

**St Leonard, Malinslee
Central Telford Parish**

**Agenda, Minutes of 2025 AGM and Annual Report
for the District Church Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 12th April 2026

AGENDA

Please note that items of Any Other Business should be given to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Minutes of last District Church AGM and any matters arising
4. Reports for the AGM, including the Electoral Roll report, for 2025
6. Treasurer's Report for the St Leonard's church for 2025
7. Safeguarding
8. Elections:-
 - District church wardens (up to 2)
 - DCC members (max 8 in total including 2 district wardens)
 - Deanery Synod Reps (
 - Nominated PCC reps (2 including at least one District Warden)
9. AOB
10. Closing Prayer

Note: The election of the DCC Treasurer and Secretary can take place at either the next DCC meeting, or at a short DCC meeting held after the AGM (note, only DCC members vote on these posts)

MINUTES OF ST LEONARD'S DCC AGM
ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, MALINSLEE
MINUTES OF DISTRICT CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025 AFTER 11.15AM SERVICE
In St. Leonard's Church

Present: 17 church members

<p>Opening prayer: Led by Rev. JF</p>	
<p>Apologies: None received.</p>	
<p>Minutes of previous District Church AGM and matters arising: Proposed by CS, seconded by GB. All in favour.</p> <p>JF thanked all those who volunteer to serve the church whether their roles are seen or behind the scenes. Thanks were given to the church wardens for their work of the last year.</p>	
<p>Reports for the AGM, including the Electoral Roll report, for 2024: JF gave a review of all the reports written for the AGM. All reports are enclosed.</p> <p>A few points were highlighted: The afternoon tea is a new 'venture' which has now been going for six months and is well attended. It is a good activity in helping the social side of church life and it is open to all in the community.</p> <p>The My Options Team have not attended the church to do any cleaning this year and church cleaning is not carried out as regularly as we would like it to be. Although Baby Babble continue to do some cleaning, in lieu of rent, the DCC continue to review the choices that might improve the church cleaning. GB will contact My Options Team.</p> <p>The Electoral Roll was completely renewed this year and we now have 26 people on the Electoral Roll. Although this is lower than the previous Electoral Roll this in part due to the sad fact some of our church members have passed away. JF pointed out it is not unusual for the numbers to decline when the electoral roll is completely renewed and it is likely to increase again over the next six years. Thanks given to LG for her work in collating the new Electoral Roll.</p> <p>Following the reports there was the opportunity for any questions to be asked. There were non</p>	

<p>Treasurer's report for St. Leonard, Malinslee for 2024: This report is enclosed.</p> <p>Our finances are improving but are still fragile and we need to be careful with spending and fundraising etc. There is work needing to be done following the Q.I. report, but we will need grants to be able to carry out this work.</p> <p>JF has given thanks to all those who donate financially to St. Leonard's.</p> <p>Rev. RF has continued to be our treasurer for the last year and is willing to continue, but we do need to find someone who can take on this role. Many thanks to RF for his work with our finance.</p>	
<p>Safeguarding: The Safeguarding Policy was read out by JF. Hannah Yapp is the safeguarding lead for the Central Telford Parish. Safeguarding links for St. Leonard's are JF and LG. All advised that if they feel there are any safeguarding issues at St. Leonard's to speak to JF/LG.</p> <p>Safer recruitment is now mandatory in churches. All clergy are DBS checked and receive appropriate training. All members of the PCC are DBS checked and undertake the appropriate training. Anyone who leads/volunteers to help with activities including children, young people and vulnerable adults can only do so following the Safer Recruitment process. This involves providing referees which JF/LG follow up. JF/HY are currently checking to ensure all those who need to be have undergone the necessary checks and training.</p>	JF/HY
<p>Elections: Elections were not needed as there were not more nominations than vacancies.</p> <p>District church wardens (up to two) – LG/CP</p> <p>DCC (max eight in total including two district wardens) – LG/CP are automatically on the DCC as church wardens with CS being nominated onto the DCC.</p> <p>PCC reps (two, including at least one district warden) – LG/CP are our nominated reps.</p>	
<p>Any other business: None.</p>	
<p>Closing prayer: All joined in with the Grace.</p>	

ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Team rector's report (for the whole parish)

Our parish verse for 2025 was 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29.11). These words were chosen to remind us to trust in God and in his plans for us, and for our parish, throughout 2025.

Having been appointed Acting Archdeacon at very short notice in October 2023, this role finally came to an end in May 2025. I was very grateful to Bishop Michael for granting me a one-month 'mini-sabbatical', which gave me space for refreshment and for refocusing on the role I was originally called to Telford for. I returned to my role as Associate Archdeacon, alongside my principal role as Team Rector, with a sense that God was encouraging us, as a parish, to take time to discern our future plans for mission.

As I look back over the past year, I can see God's abundant provision in our parish and our churches. We have welcomed new people into our congregations, seen people take on new roles, and our financial situation is improving. There is a growing sense of confidence that God has good plans for us in Central Telford Parish, and there is much to give thanks for.

I continue, as ever, to be grateful for the ministry of Revd Scott Edwards as our Team Vicar, whose gifts and ministry are much appreciated across the parish. The ministry of Chris Prescott, our Reader, offering ministry mainly at St Leonard's but at times in other churches, also continues to be a blessing, as does that of Revd Sue Symons, a retired priest who joined us in 2025 and is mostly based at Holy Trinity. I am grateful for all that they bring to the parish.

We continue to be blessed with lay worship leaders who lead some Sunday morning services, Evensong at Holy Trinity, Messy Church, and other occasional services. It was also a delight to receive Joe Cheetham-Wilkinson as our Ordinand in Training later in the year. He is mostly based at St John's and will be with us while he trains for full-time ministry.

I am grateful to all those who volunteer in so many different ways – some in very public roles and others who quietly do important work behind the scenes. It is a great blessing to our churches and our wider communities that so many are willing to serve God in such a variety of ways. It is wonderful to be part of a parish where it is not expected that the Team Rector or the Team Vicar will do everything.

While we have said goodbye to some members of our congregations, we have also welcomed new people into our church families. We have been able to pay our Common Fund in full and have worked hard to exercise good stewardship of our finances, which is beginning to move us onto a more secure footing. In the autumn, we held a giving campaign, asking people to consider increasing their financial giving to the church, as well as offering their skills and time.

A great deal of work has also been done over the year to ensure that our churches are safe places. This includes safeguarding, caring for buildings and churchyards, and working towards having all the necessary policies and procedures in place.

It has been particularly encouraging to see links with our local communities continuing to grow. The Friends of St James Church, Stirchley, continues to flourish as it cares for the churchyard and promotes the building. We held two Carol Services there on 14 December,

knowing that we would not be able to fit everyone into a single service, and welcomed around 200 local residents.

St Leonard's was approached to become part of a project in Malinslee, working with the council and other agencies to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, and a new project, 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies', will begin in early 2026. New links have also been established between the Methodist Church and St John's, Lawley, and a Lantern Parade around the local streets took place at Christmas, ending at St John's Church. All Friends Together at Holy Trinity continues to welcome members of the local community into a place of friendship and hospitality.

My prayer is that in 2026 we continue to recognise God's blessing among us, enabling us to be a parish where prayer and worship are at the heart of our life together, where we care for one another, where we see growth both in numbers and in faith, where all have confidence to use their God-given gifts, where all are welcome, and where the good news of Jesus Christ and the love of God are encountered in all that we do.

Revd Prebendary Jo Farnworth

2. St Leonard's warden's report

During 2025 we felt that God was urging us to 'Be Still' and to trust him to lead us as a church rather than us making decisions and asking God to help. Not surprisingly we found ourselves receiving blessings. We have seen two of our youngest members take on regular roles e.g helping with our sound system, taking our collection and one becoming Eucharist Assistant. They have done this willingly and eagerly. Through our giving campaign we have seen another church member take on the role of Eucharistic Assistant. We also saw the start of Chatty Club on the last Tuesday of every month starting in October 2025. Rev. Jo was approached by Dawley Town Council to ask if we would be willing for the church to be used for this venture. It is a further social activity in St. Leonard's which will help to improve the relationship between the church and the community. Additionally, it will bring in some extra funding. Rev Jo was also approached by the Telford and Wrekin Council, to discuss using St. Leonard's for a new venture, Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies, to start in 2026. Again this will help to strengthen the ties between the church and the community as well as combining a social morning with providing help with improving physical and mental health for those who wish. A further blessing was clear when the decision was made not to hold our annual Christmas Fair. Although there was initially concern about the effect on our fundraising, through agreeable and indepth discussion it became clear it was the right decision. It is felt that God did indeed bless this decision as all the fundraising events we did have raised more funding together than our previous fair had done.

Throughout 2025 all the events which took place were led and supported by Rev. Jo and Rev. Scott. On behalf of St. Leonard's we say a huge thank you to them both for this unwavering guidance and support. As always it is good and right we remember the work involved in the overall running of St. Leonard's. There is much work going on behind the scenes, not only in preparing services, not only on Sundays, but constantly to ensure that the buildings are safe,

correct policies are in place, rules and regulations are followed, the spiritual welfare of our members, to name only a few! For all of this and more, THANK YOU Rev. Jo and Rev. Scott.

It is also proper and right that we again say thank you to those who support St. Leonard's in so many other ways to help ensure it does run smoothly:

- Chris, our Lay Reader, for her commitment and faithfulness to her role.
- All who regularly and faithfully turn up early each Sunday regardless of the weather, to help prepare the church.
- All who take the time during the week to practice readings which they then carry out on Sundays, those who are our welcomers and Eucharistic Assistants. A big thank you to Jonathan who has continued to operate our Sunday Service music. He continues doing a fantastic job!
- Thank you to Jeremy for ensuring our collection is taken each week. He does a wonderful job!
- A special thanks is extended to those who serve our refreshments as it is mostly the same people who regularly do this for us. More volunteers are badly needed for this.
- All those who donate tea, coffee, milk and biscuits/cake so we may enjoy our refreshments.

Everyone who contributes in any way to our fundraising. Fundraising can be hard work, but the sense of teamwork, dedication, friendship and fun that can be had more than makes up for this.

We have ten people who serve willingly and regularly on our rotas. This number is the same as last year. Although our volunteers are committed and brilliant it would be appreciated by us all if anyone else is able to volunteer. Please speak to Chris or Lorraine for further information. Qualifications are not needed!

We continue our Eucharists each Sunday while the first Sunday of the month is dedicated to Family Worship with Holy Communion. Where there are five Sundays in a month the last Sunday continues to be a united service rotated between the four churches within the Central Telford Parish.

Congregation numbers remain steady with an average of 21-25 and delightfully this includes some 3-5 little ones. It is a positive too to see our congregation is made up of regular and committed members. These numbers will alter depending on the weather and special festivals and services.

During December we had a Saturday morning-afternoon of spring cleaning the church and decorating ready for our Christmas services. There was a very festive feeling of teamwork and when we had finished St. Leonard's truly sparkled. Thank you so much to all who helped with this.

Lorraine Granger and Christine Prescott, District Churchwardens

3. Fabric Report:

The churchyard continues to be maintained by Telford and Wrekin Council, but during the year there were complaints regarding the state of the Memorial Garden on the Alma Avenue side of the church. A small group of us managed some weeding and tidying which really helped and there has been some involvement from the council. Again issues with fly tipping and emptying of the dustbins have been considerably less of a problem this year although it has been highlighted the dustbins have been used by the local community.

The electrical system issues continue, but administrative work has begun as we have collected some quotes for this work.

The clock in the church tower stopped working again and was commented on by those who live locally. Following a change to the horologists who attend/service our clock we are pleased to be able to say this is now fully working including the chimes.

Lorraine Granger and Christine Prescott

4. Safeguarding

There have been no safeguarding incidents reported in the parish in 2025. This year we have tried to encourage those on the DCC and PCC to feel more confident about Safeguarding by having small discussion points at their meetings. We have also introduced the Culture Cube to the PCC's and DCC's which helps them to look at their churches and how we can make them more inclusive and more welcoming. I attended a Parish wide Safeguarding Training day in September along with Reverend Jo Farnworth where we looked at Trauma Informed Church and how to be a Dementia Friendly Church. These are things that we hope to look at in 2026. We held Safeguarding Sunday in November this year with the hope to help the congregations at all the Churches to that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Thank you to everyone who has completed or renewed their safeguarding training this year. The Safer Recruiting work is ongoing with each church activity and any new helpers. The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Hannah Yapp, Parish Safeguarding Officer

5. Reports from groups and activities

Afternoon Tea

Our Afternoon Teas run approximately every other month and continue to be well attended. We usually have a minimum of twenty people with a fabulous thirty four for our Christmas Tea. It is so lovely to have some friends from the other churches join us for these. We continue to have four to five dedicated members of the organising team with Jan being dubbed as our Catering Queen! Again Jan's sister continues to support us with her help and this is so appreciated. Thanks go to those who provide homemade cakes etc. for this. A special thanks to Sarah for her dedication to running the raffle. As we have had more teas we have been able to change the way we organise them for the better. This trend continues into our tea for February 2026. Jan and myself do get carried away with this, but we love

and rise to the challenge. Tickets are still £5.00 each with £2.50 for children. There is a raffle with tickets at £1.00 for five for anyone wishing to take part. Although it is a fundraising event the social aspect is brilliant.

Lorraine Granger

Baby Babble

This group is run by Great Dawley Town Council and they meet on the last Tuesday of each month from approximately 13.00-15.00. It has now been running for three years. Recently there have been twenty adults with twenty little ones attending most sessions. Light refreshments are provided for all – tea, toast and fruit. The adults have time for chatting and there are activities for the little ones e.g. music activities from an outside provider, talks on childcare and Baby Bank which helps to provide help with things like clothing etc. for those less able to buy them.

Chatty Club

This is a new group, ran by the Dawley Town Council which started to run in St. Leonard's from October 2025. It meets during the morning of the last Tuesday in each month. It is open to anyone who wishes to drop in and have a chat with others and have refreshments. This group previously ran in different premises which became unsuitable. It was felt St. Leonard's was a more central and accessible place for Chatty Club. This group is rebuilding and has had five to six people joining in and the hope is the numbers will increase during 2026. There is always a friendly atmosphere and lots of interesting conversation. During the cold months a warm breakfast is provided e.g. sausage/bacon sandwiches while in the warmer weather it is likely to be toast and crumpets. It is another opportunity for St. Leonard's to have deeper relationships with the community while raising some funding.

Church Cleaning

Our church cleaning is carried out by the Baby Babble leader on the last Tuesday of each month. Our thanks go to her. Keeping St. Leonard's clean is a huge task and although we do have a couple of 'spring cleaning' days (Easter and Christmas) each year we really would appreciate extra help throughout the year. If anyone is able to help with this please speak to one of the wardens.

DCC

Since the AGM on 23rd March 2025 the DCC has met three times. There remains five members on the DCC comprising both clergy and both wardens and one lay member. All members remain committed to caring for and working to ensure the congregation of St. Leonard's progresses and achieves the best it can in its mission for God.

Exercise Class

The weekly Exercise Class which meets every Wednesday continues to run. There are 8 attendees on a average with two more expected to join in 2026. From January 2026 the Exercise class will be joining in a new venture – Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies – and will be known as Malinslee Movers.

Food Bank

Food Bank continues serving the needs of an average of ten to twenty people, weekly on a Monday morning. Some of those attending are very regular visitors and relationships are being built. It provides an opportunity for those attending to have a warm place and a social time while being given the chance to have a warm drink. Those attending also appreciate the chance of being able to chat knowing they are being listened to. As well as the food which is given to those in need, surplus food is left outside of St. Leonard's for anyone wishing to help themselves. It worth noting it is rare that any of this food is left.

There are a group of five volunteers running this activity with a usual two attending each week. One of the helpers every week collects the food donations from local supermarkets and delivers it to St. Leonard's plus other organisations. A huge thanks goes to all who help with this giving care to those in need within our community.

As with last year Food Bank is still in great need of more volunteers to help.

6. Electoral Roll

The electoral roll currently has 28 members

7. Services

In 2025, attendances at services were:

Average Sunday	26
Easter Eve/Day	40
Christmas Eve/Day	68
Carol Services	321

The following baptisms, wedding and funerals took place:

Baptisms	21
Weddings	1
Funerals*	9
Interments	19

*Includes funerals at crematorium for people living in the district

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to the continued generosity of St Leonard's congregation and various fundraising events, St Leonard's finances are continuing to stabilise. However, with increasing costs and repair works identified in the last Quinquennial Inspection, we continue to need to look for ways to increase our income and be careful about our expenditure. In 2025, we paid our Common Fund contribution in full. Our total income was £23,987 and our expenditure was £22,228. At 31/12/2025, we had total funds of £11,709, compared to £9,950 in 2025. £7152 of these funds are restricted and can only be used for certain purposes, such as for building work, repairs and missional activity. Our thanks are given to Roger Farnworth who does all of our book-keeping for us, and to those who count and bank the money each week

St Leonard's Malinslee CTP

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Cash At Bank And In Hand	4,557.25	-	6,895.54	-	11,452.79	9,693.88
	4,557.25	-	6,895.54	-	11,452.79	9,693.88
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	-	-	(256.99)	-	(256.99)	(256.99)
	-	-	(256.99)	-	(256.99)	(256.99)
Net current assets less current liabilities	4,557.25	-	7,152.53	-	11,709.78	9,950.87
Total assets less current liabilities	4,557.25	-	7,152.53	-	11,709.78	9,950.87
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	4,557.25	-	7,152.53	-	11,709.78	9,950.87
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	4,557.25	-	-	-	4,557.25	6,305.62
Designated						
Designated - CTP Parish Share Squirrel Fund	-	-	-	-	-	233.64
Restricted						
Restricted - Carpet/Lighting	-	-	240.00	-	240.00	1,000.00
Restricted - Heating System Restricted - St Leonard	-	-	12.00	-	12.00	(2,443.40)
Restricted - LDBF Church Bldg Fund	-	-	400.00	-	400.00	200.00
Restricted - Welcome Spaces Restricted - St Leonard	-	-	56.74	-	56.74	430.72
Restricted - Special Projects fund	-	-	6,443.79	-	6,443.79	4,224.29
Fund Totals	4,557.25	-	7,152.53	-	11,709.78	9,950.87

St Leonard's Malinslee CTP

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid Envelopes/Donations	10,243.10	-	-	-	10,243.10	11,026.82
0110 - Direct Giving Envelopes - non gift aid	650.00	-	-	-	650.00	1,417.68
0301 - Plate Collections	2,993.82	-	-	-	2,993.82	3,509.34
0303 - Sundry Donations	26.09	-	-	-	26.09	1,711.89
0305 - Contactless Donations	558.00	-	-	-	558.00	-
0550 - Donations appeals etc	-	-	-	-	-	150.00
0601 - Recoverable Income Tax	3,276.96	-	-	-	3,276.96	6,089.68
0850 - Grants	-	-	-	-	-	180.00
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	-	-	-	11,697.00
Donations and legacies Totals	17,747.97	-	-	-	17,747.97	35,782.41
Income from charitable activities						
0901 - Other funds generated	-	-	-	-	-	7.50
1210 - Gross income from fund raising	2,085.55	-	-	-	2,085.55	1,669.29
1213 - Special Restricted Projects income	46.00	-	5.00	-	51.00	500.00
1220 - Bookstall	14.50	-	-	-	14.50	-
1240 - Church Hall lettings and rent	126.00	-	78.00	-	204.00	188.00
Income from charitable activities Totals	2,272.05	-	83.00	-	2,355.05	2,364.79
Other trading activities						
1206 - Sale of items	-	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	-
Other trading activities Totals	-	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	-
Other income						
1310 - Other income	297.37	-	586.50	-	883.87	100.00
Other income Totals	297.37	-	586.50	-	883.87	100.00
Receipts Grand totals	20,317.39	-	3,669.50	-	23,986.89	38,247.20

Payments

Expenditure on charitable activities

1871 - Christian Aid donations	-	-	-	-	-	158.00
1910 - Common Fund	11,747.00	-	-	-	11,747.00	11,499.00
2100 - Donations/Gifts	430.00	-	-	-	430.00	556.00
2205 - Costs of contactless giving	65.29	-	-	-	65.29	-
2330 - Running costs (inc Gas, Water, Electric)	3,330.00	-	-	-	3,330.00	4,585.78
2331 - minor repairs and routine maintenance	927.78	-	68.00	-	995.78	1,311.29
2334 - New items	249.00	-	338.28	-	587.28	-
2335 - Church major repairs - structure	-	-	-	-	-	648.00
2355 - Insurance	2,497.76	-	-	-	2,497.76	2,450.81

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
2360 - Bookstall/magazine costs	14.50	-	-	-	14.50	-
2370 - Children and Young People	64.04	-	-	-	64.04	19.20
2372 - Mssion project costs	45.56	-	-	-	45.56	-
2380 - Upkeep of services	271.45	-	-	-	271.45	107.21
2401 - Costs of fund raising	560.86	-	35.70	-	596.56	279.26
2411 - Printing, stationery, postage	9.90	-	-	-	9.90	-
2535 - Licence Fees	97.86	-	-	-	97.86	97.00
2630 - Other Payments	25.00	-	1,450.00	-	1,475.00	-
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	15,140.40
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	20,336.00	-	1,891.98	-	22,227.98	36,851.95
Other expenditure						
1702 - Special projects payments as required	-	-	-	-	-	69.28
Other expenditure Totals	-	-	-	-	-	69.28
Payments Grand totals	20,336.00	-	1,891.98	-	22,227.98	36,921.23