to cultivate a space where every young person can come to know Jesus personally and, importantly, understand that they are Seen, Known, and Loved by Him.

Sunday Group – Emerge

Emerge currently serves a diverse group of youth from Year 7 to Year 11. This age range has presented challenges this year in discussions, due to the varying maturity levels. With the help of the 3 dedicated volunteers Andy M, Tony H and Rob S, we have managed to navigate through this difficult period, and I am very thankful for their support!

- **Attendance:** Regularly 8 youth each Sunday.

More of our youths will be moving up to college in September. We are presented with a need to provide these youths with either another Sunday group setting, which will require more volunteers, or adapting Sunday Services to be more accessible for their faith needs.

Prayer Points: For wisdom and guidance in navigating the next stages of the older youth's faith journey, for continued spiritual growth among the youth, and for our dedicated volunteers.

Youth Band

The Youth Band has continued to flourish under Tim's guidance. I'm so proud of how the youth have developed their musical skills and grown in confidence. Two of our older youth now play regularly in the main worship band and some of the Yr6's have joined the youth band, which is such a blessing!

Band members: 7 members.

- **Rehearsals:** Twice monthly, thanks to the support of Tim, Richard, Rachel, Ron and Matt.
- **Achievements:** Regularly play all worship songs at the All Age Services.

Prayer Points: Please continue to pray for our worship leaders as they guide our young band members.

Tuesday Youth Cell

This faithful and committed group meets Tuesday evenings during term time, where Helen and I provide a safe space for open discussion, prayer, and faith exploration.

- **Study Material:** We have run the new Youth Alpha in partnership with Thornhill Baptist Church, where we have seen a growth in spiritual expression.
- **Partnership:** Our joint venture with Thornhill continues to strengthen fellowships with the youth. Historically this has been very beneficial to previous youth members as they move forward into college, this is because they have known other Christians at their college and this has encouraged the youths to check out the Christian Unions.
- **Growth:** This summer will see 3 Year 9's having the opportunity to join the group and the Year 9s will transition in the summer term.
- **Upcoming Plans:** Last year we had one youth get Baptised and Confirmed, and I am hoping to hold some more Baptism/Confirmation preparation evenings with John later in the year.

Prayer Points: For continued openness among the youth, wisdom for Helen and myself as leaders, and spiritual growth.

Encounter Monthly Worship

This inter-church youth gathering continues to foster community and worship across our local area. Sadly, there has been a drop in attendance from our church youth despite Encounter growing overall with other churches. The team has made changes to the running of the service, as requested by the youth, including a different start time, more snacks (!) and chairs during the talk.

The Encounter band members are Tim B, Rachel W, Beth S and Adam C – so the worship is on point! We have had guest speakers, including Scott Rushby, James Still and Will Rosie. I am a big advocate for Encounter as this is a monthly opportunity for our youth to get to emersed in worship, as I'm very aware they get one song on a Sunday morning before leaving for their group. It would be so wonderful to see more of our youth attending regularly.

Prayer Points: Please pray for all the leaders who provide this valuable youth service.

Christian Union at The Hamble School (Wednesday Lunchtimes)

Suzanne and I have been running CU within Hamble School for the past 5 years, offering a safe space during lunchtime, grounded in God's love—accompanied by donuts and card games!

- **Attendance:** 15–22 regulars.
- **Challenges:** Lunchtime is only 35 minutes long which limits the ability to have deep conversations. Due to staff changes we have had to reduce our timetable down to just one lunchtime. Last year we were able to offer a Thursday lunchtime too.
- **Encouragement:** A new teacher from a different faculty has stepped in to allow us to continue running CU on a Wednesday. Two students stating that this group is their safe place in school. Returning students, we have had students who came regularly in Year 7 only to stop coming during Yr 8 but have now begun to return in Yr 9.

Prayer Points: Thanks for the supportive staff members (absolutely answered prayer!) Please pray for our ongoing presence at the school, for the students and staff members.

TLG (Transforming Lives for Good)

I'm now with my second coach child, and it's been a privilege to see their development and growing confidence over the year so far. Relationships with the school continue to deepen as the teachers begin to see the benefits of TLG.

Prayer Points: Please pray for the mentoring scheme's expansion, the children and families involved, and the new mentors stepping into this valuable role.

6.25 And Future Youth Outreach

Over this past year the youth's interest in this group as waned. It resulted in the evenings being cancelled with late notice, which has impacted our volunteers'. I'm a strong believer that everything has a season and, as the regular attendees began revising for GCSE's, I took the decision to reimagine the group. I still feel it is important for the youth to have regular opportunities to socialise outside a formal church setting, so I have replaced the group with one off social events every half term.

Our first social was to Ninja Warrior, as requested by the youths, and this was well attended. I am hopeful that these socials will be popular with the youth. Rachel W and John N continue to be faithful leaders with this group, and I am very thankful for all the time and energy they give to the youth.

With the changes to 6.25 there are now opportunities to focus on the youth issues outside the church. I feel strongly that God wants us, the church, to be a light to those youths that have yet to know Jesus.

Prayer Points: Blessings for the leaders who have been so dedicated to 6.25 and for guidance and provision for the future youth outreach.

Youth Events & Camps

Events play a major role in strengthening relationships and faith. Here is a quick overview of what we've offered this past year:

- **Luminosity (Aug 2025):** Youth stream at the New Wine Festival!
- **St Leonard's Sleepover (Nov 2025):** Youth-led Danceathon raised £205.94 for our mission team. I would like to work more closely with our Mission Team in the future.
- **Christingle Puppet Show:** The youth did a wonderful job with their version of the Bethlehemain Rhapsody!
- **Encounter Weekend (Feb 2026):** Fairthorne Mannor - great activities, worship, and this year a YMCA Leader became a Christian during one of our Devotion Worship Sessions!
- **Easter Holiday Club (Apr 2026):** An opportunity for the older youth to serve. They were instrumental in running of this years Wild West Holiday Club;

their help was invaluable and a huge blessing. It was beautiful to see the youth engaging with the younger children, encouraging the younger children – giving those children role models to look up to.

What's Next?

- **Dynamic 2026:** A Summer Camp for Yr6 to Yr9, with support from Yr11 who get to serve on team as young leaders. This camp is a long weekend away with 4 other churches and has always been a great, high energy camp of worship, activities and waterparks!
- **Youth Outreach:** After the recent damage to our lovely building and other ongoing issues, we're prayerfully looking to develop our Youth Outreach within our local community. We've had answered pray to volunteering and I'm super excited for what God has planned this coming year.

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

- For wisdom on bridging the gap between the Sunday Emerge group and main services.
- For protection over our young people from negative cultural influences.
- For our volunteers and leaders.
- For our Youth Outreach

Looking back over this year I am filled with gratitude with how God has moved, and I look ahead with hope. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supports this ministry—whether through prayer, donations, volunteering, or encouragement. Your commitment is what allows the CYF to flourish.

You are an integral part of the story God is writing here in Bursledon, and in the lives of our young people. Together, let us continue to provide opportunities for our church, and the wider community, to experience Gods love and grace, building more of His kingdom here in our village.

Alice Street

Coffee & Conversation

During 2025 a group of church ladies met every third Thursday of the month for a chat and refreshments. We raised money by having occasional raffles and most of this went to the Toy box charity.

As the year passed our numbers went down in the most part due to other church activities happening during the week and so, sadly we decided to stop meeting for the foreseeable future.

Ladies can always come along for a chat at Pins and Needles which is also held in St Leonard's meeting room and this is every Monday afternoon except during school holidays.

Elizabeth Baker

Electoral Roll 2026

Number on Electoral Roll as at the 2025 APCM	126
Additions to the roll during the year	19
Removals from the roll	5

Number on the Electoral Roll as at the 2026 APCM **140**

Church attendance

The Electoral Roll is placed on display at each church and is available for inspection as required by law. At the APCM in 2025 we had a new Electoral Role which consisted of 126 members. Since then, 2 people have sadly died, 3 have been removed and 19 new additions making a total on the roll 140 effective from 6th April 2026.

Across the year the **average** Sunday attendance was approx. 96 adults and 16 children. As usual this number increased at festivals and for events such as Baptisms, Remembrance and Christingles.

If you regularly worship with us and have not applied to join the roll, forms are available at both St Leonard's Church & St Paul's Church.

Diane Anderson – Electoral Roll Officer

Events team

Over the past year, the Events Team has thoroughly enjoyed arranging a variety of social gatherings within our church community. It has been a joy to see people come together and celebrate in different ways, plus its an easy way to invite people into church.

One particular highlight was the very recent organ concert, which was an absolute delight from start to finish. We would like to extend a special thank you to Bernadette for her invaluable involvement in coordinating the musicians. We could not have done this without her help. We made a whopping £893.38 from the event for the church funds

We also greatly enjoyed hosting the Thank You Evening. It was an absolute pleasure to welcome so many of our wonderful volunteers and to celebrate the incredible work they do across our churches. Seeing the room filled with such committed and generous people was a reminder of how blessed we are as a community.

Another standout occasion was the quiz night, which has grown so popular that we had to move it into the church just to fit everyone in. The energy, laughter, and friendly competition made it a tremendous success. A special thank you to Rob Sanders for being an amazing Quiz Master. We raised £759 for our mission partners.

As we look ahead, we are always eager to hear your ideas. If you have suggestions for future events, we would love to receive them. In the meantime, please do check the church website, www.bursledonparish.org/events where you'll find details of all the activities and gatherings planned for the coming months.

We look forward to another year of shared joy & fellowship (and sometimes with great food and wine!)

Diane Anderson, Jackie Bevis & Linda Burt

Fabric and Facilities

We are very fortunate to have two well-maintained church buildings, and we remain deeply grateful to everyone who gives their time, skills, and care to keep them in good condition.

It has been another busy year for the Fabric & Facilities team, with a number of projects completed or currently underway. Highlights include:

Organ refurbishment – now complete. A few minor teething issues remain, but these should be resolved soon.

St Leonard's clock – repairs and overhaul are finished, and the chimes are sounding once again.

Stonework repairs at St Leonard's – several areas have been repaired, including the loose chimney stones which have now been secured or replaced.

Cellar door frame – the warped frame has been replaced.

Bats at St Leonard's – a small number of bats took up residence over the summer, but thankfully only stayed for a couple of months before moving on.

Regular work mornings – although attendance has been low, these sessions at both churches have enabled us to stay on top of routine maintenance. The next work morning will be at St Paul's on Saturday 6th June – please do add the date to your diary.

Heating systems – both churches have experienced issues. The boiler control panel at St Paul's is nearing the end of its life, and we are exploring replacement options. We are especially grateful to Nick Hiscock for his ongoing help.

Roof tiles at St Leonard's – some tiles are missing and need replacing; we are currently awaiting quotes.

Tree work at St Paul's – one of the trees requires attention, and we are awaiting a report on what is needed.

Vandalism: Unfortunately, during the winter months we experienced several incidents of vandalism at St Paul's. These included a broken front door panel, a broken window, and damage to both noticeboards. In addition, the damage to the front door required the lock and keys to be replaced.

Quinquennial Inspection – both churches are due for inspection at the end of this year.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the other members of the F&F Committee: Nick Hiscock, John Lyne, John Plain, and John Pawson.

We are especially grateful to John Plain, who will be stepping down at this APCM, for his valued contribution and faithful service. If you would like to join the team, please do let us know.

Finally, an enormous thank you to everyone who has played a part in caring for our churches this year. Your contribution is truly appreciated.

Linda Burt

Christian Distinctiveness at the Federation of Bursledon Church of England Infant and Church Affiliated Junior Schools

Our vision: *To see God's LOVE thrive in our Bursledon community: where no-one is lonely, isolated or unsupported; where we RESPECT diverse beliefs and we all speak well of each other; and where we all ASPIRE towards a fulfilling future of lifelong learning, built on strong relationships and hope.*

The schools are continuing to flourish in all they do, and Christian distinctiveness continues to grow and develop. John Suzanne and Alice continue to come into both schools each week to lead a session of collective worship and the TLG mentoring scheme continues to be much valued by the children concerned and staff. The weekly Christian Union club run by Suzanne and Alice continues and is much enjoyed by the children, as are the holiday clubs and Make Lunch project which run during the school holidays. At the end of each term, our school services in church are a real highlight for both children and staff.

The schools are increasingly reaching out into the community, with regular events put on by the schools where grandparents, residents from local care homes and other older members of our community come into school for performances of music and poetry, with refreshments. These are much enjoyed by all who attend. On World Book Day this year, some of the care home residents came into school to share some of their favourite books with the children and for the children to read to them – a very special time! We are also very grateful to some of our church family and other local residents who come into school regularly to listen to children read. This is so important, and if you feel this is something you might be interested in, please do let us know or contact the schools directly.

There is further extension of community work with the road to Silver Global Neighbours Christian Aid qualification and as a result the schools have joined with the church link in Uganda and held a fundraising 'dress up as your future career' raising hundreds of pounds to support the PKVI. Collective worships have also been run by John Nisbet and he was able to take videos and photographs of the link work between the schools and the local Ugandan community.

It's a real privilege as Christian governors to be living the mission of Jesus in our schools and we would like to thank all governors for the very considerable difference they make to school life and our wider community with their expertise, passion and commitment. We would particularly like to thank Ann Ashburn for her contributions during her year as a foundation governor and to welcome Becky Burden into the role.

Hilary Bax, Becky Burden and John Pawson - Foundation Governors

Life Groups

Over the last year our church has been thinking again about how we can best live as disciples of Jesus – particularly thinking about a 'rule of life' that brings together different spiritual disciplines that together help us to;

- Be with Jesus
- Become like Jesus
- Do as Jesus did

Significantly, this year we said goodbye to Suzie and Colin Waterman who have been key leaders in our Life Group structures – both leading groups; and Suzie regularly leading 2 different groups, as well as being co-ordinator over all the Life Groups. Needless to say, we will miss their input greatly.

I am therefore looking for someone to take over this role, which has 4 main strands of:

- Researching and recommending suitable group materials (keeping a list of resources)
- Organising 2 or 3 meetings each year for all the Life Group Co-ordinators
- Helping John to place new people into groups and
- General support of Groups and Co-ordinators.

Through the year we have had up to 9 Life Groups with 70+ members in total. With the inevitable ebb and flow of group members and leaders we have about the same number of people in 8 groups currently.

A real highlight of the year has been 2x new groups created following on from Alpha Courses. To enable this to happen we have encouraged existing group members/leaders to step up into leadership, and invited new people to work alongside them in a leadership role. Please pray that these groups settle and become well established. Thank you.

If you would like to be in a Life Group, please contact John Pawson (via the church office) and discover how you, too, can learn to 'practice the way' with others on the journey of faith.

Alpha and Life Groups are a key area for growth, both as individuals and as a church; so if you have some experience of leading in a Life Group setting, and sense God calling you to help lead a future post-Alpha group, please do talk to me.

*"For wherever two or three come together in honour of my name,
I am right there with them!" Matthew 18:20 (TPT)*

Rev John Pawson

M18 Prayers

We continue to meet on a Monday over Zoom, from 6.30 - 7.30, as we find that prayer over Zoom works well and allows us to 'meet' whilst in our own homes. We have time to bring our gratitude and praise to God, and seek to pray for the parish, the church and the nations as best we can. We're conscious of our need for the Spirit of God to lead us in our prayers and we want to come humbly, bringing what we can and trusting in our wonderful, gracious God to answer in the way that is best for growing his Kingdom of healing, wholeness and freedom.

God has answered our prayers for individuals in the church and parish as well for our parish as a whole; we see him at work in bringing people to himself and in deepening our desire in the church to pray and know Jesus better. We are pondering taking our prayer out onto the streets of Bursledon, walking and talking with God about our parish. It has been so good to pray together as a church on Sunday evenings during Lent and we wonder about how this might work going forward... much to ponder and wait for God's prompting on.

But we pray, and we pray, and we pray on, and the cry of our hearts is this: Oh God, would you come! Only you can heal our land, Holy Spirit, would you move in our little parish and in our nation we humbly ask you!

Please join us to pray out loud, or in your hearts; bizarre and inefficient as it may seem to us, if we don't pray, God won't move. What a privilege to work with him, what a responsibility we have! But oh what a kind and gracious God we serve!

See you Monday!

Becca Still

Make Lunch (TLG)

*"Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many.
(John 6 v 9.NIV)*

This quote from the story of the feeding of the five thousand illustrates how we often feel in the kitchen on Make Lunch mornings. We don't always know exact numbers or who may turn up, but God has been good and we have never run out of food.

Make Lunch continues every Tuesday during the school holidays. We are now going into our 7th year and numbers keep on growing. We have several young families attending and also a number of older people. We are helping to meet a lot of social needs as well as trying to help a little in alleviating food poverty.

These are some of the comments we have received:

"We like to come during the school holidays. Most of the activities stop and we enjoy coming for the company."

"The children enjoy the activities".

"I have never known a church as friendly. It's wonderful to have a hot cooked meal and company"

We are a close merry band in the kitchen, a faithful group of people turning up during the school holidays to take on whatever jobs need doing. Without this support we wouldn't be able to survive. New volunteers are always welcome especially in the summer holidays. It's nice to be able to give our volunteers one or two weeks break during the five or six summer sessions.

Julie organises our family activities with a band of willing helpers. The families have lots of fun with craft activities toys and games. If you feel you would like to help with this please speak to Julie. She would be very grateful for your help.

Adeola, our regional organiser from TLG came to visit us in October. She spent some time with both groups and also chatted to us in the kitchen. She spoke to several individuals who told her how much Make Lunch means to them and she thought the atmosphere was wonderful.

Thank you to all those who support us throughout the year, with your time, your financial donations, in the background making cakes and desserts and most of all your prayers

We're called to provide this service at this particular time and will continue as long as God needs us.

Bless you all

The Make Lunch Team.

Bernadette Taylor

Mission Update

The Mission Team currently consists of Jennie Bentley, Sarah Nisbet and Rachel Westhorpe, with continued support from John Nisbet. The purpose of the team is to support and promote the place of mission in the life of our church, encouraging awareness, prayer and practical support for our mission partners both overseas and here in the UK.

During the past year, the team has continued to support our two long-standing overseas mission partners: the Church Mission Society (CMS), through whom we support the Shin family in Thailand and Myanmar, and Papa Keith Vocational Institute (PKVI) in Pallisa, Uganda.

Supporting the Shin Family

We continue to support Beom-Jin and Marie Shin and their family through CMS. Their ministry involves supporting the Anglican Church in Myanmar, particularly through vocational training initiatives that help young adults gain employment and stability in very challenging circumstances.

CMS informed us during the year that the Shin family were facing a funding shortfall in their ministry budget. In response, the PCC approved a one-off additional contribution to help support them during this period. We are grateful that, through careful budgeting, they have been able to continue their work despite these financial challenges.

Looking ahead, PCC has agreed to increase our ongoing commitment to supporting the Shin family by 10%, in line with inflation, bringing the annual total to £2,110.

Supporting the Papa Keith Vocational Institute (PKVI)

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Papa Keith Vocational Institute in Pallisa, Uganda, particularly through the "Making a Difference" student sponsorship programme.

We are currently sponsoring eight students at PKVI, whose photos are displayed on the noticeboards at both St Paul's and St Leonard's. These students began their studies in August 2024 and are due to complete their courses in June 2026. Our current annual sponsorship contribution is £1,920.

Looking ahead, the new student sponsorships will begin from August 2026. As fees have risen with inflation, PCC have agreed to increase our sponsorship amount by 10%, bringing the annual total to £2,110. This represents a two-year commitment, with one payment of £2,110 in July 2026 and a further £2,110 in July 2027.

We are encouraged by the opportunity this programme provides to support young people in gaining practical skills and education that can transform their future livelihoods.

Fundraising and Youth Engagement

In October our annual **Quiz Night** was held in support of our mission partners and proved to be an enjoyable and successful evening, raising **£759**. Our sincere thanks go to Diane, Jackie and Linda for organising the event, and to Rob for serving as quizmaster.

Our **youth group** also played an important part in supporting the Shin family. During their annual sleepover at St Leonard's, they held a 12-hour overnight "Danceathon", raising **£205.94** for the family, following a presentation from members of the Mission Team explaining the Shins' work and ministry. This was an encouraging and fun opportunity for our young people to engage more deeply with the church's mission partnerships.

Mission at Home

Alongside our overseas partnerships, the team has been seeking to strengthen the church's engagement with mission closer to home. In May 2025 we welcomed Adeola from Transforming Lives for Good (TLG), who spoke about the charity's work and the Early Intervention coaching programme now running at Bursledon Junior School. It was particularly encouraging to hear reflections from Suzanne and Alice, who are involved in coaching children through this scheme.

New Mission Partners

Following discussion with the PCC, the church has agreed to begin supporting three additional organisations over the next three years:

- Bible Society
- Growing Hope
- Open Doors

In February 2026 we were delighted to welcome Gareth Davis from the Bible Society, who spoke at both St Paul's and St Leonard's about their work making the Bible accessible around the world.

The Mission Team has also begun developing relationships with the other new partners. In February we met online with Sarah Trevett from Growing Hope to learn more about their work supporting children and families through therapy services provided in partnership with local churches. Rachel Westhorpe has kindly agreed to act as the parish link for this partnership.

We are also beginning our partnership with Open Doors, a global organisation that supports Christians facing persecution for their faith. On 13th March, the Mission Team met online with Howard Satterthwaite and were greatly encouraged and moved by what we heard about their work and its impact.

We look forward to inviting representatives from both Growing Hope and Open Doors to come and share more about their work and the impact it is having with our church family at a Sunday service in the near future.

Giving Summary

As we all encouraged us to reflect on our giving as a church, we believe that it is important to recognise the impact of our collective financial support for mission. Alongside the day-to-day activities and involvement across the church, our giving enables us to partner meaningfully with organisations and individuals both locally and globally.

For clarity, the Mission Team has summarised this year's mission giving in the table below. We hope this helps to highlight the breadth of our support and encourages continued generosity, as well as inspiring the church family to engage with our mission partners in different ways.

Partner	Amount	Notes
PKVI – Making a Difference	£2,294	Includes £374 from Quiz Night fundraiser
CMS – The Shin Family	£3,920	Includes £2,000 contribution towards current funding gap
Growing Hope	£575	Christmas charities fundraiser
Bible Society	£500	General giving
Open Doors	£500	General giving
Total Mission Giving	£7,789	

Note: This does not include the **£875** given through the Christmas charities to: The Children's Society and Tear Fund.

Looking Ahead

The Mission Team will continue working to raise awareness of our mission partners within the congregation, keep noticeboards updated with newsletters and prayer requests, and encourage opportunities for prayer, fundraising and engagement across the church family.

We are grateful for the continued support of the PCC and the wider church community as we seek to play our part in God's mission both locally and globally.

Jennie Bentley, Sarah Nisbet & Rachel Westhorpe

Mothers Union

150 years ago, Mothers Union was founded in the Hampshire parish of Old Alresford by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold mission. She believed that women, regardless of class or status could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church, from that single spark of an idea global movement was born. Mothers Union now has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries.

As we look to the future our members will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. At the heart of everything we do will remain our unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives. As we look ahead to this remarkable milestone, we invite **YOU** to be part of it. Whether you're passionate about justice, prayer, community outreach, or simply want connect with people who care, there will be a place for you to join in. (Taken from the Mothers Union website)

www.mothersunion.org

In Bursledon we have a programme of events through the year. We have set ourselves the challenge of raising £150. Please speak to me for more details.

Linette Price

Pastoral Care Team

Our team continues to undergo changes from time to time, and we have recently lost two valued members of our team, Colin (and Susie) Waterman, and Jeanette Lynch, due to geographical relocation, and three more have had personal health problems which have necessitated time for rest and recuperation. However, we have continued to carry out visits to give Holy Communion at home to those who would like it, and pastoral visits to anyone who just wants a friendly chat, and gentle spiritual encouragement to remind them that, although they are no longer able, or temporarily unable due to unforeseen circumstances, to come to church in person, they are still a valued member of the church family.

We don't want anyone to feel lonely or unloved, so if you know of anyone who would like a visit, please let Diane or myself know, so that we can get in touch with them.

There have sadly been a number of bereavements for members of our church family in recent months, and when times are tough we are able to give spiritual and practical support where possible, and to pray for them at times when they feel unable to pray for themselves.

We have also continued to support Make Lunch, and Cafe 2:4, as part of our church outreach, and to send cards to anyone who has had a baptism, wedding, or funeral service for a loved one, on the first anniversary of the event, to remind them that church is here for them all the time, not just for those special occasions.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to all past and present members of our Pastoral Care Team, for their willingness to serve, and for sharing the love and compassion of Jesus with those in need.

Prue Rossiter

Pins and Needles

We meet every Monday afternoon from 2–4pm in the St Leonard's meeting room, where we work on a variety of knitting and embroidery projects, including baby jackets and blankets. As we craft, we share a cup of tea and enjoy good conversation.

If you have a knitting or sewing project that you'd like some help with, we'd be more than happy to lend a hand.

We'd love for you to join us!

Pat Hall

Prayer Ministry Team

The prayer ministry team continues to support the spiritual life of the church by offering compassionate and spirit-led prayer for individuals after the services at both churches. Although sadly with having a smaller team, it's not always possible to offer prayer after every service. However, our focus remains on creating a safe and welcoming environment where people can encounter God's presence and receive encouragement, healing and guidance.

We would really like to see the team grow in number in the coming year. If you feel this is an area of ministry where God may be calling you to serve Him or are interested in finding out a bit more about what's involved, we will be holding a training evening on Thursday 21st May. Please do come along, it would be great to see you. Further details will soon be available in the newsletter and on the website.

As ever, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to everyone on the team for their commitment and faithfulness. May God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him in this way.

Linda Burt & John Pawson

Safeguarding Report

We continue to follow safer recruitment as determined by the Church of England, which means that all volunteers within the church must complete mandatory safeguarding training (renewed every three years) and have two referees who fill out a reference request form. Additionally, some roles require a DBS check. This is an ongoing process as new people volunteer for roles and an important part of safeguarding. Emily and Diane have been working together to streamline process and systems to try to make this easier and to clarify who is best served to complete different admin tasks.

We refer any safeguarding concerns to the diocese, and contact them for advice and support around next steps. John, Suzanne, Alice and Emily all contact the diocese safeguarding team directly and this has been done on several occasions over the year.

Some teams have started to wear lanyards to show that they have been safely recruited. This may be rolled out to other teams but is currently under review with advice from the diocese.

Emily, Diane, John and Linda regularly meet to discuss wider safeguarding matters in the church, and agree actions.

Emily has completed her safeguarding training with the diocese.

Emily Aston Safeguarding Officer

Worship at St Leonard's

As I write this report, I realise that nearly 3 years have gone by since our dear Joyce passed away. We continue to miss her greatly but things are slowly settling down. The refurbishment of the organ was finally finished at the beginning of June last year. It took a lot longer than anticipated (9 months in total) but it is good to have it back again sounding very much better and Joyce would have been pleased that a project very close to her heart was carried out. Unfortunately, there have been a few inevitable teething problems as well as some other issues which are currently being looked into and will hopefully be resolved fairly soon.

It has been a busy year for us. As always, we were kept busy before Christmas with extra practices and singing in the community (The Christmas Fayre at St Paul's near the end of November and Community Singing in early December at the Lowford Centre with Hamwic Brass playing for us once again). Then we had all the Christmas services. There was only a short break from practices after Christmas as we got together in mid-January to start work on music for the Concert at St Leonard's on 21st February. Michèle very kindly offered to host practices at her house, where we were warm and cosy and treated to lovely sandwiches and teas/coffees! Practices were enjoyable and were also a bit of a social event. As I finish writing this report, we have just had the Easter Services which involved a few extra-long practices and we are about to practise for a special wedding (choir member, Pat, marrying Glyn).

Firstly, I'd like to say a very big "thank you" to the "core/regular" choir for their continued commitment not just to Sunday services but also to all the additional services, community singing and a concert. They give a lot of their time willingly and work hard and they have led worship so well. We've learnt a fair number of new pieces over the last year as well as re-visiting some that we haven't sung in a long while.

We were pleased to be able to finish learning a song that Joyce had started before she became ill. We finally felt ready to sing it before a service in November last year.

Secondly, I'd like to thank our "augmented choir members" who join the "core choir" for weddings, funerals, Christmas services and the concert. It makes such a difference to have the extra volume from their singing voices and their support. I'd also like to thank Ron Baker and Lynne Falconer who, as well as being part of the "augmented choir", have stepped in on a Sunday to help when numbers have been low.

Thirdly, I need to say a special "thank you" to Ann Ashburn and Matt Parker who have been helping me out by playing for some of the services giving me the opportunity to sing with the choir. Ann stepped in to play at very short notice in September last year when mum passed away and kept services going for a few weeks for me until I felt ready to return to playing. Matt has given a lot of his time especially over the Christmas period playing for us for the Candlelight Service and the Midnight Service. The Candlelight Service was a real joy with 19 of us singing! Matt also took over from me with the final few practices before the concert so that I could sing. The concert was a great success and it was particularly lovely to hear the organ being played by three very fine organists (not at the same time though!!!).

We are always happy to welcome new singers. No qualifications are needed - just a willing heart and a desire to "Worship the Lord with gladness and come before him with joyful songs" (Psalm 100 Verse 2). We continue to practise on Thursdays from 11.30 to 12.30 although there is flexibility with this on occasions.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the church family so much for your kindness, prayers and support during what has been quite a difficult time for me following mum's death last September.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly as we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God". (adapted from "Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 16)

Marie Clare

Worship at St Paul's

It is a great joy and privilege to support the worship at St Pauls. From all the singers and musicians, we would like to say a big thank you for your kind words and support.

Matt and I share the worship leading responsibility and aim to cover as many of the services as possible. Thank you for your understanding when we also need to make use of iSing to maintain a healthy balance and ensure that it remains sustainable for our small but growing worship team.

We aim to pick songs and styles that compliment our diverse congregation, within the abilities that we have as musicians, so that every worshiper can meet with God without distraction. As such, we would love to get your feedback on what we can do to best facilitate your expression of worship. Here is a link to a survey you can fill in to help guide our choices over the coming year. <https://forms.gle/dyEgUf6c8iLEBiY88>

The New Wine celebration event in March was a great blessing to be involved in for the second year running, with an even larger band of musicians representing five local churches, showing the unity of believers across Southampton. It is fantastic to see the work God is doing through people in our city and wider area.

The youth band continues to grow, both in musicianship and in faith. A big thank you to Alice, Matt, Rachel, Richard, and Ron for their contributions to encouraging and teaching the next generation of musical worshippers.

A great deal of thanks is owed to the tech team, who faithfully turn up to run the projection, live stream, and sound system every week. Without them the worship at St Paul's wouldn't be the same. We're always keen to train people up on tech roles, and that is especially necessary this year as some of our team will be moving away to pastures new. If you're comfortable using computers, you'll find our projection software easy to learn, and we would love to have you in the team.

God Bless,

Tim Brook

TIME OUT

*All things come from You,
And of Your own do we give You.*
Anglican Communion Prayer

Maybe your experience of life is a bit like ours – the world seems to be turning faster and faster, the demands of life are getting louder and louder, and it's far too easy to be distracted from the important by the urgent, or even the mind-numbing!

But probably the Most Important thing we need to do is to slow down and give some of the precious time that God has gifted to us to simply BE with Him. And we offer you 'Time Out' as a space to do just that. It's an invitation to deliberately set aside a Saturday morning to be with God and to say to Him, 'Time with You is important to me'; to rest with Him, talk to Him and hear from Him, to be restored, refreshed and encouraged to face the world and all its demands again.

You can choose how you do that but to help you we provide various craft activities and books. We usually offer a short meditation before a time of quiet reflection, and at the end a chance to share your experience if you'd like to.

In this fast-paced world that we live in it can seem that often our best intentions to spend time with God can disappear like an early morning mist. Why not put some dates in your diary this year to say to God, '*All my time comes from You, and of Your own do I give back to You.*'

Time Out dates for 2026:

9 May, 11 July, 19 September & 28 November.

See you there!

Linda Burt & Susie Waterman