

ADCM Report 2026



S. Margaret of Antioch, Hasbury

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
continue to live your lives in him,
rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,
just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.*

Colossians 2: 6-7

Contents:

List of Documents for ADCM 2026

1.	Agenda	p.1
2.	Minutes of ADCM 2025	pp. 2 - 5
3.	Vicar's Report	pp. 5 - 7
4.	Church Wardens' report	pp. 7 - 9
5.	Safeguarding Report	pp. 10
6.	List of Sides Persons	p. 10
7.	Electoral Roll Report	p. 11
8.	Stewardship Report	p. 11
9.	Halas Parish Charities Report	p. 12
10.	School Report	p. 13
11.	Churches Together Report	p. 14
12.	Quilting Group	p. 14
13.	Evening Prayer Group Report	p. 14
14.	Pastoral Report	p. 15
15.	Voices in Vestry Report	p. 16
16.	Coffee Morning Report	p. 16
17.	Choir Report	p. 17
18.	Outward Giving Report	p. 18
19.	Eco Work	pp. 18 - 19
20.	Sanctuary Group	p. 19
21.	Deanery Synod report	pp. 20 - 22
22.	Talk series	p. 22
23.	Other Social Events and Fundraising	p. 22 - 24
23.	Mothers' Union	p. 24
24.	StoryTime, Messy Church & children's work	p. 25 - 26
25.	Scripture and Reading Groups	p. 26
26.	Black Country Foodbank	p. 27

S. Margaret's Balance Sheet, and Year End Report 2025 (before presentation to the independent examiner) are attached separately, for ease of reading

Agenda

Agenda ADCM 3rd May 2026 12.45pm

Present

Apologies

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the last meeting (11/05/2025)

To be agreed / amended and signed

Matters Arising

Reports: *Please refer to the emailed reports or the report booklet*

Mthr Victoria's Report – a summary!

Church Wardens Report, including Fabric report - D Hobbis and J Hall

Treasurer's Report – F Hunter

Safeguarding Report - A Hughes

Nominations and Elections:

2 District Wardens

1 Representative to Deanery Synod (tri-ennially 2026)

6- 9 Representatives to the DCC

2 Representatives to the PCC

Sidespersons

1 Safeguarding Officer (nomination by the vicar)

2 Halesowen Churches Together Representatives

1 Representative to the Parish Outward Giving

1 Trustee to the Halas Parish Charities

1 Electoral Roll Officer

1 Member of the Parish Employment Group (nomination by vicar)

1 trustee of the Goodman Trust

Mthr Victoria's closing remarks and prayer

Minutes from ADCM 2024

Mthr Victoria opened the meeting with prayers

The meeting was chaired by Mthr Victoria and David Hobbis (Church Warden)

1) Attendance:

Mthr Victoria Barlow: Rev'd Sarah Tranter: Christopher Barlow:
Hannah Barlow: Stephen Barlow: Ryan Bevan: Janet Briggs: Gordon
Crew: Susan Cresswell: Sue Evans: Janet Gazey: Barbara Hemmings:
David Hobbis: Marilyn Hobbis: Jean Holloway: Marilyn Hyland: Alan
Hughes: Fran Hunter: Keith Hunter: Glenise Jones: Alison King: Anne
Palmer: Freda Parkes: Robin Parkes: Lyn Roberts: Jane Sinclair: Lavene
Warby:

Elaine Wilson: Wendy Whiley: Julie Ann Whitehouse: Angela
Woodhall: Leonie Young: Linda Young: Phyllis Vangeersdale

2) Apologies:

John Hall: Rachel Hall: Keith Wellings: Elizabeth Wellings: Emma
Wilkinson: James Wilkinson: June Young

3) Minutes of the ADCM held on 14th April 2024

The minutes as presented were proposed by David Hobbis, seconded
by Wendy Whiley, and approved unanimously

4) Matters Arising from Minutes of 14th April 2024

There were no matters arising.

5) Reports

5.1) Vicar's Report:

Mthr Victoria advised further to her report, thanked the church family
for their continued attendance and support over the past year. It was
pleasing to see and experience the love and growth in many areas of
church with several new activities developing over the period.

The congregation were set a challenge for the coming year to identify
one opportunity to explore in the coming year regarding involvement
in the local community, that might lead to furthering the spread of
God's Love, and/ or growing the church family in number and
sustainability.

5.2) Church Wardens' Report

David Hobbis advised the Wardens' report covered a number of actions taken over the year to safeguard Church. Currently repairs to broken roof coping stones at a cost of £4,000 is in hand. Diocesan permission has been obtained, and a grant application has been applied for from Benefit Grant Scheme, the grant outcome is unknown to-date, work on the repairs is expected to start shortly

Mthr Victoria thanked John Hall and David Hobbis, for their work and support over a number of years, John has taken this opportunity to step down following ill health, David has indicated his willingness to stand for a further year. Mthr Victoria recorded particular thanks to John as he comes to the end of his period as Church Warden for the huge contribution he has made to church life, seen and unseen.

5.3 Treasurers Report

Fran Hunter (Treasurer) advised the finances for the year had provided a small surplus of income, and thanked all members for their continued financial support, this was much appreciated. However, the surplus was the result of members giving, and Diocesan Ministry Share grant, unfortunately the grant will stop from next year, as Diocesan funding has been exhausted. A review of our financial commitments will be needed in the coming months. Mthr Victoria thanked Fran for her hard work, support and continued management of Church finances

5.4 Safeguarding Report

Alan Hughes (Safeguarding Rep for most of 2024 - 2025) referred to the above report advising the last year had been incident free. Safeguarding awareness for all Church members continues to be a key focus with relevant training available for members. Mthr Victoria thanked Alan for his period of service, who has now stepped down, Sarah Seddon has agreed to support Safeguarding with effect from 1st April 2025.

The above reports as presented to the meeting were accepted unanimously

Mthr Victoria thanked the church family for their ongoing support

Church Nominations and Elections for APCM meeting 22nd May 2025

Election of 2 Church Wardens to the Annual meeting of the Parishioners

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. David Hobbis | P: Fran Hunter | S: Alison King |
| 2. Linda Young | P: John Hall | S: David Hobbis |

Election of 2 Representatives of the Laity to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Wendy Whiley | P: Fran Hunter | S: Linda Young |
| 2. | | |

Election of 6 representatives to the DCC

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alison King | P: Fran Hunter | S: David Hobbis |
| 2. Stephen Barlow | P: Alan Hughes | S: Janet Briggs |
| 3. Ryan Bevan | P: Rachel Hall | S: Hannah Barlow |
| 4. Janet Gazey | P: Hannah Barlow | S: David Hobbis |
| 5. Barbara Hemmings | P: Jean Holloway | S: Freda Parkes |
| 6. Freda Parkes | P: Hannah Barlow | S: Janet Briggs |

Election of Sidespersons:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Jane Sinclair | P: Stephen Barlow | S: David Hobbis |
| 2. Marilyn Hobbis | P: Wendy Whiley | S: Hannah Barlow |
| 3. Janet Gazey | P: Freda Parkes | S: Fran Hunter |
| 4. Margaret James | P: Stephen Barlow | S: David Hobbis |
| 5. Wendy Whiley | P: David Hobbis | S: Hannah Barlow |
| 6. Alison King | P: Freda Parkes | S: Fran Hunter |
| 7. Angela Woodhall | P: Stephen Barlow | S: David Hobbis |

Election of 2 representatives to Halesowen Churches Together

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Susan Cresswell | P: Wendy Whiley | S: Barbara Hemmings |
| 2. Anne Palmer | P: Wendy Whiley | S: Barbara Hemmings |

Election of 1 representative to the Halas Outward Giving Committee

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Marilyn Hyland | P: Wendy Whiley | S: Fran Hunter |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|

Election of 1 representative to the Halas Parish Charities

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fran Hunter | P: Marilyn Hyland | S: Stephen Barlow |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Nomination of Employment Representative

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| David Hobbis | N: Mthr Victoria |
|--------------|------------------|

Nomination of Safeguarding Officer
Sarah Seddon N: Mthr Victoria

Meeting closed with prayers at 13.05

Words from Mthr Victoria : Vicar's Report

Another year for which to give thanks to God! Thank you to you all for all you do, for all you pray, for all you are. I am hugely blessed to serve you in both of the churches, and to walk the journey of faith alongside you all.

S. Margaret's is a church that is so full of love, of prayer and kindness, and that is a blessing from God and a true grace. This year we have welcomed a number of new people into our church family both online and in person – or moving from one to the other – both in our Sunday worship, and in our other outreach and fellowship. We continue to grow in joy and hope, and have introduced a number of new expressions of faith this year which are bearing fruit. Thank you for your energy and enthusiasm, and generosity of time.

It has been wonderful to celebrate baptisms, confirmations, and even The Wedding amongst the church family in the last year – and to continue to walk together in the every day through all the sparkly and all the challenging times. We remember with thanksgiving Mark Woodall, and John Young, who died this year, and who we commend into God's love, and I give thanks for the strength of this community in supporting each other at difficult times. It is a true privilege to serve with you all. Our church family is rooted in worship and prayer, and it has been encouraging to see stable attendance at worship throughout most of the year, and deep roots of prayer and faith under-pinning all that we do. It has been a delight to share with small groups in reading and deepening our faith in scripture and in reading other books and talking about our faith together.



We have again welcomed a number of outstanding visiting preachers – amongst whom the Revd Andy Todd, the Revd Georgina Byrne, The Revd Prof Hugh Houghton, The Revd Canon Dr. Carlton Turner, The Revd Canon Dr John Fitzmaurice, the Revd Stephen Buckley have blessed us with their wisdom.

There are so many obvious names on this report, who stand up and take leadership, and 'make things happen', and my thanks to them for so many wonderful things – do read every word! A particular thanks must go to Susan Cresswell, who is my right hand, and who blesses us all in so many ways, and also to our Church Wardens for steering us so well this year – David in his last year and Linda in her first! But my thanks also to all of you, who work unseen in love and prayer and service, 'making things happen' in so many ways through your presence and the people that you are, and the faith that you carry in so many ways both practical and spiritual. I am excited to continue serving amongst you as we head onward into the year.



As a vicar of two churches, I am blest by both, but also am aware of how short I fall of all that each church (and the individual souls and hearts of both districts and communities) needs and deserves as you continue to grow and flourish – time simply doesn't stretch enough. So, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your grace, patience and generosity, as you support me as I try to serve you in God's grace. Without your generosity of spirit, and of time, we would not be able to worship and serve in the way that we do. I do encourage you all to continue to grow in boldness and courage, and to reflect on what little parts we can all play together to continue to support and flourish as a community.

There are challenges for the future as we face raising costs – particularly in fuel, office costs which we pay to the Parish, and ministry costs which we pay to the Diocese. So, thank you for your generosity of service and your financial support, without which this church would not be able to continue. We must continue to reflect on strengthening this even more as we head into the future, in growth in fundraising, numbers and giving, so that we may continue to serve and welcome our community, and to worship God together, and

share what he has given us with those who seek for him but do not yet fully know his name.

It has been a blessing to see the church used more for community events this year, as a polling station, or hired by various groups for use for a Valuation Day, First Aid Training and an MP Community Consultation. There has been so much to celebrate as our church remains open, full of love and worship, of celebration and community joy, as people grow in faith and number, and we continue in outreach and making new relationships. And we will continue to build on this too! With joy! We have a resurrection faith, and the rare gift of hope and truth to share into an ever-more troubled and anxious world, and a strong community in which to be nourished and to share our blessings. Thanks be to God.



Mthr Victoria

Words from David & Linda: Church Wardens' Report, including Fabric Report

Mother Victoria continues to lead a caring Church in which congregation numbers remain strong for all worship – both at special feasts and seasons, and throughout the year.

A weekly notice sheet provides news and events specific to St Margaret's and we make use of social media via Facebook to spread news to the wider community

St Margaret's remains open during the week for prayers and quiet reflection although it remained closed during the summer for safety which roofing works were completed at the adjacent school.

The St Margaret's WhatsApp group gathers together a large section of the congregation for supportive conversations, photos and news.

Fundraising activities continue. Many thanks must go to Alison King for putting together a calendar of events which bring in much needed funds and introduce new people to the Church, and all who help and support so generously all the social events that are held in church.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming the West Midlands Concert Band for two highly successful concerts and hosting Halesowen Choral Society.

In June a coach trip was organised to the National Memorial Arboretum which proved enjoyable, many thanks to David Hobbis for organising this.

A fortnightly coffee morning continues to attract a good following including people that do not usually attend our usual forms of worship, with thanks to all who support and enable this.



We have been delighted to make the Church available to a local musician, Thomas Brown, who holds fortnightly rehearsals for his ensemble. As his orchestra grows, he is hoping to offer to stage concerts in St Margaret's. Our thanks go to our Director of Music, Rachel Hall, and to our organist Andrew Burling for their continued support of St Margaret's.

We are pleased to be able to offer the Church as a Polling Station for the local ward in May. It is good to see many entering through our doors for the first time to admire the beautiful building.

CCTV has been fitted in Church following a small number of security concerns. A lock has also been fitted to the toilet door.

A new external noticeboard has been installed to improve communication with the local community

A new heater has been fitted in the toilet.

Work to improve accessibility to the Church has now been completed including, level access into Church, an Automatic glazed internal door and disabled parking spaces.

An outside electrical feed has been fitted allowing the Christmas tree to light up the local community during Advent and Christmastide.



The Quinquennial Inspection report was finally released and, although generally the Church is in good condition, it did highlight certain works that should be completed assuming funds are available. Priority is being given to roofing works which awaits approval from the Diocese. Other areas that will need attention include supporting lintels in the crypt, redecoration of the porch, broken tiles in the Lady Chapel and damp issues in the Clergy Vestry (A de-humidifier has been installed which appears to be successfully reducing the moisture in the room). Although not mentioned in the report, repair work may also be required to the stone cross on the Eastern end of the roof.

The gas heaters along the side wall of the nave have been decommissioned following their annual servicing due to safety issues.

Much thanks should go to Keith Hunter for his continuing invaluable support of the Church in providing expert advice and input into all fabric matters.

We look to the future with some optimism and hope to continue to introduce new individuals and families to our Church and to strengthen our links with the local community.

David Hobbis and Linda Young, Church Wardens

Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding concerns at S. Margaret's since the last ADCM.

The Halas safeguarding reps continue to meet regularly to discuss problems and support each other in all safeguarding matters and attend regular online meetings held by the Diocesan safeguarding team to keep the reps updated and deal with queries.

Unfortunately, due to a data breach which involved the company we use for our DBS checks last year which did involve some of our members there was a temporary pause put on the renewal of DBS whilst the residual risk of further data breaches was assessed and assurances sought. This also led Worcester to consider changing the company that provides our checks. There was an agreement to delay some rechecks if necessary but to continue as usual with any new checks required.

It remains important for safeguarding training to be done by all volunteers and the level is dependent on the role. We have achieved good levels of completion of training and it is important that we maintain this. Most of this training is available online but there are plans to try and make some training more accessible to all by increasing the "face to face" availability. If you have any queries about training or are unsure when you are due an update please ask me.

If you have any safeguarding concerns no matter how small or there are any worrying signs you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Sarah, Seddon, S. Margaret's Safeguarding Representative

Lists of sides-persons

Janet Gazey, Margaret James, Stacey Rose, Liz Tilley, Angela Woodhall

Thank you to those who have served during 2025 – 2026, and have now stepped down, for all you have done to the Glory of God.

Electoral Roll Report

There are 96 people on the electoral roll for 2026. 7 people have been added and 2 have been removed

Marilyn Hyland, Electoral Roll Officer

(we commend to God those who have died, with loving thanksgiving for our brothers Mark Woodhall and John Young).



Stewardship Report

We currently have 52 planned givers who give through various ways either PGS, Standing order or the weekly envelope scheme. Of those 52, 34 allow us to claim gift aid from HMRC on their gifts. We have been able to claim £12,072 in gift aid, an amount aided by several large, generous donations. Thank you to everyone for your continued support for the church.

If there is anyone who is currently not in a planned giving scheme and who would like to be, please contact us:

*Jane Sinclair District Stewardship Officer
Fran Hunter DCC Treasurer*

The church has rising expenditure – notably on parish office costs, and diocesan cost of Ministry Share, but also on fuel due to our increasing mission and usage (which is, in a way, wonderful news) - and we currently survive as a parish as we receive a charitable grant from the Diocese reducing our bills.

As in all areas of life the cost of living is rising. Please do review your giving this coming year – make sure you are not giving more than you can afford, but if you can afford to increase your giving / begin new giving it will ensure the church is able to continue strongly into the future. With huge thanks for all your amazing generosity already

Mthr Victoria, Team Vicar

Halas Charities Report

A meeting was held on 23rd September 2025

The 2024 Accounts had been submitted to the Charities commission There is £17,257 invested with CCLA (cannot be touched). £1,833 in the CCLA interest account (can be spent but suggested left alone) and £242 in the Lloyds current account (can be spent).

Noted this year we moved the sum of £1,000 from the CCLA fund to the Lloyds bank fund, due to the clergy donation to a parishioner of £420 on the 3rd of June 2025 with Trustees email approval.

At present the Charity has just over £800.00 in the CCLA fund and £822 in the Lloyds Bank fund to spend.

It was agreed that we would not be spending money at this meeting, to keep a reserve for people in need during the year.

Suggestions of worthy causes in the parish can be passed to trustees for consideration.

The clergy can make a request to the charity at any time if they know of someone in the parish in particular need.

Fran Hunter, Trustee Halas Charities



School Report

We have continued to build on our school relationship, with class worship being offered in school most weeks by either Mthr V or Susan Cresswell. We continue to host the school services for Easter, Christmas and Leaver's service, and the tots for Easter and Christmas. The school also make occasional Year Visits to church with Mthr V to explore particular Christian seasons / topics. We have been working together on a new initiative called *Prayer Spaces* which hopes to encourage space to build relationship with God rather than simply to educate. This Year, together with Sara Shepherd, we hope to have a display board in church, displaying children's work in RE, and photos from our joint enterprises, and also to introduce a 'squash and chatter' time for small groups from school to build relationship with small groups from church and share time together. The eco teams from Church and School are meeting together to discuss shared endeavour.

The school continue to face financial challenges, and challenges with high levels of children with educational needs, and social deprivation. Please hold all the staff and families in your prayers as they continue, despite all the challenges, to offer our local children a sound education and a loving, caring environment and formation.

It has been a joy to welcome back Windsor High School for their Christmas worship, to welcome Lutley Primary on a number of visits to S Margaret's again this year, and to be invited to visit Huntingtree School at Christmas again. Do pray for all the schools in our area.

This year we have a new and growing relationship with our local nursery – the Hasbury Acorns, who came in for a quiet time of prayer at Remembrance, and have since then started bringing a number of children across to StoryTime. We look forward to growing that connection!



Mthr V

Churches Together Report

Anne Palmer and I continue to represent the Church at the Churches Together meetings. It is a really friendly inclusive group that meets to pray for Halesowen Churches and plan future activities or services. At Easter and Christmas we hold outdoor services in Somers Square in Halesowen. It would be lovely if as many as possible of our congregation could come. It is a wonderful time of worship and spreading the gospel. We are so fortunate in Halesowen that all the churches cooperate and work together.

Susan Cresswell

Quilting Group

This is a small but hard working group. We support the church by cutting out hearts or whatever is needed for use in services, or children's work. We prepare the craft activities that are used at the Easter Garden and Crib services attended by the school. We always do our best to support Halesowen in Bloom. There are two very good quilters and if a special need turns up they will always make a prayer quilt to be given with our love. We arrange for gifts to be given to children and people who come to baptism at our church. This little group does a lot to support the outreach of the church.

Susan Cresswell

Evening Prayer report

This is a small but powerful in prayer group. We are all growing together in faith, At the moment we are meeting at the house of one of the church family. You would be most welcome to join, there is plenty of room for anybody who would like to share in faith and fellowship. Speak to Susan if you would like to know more.



Susan Cresswell

Pastoral Report

Our Church is growing in faith, fellowship and welcome. We support each other as a faith community as we gather for worship, and in our wider lives. At the moment we have a long-time friend who we are joining with prayer and company beside her in her bed. We take prayers to another house-bound friend and home communion regularly to two more. We are aware of others in need, and do take communion when it is needed, or a pastoral visit. We reach to friends beyond our congregation through café, craft group, monthly talks and StoryTime.

Mthr Victoria and I take the love of God and the Church into school through assemblies and other occasions. There is a new group starting shortly – a coffee and chat session for parents or family who have dropped children off at school in the morning.

All children or adults christened in our church are given a beautiful hand-made gift to remember the occasion.

Our church is left open in the week for ourselves or for the community to use as a quiet space and we are surprised how many come in. God is at work and active through us all.

Susan Cresswell



S. Margaret's WhatsApp groups continue to flourish, with much love and laughter being shared over photos and connection. It is lovely to build relationship across and between all our times of worship, and share in such friendship, and mutual celebration and support.

Due to the high volume of 'chat' we have this year introduced a 'notices' WhatsApp group simply to have immediate 'business' notices on so that people who feel overwhelmed by the chat can have a simpler place to still keep in touch, and so that messages don't get lost. If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, please speak to Mthr V or Fran Hunter.

Mthr Victoria

Voices in the Vestry Report

This is a small group that meets at the back of church on a Sunday evening, At the moment we are having short services that are based on the Lord's Prayer. Being a small group there is ample time for discussion, and then chat over refreshments at the end. Our next meeting is June 7th at 6pm. After that, it will be the first Sunday in August and October.

Susan Cresswell

Coffee Morning Report

On alternate Thursday mornings, a wonderful group of people meet in St Margaret's Church to drink tea and coffee, eat biscuits or cake, chat, knit and sew.

Sometimes there are 10 of us, other weeks there may be nearly 30! Occasionally we are meeting with a particular aim in mind, supporting Fair Trade, finding out more about our local water suppliers or putting questions and concerns to Alex our local MP.

Not everyone who comes is a member of our worshipping community, but they are all members of our church family. It is always a happy morning with a warm welcome and we would like to thank everyone who supports it.



Susan Cresswell, Fran Hunter, Alison King and Jane Sinclair

S. Margaret's Church Choir Report

Although this year hasn't been the easiest of years for the choir my thanks go to all choristers for their continued support, friendship and commitment. Up until the autumn of 2025 we continued to learn new hymns and anthems to sing at major festivals. We are very grateful to Mother Victoria for accompanying us during our rehearsals.



Just before Christmas last year I was taken ill which eventually led to surgery that took place at the end of February. We had to abandon choir practices but the choir still led the Sunday services while I continued to provide a hymn list each month. I'm very much hoping that choir practices will be able to start again in early May.

Andrew Burling continues to be our main organist treating us to wonderful voluntaries at the end of our services. Please take time to listen and applaud him! As we share Andrew with St John's there are times when Andrew is unable to play so I'd like to thank Christopher Barlow for stepping in when necessary.

The choir is a small but dedicated group of singers. We work hard but have a lot of fun as well. New members are always welcome. Just have a word with one of us and come along or just turn up! Rehearsals are at 7.45pm on Wednesdays.



Rachel Hall, Choir Director

Outward Giving Report

A meeting was held of the above group on 23rd September 2025, with each church's representative elected at APCM. Nominations for charities were discussed, and a recommendation was sent to the PCC for the £9831.84 distributed as follows:

£4331.84 to Halesowen Welcome Group
£500 each to Kids Clothes Brierley Hill, Church Mission Society, United Society, Partners in the Gospel (USPG), Water Aid, MAF Flying for Life, Blood Bikes (West Midlands), Crafting for Communities, A Rocha UK, Black Country Foodbank, Halas Homes and The White House Project

Marilyn Hyland, S. Margaret's Representative

Eco Work

The Eco group has been very busy this year we have applied for our gold award and are awaiting a decision from A Rocha.

We have: -

- Planted 2 more Apple Trees
- Installed 2 water butts
- Installed two herb planters next to our chatty bench
- Planted 100 daffodil bulbs in pots which when gone over will be planted on front lawn area.
- Completed a lifestyle survey with the congregation that will be repeated in September.
- Held a plastic free coffee morning and contacted our MP to support this global initiative
- Had a walk to church Sunday
- Continued to share eco-tips on the noticesheet weekly
- Encouraged people to participate in Earth Hour, the RSPB birdwatch, and to test their carbon footprint
- We have introduced more eco-friendly consumables

We thank all the members of the congregation and the friends of St Margarets for all their support.



Future projects in the planning include: -

- A “Bee Friendly” Coffee Morning
- Planting a “cut flower” bed
- A “Green” quiz
- Supporting Messy Church in their ‘Creation’ session in May.

If you are interested in joining this group, please speak to one of the team.

Fran Hunter

Sanctuary Group

The privilege of serving the congregation of S Margaret’s to the glory of God has continued to motivate the team and further strengthen our bond this year.

We have provided a full sanctuary party for key midweek feasts such as the Epiphany, Candlemas and the Annunciation, in addition to our regular Sunday services and those at Christmas and Easter.

Our junior team members have excelled in and developed their roles throughout the year, with sanctuary service contributing towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for the first time.

On a social note, the eating of chocolates together in the vestry at Christmas and Easter has proved to be a successful team-building exercise.

Janet Briggs, Sanctuary Team Co-ordinator



Deanery Synod Report

In the last year Dudley Deanery have met on three separate occasions at churches across the Deanery. On all occasions Synod opened with a short act of worship, bringing all those attending together as one family, providing a focus for the meeting agenda.

The Synod meeting in March 2025, was held at Church of Ascension Wall Heath, members were welcomed by Fr Adam Hadley, in worship. Following the service, Area Dean Andrew Sillis welcomed the appointment of two new priests for Sedgely, and Clent and Hagley.

The Rev’d Andrew introduced Chris Boden, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, who addressed Synod on Ministry Share, expressing how important this is to the Diocese, requesting Parishes to pay the requested annual amount to provide support for Diocesan funding. Chris also noted Diocesan Grants applications for Ministry Share will unfortunately not be expected to be available after 2026. Chris expressed the importance of reviewing Parish Stewardship, annual reviews help to support Parish financial stability, Chris encouraged all Parishes to develop closer links with the local community.

Synod next met in October 2025, at Holy Trinity Church Wordsley, following a brief period of worship, the Andrew, Area Dean introduced the meeting agenda to discuss in groups the meaning of “The Five Marks of Missions”. After a short introduction Synod members choose a group to join, each group was led by a Diocesan Officer or Clergy member. Group discussions followed for a short period on the following related topics:

- New Believers, baptising, nurture and teaching, thinking about the challenges for new young adult believers. seeking to know more and grow in the faith
- Loving service and human needs: how do we serve our community, and what are the most pressing demands



- Transforming unjust structures of society: the apparent rise in racism in our community is causing alarm, how can we ensure justice amongst our neighbours
- Safeguarding and sustaining and life of the earth, Eco Church and NetCO are hot topics in the church. Find out more and how your church can engage in meaningful action.

Following group discussions, each group gave feedback and further Synod discussion and comments continued.

Synod last met in March 2026, meeting at St John’s Church Halesowen, Area Dean: Andrew Sillis opened the meeting and welcomed members, and the Bishop of Worcester, a short service followed conducted by Rev’d Hazel.

Synod was privileged to welcome the newly installed Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, addressing Synod. He expressed his delight to be given an opportunity to outline his hopes and aspirations for continued development of Parishes across the Diocese during his period as Bishop

The Bishop confirmed he is in the very early stages of his ministry in the Diocese, In the last six weeks since being installed, he has received numerous invitations to visit Parishes and Schools across the Diocese, he hoped to complete more visits to Parishes and School across the Diocese over the coming months.

He expressed his thanks for the welcome and kindness he and his family have experienced since his becoming Bishop of Worcester.

The Bishop firmly believes future progress and development of the Church can be made by attracting children and younger members on which the build for the future of our Church.

A period of questions and comments from Synod members to the Bishop followed before Synod closed, with the Grace.

Alan Hughes, Synod Member

At the final Deanery Synod of the year, Bishop Hugh stressed the need to ‘complete the table’ – to make sure that our churches fully represent our communities in inclusion of people of all age, and from all backgrounds. He stressed the need to ground our faith in prayer and worship, in scripture and learning. He called us to be people of hope, proclaiming the hope of our Resurrection faith into a world bearing a heavy burden of anxiety. He stressed that he was less interested in our NWC than in our lives of prayer – growth, he said, would naturally follow faith. He thanked *everyone* for carrying the torch of faith through recent decades.

Mthr Victoria, Team Vicar

Talk Series

The talks have covered a wide range of topics, covering a varied selection of genres. Last year we explored a Dudley house through time and learned about the history of Clent village. We gained insight into working for the BBC and learned about spinning, photography and the challenges of film making underground. So far this year we have enjoyed talks about church music and the story of our scriptures.



We look forward to future talks on faith and fiction, the relationship between faith and science, the back to back houses in Birmingham, the history of the Corbett Hospital, the history of our favourite biscuits and rewilding. This year it has been decided that the entrance fee for talks be discontinued. The talks are now free and to supplement income a raffle is held.

Alison King

Other Social Events and Fundraising

Craft and Chat

The Craft and Chat group continues to provide a social afternoon where those attending can have a warm drink and biscuits and engage in lively conversation whilst working on their own projects. A variety of needle crafts are practised – knitting, crochet and patchwork.

The group did not meet in December and January as it was too cold in church. As the other craft groups in the team do not charge, it was decided that when meetings began again in February there would be no charge. Donations towards church funds are appreciated

Alison King

Concerts

It has been a joy to continue our new relationship with the West Midlands Concert Band and to see good attendances coming to enjoy the building and community. These concerts are designed for mission and relationship, but with thanks to those who organise the raffle, we have always broken even or made a surplus.

Mthr V

The Advent Gift Appeal

Many thanks to the Church Wardens for organising the Advent Gift Appeal. Response to this did raise approximately £1K for church funds, which is much needed and appreciated.

Mthr V

Worship-and-Food events

It has been good fun this last year meeting for various worship-and-food events; these not only praise and worship God, and build us as a faith family, but also build community and always raise a small surplus above covering costs of heating and lighting. Thank you to everyone for supporting these.



Mthr V

Themed Coffee Mornings

Our themed coffee mornings always raise money for external charities or for our eco work. Thank you so much to all who have donated so generously, and attended these. We look forward to the next – the Bee themed coffee morning in summer 2026.

Mthr V

Walks and outings

It has been wonderful this year too to engage in a number of walks and outings – David Hobbs organised a walk around Leasowes, and we joined together as two churches with S. Peter's, Cradley for a walk around the Saltwells Nature Reserve. There was also the treat of the day trip to the National Arboretum; thanks to David again for that. We do hope to continue to share such occasions together in the coming year

Mthr V



Mothers' Union

This year the Mothers' Union have taken a new direction. After meeting with Joyce Bush – fundraising and Mothers' Union communication co-ordinating officer for the Diocese – over a tea and scone in church, she explained a new direction for our branch of the MU. We decided to finish as a branch, and to become diocesan members, so we can continue our affiliation to the Mothers' Union, continue to meet from time to time and have a meal out, and pay our subscription to the Mothers' Union, to support the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union.

Susan Cresswell, MU member

StoryTime, Messy Church and other Children's outreach

StoryTime

StoryTime has taken steps forward this year. Having begun last year with a small number of children and families from S. Peter's and S. Margaret's combining together, we have recently made a good connection with the Hasbury Nursery, who are now regular attenders and supporters of this. Due to this we have had a re-vamp of style, introducing a coloured flooring for the children to sit on, and ensuring we always have a faith-related activity for the children. We are continuing to reflect as we continue to grow, and ask the Church Family to pray. Huge thanks to Wendy Whiley and Susan Cresswell for their tireless work on StoryTime, and all the fun they bless the children with.

Messy Church

We held our first Messy Church this year with an amazing response from local families and children. The church was alive with people exploring faith and building relationships. Thanks to our shared team of Children's work volunteers across the two churches we shall be running four messy church sessions in each church this year. We hope to increase this to six in 2027.

Halloween Drop in



This was a huge success, (many people attending, many of whom had never been in the church before, and good conversations and relationships arising from it) and thank you to everyone who helped with this.

We shall definitely do it again in 2027.

The Future...

During 2027 we shall also be introducing our first Coffee Stop, for families and children, and a Saturday morning Board Games morning for older young people. We are also building a link between the two churches with the young people from the Halesowen Air Cadets. Pizza and Prayer is also being explored as a space for teenagers.

The first steps with these is to get the safeguarding and risk assessments in place as for the older children they will not always come accompanied by parents, which opens different safeguarding needs.

Mthr. Victoria

Scripture and reading groups

We are a small friendly group who meet at church every 1-2 months to read and discuss passages of the bible and other Christian literature.

We are currently reading the gospel according to Luke and as an optional addition we have been exploring the book " The Doors of the Sea" by David Bentley Hart.

These are very relaxed meetings, where over a cup of coffee, you can express your views and ask questions. However, there is no pressure to join in, if you just want to listen, that's absolutely fine.

We all have different levels of knowledge and experience so it really doesn't matter where you are on your Christian journey.

We would love you to come and join us.

Janet Gazey

Black Country Foodbank

It has been a blessing to continue our connection with and support of the Black Country Foodbank, with monthly collections and a special Harvest Collection. Thank you to everyone who supports this, sharing God's love in this particular way. Donations are always generous, and gratefully received. Many thanks to Alan Hughes, who has been our connection to the Foodbank, safely delivering donations each month.



Here endeth the ADCM report, thanks be to God



***May God continue to bless us in all that we do,
to guide us in wisdom and compassion,
to invigorate us with life,
to grow in us hearts of prayer and learning,
to encourage us to bring others to his love,
and to help us to worship him together in prayer, praise and loving
service to the glory of his name.***

Amen