

ADCM Report 2026



S. Peter, Cradley

*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

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

Agenda

Agenda ADCM 25th April 2026 10.15am

Present

Apologies

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the last meeting (04/05/2025)

To be agreed / amended and signed

Matters Arising

Nomination and election of District Wardens

Electoral Roll Report

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

Mthr Victoria's Report – a summary!

Church Wardens Report – Paul Millward & Chris Adshead

Treasurer's Report – Chris Adshead

Safeguarding Report – Sharon Turner

Stewardship Report – Chris Adshead

Nominations and Appointments:

2 District Wardens

1 Representative to Deanery Synod (not req until 2026)

6 – 9 Representatives to the DCC

2 Representatives to the PCC

Sidespersons

1 Safeguarding Officer (nom by vicar)

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 (nom by vicar)

1 trustee of the Goodman Trust

Mthr Victoria's closing remarks and prayer

Minutes from ADCM 4th May 2025

The meeting started at 10.15am with an opening prayer led by Mother Victoria Barlow

Present 31 Adults

Apologies Doreen and John Clifton, Sue Rowberry, Janet Sadler and Chris Cooley

The Minutes of the ADCM on 14th April 2024 approved and signed

Matters arising - none

Nomination of the Church Wardens

Christine Adshead P: Hannah Barlow S: Marlene Grove

Paul Millward P: Hannah Barlow S: Christine Adshead

No votes against and no abstentions

Finance Report

Chris Adshead gave an overview of the finances. Finances are overall stable. Ministry share grants have helped over the last few years but these are likely to stop so that needs to be considered. Fundraising continues and she thanked everyone for the continued efforts and for the regular giving and gift aid which all added up.

Mother Victoria thanked Chris for all her hard work as treasurer

Vicar's Report

Mother Victoria had nothing to add to her report but thanked everyone for their ongoing support and hard work and the importance of connecting to and blessing the community

Electoral roll report

There are currently 55 on the electoral roll. 1 person had died and therefore removed and 3 had been added.

Claire Steward was thanked for her continued work in this role. She was willing to continue and this was proposed by Chris Adshead and seconded by Marlene Grove. All agreed.

Elections

Election of 2 representatives of the Laity to the PCC

Lynn Steward

P: Owen Hill

S: Sharon Turner

Catherine Morgan

P: Lynn Steward

S: Owen Hill

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Election of 8 representatives to the DCC

Sandra Sanderson	P: Marlene Grove	S: Hannah Barlow
Hannah Barlow	P: Marlene Grove	S: Karen Chaplin
Stacey Rose	P: Karen Chaplin	S: Alison Russon
Christine Ashmore	P: Glenn Toney	S: Janet Sadler
Angela Duffill	P: Anne James	S: Janet Sadler
James Brookes	P: Glenn Toney	S: Janet Sadler
Glenn Toney	P: Anne James	S: Janet Sadler
Gavin Pearson	P: Lynn Steward	S: Christine Adshead

Election of Sidespersons:

Sharon Turner, Lynn Steward, Claire Panter, Janet Sadler, Glenn Toney, Doreen Clifton, Pauline Fox, Christine Cooley, Angela Duffill
All proposed by Hannah Barlow, Seconded by Sharon Turner

Election of 1 representative to the Halas Outward Giving Committee

Christine Adshead	P: Karen Chaplin	S: Pauline Panter
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Election of 1 representative to the Halas Parish Charities

Christine Adshead	P: Karen Chaplin	S: Claire Steward
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Nomination of Employment Representative

Paul Millward	N: Mthr Victoria
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Nomination of Safeguarding Officer

Sharon Turner	N: Mthr Victoria
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All of the above nominations were agreed with no votes against and no abstentions

All newly nominated DCC members were informed that they would need to undertake Basic Safeguarding training for this role. This is online training and they were advised to discuss this with Sharon Turner who could pass on the details to them

Any other business - none

Closing prayers were led by Mother Victoria and the meeting was closed at 10.45am

Electoral Roll Report

Last year's electoral roll number was 55. This year there have been 6 members removed (amongst whom we commend to God those who have died: John Clifton, Beatrice Moss, Christopher Poole, Sylvia Price) and 7 members added. This year's electoral roll number now stands at 56.

Claire Steward, Electoral Roll Officer, May 2026

Words from Mthr Victoria : Vicar's Report

Another year for which to give thanks to God.

It is a joy and privilege to serve you all here at S. Peter's as your team vicar, and within the wider community. It has been a beautiful year as we have celebrated and worshipped together, and continued in strong community, supporting each other through some difficult times.

We remember with joy and gratitude John Clifton, Christopher Poole, and Sylvia Price who have died from within our regular worshipping community, and now worship God with us, but in heaven. They are sorely missed, but with love and thanksgiving,

We give thanks this year for new members of our church family, and baptisms and confirmations that have happened during the year. Welcome to the family, all of you!

As ever, reading the whole report, I am so grateful for all that grows and flows from this place – the worship, the love, the community service, the courage, the steadfastness and the sheer energy. Life is very demanding for us all in these modern times, and yet God beats at the centre of all that we do, and that is the source of all of the blessing. It has been wonderful to see growth in numbers of people, but also in depth of faith and love. This year I have celebrated my 1000th mass – and every single one, celebrated amongst you all, is still a grace and blessing. S. Peter's is a vibrant, life-giving, life-full church and I am proud of you all, and all that you create and share through the blessings of the Spirit in and through this place.

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! - 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.



S. Peter's continues to flourish as a place of love and life, welcoming families for Baptism, Weddings and Funerals, in a time when numbers of these are falling nationwide, and it is a joy to continue to serve our community in this way – and indeed to welcome new members of the faith through these acts of love. It has been a joy to take a number of people to Confirmation this year once more.

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.

We give thanks for our partnerships and friends in the community –
 - for the strong link with the Royal British Legion, with whom we shared our traditional Remembrance March and worship, but who also support us and work with us and the school throughout the year.
 - For the Cradley Sports and Social, who continue to be our firm friends,



and to host so many of our social occasions

- For the Community Centre, who support us with their love and prayers
- For Cradley Can, with whom we have a new partnership, for which many thanks – and who donated our new Diocesan Flag this year to fly from the tower.
- For the Women's Refuge, for whom we pray, and who allow us the blessing of Christmas Gifts and easter eggs.
- For the Cradley Heath Community Link and Black Country Foodbank who process and distribute our collections of food amongst all the collections from the area to help those in need.

And for so many others, who in so many ways, support us and share with us in sharing God's love in our community.

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 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 Paul & Chris : Church Wardens' Report

God has blessed us with a church of dedicated and talented group of people , which has enabled us to achieve so much in 2025. Including Concerts run and organised by James Brookes and team, and social events organised and run by Lynn Steward and team. Thanks to everyone who worked on providing so much of their time in outreach and prayer through Mothers' Union, Tots and Messy Church. We thank Karen Chaplin (Praise and Prayer) and Charles Morgan (Pilgrim group) for their Ministry.

Through fundraising, donations and a team of 'beautifiers' again under the guidance of James, we have been able to smarten up the Church. A lot of work to the Fabric of the Church, with repairs to Tower brickwork, the roof and vestry roof have been completed.

We are getting some lovely comments about the churchyard, which the Community Payback works hard to upkeep.

It is most encouraging to see when doing the count each Sunday that the attendance has increased, including a good number of children and young people attending on a regular basis.

Throughout the year members of St. Margaret's have come and helped with various events, including Concerts, Messy church, Prayers in School and Fayres. We give our sincere thanks.

Christine Adshead and Paul Millward, Church Wardens

Further Fabric Report....

July: Gutters and downpipes cleaned out by Jenmar Construction £1,320.00.

Tower brickwork repointed by Jenmar Construction £3,000.00

August: Entrance doors repainted by the 'beautifiers'

September: The new Gospel Book for use in Principal worship was given by Charles and Catherine Morgan.

November: Plaster repairs to Baptistry, Choir Vestry ceiling and St Margaret's Chapel CRB Plastering £250.00

December: Carpet tiles fitted in Baptistry (area around the font), in the shape of a cross.

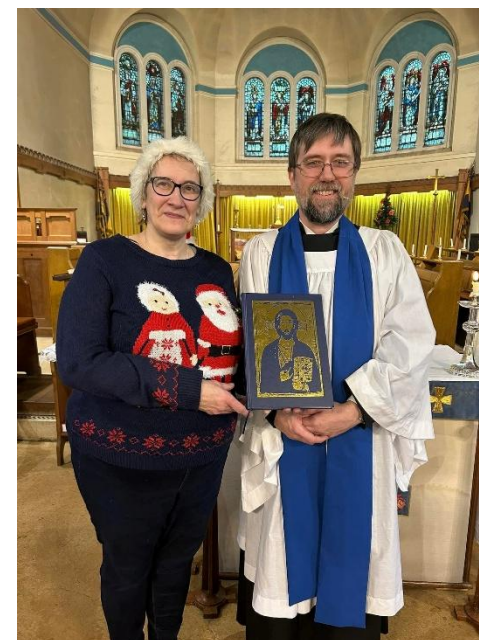
Wooden Mary Statue secured in niche - no cost

Feb: 25 Used but new to us Blue Fabric chairs donated.

Lightning conductor tested by PTSG but after questions arose, it was decided to appoint a new contractor next year.

March: Sacristy roof replaced by Jenmar Construction £3,137.64

See also 'project report' for further internal project work this year.



Taken from the DCC minutes for the year

Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding incidents at St Peter's in the last 12 months

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 an idea to start a new group please ensure that this is discussed through the DCC is notified so that the safeguarding requirements can be considered. Groups cannot commence until this discussion and all the relevant checks have been done.

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.

*Sharon Turner, Safeguarding Officer
April 2025*

Two Gates Care Home

It has been a privilege this year to re-introduce our worship and prayer connection with Two Gates prayer home, where a time of worship and singing is held approximately monthly. Huge thanks to Natalie, their manager, for facilitating this. It was especially lovely when a small group of our church family gathered together at Christmas to lead them in carol singing.



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List of sides-persons

Doreen Clifton, Christine Cooley, Angela Duffill, Pauline Fox, Charles Morgan, Clair Panter, Janet Sadler, Lynn Steward, Glenn Toney, Sharon Turner.



Thank you all for your service, and your warmth of welcome to all who come through our doors.

Stewardship Report

We are blessed by a number of people who regularly give in a variety of ways:

Gift aid giving bank	16
Regular giving bank	7
Parish giving scheme (PGS)	5
Open plate donations	Increased

Thank you so much for all that you give, without your generosity we would not be able to exist. As you can see there are a few ways to give, please have a chat to me if you are interested in setting up a standing order or go onto PGS and we can sort something out. Regular giving helps us enormously to be able to plan for our expenditure, as we are required to make regular payments.

In all things we always give with prayerful thanks to God for all he does.

Christine Adshead, Stewardship officer

The church has rising expenditure – notably on fuel, parish office costs, and diocesan cost of Ministry Share, 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 – 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

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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, S. Margaret's Representative

School Report

We give thanks for our Church school, which continues to maintain a wonderful standard of education – academic, spiritual and in formation and growth, for our children and community support for our families.

Our new headteacher, Claire Warford, has now completed her first twelve months with us, and is going from strength to strength, blessing us with huge gifts and faith in challenging times.



The school successfully negotiated its SIAMS inspection, and is preparing for a likely OFSTED inspection. The relationship with the school continues strong, with school worship throughout the year in church – including Christmas, Harvest, Easter and End of Year, and class visits into church. In addition to these, the church family have been providing 'prayer spaces' within the school – a space designed alongside the school to help the children grow in relationship with, as well as knowledge of, God. Huge thanks to the team of volunteers from both our sister churches who make this happen. In the autumn term we will also be trialling a weekly 'Faith Space' run for the school at lunchtime by Mthr Victoria and Louise Hicklin.

We have a number of dedicated school governors, to whom huge thanks, especially to Catherine Morgan, who served for a period of the year as School Governor, and Rebecca Brookes and Pat Hall who continue service as governors. It was a delight to work with the school to raise money for a newly installed defibrillator, which is available for use by the community. Thank you to Doreen Clifton, for enabling us to share a joint project with the school in collecting Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, for those in need around the world at Christmas.

As do all schools, our school continues to face challenges of finance, and rising numbers of children with additional needs, but they meet challenges with huge grace and love, and are currently trialling a Support Hub for a small number of children with additional needs to work together. We are so proud of all our staff and families, and ask God to continue to bless our relationship in the year to come.

We are also blessed by visits from Colley Lane School for Remembrance and Christmas, and it is a delight to welcome them.

Mthr Victoria

Social and Outreach Report

The social calendar has continued to grow in popularity. Over the past 12 months we have had a Barn Dance, Skittles Night and Harvest Quiz, where we have enjoyed sharing friendship and welcomed new people too. We have shared delicious food together from 'Ivan's' Old Hill. And we are also very grateful to Cradley Sports and Social Club for the use of their facilities.

Thanks also to those who support the Raffle with donated prizes and buy tickets, as all money raised goes to church funds to help with our continuing work in the community.

Sadly, this year's Barn Dance with Eve and John was their last, as after 15 years of entertaining us and giving us many laughs have retired. We will miss them greatly and wish them well in their retirement.

Lynn Steward

We also this year held our first Church Family Walk – many thanks to James Brookes for organising this around the Saltwells Nature Reserve. We hope it might become a yearly outing! And some members of the Church Family joined together with S. Margaret's on a day trip to the National Arboretum.



This year's Heritage Day was also a huge success, with a Wedding Theme, and many visitors coming as usual to explore the history of the Church, and to admire the assembled dresses. Many thanks to James for masterminding this, and to all who made it happen. The Heritage days will now be a five yearly treat, to keep them fresh, and reduce workload on volunteers – so look forward to the next one in 2030!

Mthr V

Tower and Belfry Report

Maintenance of belfry

Due to other commitments, the annual maintenance of the bells still requires to be carried out. An annual check includes: bolts tightened where necessary, stays checked for cracks and damage, pulleys checked if free and moving and ropes checked for wear. The belfry and clock room would benefit from a vacuum to remove any debris that has built up over time.

A new rope has been fitted to the fourth bell to replace one that broke due to wear and tear. Recently, the rope on the treble bell broke, again due to wear and tear. A new rope will be ordered from Ellis Ropemakers and it will be put on the bell once it arrives. Many thanks to Sandra Sanderson for her excellent splicing skills in repairing our broken ropes! Dave Chiswell is looking into making a stowable ladder to make access to the bells easier and we await further details.

Chimes

The clock and the chimes were serviced by Cumbria Clock Company on 20th October 2025 following issues with the fourth and seventh hammers not striking the bells correctly. These issues have now been resolved, and the hammers have been adjusted to bring out the full sound of the bells.

Tower Floodlighting

The floodlight sponsorship had been a tremendous success with the lights being sponsored on 93 individual occasions from April 2025 to March 2026 which strangely enough is the same number of times as last year. National and local events have been marked using the full range of colours available and has produced some wonderful photographs. Many thanks to our floodlight volunteers Paul, Charles, Neil and James for changing the lights every time we need to change them. A big thank you to Mthr Victoria for keeping the bookings diary so well organised and efficient.



Tower Keeper Role – March 2026 onwards

Over the last twelve months I have not been able to do as much as I would have liked with the maintenance of the tower due to other commitments. I don't feel that it's fair on the ringers that I try to do work such as the maintenance but then not deliver. I have reluctantly decided that I need to step back from being Tower Keeper and hand it over to someone else from the end of March 2026. However, I am still very happy to help in an advisory role, to be on hand if I can help in any way and continue to be a link between the tower and the church.

James Brookes – April 2026

Ringin Master's Report – tower and hand bells

This has been a busy and exciting year for the ringers. With our focus being on keeping both Tower and Hand bells ringing out both loud and proud. I feel that everyone can agree that this has been achieved.

There have been various events throughout the year involving both sets of ringers. The Handbells have played in Church on various occasions, including several church services, the Christmas Fayre and the very special event that was Jen and Rob's wedding vow ceremony.

The Tower bells band, along with our friends from Halesowen, are now playing before every 2nd Sunday service and other special services throughout the year, such as Christmas, Easter, Memorial service and a service for very our own patron saint, St. Dunstan. I feel this has not only been appreciated by our own congregation, but by the wider community as well. This shows what a great achievement there has been in both ringing ability and commitment to their tower. The tower has rung at several weddings and sadly a few funerals too. We held our *Ring Rejoice Remember* again this year, which was well supported by both ringers and sponsors. Our tower once again entered the District Striking Competition this year and although we didn't win this time, a fun afternoon was had by all.

This tower continues to prove popular with other ringing bands and we have been visited by many towers from both near and far. With more booked in for the year ahead.



We also have an exciting year to look forward to, with many events already book and working towards. Our Handbells have been invited to play at the Canal Fayre in June, and the Tower band have a wedding to prepare for, along with the church's own Summer Fayre.

Of course this is not without hiccups along the way. Our poor tower bells have suffered from several of their ropes snapping! However, due to one of our very own worshipers, Sandra, whose superpower is to splice ropes, we have managed to keep ringing. So, a huge hurray for Sandra!!

To keep our tower fully functioning, three ringers including myself have signed up to a tower maintenance course. We hope to keep these magnificent bells ringing long into the future.

Our year might have gotten off to a bit of a shaky start but by us all pulling together we have ironed out the bumps and have reach the year's end both stronger in spirit and capability, with our eyes fully fixed on the future to ensure these fabulous bells both small and large, continue to ring for many years to come.



Christine Ashmore, Tower Captain

Praise and Prayer Report

Jesus said "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." Praise and Prayer is an hour of quiet, informal worship during which we can focus on Jesus in prayer and in receiving from him. It is also a space in which questions can be explored as they arise. Sometimes we use the opportunity to hold a more formal service of healing and wholeness, but always the ethos is to offer praise leading into prayer. All are welcome.

Karen Chaplin, Lay Reader

Pastoral Report

S. Peter's continues to grow in being a welcoming and loving church community, supporting each other and welcoming those who come to explore.

Marlene Grove continues to offer 'healing prayer' on a third Sunday during the administration of communion, which is hugely valued by many as a safe space to share and pray together. Christine Cooley (ALM) and Charles Morgan (Lay reader) offer home visits and home communions to our Church at Home – although this year we grieve the death of John Clifton and Sylvia Price. Mthr Victoria also shares in home communion and pastoral visits where need (or invitation) arises.

The WhatsApp groups offer a range of support, from the Thought For the Day offered by Alison Russon (ALM) which provides space for spiritual reflection to the S. Peter's Chat and S. Peter's Notices, which enables us to share in church family news – celebrations and needs for prayer, alongside our day to day admin.

We continue to welcome families to baptism, despite a Parish and Diocesan downswing in baptism numbers and a falling local birthrate, and thank you to everyone who helps with all of these services.

Mthr Victoria

S. Peter's Tots' Report

Tots group have followed the church festivals and had a stall at the Christmas fayre decorating biscuits. They also wrapped and filled 11 shoe boxes.

Donations to Food bank have been collected. The usual support has been given to bereaved members and sick tots having operations and others being ill. Spring term has been quieter owing to illness. Members have joined in with two Messy churches and enjoyed them, they also bought along past members to join in. Cards and decorated biscuits were produced for Valentines Day. Also cards and gifts for Mothering Sunday. The term ended with an Easter party and an egg hunt.

Cynthia Moore and Chris Cooley, Leaders

Children's Work Report

Over the past twelve months we have again had growth in numbers of children attending our Sunday morning service due to both new and growing families. We are continuing to use Roots resources to help us on our journey in faith. The children also take part in the service by presenting the Communion elements and offertory to the altar, which they are very proud to do.

Our children's activity mornings now take place under the banner of 'Messy Church.' These too are growing in attendance each time we hold them, largely due to wider advertisement and also our links with the local uniformed youth organisations, who are also now attending special occasion services more frequently. We were delighted to welcome the Uniformed Organisations also to celebrate their Christmas worship with us. Many thanks to all the helpers for all their help and input, it is greatly appreciated.



Lynn Steward, youth work ALM

This year we have also welcomed a new link with the Halesowen Air Cadets, who came to us to share their Christmas Worship, and we look forward to seeing that develop and grow in 2026, as Mthr Victoria begins service as their Padre.

Finance Report

Thank you to everyone for all your giving in 2025; it made it possible for us to pay our Ministry Share (a good part was from the S. Katherine fund which past congregation fought for. We have a lot to be grateful for). I will continue to serve as Treasurer for 2026, but my last report will be given at ADCM in 2027 when we will need a new Treasurer to take over.

Christine Adshead, Treasurer

Huge thanks to Christine for all her hard work in recent years, despite having no background in Finance or Accounting. Training is available online from the Diocese, and ongoing support from the other Treasurers in the team. Please do consider this role. Christine only took it on as no-one would stand, and she has fulfilled it faithfully ever since. We have a year to reflect and to pray, but it is essential we have someone to stand for next year – as Christine has shown, all you need is a willing heart. The Church will provide a laptop if need be.

Mthr V

Pilgrim Group report

During 2025, Pilgrim group have continued to meet most 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month to undertake bible study and prayer. We are a mix of churches and Christian denominations but have the similarity of a hunger to understand the bible better. During the year, we have welcomed a couple of new members and so currently are a group of eleven.

The whole of our year has basically been continuing our focus on the study of Matthew's Gospel. But in addition to this, we have also been a group that has supported one another in the trials and tribulations of life.

In 2026, we are trying a slightly different alternating format. But, unless you come to one of our meetings to find out you will have to wait until next year's report to find out more!

Charles Morgan, Lay Reader

Mother's Union Report

Mother's Union is a world-wide Christian organisation and have many branches world wide. We have a world wide President - Kathleen Snow, and a Worcester President – Jill Crofton.

Here in Cradley we have no leader, but are all committed to work for the aims and objects of Mothers' Union. Our meetings are held on Wednesday mornings, and we meet fortnightly at 10.15am. Meetings begin with a small act of worship, followed by a speaker or a planned choice by members.

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In 2025 the Mothers' Union held a wonderful service to celebrate 100 years of the Mothers' Union in S. Peter's Cradley. Mthr Victoria prepared a wonderful service as she does for us. We welcomed Councillor Mayor Hilary Bills, and Mr. John Bliss, Deputy Lieutenant Lucy Martin and our own President Jill Crofton, and her husband Vice President Maryann Cox. Many branches from the Deanery came to support this special celebration. March 1st was also S. David's Day and we welcomed Fr. Jesse Smith who gave us a homily on the mother of S. David; S. Non. Presentation of Awards were given out, and celebration cake and food was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to James, our organist. Thank you to everyone who made the day special.



Our Lent course was well attended throughout Lent, and we put ourselves into the places of the women in Holy Week, using the book by Paula Gooder.

Our membership remains of ten people. Sadly, we lost one of our members, Sylvia Price; may she rest in peace. Condolences were sent to the family. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. We have just received a new member on Mothering Sunday – Jennifer Lines.



Our thanks go to Mthr Victoria for arranging our Holy Communion services throughout the year.

May God bless the work of the Mothers' Union in Cradley and world-wide, and may our members support each other with love, prayers and friendship, and fellowship. God bless you all

Marlene Grove, Mothers' Union Member

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Organ and Concert Series Report

Concert Series:

For May 2025 to March 2026 our average concert attendance was 86 people. We have 63 people on our email mailing list which keeps people up to date with what's going on at the church and we regularly post stories on the Facebook page. We've even had musicians approach us to do a concert too!



Our series from April 2025 to March 2026 included good friends of St Peter's – Eve and John Evans who usually call our barn dances but on this occasion, they entertained us with folk songs from around the world. July saw Michael Carter return playing two instruments at the same time! Michael had recorded items on his electronic organ and played duets on our Compton organ. September saw our annual Heritage Open Day (this time with a weddings theme) rounded off with a concert by our very own Mthr Victoria playing music for weddings on organ and piano. In November the very popular David Ivory returned for his third visit to give a concert and accompany live the Buster Keaton film "The Navigator". A great end to 2025. To start off 2026 our good friend, Damon Willetts who maintains the Compton organ for us, entertained with a concert of music for piano which was very popular. In March, Piers Maxim from Great Malvern Priory returned for his second visit with music by Bach, Gershwin and two pieces by the late Nigel Ogden, as a tribute to him.

It has been hard to get local businesses to sponsor our concerts for 2025-26. Thanks must go to Kevin O'Brien at Marlborough Print in Cradley Heath, Christopher Barlow from mha – Bakertilly and Peter Hunt from Moneywatch Finance in Halesowen who have kindly given us their generous support. The sponsorship will be used to cover performers fees, printing and promotion. Each business has their logo printed on leaflets and posters and gets mentioned in press releases.

We have invested some money into two new digital cameras so that the audience can see not only the performers' hands at the organ but also their feet! The cameras can be used to record footage and also for live broadcasts on Facebook or YouTube. A big thank you to everyone who has helped fund them. They replace an aging camcorder which is getting near the end of its life.

The proceeds from the concerts will continue to go towards our Community Vision Project to improve the community facilities of the church. Between April 2025 and March 2026 we welcomed 7 musicians, 516 visitors and the concerts raised £2,008.28 towards the Vision Project. Visitors and cash raised is slightly down from last year, possibly due to the cost of living etc.

Thanks must go to everyone who helps at the concerts including organising the raffle, baking and serving refreshments, welcoming people and general duties. I am very grateful for all the help and support received. Thanks also to Paul Millward and Cynthia Moore for opening up for musicians to rehearse.

Organ:

Since 2020 the organ has been under the expert care of Cameron Lloyd from Wombourne who carries out tuning and maintenance on not only our organ, but almost a hundred other instruments across the country. He, along with Damon Willetts from Halesowen, have done wonders with our organ. This includes sourcing a 1930s genuine Compton viola rank of pipes to replace a non Compton Gemshorn from the 1970s thereby restoring the original specification and sound. Last year they replaced all the faulty 1980s stop switches that were failing with genuine 1930s Compton units which has improved reliability and for the first time in many years, we have fully working thumb pistons!

Sadly, in March 2026, Cameron had to pull out from maintaining the organ due to other commitments which is a great shame, but we respect his decision. However, Damon Willetts is still happy to guide and help us with tuning and maintenance which we appreciate very much. When we can, we tune the organ ourselves and I am very grateful to Charles Morgan, Glenn Toney, Neil Sadler and Karen Chaplin who have all kindly held the notes while I tune the pipes!

James Brookes, April 2026

Project Report

Community Vision Project

We continue to work towards our goal of reordering the nave to create a more useable space in the nave, improve the heating system, get a bigger kitchen and more toilets. Recent improvements have included the restoration of St Margaret's Chapel and the improvement of the Baptistry.



St Margaret's Chapel

After we had restored the Bloomer Memorial Lady Chapel on the south side of the nave last year, there was a feeling amongst the church family that the chapel on the opposite side of the church should be restored in memory of Margaret Dunn who died aged six in 1935. Research into the story of Margaret was carried out over a few months and her grave was rediscovered in the churchyard looking very overgrown and unloved. Research revealed that this was not only the resting place of Margaret, but also the place where the ashes of her mother and father are buried. After many attempts, we were unable to trace any living descendants and in light of this, the grave was cleaned and restored by James Brookes with help from Samuel and Joseph Brookes.

Lengthy discussions took place about the best way to restore the chapel and the appropriate type of carpet to have. The wooden columns along with the wooden dais on which the altar stands have been put back in place and an olive-green carpet laid. New chairs and tables, books and toys will be purchased to complete the project. This work has been generously funded by an anonymous donor to whom we are extremely grateful. It is hoped to obtain a suitable small altar to be used as a nave altar so that the altar in St Margaret's Chapel and remain in the chapel thereby preserving it and preventing any damage to its structure. New vinyl floor coverings in wood effect have been laid in the refreshments area and toilet to improve hygiene and visual appearance.

The Baptistry

Since the accessible ramp was installed in 2019, the Baptistry has remained unfinished with an uneven concrete floor and poor decoration. Following the sad passing of John Clifton in 2025, his family offered a donation to complete the Baptistry in thanksgiving for John's life and all he did for St Peter's. Failed plaster was repaired and our volunteers repainted the walls in green matching the rest of the side aisle. Carpet tiles were laid to match the green of the porch and around the font itself, blue carpet tiles were laid in the shape of a cross. The green represents new life and the blue, water of Baptism. The finished result has greatly improved this area and made it more fitting for the Sacrament of Baptism.



Entrance Doors

During the summer and over a period of two months our volunteers redecorated the main entrance doors under the tower, to the belfry and at the top of the ramp. The DCC decided to change from the previous dark brown to a new light green or as it is officially called, French Grey colour. Firstly, all woodwork and ironwork was rubbed down and filler applied where needed. Then three coats of French Grey were applied followed by two coats of black on the ironwork. During the preparation of the ironwork, delicate details of the iron leaves were revealed and have been kept visible in the new paint scheme. New faux hinges were added to the door at the top of the ramp to make it more aesthetically pleasing. The whole new look makes the entrances stand out and look more welcoming. A big thank you to Catherine and Charles Morgan, Glenn Toney, Paul Millward and James Brookes for their hard work and dedication.

Outward Giving Report

The Five marks of mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To transform unjust structures of society to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

* include Partners in World Mission agencies in line with the recommendations of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

* include local, national and global agencies.

* respect our long-standing history with charities who have depended on us for funds.

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

(The welcome group received the largest amount as it relies on our long-standing support).

Thanks to Cynthia, Stacey and Lynn who provided some good ideas , but alas after further research they did not make it onto the list, but 1 out of 4 is good. Please do come forward with ideas, as we may have missed a chance of making a difference to someone's life.

Christine Adshead, S. Peter's representative

Sanctuary Team



I am pleased to report that our Sanctuary Team has a good year.

The Sanctuary Team continues to serve each Sunday morning, usually unrobed at the Nave Altar, but with a larger, robed team at the High Altar on third Sundays. The Team has also served at big feasts, like Christmas and Easter, and supported some funerals throughout the year.

Highlights from this year include Jessie Morgan serving for the first time - a wonderful, graceful addition to the Team - well done and thank you, Jessie!

A huge thank you to all who serve in the Sanctuary Team, and also to Charles for creating the rotas, and Paul for ordering supplies.

Please do consider joining the Sanctuary Team. I am always happy to answer any questions, and the Team would be delighted to welcome you.

Hannah Barlow, Head Server

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, opening with worship led by Fr Adam Hadley. Following the service, Area Dean Andrew Sillis welcomed the appointment of two new priests for Sedgely, and Clent and Hagley, and introduced Chris Boden, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, who addressed Synod on Ministry Share, expressing how important this is to the Diocese, 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 Mission”. 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: 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. 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

Goodman Bequest Fund

The object of the Goodman Trust is to further mission and outreach among young people under 25 by maintaining and enriching Christian life and education within the boundaries of the Halesowen Team.

The original bequest was £10,000. There is £41,467.00 in the fund (£43,361.00 in 2024) with £13,618 (£12,280 in2024) available for expenditure. The Loss in the fund is due to the market.



Paul Millward, Goodman Trustee for S. Peter's

Baby Loss Coffee Mornings

Baby Loss Café commenced in February 2025, meeting between 10am and 11am on the first Saturday of the month. Initially, the intention was to support Aching Arms, Halesowen group, with a meeting place on a Saturday morning. Unfortunately, no member of their team attends the group. However, a dedicated team of four members from S. Peter's congregation meet monthly to facilitate this group, and provide a welcoming environment. During the period from commencement, we have seen a small number of ladies attend the group and nurses from Russells Hall maternity department have also attended. Toward the end of the year the number of attenders has reduced to none. However, following discussions with the team it was agreed that we should continue to offer the facility as we believe there is a need and it is simply our publicity that needs to be increased. We have therefore updated our poster and re-circulated it in the new year. We are not worried about the current lack of participators, as our meeting on the first Saturday of the month allows church to be open, and this has seen others attending to light candles or enquire about services.

Charles Morgan, Lay Reader



***To the Glory of God, and in his Grace.
Here endeth the ADCM Report***

***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