



St BARNABAS
NORTHOLT PARK

PARISH REPORTS

2025

For the Year ended 31st December 2025

Registered Charity Number – 1160828

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APCM Agenda

26th April 2026

Opening Prayer

1 The Meeting of Parishioners

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Apologies for absence
- 1.3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 6th April 2025
- 1.4. Election of two Church wardens

2 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Apologies for absence
- 2.3 Minutes of the 2025 APCM and any matters arising
- 2.4 Electoral Roll report
- 2.5 Election of PCC members
- 2.6 Reports, including:
These reports are available to read in the Parish Reports. Questions and comments will be invited at the meeting.
 - Vicars Report
 - PCC Secretary's Report
 - Safeguarding Report
 - Fabric Report
 - Deanery Synod Report
 - Treasurer's Report
- 2.7 Election of an Independent Examiner of the Church accounts
- 2.8 Election results (if there has been a ballot)
- 2.9 Any other business

Minutes of the APCM 2024

THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT BARNABAS, NORTHOLT PARK MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2025

As we are in interregnum Margaret Copley (as lay chair of the PCC) chaired the meeting.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Margaret Copley.

Present: Revd Patty Linders, Yvonne Baillie, Tom Brassington, Roger Carter, Margaret Copley, Jane Cox, Pat Dokobu, Elveta Drysdale, David Edghill, Geoff Gellineau, Grace Gellineau, Ben Gordon, Barbara Gregory, Merle Griffiths, Jill Holmes, Sadie Khan, Catherine Kwamya, Luke Kwamya, Cynthia McLetchie-Rabess, Jennifer Thompson, Helen Yates, Arthur Olczyk, Funmi Hinimikaiye

1.1 **Introduction:** The purpose of this meeting is to elect church wardens.

1.3 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Lisa Gordon, Emma Green, Bernard King and Marilyn Ramdeen.

1.4 **Minutes of the 2024 Meeting of Parishioners:**

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 21st April 2024 were agreed. Proposed by Jane Cox, seconded by Tom Brassington with all in favour. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1.5 **Election of Churchwardens:**

We have had 2 nominations for church wardens, Ben Gordon and David Edgehill. No other nomination were received so Ben and David are duly elected as our church wardens. Ben and David were thanked and received a round of applause.

The meeting ended at 12.03.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT BARNABAS, NORTHOLT PARK
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2025

Present: Revd Patty Linders, Yvonne Baillie, Tom Brassington, Roger Carter, Margaret Cobby, Jane Cox, Pat Dokobu, Elveta Drysdale, David Edghill, Geoff Gellineau, Grace Gellineau, Ben Gordon, Barbara Gregory, Merle Griffiths, Jill Holmes, Sadie Khan, Catherine Kwamya, Luke Kwamya, Cynthia McLetchie-Rabess, Jennifer Thompson, Helen Yates, Arthur Olczyk, Funmi Hinimikaiye

2.1 Introduction: This meeting is for everyone on the parish electoral roll.

2.2 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Lisa Gordon, Emma Green, Bernard King and Marilyn Ramdeen.

2.3 Minutes of the 2024 APCM and any matters arising:

The minutes of the APCM meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2024 were agreed.

Proposed by Cynthia McLetchie Rabess, seconded by Tom Brassington with all in favour.

2.4 Electoral Roll Report:

The electoral roll officer for the past year was David Edghill, who gave the following report. We have a new electoral roll this year with 59 members. We will be hoping to increase this in the coming years. On the last roll we had 76 members but a lot of names had been removed, including those who had been on for many years who don't come to church and live outside the parish. If they don't attend church they cannot stay on the roll. We now have 59 active members.

2.5 Election of 9 members of the PCC:

We can have 9 members on the PCC. What we have been doing is electing people every year, what we should be doing is electing people for 3 years. We are moving to doing this, 3 people on and 3 people off, this gives better continuity, change of skills etc. People can go back on after having a year off. 2 PCC members have become church wardens. We have 3 new people - Merle Griffith, Arthur Olczyk and Sadie Khan who will come on for 3 years. Jennifer Thompson, Tom Brassington and Emma Green will come on for 2 years. Jane Cox and Luke Kwamya will come on for 1 year, but would carry on as their roles of PCC secretary and gift aid secretary and can be co-opted on.

Proposed by Jennifer Thompson, Seconded by David Edghill with all in agreement

We are changing the way we elect our members:

Proposed by Yvonne Baillie, seconded by Merle Griffiths with all in favour.

Church wardens get elected every year but can do a stint of up to 6 years, after coming off they would have a break of 2 years.

2.6 Deanery Synod Report:

Deanery synod reps get elected every 3 years. Margaret Cobley has 1 more year and said she will come off next year. She is also the deanery synod treasurer and will be stepping down from that role next year. We will need another deanery synod rep next year. Meetings are interesting and anyone can attend but only reps can vote.

2.7 Fabric Report

The fabric report is within the main report. Emma Green, Jane Cox and Tom Brassington are part of the fabric team. Not much has been done with the building work but a lot of gardening work has been done by Tom Brassington. Tom has been working on the garden of rest, he has taken down the tree at the front and is working to make it more natural, with more flowers. The steps outside the link have been cemented back into place. Repointing of the church tower and walls and carpark resurfacing still needs to be done. At the moment we don't have a quinquennial inspector as the one we had retired, the church wardens will look at this to try to find a new inspector. These works can't be done without a quinquennial inspector.

2.8 Treasurer's Report:

It's getting difficult financially, there are bills to be paid. The payment machine at the back of church only really covers the cost of the broadband to operate it. We would like regular people to be on the stewardship scheme so we can predict the budget better. We are going forward with a budget that is in deficit by about £13,000. We only had 3 rent payments this year from the tenants in Vernon Rise, they owe £31,000 and have paid nothing since September. Tenants need to be out by today, if they don't leave we will be getting the bailiffs in, we have money in the Vernon Rise fund to cover this. The house would then need to be decorated. Hopefully later this year we will see some income. We have not been able to build the reserve fund up because of this. The diocese have told us we are not able to sell Vernon Rise, it was brought by the parish for the curate at the time. The letting agent has not been very helpful, they should have been on to the tenants when they were not paying. When we let it next we will change agent, but we will need a selective licence which costs £750. The current rent is cheap at £1,585 a month. Thank you all for your generous contributions and if anyone is not on the stewardship scheme please see Luke Kwamya.

The hall is also a source of revenue but bookings are down. We only have 65 chairs where we used to have 75, we will maybe do some fundraising to buy another 20 chairs.

A lot of work needs doing to youth hut, the roof covering needs replacing. This will be discussed at PCC, panels are an option which will be investigated.

2.9 Election of an Independent Examiner of the Church accounts:

Our independent examiner is Sam Patel. He is very good and quick.

Proposal: To elect Sam Patel as independent examiner for a further year.

Proposed by Margaret Cobley, seconded by Tom Brassington with all in favour.

2.10 Election results (if there has been a ballot):

An election was not needed.

2.11 Any Other Business:

Jill Holmes asked whether we are going to continue with flowers. We have enough in the bank to carry on.

The meeting ended with the grace.

Meeting finished at 12.35

PCC meeting on Wednesday at 7.30 to elect officers

Vicars Report

There is much to celebrate and be thankful for as we look back at all that has been at St Barnabas throughout 2025, and I believe lots to anticipate for where God might be calling us on to in 2026.

I was licensed as Vicar of St Barnabas on the 10th July, on what was a really hot summers evening! I am so very grateful to all who kept “the show on the road” during the interregnum (the period without a Vicar) and, on behalf of St Barnabas, I would like to give a particular **Thank You** to Margaret Cobley who did a *lot* behind the scenes whilst there was no Vicar and no Churchwardens, and to Mthr Patty Linders who presided over much of the worship during those months the parish was in vacancy.



Thank You to you all at St Barnabas who so warmly and generously welcomed me into the Church family last summer. It has been a real joy and a pleasure to get to know you all and to journey with you all in the Way of faith since then. I am also incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and positivity I have found at St Barnabas in a church community who are eager to look and move forwards, and who aren't afraid of some change as we embark on that journey of discernment and seeking to join in with all that God is doing at St Barnabas together.

Mission Action Planning

In the Autumn we began to explore as a church community what it is that we loved about St Barnabas now, and what we might dream for St Barnabas in the future. In this process of discernment and prayerful pondering we recognised six priority areas that we felt God was calling us to focus on in this next season:

Prayer – which should underpin everything we do as church; **Music and Worship; Outreach, Newcomers and Events; Hospitality; Children and Youth.**

We began to take some steps in each of these areas already during the latter part of 2025, and will continue to put ‘the flesh on the bones’ (*as in Ezekial 37*) of this Mission Action Plan in 2026 – knowing that it is God alone who brings renewal and new life. We continue to pray that we might grow ever more spiritually alert to all the signs of this new life at St Barnabas in the coming months.

Governance

I am very grateful to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who have worked with me throughout the last half of this past year in all matters of governance and discerning the next steps for St Barnabas in this new chapter.

I am especially thankful to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Merle Griffith and our Lead Recruiter, Jennifer Thompson who have worked with me to ensure we have made great progress with Safeguarding at St Barnabas.

Thank You also to our Churchwardens, Ben Gordon and David Edghill, for their support, wisdom and shared leadership over these past six months of 2025.

There are a number of areas and things I’d particularly like to highlight – and celebrate – in 2025:

Children and Youth

With the help of PCC we were able to make some small, but significant steps in championing and including our youngest worshippers within the life and worship of St Barnabas. This included:

- Moving the Play & Praise area (‘Children’s Corner’) forward so our littlest worshippers can see more of what’s going on as they play. We were able to use some designated funds to better resource this area.
- Introducing a Children’s activity table at the back of church so our younger attendees can engage in worship through colouring, activities and building blocks etc during the service, particularly on those weeks when there is no Sunday School.

- In December we had a taster of a more intergenerational ('All Age') service for Christingle, and then again at Epiphany in early 2026. We will be continuing with a more intergenerational service on occasion at St Barnabas in the coming year as we look to grow together as church family and nurture all ages and stages in their faith journey.



On behalf of St Barnabas, I would like to say a huge **Thank You** to Funmi Hinmikaiye and Artur Olczyk who have run our Sunday School ministry at St Barnabas throughout the past year.

We do really need some more volunteers for this vital church ministry with our children and youth. Can you offer a little time and some passion to nurture our younger church family members in their faith?

In the Autumn I was privileged to attend a 'Launchpad' Course, run by the Diocese of London. As we look forward to 2026, we would love to consider how we might develop our ministry with our Youth (11-16 year olds). Is this something you could offer some time and enthusiasm for?

Prayer and Worship

In November, with the support of PCC, we introduced **Screens** to our worship. This makes our worship far more accessible than it used to be – and those visiting us don't need to worry about 'what book we're in or page we're on now' as we make our way through the service. The screens have been generally well received by the St Barnabas congregation and I thank you all for the way you have embraced this, and for your patience as we look now to acquire permission to mount the screens at a greater height

for better visibility. **Thank You** to Emma Green who has done so much behind the scenes in preparing and operating the technology for each service.

Towards the end of the year we began to explore the re-introduction of **Prayer Ministry** into our worship time again. As part of this we ran some training for all who were interested in November and our Safeguarding team made sure that our Prayer Ministers were recruited in line with our Safeguarding policy.

Discipleship

In the Autumn we ran the **Bible Course** at St Barnabas and it was wonderful to journey through the great story of God's Salvation plan – from beginning to end – with the group as we seek to become ever more confident disciples of Jesus Christ.

Publicity and Communication

In 2025 we launched our new church website – www.stbarnabasnorthholtpark.org; as our old church website was looking tired, was a lot to manage and much of the information was out of date. I am very grateful to Danielle White and Iliya Haji Mohammadi who helped to build and put this new website together.

In the latter months of the year, we also began to explore the development of a new logo for St Barnabas. Again, I am incredibly grateful to Danielle White who helped to develop some options for us to decide on in early 2026.

Thank You too to all who walked the streets of the parish last December in the delivery of our parish Christmas postcard. We know of at least one family who came to visit us at Christmas because of the postcard that came through their letterbox, and so you never know the impact of this simple act of service.

Looking Ahead to 2026

I think a number of us have sensed that God's Holy Spirit is very much on the move at St Barnabas and as we look to all that lies ahead, we remember that it is God who leads the way and we simply wish to join in with all that He is already doing.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.” Psalm 127:1

At PCC we begin each meeting with ‘Kingdom Spotting’; before we turn to the business of the day or the (sometimes very important) matters at hand, we choose to take a moment to fix our eyes on God and to consider where we may have seen God at work in and around St Barnabas in recent weeks. As we continue to step forward into this new season at St Barnabas together, can I encourage you all to continue to have hearts, eyes and ears that are open to where God’s Spirit may be at work in our church’s life, ministry and community.

It has been wonderful in these first couple of months of 2026 to see Prayer Ministry re-introduced into our Sunday worship and to see the Choir re-form in the leading of our sung worship – but I am sure there is lots else that God is calling us too, and much more that the same Spirit of God which raised Jesus from the grave at Easter wishes to breathe new life into in these coming months and years. We will continue to see how God might be calling us on in each of those Mission Action Plan priority areas identified in 2025; but as we anticipate all that is to come in 2026, I finish by asking: What part might God be calling you to play in all this?

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to play our part and to serve in seeking the Kingdom of God first and above all else. Could you help us to serve refreshments after the service each Sunday – or to wash up some cups at the end? Has God given you a passion for ministry with Children or Youth? Has God given you a heart to sing, serve or offer a ministry of prayer during our times of worship together? Could you help us run an Alpha Course? Or offer to welcome – and sit with – those who might be visiting St Barnabas for the first time? Is there something else that God has given you a real heart and a passion for – that you think God might be calling you to use in a new ministry at St Barnabas? If so – speak to us! We are each uniquely and wonderfully made by God our creator, and He has given us so many different talents, skills and passions. How might God be calling you to use yours as a disciple of Jesus Christ and part of our St Barnabas church family in this coming year?

Finally, may I just offer one last **Thank You** to all who have served St Barnabas over the past year, in whatever way and however great or small that service may have been. From the wonderful flower displays each Sunday, the cleaning of the church, the management of the Community Hall and rental property which supports our parish income and in the *many* different ministries and governance of St Barnabas – I know the whole church community is so grateful for all you do to support and serve the ministry of God at St Barnabas. Thank You!

Rev’d Emily Davis
Vicar (from July 2025)

PCC Secretary's Report

During 2025 the PCC met a total of 8 times. Topics discussed at these meetings included:

- The Interregnum
- Fabric
- Finance
- Safeguarding
- Vernon Rise (our rental property)
- Celebrating our Present and Looking to the Future (Prayerful Discernment)
- Church Logo and Branding
- Christmas Services
- Screens
- Children's Corner
- Kingdom Spotting
- Vision and Mission Action Planning
- Chairs
- Hall hire
- Website
- Safeguarding culture
- Ministry report

Before the APCM on 6th April there were 8 members on the PCC, which increased to 12 members after the APCM. We were fortunate to have 2 Church wardens elected, Ben Gordon and David Edghill, after not having Church Wardens for many years.

We have changed the way we elect PCC members. We used to elect members every year but we moved to electing members every 3 years and they stay on for 3 years then come off. By making this change it gives better continuity and a change of skills etc.

Rev'd Emily joined us from our July PCC meeting.

During the first meeting after the APCM the PCC elected it's officers and committee members.

A big thank you goes to all members the PCC for all their hard work during 2025.

Jane Cox
PCC secretary

Safeguarding Report

Over the past year at St Barnabas we have been diligently working to ensure compliance with our safeguarding policies and I can confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The basis of our work is done through the work and word of God who guides us to do good to all people.

St Barnabas can categorically state that we have made great progress this year through the medium of training and development with the help of our Diocesan advisors, one to one supervision with our Vicar, self-development, and ensuring that Safeguarding is discussed and monitored at every PCC meeting. We have followed and committed our time to implementing our Safeguarding policies and procedures through building effective structures, good communication, modelling safe behaviours, establishing good governance and enabling trust. The basis of our effort is reflected in our record Monitoring and Data keeping systems which is shared with the Diocese, minutes of our meetings and information notices around the church. Our progress is reflected in our Parish Dashboard which has moved from Level 2 to Level 3 over the course of 2025.

In November 2025 St Barnabas celebrated Safeguarding Sunday, highlighting to the wider church community all that the church is doing to foster a safe and healthy church culture, and why this is so important.

St Barnabas is careful to do what is right and for this reason all PCC members, and those of our church community who are working with children and vulnerable adults is safely recruited in line with our Safeguarding policy. In this respect the church has areas of responsibilities and each person who presides in their area needs to have a DBS depending on the level of work they preside over; this helps to ensure the safety and protection of every one who comes into contact with our church's ministry.

In order to guard the safety of our congregation:

- A new safeguarding policy was approved this July of year as well as a policy on the recruitment of ex offenders and use of social media.
- Our new safeguarding officer was recruited in March 2025 (PSO Merle Griffith)
- Lead Recruiter (Jennifer Thompson) and 2nd Recruiter (Merle Griffith) both of whom have the responsibility to process the DBS checks when required.

We have had some hiccups in the processing of some DBS checks this year but have been liaising with the Diocesan teams to support us with this and to share some clarification to carry out this task. We are also attending relevant training to improve our knowledge and service expectations of it. Having said this the number of DBS checks as well as actions taken has shown some positive results and achievements. Our monitoring records and systems (e.g), the Box, Parish Dashboard and Excel Spreadsheet, hold the statistics and data which is regularly reviewed and updated so as to ensure individual updated training and changes of policy is done as needed.

Although we are proud to celebrate the progress we have made in our safeguarding, we are also aware that there is still a little way to go in the required completion of some safeguarding training by church officers and volunteers and safer recruitment of some volunteers before reaching our full potential.

We have not had any complaints of abuse or safeguarding issues reported to us that we may have needed to deal with this year.

This being said I can still proudly confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016 (duty to have due regard to the house of the Bishop Guidance safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults).

Merle Griffith
Parish Safeguarding Officer (from April 2025)

Fabric Report

After a prolonged period without a church warden, two ex-officio members were appointed: David Edghill and Ben Gordon at APCM in April 2025. They have been able to undertake some of heavy burdens laid upon the other PCC members, under the leadership of Margaret Cobley. The departure of Rev. Mund in November 2024 made this task even more enduring as Margaret, in collaboration with Revd. Pattie and other key members of PCC had to work closely with the Diocese to ensure adequate support for the smooth running of St. Barnabas during the interregnum. The parishioners and St Barnabas community are eternally grateful to the team for steadying the ship during those turbulent times.

We were blessed to welcome the Revd. Emily Davis to St Barnabas in July 2025, following a well-attended and very much supported induction service led by Bishop Lusa and his team.

Revd. Emily has taken on her role with great aplomb and has led the team with extreme efficiency, working closely with all teams and has introduced some new ideas that will help to take the church community forward. We interviewed and appointed a new QI and have reviewed the last Quinquennial report with a view to prioritise key areas to work on.

Annual Inspection: The fire extinguishers, lightning conductor, gutter maintenance, gas heaters and boilers annual inspections all took place as usual during the year.

Maintenance and Repair: Repair are carried out as and when required.

Repointing of church tower and walls: When funds are available to perform this work we will liaise with the new QI to obtain quotations from various builders, apply for faculties and schedule the work to be done in due time.

Car park resurfacing: The car park area is still to be repaired. Funding to perform some work in the church, hall and garden will be sought and costs established.

Paving slabs on hall slope and in Raglan Way: The gaps between the slabs need to be filled in order to make the path safer. The public footpath needs to be addressed with the local council, particularly that area where the tree was removed and the roots appear to make the path very dangerous.

Steps to link entrance: Several of the loose steps have been repaired over the past few months. However, vandalism by the young local bike riders have resulted in many being dislodged and the area becoming dangerous to navigate.

Garden/ground maintenance: Since the departure of the Community payback group, Tom Brassington has taken on the role of maintaining the grounds including the Garden of Rest. We are extremely grateful to Tom for his expertise and hard work in keeping the area in good form.

Church hall and back toilet: The back toilets are used primarily by the uniformed organisation occupying the youth hut, where there are no toileting facilities. These toilets are in a bad way and are in need of replacing. A window has been replaced and a quote for reparation of ~£4000 has been obtained.

The church hall needs complete renovation (hall, kitchen and adjoining rooms). The electrics have been recently updated, and the hall lighting has also been replaced. New contracts for regular users are under discussion.

Vernon Rise: The departure of the student tenants (with unpaid rent) has left us with a repair bill in excess of £40,000. During this time, revenue that would have help us to

perform some of the reparation around the church and church hall has been severely impacted.

We have completed renovation, acquired new agents and a tenant family has now taken on occupation of the premises. Grateful thanks to David, Margaret and Tom for steering the renovation project through to completion.

New church chairs: We have been slowly replacing the old wooden chairs with new modern safer ones. We have been able to sell some of the old chairs to obtain revenue for the purchase of new ones. We have recently applied for a faculty to replace another set of chairs.

Screens: Over the years we have been raising funds to install screen at St. Barnabas. We have now purchased two large screens on trolleys linking to the music system enabling full utilisation of service. A smaller screen has been obtained for the alter area. This is particularly useful for visitors and poor sighted parishioners who can find it difficult to follow the service using the book system. These screens have been well received although the height of the trolley can sometimes limit visibility. We are in the process of obtaining a faculty to mount these screens on the columns to increase visibility.

Security: We have for some time now received a donation to install a security system at St. Barnabas. Although quotations have been obtained for installation, this has not been implemented. A recent break in coupled with a spate of fly-tipping has increased the need to install a system that would not only ensure security within the church but also act as a deterrent to fly-tippers. The Fabric team has recently surveyed the possible location of PIRs and cameras around the premises with a view to obtaining new quotations and advice from local security firms before applying for a faculty for installation.

Ben Gordon & David Edghill
Churchwardens (since April 2025)

Hall Report

During 2025 the Church hall was used by various regular groups and private lets.

Monday:	StayActive4Life Karate
Tuesday:	Foodbank
Wednesday:	Barney group - first Wednesday of the month Kumon
Thursday:	Kumon Karate
Friday:	Church of God World Fellowship
Saturday:	Kumon Private lets for parties/family events
Sunday:	Junior Church Church of God World Fellowship Private lets for parties/family events

The Church of God World Fellowship led by Pastor Luke hires the hall on some Friday evenings to hold various activities such as a youth group for the youngsters of their church, prayer meetings and choir practice. On Sunday they hire the hall to hold their weekly service.

The hall is available on Saturdays between 12.00 – 8.00 and Sundays between 3.30 – 8pm for private events. These are mainly children’s birthday parties or family get togethers.

The St. Barnabas Church Hall is also used for supporting our Local MP’s Coffee Mornings, that take place on an as required basis. It is also used as a Polling Station, the next of which will take place on 7th May 2026.

The PCC approved new Hall Hire Agreements in November 2025 which will help bring us to comply with current safeguarding requirements. These are being used from January 2026.

Including some late payments, hall bookings in 2025 (weekday and weekend) raised £23,132.

Hall expenses were as follows:

Utility bills: £3,290 (electricity £895, gas £1,612, water £783)

Hall cleaner: £3,744 plus £75 for cleaning materials and a mop (some materials are donated so this figure does not show the true cost)

Waste collection: £1,192

Maintenance costs included:

The annual gutter clean: £168

Gas servicing: £122

Boiler repair: £603

Work on the hall included:

Replacing the lights: £1,320

Replacing the windows in the back toilets £1,380

Jane Cox and Jennifer Thompson
Volunteer Hall Managers

Additional Information:

Including some late payments, in 2025 our hall and premises hire raised an income of £23,132 and hall expenses were £12,936. The surplus after expenses then totalled £10,196. Significant expenses this year included the cost of replacing lights in the hall for more efficient LED alternatives and replacing windows in the rear toilets. This is an income stream for which we are very grateful and it contributed approximately a third of our total income as a charity last year.

However, we might note that the Hall does not raise as much as it has done in previous years, particularly since the pandemic. If we compare the surplus raised in 2025 with that from 2015 – £13,915 – then this surplus has dropped by about 27%.

If you feel that you would be able to contribute any ideas on how we might improve the Hall for hire or better publicise its availability, then please do consider sharing your ideas with Fabric Committee and/or PCC.

Emily Davis
Vicar

Sunday School Report

The focus for our learning has been about improving the confidence to think and talk about God and his teachings to know God and form a lifelong relationship with him. We did this through discussions, games, and crafts. We have been following the church lectionary to help the young people explore the scriptures with structure and practical context that resonates with them. Our children often read the passage of scriptures and share their thoughts with the whole group. We have also been helping the children engage in acts of worship which is an essential part of the Christian life. We regularly pray, praise, study the Bible and learn a memory verse. We have been empowering our young people to tell others about their faith by sharing with the congregation what they have learnt. We have seen our children's attendance improve and their participation has grown.

Funmi Hinimikaiye
Sunday School Leader

Barney Fellowship Group Report

This year we had 12 get-togethers. We did not meet in January but made up by having 2 events in December.

We went on 3 outings: The Greenwood in May, Ruislip Lido in August and Sudbury Golf Club, our favourite venue for Christmas lunch.

Average attendance over 11 meetings was 20. The lowest was 12 when we went to The Greenwood in May.

Our grateful thanks go to Bernard who provides wine for our lunches each month, his generosity is much appreciated.

In July we welcomed Revd Emily and since then we have been pleased to see her at all our meetings. Thank you for your support, Emily, it's good to have you with us.

Sadly we won't be seeing Cynthia at future meetings as she moved to Welwyn Garden City at the end of November to live with her son and family until some time next year when she will move to her home in Tobago. We wish her every blessing for the future.

Cecelia has been unable to join us as she is still waiting for a second knee replacement operation. Her mobility is limited at present and she is in some pain.

This time last year we welcomed Rob who joined us having recently moved into the area. He loved being with 'the Barney Boys' as he called us and attended our meetings until, sadly, he became unwell quite suddenly and died in early September. We are so thankful that we made it possible for Rob and his daughter to join our visit to Ruislip Lido.

We have celebrated some major milestones this year: in March Lisa reached 90 years of age, as did Bernard in July and Elveta was 80 in September as was Jill in December. Congratulations to you all.

We look forward to our future get togethers in 2026.

Jane Nicholls, Yvonne Bailie and Margaret Cobley

Treasurers Report

Grateful thanks for all your donations throughout the year plus those extras for specific items including the flowers.

It has been a tough year, one in which we have had to spend a huge amount of reserves on the house in Vernon Rise following the tenants' departure in April. Left in a dreadful state, full of furniture and rubbish, a complete refurbishment was necessary. Solicitor and court fees had to be paid. In addition, over £30,000 was owing in rent.

This huge cost has meant we have been unable to complete some of the major jobs intended.

However, we have been able to spend money that was in restricted funds like the screens. So although these were a long time coming, your donations over the years to that fund have made such a difference. Thank you!

We are sad to lose some of our older members who have moved but they are to be commended for their consistent generous giving over many years.

Hall income was lower this year. We have made some upgrades to the Church Hall and plan to purchase more chairs and hopefully increase private lets which are still low. Many enquirers request later finishes, but for that we would need to have a 'caretaker' to ensure timely finishes.

The Sum Up machine has increased in popularity. The Parish Giving Scheme is another option and doesn't make administrative charges. Some donations are received through the yellow gift aid envelope, but if using one please enter your name on the front if you are a tax-payer so that gift aid can be claimed.

Insurance for our buildings was paid in full.

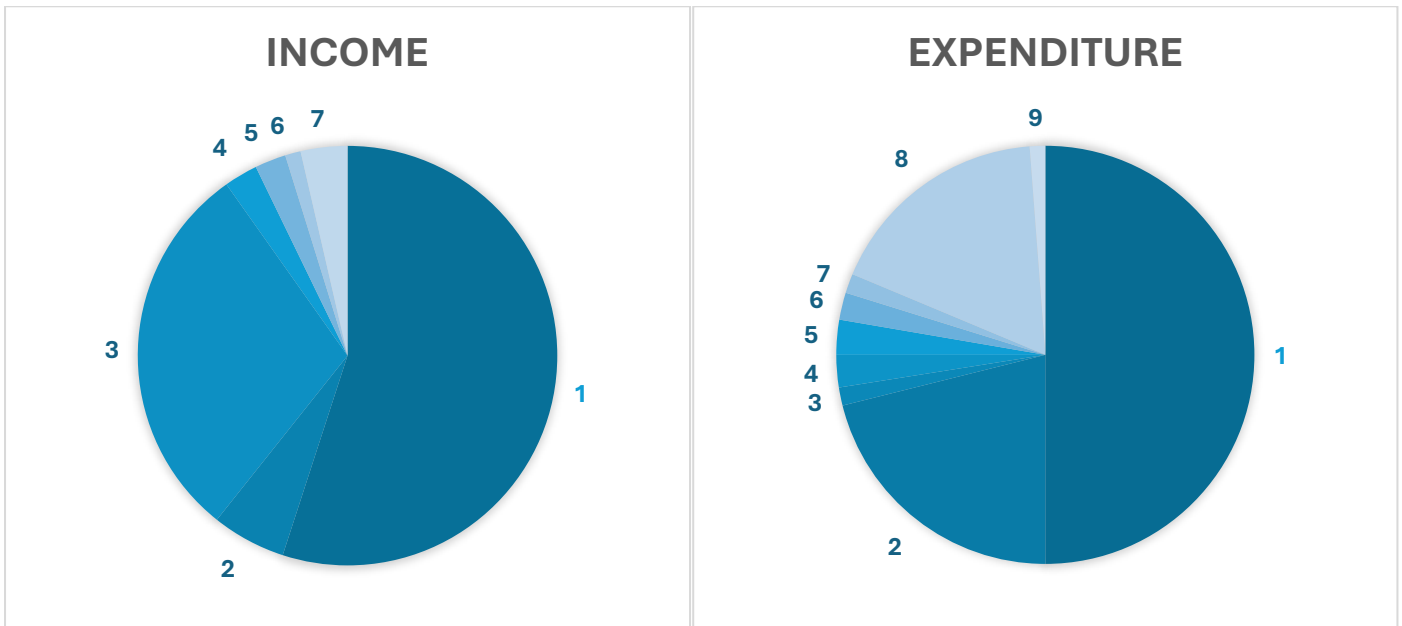
We have not held any events like Fun Days, Christmas Fairs or Quiz nights for a while but in the 2026 budget we have set a figure for fundraising. Ideas for fundraising are good, but we also need the willing hands to organise the events!

Thank you, once again, for your support throughout the year.

Margaret Cobley
Treasurer

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9.6

Finances: A Snapshot



Income

1. Giving (Planned & Open Plate) & Gift Aid
2. Donations & Grants
3. Hall Lettings
4. Rent
5. Interest
6. Parochial Fees
7. Other

Expenditure

1. Common Fund
2. Church Building, Fabric & Churchyard Maintenance (including Screens)
3. Services and Refreshments
4. Publicity, Administration & Office
5. Ministries with Children, Youth and Barney Group
6. Mission Giving
7. Ministry and Vicarage Expenses
8. Hall Expenses
9. Other

** Not including Rental Property expenses (£46,296) as this was – we hope – an extraordinary expense for 2025*

What is Common Fund?

Common Fund is our biggest expense as a church and accounts for nearly half of our whole annual expenditure.



This is a sum of money that we pay to the wider church, via the Diocese of London, and pays for things such as our Vicar, wider Diocesan ministry support, e.g. in the Safeguarding and Property Management support that we have received over this past year, the housing of our Vicar and the training of clergy for the future. It also helps to support the wider mission and ministry of the Church of England in London; you can read more about what this looks like in the Diocese of London report.

As our Treasurer notes in her report, whilst we pay a considerable amount in Common Fund, what we pay falls some way short of what the Diocese of London calculates to be ‘the full cost of ministry’, and so we are grateful for other churches within the Diocese who subsidise our ministry costs here at St Barnabas.

I once heard a priest say, “a church’s budget is its theology in numbers”. Jesus once said, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt 6:21).

Reflecting on how and where we spend our money as a church – what do you think this says about our church’s theology and values?



In 2025 it cost on average just over £6000 a month, or £1500 per week, to finance the ministry and running costs of St Barnabas.

** Not including the extraordinary rental property costs of 2025*

In faith we trust in the providence and generosity of our God; knowing that whilst we are seeking God’s Kingdom above all else here at St Barnabas – our Lord will provide.

If you would like to join our trustees in the joy of discerning where **“our treasure is”** as a church community, and how God might be calling us to use our resources for the pursuit of his Kingdom, please do consider joining PCC or our Finance subcommittee.



**Compiled by Rev’d Emily Davis
Vicar**

from the accounts prepared by the Treasurer

Stewardship Report

Introduction

This Stewardship Report covers the period from **January to December 2025**. Throughout the year, St Barnabas Church continued to rely on the faithful generosity of its members through the **Planned Giving Scheme**, which remains the backbone of our financial stability. Regular giving enables us to sustain our ministry, maintain our buildings, and support the mission of the church in our community.

The **Treasurer's 2025 Annual Financial Report** provides full financial details, including Gift Aid claims. This report focuses specifically on the key aspects and outcomes of stewardship giving during 2025.

Planned Giving in 2025

For the purposes of this report, *Planned Giving* refers to the regular, committed contributions made weekly, monthly, or quarterly by church members. Planned Giving is made through:

- **Bank Standing Orders**
- **Envelopes Scheme**
- **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**

It does **not** include one-off donations such as ALMA contributions, music fund gifts, or building-related donations.

Participation in Planned Giving

- At the start of 2025, **38 church members** were committed to Planned Giving.
- This represents an **increase of 2 donors** compared to 2024.
- Of the 38 donors:
 - **18** gave through the Envelopes Scheme
 - **19** gave via Bank Standing Orders
 - **1** donor gave through the Parish Giving Scheme

Giving By Method

Envelopes Scheme

- **Total raised in 2025: £11,869.57**

- **Total raised in 2024:** £10,226.00
- **Increase:** £1,643.57
- Includes **£1,905.92** in Gift Aid from 14 eligible donors

This increase is significantly higher than the £661.45 rise recorded in 2024, reflecting strong engagement from envelope donors.

Bank Standing Orders

- **Total raised in 2025:** £17,225.00
- **Total raised in 2024:** £18,160.00
- **Decrease:** £935.00
- Includes **£3,395.00** in Gift Aid and two donors regularly giving via card payment machine

The reduction is attributed to:

- The passing of one long-standing donor
- One regular donor moving away

Despite these changes, standing orders remain the largest source of Planned Giving.

Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme is a secure, nationally recognised direct-debit service supporting churches in managing regular giving. Donations are made on the 1st of each month and are restricted to the donor's chosen parish. PGS automatically claims Gift Aid and transfers the full amount to the PCC.

- A new donor joined the scheme on **1 September 2025**
- **Total raised by December 2025:** £500
- Includes **£100** in Gift Aid
-

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)

GASDS applies to small cash donations and allows churches to claim a Gift Aid-equivalent top-up on donations up to **£8,000 per tax year**. These donations are **not** part of Planned Giving.

GASDS Summary by Tax Year

GASDS Summary by Tax Year			
Tax Year	GASDS allowance	GASDS given	GASDS claimed
2023/2024	£8,000.00	£5,956.17	£5,956.17
2024/2025	£8,000.00	£4,433.12	£4,433.12
2025/2026	£8,000.00	£4,640.84	£4,640.84

Note: Totals for 2025/26 may increase, as GASDS is calculated by tax year ending 5 April.

Appreciation and Thanks

On behalf of St Barnabas Church, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generosity throughout 2025. Your giving—whether through time, talents, or financial contributions—makes a profound difference to the life and mission of our church.

Planned Giving is an expression of gratitude to God and a reflection of how deeply we value the presence of the church in our lives. Your commitment enables us to:

- Maintain our place of worship
- Support ministry and pastoral care
- Serve our community
- Sustain the ongoing mission of St Barnabas

Your contributions truly keep the church going.

Thank you once again for your faithful support.

Luke Kwamya
Stewardship Officer

Giving at St Barnabas

Why Do We Give?



We give primarily because we worship an incredibly generous God who has given us so much – not even sparing his only Son on the cross, for our sake. As children of God, when we have known that generosity in our own life, we can feel compelled to give back to the ministry and mission of God.



As disciples – followers – of Jesus today, we are called to ‘seek first the Kingdom of God’ and to resource the mission and ministry of God here in this place.



In faith we recognise that everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. When we give to the ministry and mission of God, through the church, we are not really giving to God what is ours – but are prayerfully discerning how much of what is truly God’s we might keep for ourselves.

Everything comes from you; all we’re doing is giving back what we’ve been given from your generous hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14 (MSG)

Planned Giving

As our Stewardship Officer notes in his report, Planned Giving ‘remains the backbone of our financial stability’. We are so grateful to the regular financial commitment of our church community which helps us to budget and plan as we look to resource the ongoing mission and ministry of God here in Northolt Park.

The Impact of Your Giving in 2025

Over this past year, the generosity of our local church community has enabled us to:



Resource the ongoing Ministry and Worship at St Barnabas; including our contribution to **Common Fund** and other annual costs, such as our **Copyright Licence** which enable our sung worship – now wonderfully supported by our church choir!

Generosity from previous years meant that we were finally able to invest in some **Screens** last year. This has helped to make our worship easier to access (without having to juggle quite so many books!), saved us having to print quite so much and allowed us to be a little more creative in the different ways we can engage with God's Word and in our worship. We still have funds remaining which means we can now explore mounting the screens on the pillars to make them more visible for all.



Church funds enabled us last year to better resource our **Play & Praise Area** and provide extra colouring, crafts and **activities for children** to engage with during the service. We hope this means that our youngest worshippers don't have to grow bored during our worship when we are all in together and can engage with God, spirituality and faith in more creative ways alongside us.

Looking Forward to 2026

We have begun to consider at St Barnabas what God might calling us to in our future mission and ministry. The missional priorities that arose out of this include our **Welcome and Hospitality** and our ministry with **Children and Youth**. To resource these ministries and this mission we will be need to be supported by the generosity of our fellow disciples here at St Barnabas.

How Can I Give?

If you feel called to give towards the ministry and mission of God here at St Barnabas, as a follower of Jesus, then there are a number of ways that you can do this. How much you might feel called to give is something we invite you to prayerfully consider with God.

Envelopes – if you'd like to give in Cash, please speak to the Treasurer or Stewardship Officer and we will gladly provide you with some weekly envelopes which you can bring to our worship gatherings to place into the offertory. Alternatively you can email us: hello@stbarnabasnorthholtpark.org.

The Parish Giving Scheme – if you'd prefer to give electronically (by Direct Debit), you can sign up the Parish Giving Scheme online, by scanned the QR code in church or by telephone. For more information: www.parishgiving.org.uk. If you give in this way, please feel free to pick up a token to place into the offertory when we gather for worship.

What about Giving in other ways?

When we follow Jesus we are called to give our whole lives; our time and talents – not just the contents of our wallet. At St Barnabas we are so grateful to those who give so much of their time and skills to resource our various ministries and the ongoing maintenance of our building(s).

If you feel that you might be called to serve in a new way at St Barnabas, perhaps in our ministry with Children and Youth or in the serving of refreshments after the service, please do let us know! You can find out more about the different ways we can all serve at St Barnabas on our website here: www.stbarnabasnorthholtpark.org/serve

Rev'd Emily Davis
Vicar

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meets at various churches across the Ealing Deanery. All meetings are open to all church members, so you are encouraged to attend and hear what is going on in the Deanery and wider church. There were 3 meetings in 2025, in person but some livestreamed.

The **January** meeting was held at Emmanuel Southall, who recently celebrated 50 years on the Golf Links estate. An afternoon congregation meets and worships in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.

Pauline McCalla, President of the Mothers' Union for the Diocese of London gave a presentation about the Mothers' Union, the "best kept secret in the Church of England". The MU will be celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2026.

Angela Colman, Willesden Area Safeguarding Adviser, gave a presentation about safeguarding, particularly focusing on the Safeguarding Standards.

At the **July** meeting at St Gabriel's North Acton parishes made bids for Mission Grants which are supplied by Pathways.

13 bids received grants for various projects including CAP, Community Café, Youth Group, Eco Garden and Evangelism on the Racecourse Estate. From 2026 the maximum grant has been increased to £3000.

Presentation of the accounts took place and the Independent Examiner was appointed for the year.

The **November** meeting was at Oak Tree Anglican Fellowship, located in Acton in the converted fire station complete with fireman's pole!

There was a presentation from 'Project Adder' by PC Salma Sarwar.

A.D.D.E.R. Addiction Diversion Disruption Enforcement Recovery

The Government document "From Harm to Hope" is a 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system and involves the Met Police working with other agencies to steer people away from a life of substance misuse. One of the concerns is that drugs are being supplied mixed and so can sometimes be stronger than the user expects with consequences.

In **June** the Archdeacon's Visitation took place, when Churchwardens are sworn in and Treasurers commissioned. A presentation on Common Fund 2025 was given.

Throughout the year at the meetings elections take place for school governors for our church schools and also Diocesan Synod.

Margaret Cobley
Deanery Synod Representative

Diocese of London Report

The Diocese of London is the largest in the Church of England, with over 400 churches serving a diverse population of 4.2m north of the Thames and west of the Lea, with a vision for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ.

In 2025, the Church continued to grow according to indicative statistics, contributing to attendance increases of around 20% since 2022.

The London Diocesan Fund (LDF) serves, supports and resources all parts of the Diocese by funding around 540 paid clergy and providing essential services so every parish benefits from strong pastoral and missional leadership.

The Ministry Team supported the formation and development of 540 paid clergy, 204 self supporting clergy, 114 Licensed Lay Ministers, as well as over 100 exploring ordained or lay ministry.

Most stipendiary clergy are housed by the LDF. The Housing team completed over 3,000 repairs and planned maintenance tasks, alongside major retrofitting to improve housing quality and energy efficiency, contributing to net zero goals.

Parishes received wide-ranging practical support for ministry. The Property and Fundraising team helped secure nearly £16m of external investment towards building renovations, community engagement and mission.

Safeguarding practice was strengthened further, with 95% of parishes now using safeguarding dashboards. INEQE carried out an independent audit of diocesan safeguarding, which will provide recommendations for how to build on progress made to create a safer church.

This work was funded through parish contributions via the Common Fund (£24.3m) and LDF generated income (£12.8m) from grants and investments.

The LDF has also generated additional funds for mission-focused projects, now totalling £40m across their collective lifespan. Great progress was made in 2025, including:

- Hackney & Islington Programme: 24 parishes supported, four new worshipping communities launched, lay leaders trained, and significant attendance growth.
- Southall & Hounslow Project: strengthening intercultural ministry across 13 parishes with new multilingual congregations adding over 100 new disciples.
- Tower Hamlets Mission Project: 89 young people came to faith and nearly 9,000 residents were engaged through new worshipping communities and outreach.

The Diocese also celebrated Bishop Sarah's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, giving thanks for her eight years as Bishop of London, marked by committed support for parish ministry, mission, safeguarding, and the diocesan priorities of becoming younger, safer and more racially just.

The Diocese of London

Finally, for all you do to support, resource and hold in prayer the mission and ministry of St Barnabas, Northolt Park:

Thank You!