

**Saint Faith's
Newton Longville
Annual General Meeting
2025**

Reports



Annual Report

Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for the year 2025

The council is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Incumbent: Rev. Yvonne Mullins

Associate Minister: Rev. Linda Church
Curate: Rev. Jane Grimmett

Attached PTO priests: None

Licensed Lay Minister: None

Churchwardens: Mrs Anne Robinson

Treasurer: Mrs Ann White

Deanery Synod reps: Mr Nigel Titley (PCC Secretary)
Mr John Dietsch

PCC
Mr Stephen Creasey
Ms Gail Dowdle
Mr Richard Robinson
Mrs Mo Wakley
Mr John White (Lay Chair)

Child Protection Officer Mrs Bénédicte Titley

Electoral Roll Officer Mr David Thomas

Electoral Roll: 36 at 29th April 2026

Pattern of Services each month

First Sunday	10.00 or 11.00 a.m. United Service
Second Sunday	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service
Third Sunday	11.00 a.m. Family Service
Third Wednesday	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service
Fourth Sunday	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

For Fifth Sunday we worship as a benefice in one of the parishes.

Alternative times are available for other services within the benefice.

Rector's Annual Report for 5 Parishes - 2025 APCM

2025 was an encouraging year as we saw some new initiatives start and the good work that has been going on, continued! The clergy team has been very well supported by the Benefice and we are very appreciative of all those who give so much of their time, gifts and talents to support us and to ensure that the church in Newton Longville shines out and welcomes all who come through the doors. We are particularly grateful to the PCC for their hard work and for Anne Robinson (CW), and John White and Stephen Creasey who have supported her.

Clergy have continued to lead Collective Worship in Newton Longville school and from September 2025 this was increased to weekly worship, as well as a weekly Open the Book practise. Rev'd Linda has led the Open the Book group supported by Mo Wakeley and Richard Robinson. We are thankful for their continued commitment to the practice and presentation of Bible stories to the children each week.

Rev'd Linda has also started a craft group meeting once or twice a term. This has emerged from relationships developed through school, Open the Book and Forest Church. The craft group team meet to plan sessions and children and parents come to enjoy a Bible theme and create different crafts. We are very grateful for the team's efforts and thank God for the community that is growing. This group, alongside Forest Church, has enabled us to meet new people.

Rev'd Jane has continued to lead the Forest Church monthly. Having experimented with a Forest Church in Newton Longville and Little Horwood, we found that the Newton Longville group began to flourish while the one in Little Horwood didn't and so we took the decision to have one Forest Church in the Benefice in Newton Longville.

Rev'd Jane has done a sterling job and has established a small team of planners and some prayer supporters. With financial support from the Deanery we were able to buy good quality benches and the area in the Forest was tidied and a new firepit built by the Scouts. Each Forest Church session includes scripture, creative worship, a song and prayer and then toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate and good fellowship. We are very thankful to all who have joined in and supported Jane and Linda; this has helped the community to grow.

Ecumenically, the 5 Parishes have continued to work alongside the Methodist chapel in Swanbourne and the Free Church in Newton Longville. We have shared services and coffee mornings, Christian Aid teas, week of Christian Unity, Balloons and Cake decorating at the Newton Longville show, Remembrance Sunday Service etc. Our Lent course Come and See was hosted in the Free Church and led by 5 Parishes clergy. The Christmas Carols at the Pub event was very successful and we are very grateful for the support of the Pub Landlord for hosting the event, alongside the Secklow Band who do a fantastic job of leading the music. The Churches Together in Newton Longville team have continued to meet two or three times a year to plan these events.

The clergy have continued to rotate between the parishes and there is an understanding that where a service is led by one member of clergy one year, we aim to have someone else lead it the following year, so that there is no favouritism shown between parishes! We held a Mission Action Planning Morning in September for the Benefice where each parish considered what they might do in their village to reach out to those on the fringe. St Faith's plan is to work on inviting people to special services throughout the year – these will be held on Third Sundays where the service is usually a Service of the Word. To build continuity, Rev'd Linda will be leading these each month.

We have seen new members join the choir in 2025 and the choir sang at various Benefice services as well as weddings for which we are very grateful. Thank you to Nigel for his leading and for his commitment to choosing hymns each week! Our bell ringers have continued to announce that worship is taking place in St Faith's and we appreciate their commitment.

I am very grateful for the continued support and encouragement from everyone at St Faith's and I pray that God would continue to bless all our endeavours to share his love with all in Newton Longville.

Rev'd Yvonne

Organisation of the PCC

Items are considered prayerfully and, in Christian love, discussed at (normally) six meetings of the full PCC each year. Any issues are resolved primarily by consensus or, alternatively, by vote if required by the nature of the item or if it is evident that there is not complete unity. The proceedings of the PCC are minuted and a summary of the minutes are published.

The PCC also receive and consider the reports from active groups, such as The Friends of St Faith's. The PCC gives its support, direction or guidance to these groups.

Proceedings of the PCC

Six meetings were held during 2025 all face to face.

Fabric: No fabric work has been completed but we have obtained quotes for repairs to the tower and installation of pigeon guards

Fund Raising: "Gardens Open" took place this year as usual (thanks to Alex Tittley for organising it). A quiz night took place to raise money for the bell fund.

Children's work: The school continues well.

Safeguarding: No incidents to report this year.

Mission Giving: The PCC agreed that as part of our outward looking mission in doing God's work, all collections from specific services during the year would be given to charity. For example the Christmas services collections are to be given to two selected charities; one local and one more global.

Churchwarden's Report

As your Churchwarden I present this report on the work of St Faith's Church in 2025.

As always, it is important that we maintain a Christian presence in the village and as a church community bring God's love and forgiveness to everyone.

Our Rector, Rev'd Yvonne Mullins, has been with us over three years, our Curate Rev'd Jane Grimmette and Rev'd Canon Linda Church for over two years. We welcome and support their new initiatives and all the work they do.

This year our clergy attended at nine funerals, either in church, at the crematorium or at the village burial ground. There were four baptisms, one marriage, one 60th wedding anniversary blessing service and a memorial service in St Faith's church. The monthly Forest Church in the Rectory woodland continued to grow and attract new families. A two hour long junior craft session was set up in church during the autumn half term and we hope that this will continue in 2026.

St Faith's and the Free Church worked together on many things during the year as "Churches Together". We had united Lent and Advent courses, celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer. In May we had a well-attended cream tea in the village hall to raise money to support Christian Aid Week. We had a presence at the Village Fete in September where we made and gave away balloon animals and made biscuits for children to decorate. In August there was a Bring Your Own Picnic in the Rectory garden, a Bring and Share Harvest lunch in St Faith's after the united service and we provided a Christmas cold buffet lunch in the Free Church. The annual community carol singing with Secklow Brass at the Crooked Billet was very well attended and raised money for UnityMK, formerly Winter Night Shelter.

The children from the village school have held all their end of term services, and their Harvest, Carol and Christingle services in the church. Christmas also saw a very well attended Crib Service. Rev'd Linda, Mo Wakley and Richard Robinson continued the "Open the Book" sessions at the school with Year 6. This work has been very successful and the children thoroughly enjoy exploring and then acting out the bible stories. After Easter the children came into church to perform their Passion Play for us.

Music continues to play an important role at St Faith's and we would like to thank our choirmaster, Nigel Titley and our organists, Mary McKinnell and Simon Lambros. We are privileged to have a thriving choir who excellently led us in the Communion services twice a month and at Christmas and Easter and at Benefice services and weddings. We also have an enthusiastic team of bell ringers who call us to worship on Sundays and who ring for special occasions.

We are very fortunate to have the in-house expertise of Richard Robinson who keeps the sound system updated. We have a large TV and our services are live-streamed. The school services in church are videoed for the school's private use.

Churchwardens are specifically tasked with maintaining the fabric of the church and during this year we investigated ways to control the pigeons on the tower and their droppings. We are seeking to obtain a Faculty for the work to put up spikes on the ledges. While the scaffolding is up we would like to have any necessary masonry repairs done. Our Quinquennial Inspection, which took place in 2024, highlights the continuing need for the maintenance of our very special building. In October we held an evening of Storytelling and Music as a social event and fundraiser for church maintenance.

The church continues to benefit from the regular commitment of a rota of volunteers who open and close the church every day, clean the church, wind the clock, raise the flag, mend things, give lifts, decorate with flowers, look after the sound system, make the tea, welcome the congregation and prepare for and take part in our worship. All these people willingly respond whenever they see a need.

We gratefully received a grant from the Parish Council for half the annual cost of cutting the churchyard grass, which is done by Richard Moulding. The profits from Open Gardens and the teas in the Old Rectory in June also helped with churchyard maintenance costs. Several volunteers continue to keep some of the graves tidy. All this work, along with the magnificent display of spring flowers, is certainly appreciated by the villagers out on their daily walk and by the wildlife too.

I am extremely thankful for the experience and continuing support of Stephen Creasey and John White as Assistant Churchwardens and especially for the extra work they took on during the six months of my cancer treatment. We would like to thank everyone for their continuing love, support and hard work in helping us to keep our church family safe and worshipping.

Anne Robinson – **Churchwarden**
Stephen Creasey and John White - **Assistant Churchwardens**

Choir

The choir has provided musical support for the whole of this year, on second and fourth Sundays and has also provided support for services and weddings at other churches in the Benefice.

I'm enormously grateful for the support and tolerance that the choir provides to their sometimes irascible choirmaster.

The organ has been checked and retuned recently and is in good order.

Nigel Titley
Choirmaster

Bellringing

Things have been brightening up considerably this year. We are now able to ring well-struck rounds and call-changes on all eight bells although we mostly can only manage six. Progress is being made with method ringing, with all ringers able to ring at least plain hunt and a plain course of Bob Doubles. We have recently made progress on Grandsire Doubles and are now attempting (but not yet completing) touches of Bob Doubles.

An offer to ring the Nine Taylors for funerals has been well received in the village but as it isn't offered by the ministry team isn't really being taken up.

Unfortunately we are only putting off the time when the bells have to be rehung. We have had an updated estimate for this and it is in the region of £130,000. We have to find this money urgently if we wish to continue to have bells in our church. We have some ideas about raising this money including getting lottery funding and offering sponsorship of the new bells but time commitments have made it difficult, as yet, to follow these up. A village committee has been set up to organise fundraising and several events including a Quiz Night have taken place.

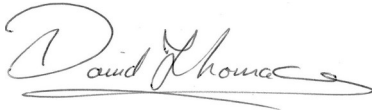
Nigel Titley
Tower Captain

Electoral Roll Officer's Report 29th April 2026

The Electoral Roll total count this year is 36. Details of the full list are posted in the church porch.

Should anyone wish to be included in this electoral roll, please ask for a form from me directly or send a note/letter to the address below.

If you wish to be removed from the roll, please write to me formally at the address below.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator.

David A Thomas

Electoral Roll Officer

18 Bonnards Road
Newton Longville, Bucks MK17 0DS

Newton Longville C of E School report

A Year of Growth, Depth and Faith in Action

Over the past year, Newton Longville Church of England Primary School has continued to develop as a flourishing Christian community, building on the strong foundations previously established. Guided by our vision, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,” the school has deepened its relationship with the church, strengthened its spiritual life, and nurtured pupils to grow academically, socially and spiritually.

Christian Vision and Values

Christian values remain central to all aspects of school life and are increasingly embedded in everyday practice. Pupils demonstrate these values through their behaviour, attitudes and relationships, and they are confidently able to articulate how the school’s vision influences their actions. Leadership roles such as Values Ambassadors continue to provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to live out Compassion, Respect, Aspiration and Thankfulness in practical ways, both within school and in the wider community.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Collective worship remains a cornerstone of school life. This year, there has been a noticeable deepening of pupils’ engagement, with children participating more confidently in prayer, reflection and discussion. Clergy involvement in worship has been regular and highly valued, helping to reinforce consistent links between school and church throughout the year, rather than only at key festivals.

A significant strength continues to be Open the Book, which has become a firmly embedded and much-anticipated part of the school’s worship programme. Through the dedication of church volunteers, Bible stories are brought vividly to life, supporting pupils’ understanding of scripture and offering accessible opportunities for reflection. Children frequently reference these stories in conversation, demonstrating both recall and growing spiritual insight. Open the Book plays a key role in enriching pupils’ biblical literacy and strengthening the school-church partnership.

Links with the Church and Parish Community

The school's relationship with St Faith's Church and the wider parish has continued to flourish and mature. Pupils take part regularly in services at church, including Harvest, Christingle, Remembrance and Christmas celebrations. Behaviour and reverence during these services are consistently exemplary, with even the youngest pupils demonstrating confidence and respect within the church setting.

The Harvest Service provided a valuable opportunity for generosity and service, with donations supporting local families and foodbanks. Remembrance events, including wreath-laying within the village, enabled pupils to engage thoughtfully with themes of sacrifice, peace and thankfulness alongside parish members.

Advent and Christmas were particularly rich, with Christingle celebrations and a well-attended Carol Service, led by pupils, which many described as deeply moving. EYFS pupils also visited the Free Church to sing to members of the community, strengthening inter-generational links and demonstrating the joy of shared worship. Through music, storytelling and reflection, pupils were able to engage meaningfully with the Christmas message.

Overall, pupils and staff increasingly view the church not only as a place for special occasions but as a familiar and valued space for worship, reflection and belonging.

Community and Service

The school continues to serve its community with enthusiasm and generosity. Pupils have taken part in charity events such as Macmillan fundraising, community performances and fundraising led by the Friends of the School. These activities are consciously framed through the school's Christian values, helping pupils understand service as an expression of faith in action.

Inter-generational opportunities, particularly through music and community events, have strengthened pupils' understanding of compassion and hospitality, reinforcing the school's role within the life of the parish.

With Thanks

On behalf of the Governing Body, staff and pupils, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the clergy of St Faith's Church and our wider parish, whose regular presence, prayerful support and leadership in worship continue to enrich the life of the school. Particular thanks are extended to the Open the Book team, whose commitment, creativity and generosity of time bring Bible stories vividly to life and play a vital role in nurturing pupils' spiritual development. We are deeply grateful for this faithful partnership, which remains a cornerstone of the school's Christian character.

Reflection and Looking Ahead

As the year concluded, opportunities for reflection and gratitude were woven into end-of-year worship and transition events. Leavers' services provided a meaningful space for thankfulness and hope, as pupils prepared for the next stage of their journey supported by strong spiritual foundations.

Overall, the past year reflects not simply growth in activity, but a deepening of faith, practice and partnership. Church links are increasingly embedded in the daily life of the school, Open the Book remains a cornerstone of worship, and pupils continue to flourish as confident, compassionate young people.

The school remains deeply grateful for the ongoing support of clergy, Open the Book volunteers, church members and parishioners. These relationships continue to play a vital role in nurturing the spiritual life of the school, and we look forward with hope and confidence to the year ahead.

Mrs Judith Trainor
Head Teacher

Deanery Synod

The Synod has met twice during 2024. Representatives from this PCC are Nigel Titley and John Dietsch. Representatives from 20 Parishes are invited to attend. The Synodical Government Measure of 1969 defines the major objectives of the Deanery Synod as:

1. To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery on common problems

2. To discuss and formulate common policies on these problems
3. To foster a sense of community and interdependence among those Parishes
4. To work in collaboration with the Bishop and Diocesan officers to forward the mission of the church

3 March Cublington

Future appointments of Rural Dean, Lay Chair, Treasurer and Secretary:

All these positions are vacant and volunteers are needed to fill them. It was decided that we should go back to our Parishes and ask if anyone would be interested in taking on a deanery Officer position.

Mission Project funding approved by M&P committee. There are grants available to cover the costs of any missionary project.

- Great Brickhill received a grant to help set up forest church in two of their parishes.
- Wing is applying for a grant to create a digital church guide which visitors can use on their mobile phones.
- Grants are available for churches to install Wi-Fi useful for taking payments by card.

These grant aided schemes will hopefully encourage more people into the building, primarily for worship but also as a community hub. Annie (lay chair) said that the Deanery also has a fund which is available to cover the cost of any new schemes.

It was noted that there was a higher than usual number of interregnums in the Diocese at the moment. They are working hard to recruit more clergy. They are also considering a 1% increase in stipend for all clergy.

There was some discussion around LGBTQ community and the blessing of same sex relationships. Guidance on this has still not yet been formally agreed. The matter of how we treat same sex couples has so far been left to PCC's to talk about without any official guidance.

The resignation of Justin Welby and the whole issue of abuse within the church needs to be addressed by all of us in helping to rebuild trust in the church.

6 November Mursley

Rev J.G.Smith leading the meeting said that Bishop Dave would be appointing a new Rural Dean in due course.

We watched a film documentary featuring Rev. Don's cycling pilgrimage following in the footsteps of St Thomas the apostle. His journey covering some 1200 miles took him through countries like Egypt, Turkey and India.

It was felt that we need to create a formal body (Standing Committee) to carry out tasks between Synod meetings. The committee proposed a membership of four clergy and four Laity. It is planned to have three Synod meetings in a year, with a Standing Committee meeting prior to each Synod event.

Parish Share, Amanda D-Malcolm stated that the Diocese had allocated a Share of £340K to the Deanery representing a 4% increase from 2025. The distribution across the benefices would see a 4% increase. It was now up to individual Benefices to allocate a fair share among its Parishes. It was suggested that a meeting on the subject of how parishes actually manage to pay their Parish Share would help the process, through the sharing of best practice.

John Dietsch
Nigel Titley

Prayer Chain

One of the great privileges we have as Christians is to pray for the needs of others. The prayer chain is simply a group of church members who commit themselves to praying for those in particular need. Anyone can request prayers by contacting Jackie Brown, Jean and John Clarke, John and Ann White or Mo Wakley who will send the message down the prayer chain by e-mail or by telephone. It is simply a good way of communicating a prayer need quickly and efficiently. We give thanks to God for many answered prayers. It would be good if other people would offer to pray too. Please let Mo Wakley or Jackie Brown know if you would like to join the prayer chain.

1st Newton Longville (St Faith's) Scout Group

Another fun packed year at our village Scout Group. All three sections are mostly full with a great team of leaders and an active Trustee Board.

The cubs had a fabulous sleepover in the church, which they are still talking about!

The Beavers have had a couple of evening sessions in the church looking at patterns and the history of the church giving them an opportunity to look more closely around our church.

We were very proud of our turn out for Remembrance Day with nearly 40 young people joining us for the Act of Remembrance and the Service.

The Paddocks continues to be a hugely popular and "the best sessions" across all three sections. The bug hotels and fire pits provide opportunities to explore and investigate nature. We are very grateful to Forest church for purchasing the benches! The fire pit area is looking well loved and used! We are looking forward to working together to create more areas in the woods.

We are always looking to have more visitors into sessions so if you think you have something our young people would enjoy please do drop me a message!

As ever we thank you for your continued support and we really do value the close relationship we have as a church affiliated group.

Alex Titley

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT YEAR ENDING 31/12/25

I present the annual report for the year ending 31/12/25. 2025 ended in a gain for the year of £1,374.50 and having carried forward £3728.92 from 2024, the final balance was £5103.42 (£3322.77 of this is allocated for Utilities bills and Gift Aid already received from PGS). Again, our largest commitment was £28,035 for the Parish Share and I'm pleased to report that we paid this in full thanks to your generous giving and some successful fundraising. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is working well and I would encourage others to sign up and I have the relevant forms if you should wish to. The scheme claims the Gift Aid on our behalf. The PGS Scheme and those paying by Standing Order mean we have regular donations whether people are attending services or not, which helps enormously with budgeting and cash flow.

We received £6,189.75 from the taxman through Gift Aid so again thanks to those of you who are able to covenant your donations. We also joined the Easyfundraising Scheme in the autumn. Many suppliers like Amazon etc make a donation to us through the scheme from your on-line purchases. The Sum-Up card machine has also been very successful with many donations.

Our investment with Aviva Wrap stood at £54,287.49 at the end of the year. As you know this money was originally a bequest in 2016 and is used for large projects only and not for general expenditure.

Please continue to give generously so that we can carry on working with Yvonne and our wonderful ministry team to increase our witness to the village and further the Kingdom of God here in Newton Longville.

Thank you all for your very generous support.

Ann White, Treasurer

ACCOUNT BALANCES

ASSETS	At 31/12/25	At 31/12/24
Brought Forward Previous Year	3,728.92	2,054.78
Excess Income over Expenditure during year	1,374.50	1,674.14
Total Bank and Cash Accounts	5,103.42	3728.92
OTHER ASSETS		
CCLA Bell Fund	1,335.03	1,277.23
CCLA Facilities Fund	3,274.94	8,609.43
Aviva Wrap Investments	54,287.49	50,580.92
Total Other Assets	58,897.46	60,467.58
TOTAL ASSETS	64,000.88	64,196.50

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have carried out random checks of receipts and payments and am satisfied that the balances recorded are a true record of transactions carried out during 2025.

Signed: G F Hunter

Date: 16/4/26

I would like to record thanks to Gilly Hunter for spending time auditing the church accounts.

Ann White

**Newton Longville Church of England Religious Education
Trust**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
April 2026**

My apologies for being unable to attend the meeting..

My thanks again to David Thomas for auditing the accounts this year.

Income was a few pounds up on the previous year. Just over £100 was paid out for "Moving On" books for the school children leaving last summer and resources for Forest Church.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Gilly Hunter
April 2026**

NEWTON LONGVILLE CHURCH OF ENGLAND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TRUST

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

INCOME	2025	2024
Trust income	825.15	805.87
EXPENDITURE		
Christian education	<u>109.95</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Surplus/deficit	<u>715.20</u>	<u>805.87</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Accumulated Fund		
Balance as at 1.1.25	11058.47	10252.60
Surplus/deficit	<u>715.20</u>	<u>805.87</u>
	<u>11773.67</u>	<u>11058.47</u>
Net Assets		
Current account	<u>11773.67</u>	<u>11058.47</u>
	<u>11773.67</u>	<u>11058.47</u>

Note to the Balance Sheet - the investments from which endowment income is received are not shown on the balance sheet.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I certify that the above income and expenditure account and balance sheet are in accordance with the books and records maintained by the Hon Treasurer which I have examined. I have verified the bank balances. As stated in the note to the Balance Sheet, the investments from which endowment income is received for the Trust are not shown.

April 2026

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David Thomas



Churchyard Primroses