



St Mary's Church Thorpe



Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December 2025

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held on

Sunday 22nd March 2026 11:30am

St Mary's Church, Church Approach,
Thorpe Village, Surrey TW20 8TQ
Charity No: 1176929

www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk



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Introduction to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The APCM is an opportunity to elect our representatives for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and to ask questions about the finances of the church, the state of the buildings, or any matter of concern in the life of the parish. The PCC takes account of views expressed and matters are taken forward in subsequent PCC meetings for discussion. We look forward to the year ahead as well as reflecting upon the past year.

Please read the report thoroughly and come to the meeting with questions, as we meet together in sacramental worship and fellowship – Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

Agenda for the Vestry Meeting (Meeting of Parishioners)

Opening Prayer

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 23rd March 2025 and any matters arising

Election of Churchwardens

Nomination for approval of Deputy Wardens (honorary supportive role)

End of Vestry Meeting

(At this point those not named on the Church Electoral Roll cannot vote if they remain.)

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the previous APCM held in Church on 23rd March 2025

Matters arising

1. Elections & Appointments

Annual election of PCC Members

Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Approval of Sides-persons

Appointment of Sides-person to assist the Treasurer with banking

Confirmation of appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer

Note that the PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chair of the PCC will be formally agreed at the next Parochial Church Council meeting (to be held on Monday 18th May 2026 7:30pm) as they are Officers of the PCC.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2026 Financial Accounts to assist the Treasurer with banking.

2. Reports – see written reports

(i) Report on Electoral Roll

(ii) PCC Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the PCC

(iii) Parish Reports – *printed & distributed*

Summary of reports from the Chair

(iv) Churchwardens' Report including Fabric/Terrier

(v) Accounts – Financial Report 2025

Acceptance of Financial Report 2025

(vi) Deanery Synod Representatives' Report – *printed & distributed*

3. Any other business

(i) Questions & Answers Session – *questions please at least 24 hours in advance stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com*

(ii) Announcements

The meeting concludes in prayer and with the Grace.

**.Minutes of the Vestry Meeting /Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of St Mary’s Church, Thorpe – Sunday 23rd March 2025
in the Rutherwyke Room**

Vestry Meeting

Present: Fr Stephen Girling (SG) – Chair – Vestry & APCM Meeting

Present:

P. Gruncell, D. Lees, A. West, Terry Leighton, Ann Leighton, David de Ville, Jackie de Ville, John Brown, Grace Brown, Joan Gruncell, Paul Whitlock, Margaret Roberts, Jenny Bright, Diane Girling, Allison Kelly, Linda Skinner, Sandra Osbourn, Joy Mitchiner, Lionel Pike, Margaret Harnden, Jill Collinson, Mary Morris, Derek Smith, Jane Carter, Marianne Herne, John Ridge, Katerina Ridge.

Absent: All electoral roll members not listed as Present or having submitted apologies

Meeting commenced: 11.31 a.m

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Ann Corfield, Claire Cobbold, Carol Atkinson, Karen (choir), Kim Stangroom, Jean McLeod, John Rook, Margaret Lilley.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes for the Vestry Meeting held 21st April 2024 were accepted and no matters were arising.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Diana Lees confirmed her agreement to stand as Church Warden. Unanimously elected.

There remains a vacancy for a further Church Warden to be approved at a later date.

SG gave heartfelt thanks from all at St. Mary’s to Peter Gruncell as he stepped down from the duties of Church Warden and a presentation of gifts was made. Peter thanked everyone present for their kind words.

5. Nominations for approval Deputy Wardens

There were nine Deputy Warden nominations, from:

Peter Gruncell, Margaret Harnden, Susi Thornton, Bev Germany, Jill Collinson, Margaret Roberts, Helen Cunningham, Kim Stangroom, Deborah Kidd.

All nine candidates were unanimously accepted.

7. Any Other Business

None



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes from the APCM held 21st April 2024 were accepted with no amendments.

Matters Arising

None.

1. Elections and Appointments

There were 9 nominations for PCC:

Andy West, Allison Kelly, Margaret Harnden, Jenny Bright, Susi Thornton, Grace Brown, Jill Collinson, Margaret Roberts, Katerina Ridge.

All 9 nominations were unanimously confirmed.

- Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Claire Cobbold and Diana Lees indicated their wish to continue serving as Deanery Synod Representatives.

Unanimously approved.

- Approval of Sides-persons

Nominations for Sides Persons were:

Susi Thornton, Deborah Kidd, Joan Gruncell, Margaret Roberts, Jill Collinson, Philip Alder, Margaret Harnden, Jenny Bright, Bev Germany, Helen Cunningham, Grace Brown, Joy Mitchiner, Diana Lees, Jean Bradley.

Unanimously approved.

- Appointment of Sides Person to Assist the Treasurer with banking

Nomination from Paul Whitlock.

Unanimously approved.

- Confirmation of appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer

Claire Cobbold had confirmed that she was happy to continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

Unanimously approved.

- Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2024 Financial Accounts

Paul Whitlock was unanimously confirmed.

2. Reports

Fr Stephen asked if there were any amendments or errors to the reports contained in the 2025 APCM booklet. There were none.

(i) Electoral Roll

Following full revision of the electoral roll it was confirmed that there were currently 70 members on the electoral roll
There are a total of 57 households of which 13 are multi-member households.

(ii) PCC Secretary's Report
No questions raised.

(iii) Parish Reports
No questions raised.

(iv) Church Wardens Report (including Fabric/Terrier)
No questions raised.

(v) Accounts – Financial Report 2024
The accounts had been included in the booklet. No questions raised.
SG proposed acceptance of the Accounts for 2024.
Accounts unanimously accepted.

(vi) Deanery Synod Report
No questions raised

4. Any Other Business

Marianne Herne raised the question – why was the vicarage not double glazed?

SG pointed out that only some of the windows were not double glazed. Marianne Herne stressed that the vicarage needed to be made warmer, to cut running costs and comply with the eco strategy promoted by the Church of England.

Paul Whitlock pointed out that by 2030 all rental properties in the UK had to carry an energy efficiency rating of C or above. SG thanked those present for their concern and confirmed that the vicarage was the responsibility of the Diocese and suggested that the Church Warden could write on behalf of the PCC to the Diocesan architect.

Susi Thornton expressed thanks on behalf of all present on the integration of Fr Stephen and Diane into church family at St. Mary's. SG pointed out that it had been hard to move after 9.5 years in his previous post but he and Diane were now settled and thanked all for their kind words and encouragement.

SG also passed thanks to Mary Morris and Andy West for their support.

SG closed the meeting with the Grace.
Meeting concluded at 11.56pm.

REPORTS FOR 2025

Vicar's Report 2025

In 2025 we prioritised St Mary's as a '*House of Prayer for All*'. This reflects the heritage of St Mary's when once we were under the care of the Monks of Chertsey Abbey and it offers to everyone the sacred, prayerful space of the church. It also gives St Mary's a distinctive contribution to make to the life of the wider local church - as an inclusive church and a place of prayer rooted in the monastic rhythms. We identified three priorities to help us live out this vocation:

To live by a rule and rhythm of prayer

We provided a resource booklet and teaching on different ways of praying and trialled opening St Mary's to visitors in Wednesdays during the Autumn term. This was discontinued due to low numbers, but will be restarted after Easter 2026. We developed the Wednesday communion service to include a Friendship Group afterwards and built up our links with the Monday friendship group at the Red Lion. Numbers for these have steadily grown. We ran a successful pilgrimage with St Peter's Chertsey - in the footsteps of the Monks.

To learn from all generations

We started a monthly family service and family club, to build relationships with families. The Family Club attracts 4-7 families each month and the family services have proved most popular when linked with a well-known festival. We have made St Mary's children's corner more user-friendly. We have continued to make students from TASIS welcome, hosting prayer vigils for a seriously injured student and welcoming a few to Sunday services. At Thorpe CofE School we have established volunteer reading and gardening teams, working alongside the children and I have regularly led collective worship. We continue to host school services and lessons in the church. An Alpha course in the Autumn provided the opportunity for us to explore the Christian faith together, learning from the bible and one another and I hosted a day visit to Cookham on Thames, in the footsteps of the artist Stanley Spencer.

To love the diversity of people welcomed

We started a St Mary's community WhatsApp group to keep people informed and connected, and hosted an evening reception for Electoral Roll members. We have promoted Lesser Festival services to the wider church and hosted Compline after various social events in the Rutherwyke Room. In February we had a focus on Christian Stewardship, of money and talents, to coincide with the renewal of the Electoral Roll. We have begun to involve lay people in leading intercessions.

2025 was a year of gentle growth, in numbers, in faith and in a spirit of loving acceptance and generosity. I am hugely grateful for all the support Diane and I have received, not least in advocating for us with the Diocese to successfully improve the Vicarage heating. We continue to prioritise growing numerically, growing younger and getting St Mary's onto a more sound financial footing, cherishing and honouring our heritage of Anglo-Catholic spirituality and Monastic Rhythm. Thanks be to Christ for his life among us.

Fr. Stephen

Electoral Roll Report

February 2025 was the month where everyone had to re-apply for the electoral roll. After a slow start and much prompting, finally a new electoral roll was produced. I would like to thank both Diana Lees and Stephen Girling for their support at this time. The number of people on the electoral roll has dropped from the end of December 2024 total of 115 and of this figure there are 18 households where there are 2 members to a total of 74 members with 16 households where there are 2 members. This was not unexpected. This number of members has now increased to 81 members with 18 households where there are at least 2 members. This figure is as of the end of December 2025 This was a positive sign.

Unfortunately, the number of members on the electoral roll is expected to drop as there has been some deaths in the church community. This has yet to be reflected in the electoral role numbers.

This is my fourth year serving as an electoral officer. I am grateful for the encouragement I have received during this year.

Electoral Roll Officer, Clare Cobbold

PCC Secretary's Report on the work of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council met six times over 2025 for regular meetings, excluding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on

Sunday 23rd March 2025. PCC undertook a PCC Awayday on 8th March 2025 to focus on who St. Mary's are and who we as a church community are called to be. There was one additional extraordinary meeting, to agree a resolution regarding use of the Barry Huxley legacy. PCC thanks go to Andy West and Diana Lees for their additional administration work to complete the necessary paperwork for submission to the Charity Commission and success on St. Mary's behalf in gaining the necessary alterations to the legacy to enable the upcoming refurbishment of the Rutherwyke Room for the benefit of us all.

PCC Secretary, Allison Kelly

Church Wardens' Annual Report 2024

2025 has been a year of change and initiatives and as the year drew to a close there was sense of building momentum. We were delighted to welcome several new members, and some returning members, into our church family, and have been excited to have several new volunteers helping with the services and social activities of St Mary's.

Community Engagement

Thank you to Bryan Nixon, headteacher at TASIS, for his continued support in allowing us access to the South Carpark, encouraging the students to volunteer for our churchyard cleanup days and his engagement with our church services. We are also pleased to be working with Joe Blaney, the Headteacher at Thorpe Primary School. Fr Stephen has been working hard to develop and grow our existing relationships with both schools. We are starting to see the rewards through increased engagement in church activities, and are looking forward in 2026 to seeing two student groups using our Rutherwyke Room for meetings. The launch of our monthly Sunday Families Club has been very successful thanks to the volunteer team's commitment and enthusiasm. Noah's Ark also goes from strength to strength thanks to Allison, Joy and Diane. In the autumn we held a number of Open Wednesdays when the church building was open to visitors all day. A number of volunteers manned the church, which was very cold most of the time, and we are extremely grateful to them for their dedication and stoicism. We have decided to try again in the summer of 2026, and hope to welcome many visitors to see our beautiful church, experience its peace and learn something of its history.

Volunteers

St Mary's is grateful as always to Dr Carolyn Norris, her staff and the TASIS student volunteers for their continued support helping in the churchyard. They came on several occasions and worked hard clearing the pathways, drains and flowerbeds, trimming the shrubs, cleaning the gravestones, and in the autumn collected an astonishing number of fallen walnuts which Fr Stephen dried and cleaned, and sold with notable success at our Winter Fair. Grace Brown carried out a thorough weeding of the Memorial Garden with the help of two TASIS students, and Paul Whitlock supervised a group trimming trees and shrubs in the Vicarage carpark. Thank you to everyone from TASIS and our volunteers from St Mary's.

Thank you to Katerina and John Ridge who have taken on responsibility for the flowerbed along the TASIS wall. Additional plants have been added, and with regular weeding and watering are helping to make it more colourful and attractive.

We are very aware of how much St Mary's is indebted to every one of our vol-

unteers who give so generously of their time and effort to support the church, both behind the scenes and as a visible part of our services and outreach. In addition to those already mentioned we would like to give our thanks to our Deputy Wardens, servers, readers, and welcomers for managing our services. our coffee and breakfast helpers, the wonderfully creative Flower Arrangers led by Margart Harnden, the choir organised by Jill Collinson and our dedicated organists David Howard and Lionel Pike. Thank you also to Clare who manages the Electoral Roll and our Facebook page, and attends Deanery Synod meetings, Kim who takes care of our service linen, Clare who cleans the church every Wednesday and Bev who collates and manages our Gift Aid donations,

St Mary's is rightly famous for its remarkable hospitality which is due to the talents, enthusiasm and unwavering energy of the Social Committee. Thank you to each of you and to all your family members and friends who support you by helping at our fairs and other activities. Your hard work and fellowship achieve miracles inspired by Susi Thornton whose creativity and drive are the keystone for all our social outreach endeavours.

I would like to acknowledge with special thanks Andrew West, our Treasurer and Sacristan, a lot of whose hard work goes unseen but which is absolutely invaluable to the smooth running of St Mary's. We are in his debt and extremely grateful for all he does. He is also indispensable as a climber of ladders, scaler of towers and hanger of Christmas decorations and bunting. Thank you for all your efforts and assistance, Andy.

Further thanks are due our PCC Secretary, Allison, and the members of the PCC for their commitment to looking after the best interests of St Mary's and their support for the Administration Team. Speaking of whom, on behalf of everyone involved in the church, we would like to thank Mary, our Parish Administrator, for her outstanding dedication and efforts managing the myriad tasks that keep St Mary's functioning. Her knowledge and experience are invaluable and her cheeky sense of humour is an encouragement to us all.

I would like to thank Fr Stephen for his leadership and support throughout the year to the Administration Team as a whole and to myself as churchwarden in particular. We have all learnt to work together and are a strong team, each using our talents for the benefit of the church.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone at St Mary's for the encouragement, assistance, and friendship you have given to me.

Churchwarden: Diana Lees

Church Property Register and Fabric Report

Principal among items added to the Register this year was the purchase of two brass altar candlesticks and an inscribed brass plaque in memory of Denis Gough in recognition of his years of service at St Mary's and his generous legacy. Other items include a replacement CD player for the audio-visual system and the removal of the cabinet in the church porch.

The Church Log Book has been updated for 2026 for all work done in the church and churchyard. The fabric of the church and its fittings continue to be in good condition. Thanks go to Pete Gruncell who repaired a damaged foot on the nave altar.

All required servicing and safety checks have been carried out for the electrics, heating, fire alarm system and extinguishers, lightning conductor, bells and tower clock. Certificates and records are filed in the office. All utility service contracts were reviewed and new ones negotiated to effect savings where possible. Three large storage lockers have been provided to store all the loose items previously kept on the patio by the kitchen.

Tower, Pipe Organ and Bells

The PVC strip curtain fitted across the west doorway of the tower continues to reduce heat loss from the tower. The ensuing reduction in the dampness has helped to slow the deterioration of the pipe organ. We are grateful to Camila Allison who plays the organ regularly and who has reported that it is now working better.

The electronic bell relays were temperamental throughout the year and the decision was made to replace seven of them. This work is scheduled for 2026. Sixteen chairs have been removed from the church and are currently stored in the tower.

Churchyard

In December a number of trees were trimmed and the lower canopy of the walnut tree lifted for a cost of £1092. Further work to reduce the overall height and spread of the walnut tree is planned for 2026. The non-working fairy lights were removed from the churchyard and the outdoor electrical sockets upgraded to meet HSE requirements. We would like to thank John Ridge for refurbishing the John R Waller bench outside the church porch.

The Vicarage

At the APCM in March 2025, the PCC was asked to approach the Diocese to request improvements to the vicarage to improve the warmth of the building. After considerable correspondence and discussion, the Diocese decided in November to make a number of changes to the fabric, heating and insulation of the vicarage which have greatly improved the heat retention.

Churchwarden: Diana Lees

Financial Report 2024

PCC Accounts can be found at pages 30 - 33.

Receipts

Regular Giving

Income from regular giving saw a welcome increase during 2025. Planned giving from standing orders or regular direct credits to the Bank increased by £2,861 on the previous year (10.8%). Non-GA income also rose (up £891) whilst GA income from yellow and green envelopes was up by 16% (up £834) compared to last year. Overall giving for the year increased by 11.9% or £4,586 compared with 2024.

Other voluntary receipts

No useful year-on-year comparison is possible due to the legacy received in 2024. Revenue from wall boxes and votive candles fell slightly by £11.

Fund-generating activities

Receipts from fund-raising events in 2025 were 14.5% higher than the previous year at £9,346. As in previous years this is a reflection of the very hard work put in by the social committee and their helpers in organising fund-raising events throughout 2025, and the generosity of all those who contributed and attended. Receipts from room hire were down by a third. Overall income from this category was £11,510, an increase of £101 (0.9%) on the previous year.

Income from Church activities

2025 saw fewer weddings and funerals than 2024 and this is reflected in the difference in income - revenue was down by £2,315 (-46%). Noah's Ark income was £1,248 for the year – a slight dip on the previous year (-£160) but this is a valuable service which the church provides and is very much appreciated by the community. Our thanks go to Alison and Joy for all their hard work. Overall, income from church activities was down by £2,625 (-34.2%) compared to 2024.

Receipts from Investments & Other Income

Draw-down from the Flagstone platform (£25k) was the amount agreed by the PCC to reimburse the legal and architect fees (see Works a/c below) and to contribute to the outstanding Parish Share contribution for 2025 along with the interest (£15,997) accrued since investing the legacy. The dividend from our CBF shares rose very slightly by 2.4% year on year providing an annual return of £528 compared to £516 in 2024.

Works a/c transfers into the current a/c (£1,860) were for churchyard tree pruning and the initial payment of legal advice fees pending reimbursement

from the legacy investment fund. Education a/c transfers to the current a/c were for the coach to the Cathedral for the Yr6 leavers service, financial support to enable the school to focus on working towards the SIAMS inspection, Christian children's books and a donation to the school's Pupil Welfare fund. The Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) from HMRC for 2024 (received in 2025) was £7,979, a drop of 21% (£2,127) on 2023.

Total receipts for 2025 were £114,744.

Payments

Church Activities

The Parish Share for 2025 was £76,670 of which £69,900 was paid in-year leaving £6,770 that will be paid in 2026 from the GA tax reclaim for 2025, once received. It must be noted that the £76,670 due for 2025 included support from the Diocese on a sliding-scale £5k reduction per year i.e. £20k in 2025, £15k in 2026, £10k 2027, £5k in 2028, £0k in 2029 meaning that the PS will increase by £5k p.a. up to 2029. Parish running costs were up 10% year on year, organist fees were up by 93% although some of this related to July-Dec 2024. Resources (costs) for Services were slightly down on the previous year. Overall, the cost of church activities was £77,382, a rise of £26,274 (51%) on the previous year, the majority of which (£24.8k) was incurred by us contributing to the Parish Share allocation more than we were able to in the previous year.

Maintenance

Maintenance costs were on a par with last year. As well as weekly cleaning, the main areas of expenditure were the regular servicing contracts for the boiler, fire and alarm systems and remedial work where required, e.g. electrical work, clock servicing, a new flag and work on the trees in the churchyard.

Church running expenses

The cost of insurance rose by £74 (2.4%) compared with last year. Utility costs fell by 6% (£369). We try to maintain a constant building temperature to protect the fabric of the church, especially in the Winter months and all our utility expenditure is monitored carefully by Diana Lees, Churchwarden.

Administration

Costs across administration, computer and office supplies were £1,086 (-8.9%) lower than 2024. Office operating supplies such as photocopier charges, paper and stationary are also included here.

Other costs

Other costs expenditure totalled £9,494 in 2025 which, if the 2024 legacy transfer is taken into account, is a reduction on the previous year. Children's resource expenditure (£3,687) was funded from the Education a/c as

previously mentioned (Receipts>Other income)

Fund transfers

The transfer to the Works a/c represents that part of the accrued interest from the legacy investment that the PCC agreed would reimburse this account for legal and architect's fees for consultation and work on the Rutherwyke Room expansion/refurbishment project specified within the legacy. These costs had been originally paid from the Works a/c.

Total payments in 2025 were £118,550.

Treasurer, Andy West

Safeguarding Officer's Report 2025

There was one reported safeguarding issue submitted in 2025, which was dealt with quickly and successfully by a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

The 'Parish Dashboard' has been in action since 2022, a very useful safeguarding tool. St Mary's also has access to the next stage – the Safeguarding 'Hub', an additional tool to keep track of DBS and course records as well as parish records. The vicar, safeguarding officer and churchwarden have permission to access the Parish Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub.

In 2025 Guildford Diocese provided online safeguarding updates for Parish Safeguarding Officers, and National Updates are circulated regularly to safeguarding officers .

Last year APCS (a company employed by the Diocese to deal with DBS applications) was hacked, and we were advised to use an alternative company (Thirtyone.8) while the Diocesan Safeguarding team investigated other possibilities.. After research, they recommended we use Matrix Security Watchdog, which is now being set up for St Mary's.

The hack caused an inevitable delay in applying for DBS applications but once MSW (Matrix Security Watchdog) is established for St Mary's, all necessary DBS applications will be dealt with..

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mary Morris

Deanery Synod Representatives' Report 2025

The Runnymede Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2025. The meetings are well attended and varied. The Deanery leadership has remained the same. We are still upholding our longstanding link with Kebbi (In Nigeria). The Runnymede Deanery accounts continue to be sound.

There was a Deanery synod meeting at Christchurch Virginia Water on the 11th of March 2025. Then there was Deanery Synod meeting on 4th June 2025,

the location, St Paul's, Egham Hythe and finally The Runnymede Deanery Synod met on the 9th October at St Paul's, Addlestone.

Other topics included growth, School and youth work, applying for grants and green champions. It is nice opportunity to meet other people from other churches.

There will be 3 meetings this year in 2026.

Clare Cobbold



OTHER REPORTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Family Club & Family Service 2025

After consulting with local families about how they would best connect with St Mary's, in May we started to trial a monthly Family Club, on a Sunday at 4-5.15pm. Each month we have a seasonal theme and combine: an icebreaker (which helps us to get to know each other better), a worship song, bible story, craft, prayer activity (usually in the church) and a light 'supper' for the children. We welcome 4 families on a regular basis and another 3-5 families on an occasional basis. There is a hosting team of 7 who plan and deliver the club each month. A review with Emma Coy from the Diocese helped the PCC agree to continue with the Family Club in 2026, to build upon the success, with a focus on getting the families more involved in the leading.

A monthly ‘Church Family Service’ was trialled, replacing the 10am Eucharist with a short said Eucharist at 11.30am. The service has been held to coincide with festivals and where possible we encourage family Baptisms in this service. Numbers have been unpredictable but the improved children’s corner and a learning-based activity for the children in the South Aisle have proved popular. The outdoor Pet Blessing service was well supported. The PCC agreed to continue with the family service in 2026. A successful families event at Thorpe Green Dojo in October provided a good way for people to mix and for us to welcome new families.

Fr. Stephen

Noah’s Ark Report 2025

Noah’s Ark, the toddler group, meets every Thursday from 9am to 11.00am, term time, in the Rutherwyke Room. We use the outside enclosed playground weather permitting. Children have a range of toys and activities they can undertake and we finish with a singing session or occasional story time. The age range is from birth to school starters who attend with carers, parents and grandparents. There is a lovely atmosphere during the session and the adults are all very supportive of each other, including outside of the group time. We lost approximately 6 children to school in September 2025 and seem to now have a much younger age group currently, who will hopefully remain with us until they move on to school. Average attendance is approximately 16 children.

We hold an annual Christmas party with Santa Claus and an end of year Summer Teddy Bear’s Picnic. The group is lively, noisy and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend. We have space for additional children if you are aware of neighbours or relatives who would like to come—no need to book and there is no pressure to attend every week.

Joy Michiner , Allison Kelly and Diane Girling

Contemplative Prayer Group Report 2025

The flame originally lit by Fr. Amor has burnt continually even through the pandemic. From a tiny group that regrouped some years ago we are now a regular 4 often rising to 6.

We meet 2.30 on each Monday except for Tea and Talk Mondays when we meet at 4.15 in the Benedict Chapel. An opportunity to let the burdens of the day fall away as we listen to a reading and then go into a Silence. We follow this with intercessions and discussion over a cup of tea.

Do come and give this a try. *For more information contact the Parish Office.*

Susi Thornton

Flower Guild Report 2025

Our little band of flower arrangers at St Mary's has increased by one! We have welcomed Sharina to our group and are very grateful to have her help.

We have all enjoyed providing floral arrangements for the major church festivals, and occasionally for weddings and funerals. We were honoured to be asked by John to provide the flowers for his wife, Heather Brittain's funeral service. She had requested white lilies, roses and heather – I hope the arrangements complemented the beautiful service held for her.



Elaine, Helen, Grace, Sharina and I would love the group to grow to enable us to do more so please don't be shy in coming forward! If you would actually prefer not to do the arranging, there are other things you could help us with, such as preparing the flowers and clearing up afterwards - that all takes time. And there is always time for a cup of tea/coffee and cake and a chat too so it's not all work!



Our thanks too must go to Jane who joins us when she can, and past member Margaret who is always welcome back when in the area, although her floral talents are now being enjoyed in Scotland! Our next task is to provide posies for Mothering Sunday and then, after the reflective time of Lent when traditionally we don't have flowers in St Mary's, the church will be ablaze with Easter Lilies as we celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Margaret Harnden

Music Secretary's Report 2025

Music plays an important part in our services at St Marys, lead by our Music Director and organist David Howard. We are also fortunate to have the organ services of Prof Lionel Pike, Camilla Jarnot and Jez Wells. David is training a Grade VIII pianist wishing to learn to play the organ.

Our choir meet to practice for special services and sang at Mayor Elaine Gill's Inaugural service and our Patronal Festival in August.

Tasis held a Carol Service in October and The Hythe Singers joined us for the Lessons and Carols Service in December.

If you are interested in learning more about the choir, or consider joining please contact me.

Music Secretary, Jill Collinson

Social and Fundraising Team Report 2025

We continue to thrive as a fully formed Social and Fundraising Committee and provide support for all the refreshments for events and services. We continue to host our monthly Tea and Talk meetings thanks to Susi and Allison for their continued good endeavours. It is well received and provides good fellowship. Since the last report we hosted another quiz evening at the community hall in March which raised nearly over £1,000. Luckily the Trustees of the Community Hall allow us to use it without charge which helps enormously. Over the Easter period we catered for the services with hot cross buns and a cheese and wine supper after the evening Mass. In June we entertained the children and their families after the special Mayoral Service in the morning followed by a Pimms reception and lunch for our twin town German visitors in the afternoon. Our visitors were very appreciative of our efforts and were kind enough to leave a donation. In July we organised our Summer Fair and despite other fairs being on the same day, it was well attended and we managed to raise about £2,000. The weather was kind to us and it was a great success.

We organised the catering for the Patronal Festival in August and provided a bumper feast. Our guests were very complimentary. The Committee also organised a tea for the Knights Templar in October and it was very profitable.

Then came the busy Christmas period. Our Church Christmas Fayre was very worthwhile and there was a good community feeling. Despite many fayres (including Tasis) being on the same day we did well and again we had most of the stalls in the Church creating an amazing atmosphere. We raised £2,000 plus as at the last minute we decided to have a silent auction which added to the proceeds and also a crowd of walkers descended on us before the start of the Fayre and we made more sales on the tea and cakes.

Also in December we were involved in the interval refreshments for the Egham Band including mulled wine but the turnout was disappointing. We also hosted refreshments for Lessons and Carols and both crib services and it was delightful to see so many families joining us.

Since Christmas we organised another quiz – this time in café Church. It was hard work for Diana and her team to organise the chairs, etc. but it was well worth it: about 54 attendees and we raised £1,000. The Church was a great venue and this has given us thoughts to organise many future events there. After the Candlemas service on Monday 2 February Susi organised a meal for 18 of us at the Red Lion and we raised some money by having a raffle. We are pleased with our events this year but we are open to suggestions.

Jenny Bright





Thorpe Church of England Primary School Report 2025

We are very grateful for the close partnership we share with St Mary's PCC and Father Stephen Girling continues to have a very positive impact on life at Thorpe Church of England Primary School. The PCC generously supported the school with a donation to assist us in our preparation for the SIAMS inspection scheduled from September 2026. This funding will be used to train staff and provide resources to further promote our Christian faith and distinctiveness.

Father Stephen attends whole staff prayers and the sharing of information relating to vulnerable children each Monday morning. He also leads Collective Worship for the children every Tuesday. Through these worship sessions, he helps to articulate our Christian distinctiveness and bring our recently edited Vision to life:

‘Through Christ we will flourish with Faith, Love and Excellence.’

During the Spring Term, Father Stephen has further supported the children in developing their understanding of our five Christian Values of Honesty, Empathy, Aiming High, Respect and Trust which run through daily life at Thorpe Primary School.

We have very strong links with the Diocese of Guildford, who support the school with personnel matters as well as leadership, pastoral care and academic development. We are grateful to colleagues at the Diocese who have supported the school in preparing for our SIAMS inspection next year, which will assess the Christian distinctiveness of the school.

We continue to work closely with the Runnymede Learning Partnership to enhance provision, support our staff and raise standards. Schools within this partnership include St Ann's Heath Junior School, Trumps Green Infant School, The Hythe, Manorcroft, Thorpe Lea Primary School and Thorpe Church of England Primary School.

Safeguarding remains a key priority and we are fully committed to the welfare of all children. All checks on regular helpers are completed, and our Single Central Record is reviewed termly by our Safeguarding Governor, Mr Bryan Nixon. A safeguarding audit will be undertaken by Surrey County Council during the summer term. The Headteacher provides annual safeguarding training for governors and all staff and visitors and volunteers receive appropriate training before working with children.

FOTSA continues to raise significant funds for the benefit of all pupils. The team works incredibly hard, often alongside other job roles, and we are very grateful for their commitment. We very much look forward to the Community Fete on Saturday 6th June, which will be shared with St Mary's Church and provide an opportunity for the community to come together to raise funds for both the school and the church.

We run a very successful Breakfast Club, Earlybirds, which operates from 7.30am, as well as our after school club - Owls Club, running from 3.15pm to 5.30pm. In addition, pupils are able to take part in a wide range of clubs including cheerleading, coding, football, cookery, art, choir and archery.

We are very pleased with admissions for September 2026. Although there has been some movement in and out of the school during the year, new pupils have settled well and integrated successfully into school life.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

01932 562329 or **head@thorpe.surrey.sch.uk**

Mr Joe Blaney—Headteacher



Faith, Love and Excellence

Church Cleaning 2025

The main cleaning is undertaken by Clare Noveridge each Wednesday. She washes the floor and dusts. She also hoovers the Rutherwyke Room and rooms attached, cleaning windows when time permits. Hannah and I meet monthly to assist.

After many years Hannah retired at the end of the year. Many thanks Hannah.

Jill Collinson

Runnymede Foodbank 2025

We continue to support the Runnymede Foodbank, whose services are even more in demand. They regularly provide me with a list of items most needed and this is displayed in the Rutherwyke Room. It is also shown on our weekly newsletter.

They are very grateful for our help

Jill Collinson

Tea and Talk 2025

A very successful year with a regular number of attendees who tell friends and neighbours and bring them along. We are as ever indebted to Allison for the amazing display of cakes on offer which people love to have.

Thanks to Diana for technical assistance. There are donations which help the church funds.

We have had a rich set of talks and discussions: travels, art, conjuring, life stories, dog shows, academia, private collections, chaplaincy, research and well being.

The next season is half filled. Unfortunately we cannot give a fee but if you know of anyone who will come to share their interests and passions with us, please let Susi know.

Susi Thornton



St Mary's Church, Thorpe

For Families on Sundays in 2026

Family Club

4-5.15pm on the 1st Sunday of the month

(except January 11th and no meeting during holidays in April and August)

For families with children, includes refreshments, singing, bible story, craft activity, celebrations, prayer and more.

Ends with tea for the children.

Please RSVP with any dietary needs to Mary:

stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com

Church Family Service

10-10.45am on special Sundays

11th Jan	Thanksgiving for Baptism
15th Mar	Mothering Sunday
5th April	Easter Sunday
17th May	Songs we love to sing
21st June	Fathers Day
19th July	Pet Service
20th Sept	Harvest Festival
18th Oct	Thanksgiving for the NHS
29th Nov	Advent Sunday
13th Dec	Family Carols

Singing, bible story, prayers, activity and refreshments, suitable for adults and children.

All Welcome

Image by macrovector on Freepik and Freepik

Thorpe Friendship Group



**For local residents who
would like to meet up
with others for informal
coffee and chat.**

**Mondays at the Red Lion, 11am to Noon
Wednesdays at St Mary's, 11.30am to 12.30**

All Welcome



**For more information please call:
Red Lion: 01932 563350 St Mary's: 01932 567603**

Images by freepik

For Families & Children at St Mary's Church, Thorpe



Noah's Ark

BABY, TODDLER AND PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



Every Thursday of Term-Time 9 - 11.00am

Noah's Ark Dates for Summer 2026 at St Mary's 16th April to 16th July 2026

We meet in the Rutherwyke Room, behind the church. Follow the red brick path to the rear of the building. Feel free to park in the Vicarage on the red gravel.

Noah's Ark is a toddler group for babies, toddlers and pre-school children with parents/carers/grandparents.

We are an informal playgroup and always have an aided craft session, fun action song or story segment during the morning. Secure outside play area (weather permitting).

Refreshments for adults and children.

£2.00 per child.



LOOKING AHEAD:

Closed for Half Term 28th May 2026

End of Term Teddy Bear's Picnic 16th July 2026



Family Club

1st Sunday of every month + 4p.m to 5.15 p.m.

For families with children, includes refreshments, singing, bible story, craft activity, celebrations, prayer and more. Ends with tea for the children.



Please RSVP with any dietary needs to Mary:
stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com

St Mary's Church Thorpe, Church Approach, Thorpe Village, TW20 8TQ.



Parish Office: 01932 567603 www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk







Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THORPE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

On accounts for the year
ended

2025

Charity
no.

1176929

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year end 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

P. W. Whitlock

Date:

15/1/2026

Name:

PAUL WHITLOCK

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

NONE

Address:

47, Welfleigh Avenue,

Esitnam

Surrey TW 20 9LB

Part 2 Appendix Section

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Thorpe – Charity No: 5116755

The Parochial Church Council and Responsibilities

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with and assisting the Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission to which Christ Jesus calls his Church; worship, pastoral care, evangelistic outreach, fellowship as well as engaging fully within our local Deanery of Runnymede. Our PCC has responsibility for the fabric of St Mary's Historic Medieval Church, the Rutherwyke Room with Wallace Room (Parish Office) and closed churchyard surrounding the church buildings (including the Leigh Bennett Enclosure, and the southern end of Church Approach including the lych-gate, flowerbed and entrance to the Vicarage in Church Approach). By agreement St Mary's PCC maintains the Vicarage front garden for use as a church car park. This land remains the property of the Diocesan Parsonage Board and the agreement allows for car parking on the red gravel area only (approximately 13 spaces). The asphalt part of the driveway must always be kept clear for emergency vehicles and access to the Vicarage.

Governance

Churchwardens are elected at the Vestry Meeting and serve for a period of no longer than six years. They are then normally disqualified from being churchwardens for the next two years, after which they are free to stand for another term of six years. In 2008 the APCM voted to allow an extension of up to two years' service before disqualification under the rules. Members of the PCC are either elected by the APCM or are ex officio in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Membership and Governance is managed under the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, details of which may be found on the Church of England website. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Parish Share Calculation

See Financial Report for 2025 for details. pages 30 - 33.

The Parish Share calculation is made up of two component parts:

'Ministry Costs' which include stipends, pension liabilities (including historical pension costs), housing, training (including curates) and the cost of maintaining vicarages, etc.

'Shared Costs' which include money for mission and the National Church, church schools, diocesan costs and much more besides.

GDPR & Privacy Notice

Your privacy is especially important to Thorpe PCC and we are committed to keeping your information and data secure and safe. Visit our website to read our Privacy Notice: <https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/>

Gift Aid

As a charity this is especially important in meeting the costs of ministry and the maintenance of our historic medieval church here in Thorpe. We ask every member of the church family who can do so, to complete and sign an annual Gift Aid declaration. Thank you for your help and support.

Part 3 Appendix Section

Regular Worship and Social Activities at St Mary's

Sunday Worship **8am Said Eucharist**

10am Sung Parish Eucharist
10am Monthly Family Services
4pm—5.15pm Monthly Family Club

Weekdays

11am Wednesday Said Eucharist
Friendship Group 11.30 am to 12.30 am

Check our newsletter for details of baptisms and other services

Tea and Talk

2nd Monday of the month
1.45pm to 2.00pm start

Guest speaker, delicious refreshments and friendly company

Noah's Ark

Thursdays during term time 9am to 11.00am
Our play group for babies, toddlers and pre-school children
with parents, grandparents and carers attending'

Includes fun action songs, a story, play time and refreshments!
(Please park cars at the Vicarage).



Easter Services 2026

St Mary's Church, Thorpe

29th March Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion (sung)

30th March 7pm Night Prayer

31st March 7pm Night Prayer

1st April 7pm Night Prayer

2nd April Maundy Thursday

7pm

Service of The Last Supper

8pm - 12pm

Prayer Vigil

3rd April Good Friday

11am

Family Activity

2pm

Meditations on the Cross

4th April Easter Eve

7pm

Service of Light

5th April Easter Sunday

8am Festival Holy Communion

10am Festival Holy Communion (sung)

All Welcome

For further details contact the Church Office

stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com

image by Freepik.com