

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT.
Alexandra Thomson

I can't believe that it's already been a year since Sarah gave last year's Churchwarden's report and welcomed me as a new Churchwarden. I do want to say a big thank you to the PCC team as a whole for being so welcoming. I already knew that Father Marius works incredibly hard but this last year has given me a real appreciation of just exactly how hard he works. In addition to those duties that you would expect a parish priest to carry out, he also seems to perform the roles of plumber, roof mender, electrician, chef and meteorologist to name but a few! I've actually lost count of the number of PCC meetings where he has said "well there was a small problem with the locks, toilet, plug sockets but I managed to fix it."

One of the first headline events soon after last year's APCM was the confirmation service held on Pentecost Sunday in June 2025. Not only did we get to put the brand-new shiny kitchen to the test but the new Bishop of Edmonton - Bishop Anderson made his first visit to Holy Trinity. He was very keen on meeting as many people as possible and was very appreciative of the welcome that he received.

The parish BBQ was another summer highlight. Father Marius, wearing his meteorologist hat, very confidently told us at the start of that Sunday's service that it was NOT GOING TO RAIN, at least not until we had all finished eating. He then put his chef's hat on and BBQ'd up an amazing spread. Sure enough it was only after we'd finished eating that the heavens opened very dramatically and at this point Father Marius swapped over to his plumber's hat and ran round the church placing buckets where he thought that the inevitable leaks might appear.

I think that the church's bucket water feature is one that none of us miss at all.

Olga Weal, our appointed architect carried out the quinquennial inspection and we awaited the arrival of her report with trepidation. This is the 5 yearly requirement to survey the Church and create a list split into the urgent versus the desirable maintenance or repair projects. We needed to know exactly what needed to be done but at the same time the thought of the potentially eye watering costs was quite scary. Olga's report highlighted some very urgent repairs that needed to be made to the roof. It was in an extremely poor state. There was very heavy rain at the end of July and significant leaks were appearing inside the church. The PCC agreed that these repairs needed to be made straight away. Loose and missing slates were secured and replaced and gutters were cleared. Of course, once the builders

were up on the roof other urgent repairs were also found including realigning the lead flashings and repointing and again the PCC agreed that these should be carried out. The final task was to replace a pipe at the back of the church but during this process it was discovered that most of the 12 pipes around the church were fully blocked by sludge and soil and that the drainage system was also obstructed. The PCC again agreed that we needed to act upon the advice of the builders and appoint a specialist drainage team. About 95% of the entire system was completely blocked and a giant tanker was needed to remove it all. Father Marius did an amazing job liaising with Olga, the builders, the drainage team and keeping the PCC informed as to what was happening all over the summer holidays and we are incredibly grateful to him for managing such an urgent and stressful task so efficiently. He had also documented the whole process over August with photos and videos and it was with horrified fascination that we watched the removal of over 50 years worth of gunk and sludge from the drains, leading one PCC member to remark “these are the worst holiday photos ever!!!” The drains are now functioning and diverting water away from the building properly. There are no buckets in church anymore and the most immediate needs of the quinquennial report have been met, however we have barely begun to touch the long list of recommendations that Olga has made, many of which are also essentials to be done and it is clear that we will need to carry out significant fund raising to preserve and maintain our church building.

Another issue in the summer that was of concern for the PCC was the state of the grass in the churchyard. The council had previously stated that they were no longer going to cut the grass or cut back the hedges. You may remember that the grass and undergrowth was so tall that you could barely see any of the gravestones behind it. David had valiantly cut a path through the jungle (I am thinking Indiana Jones style here) so that the BBQ was possible. The grass was also incredibly dry and we were all worried about the potential fire risk. After the aforementioned flood and then the prospect of fire, we were all very relieved that we didn't get as far as the locusts, as Sonia and Silvia wrote a strongly worded email to the council. Shortly after, a council team of 6 people were out cutting the grass & the overgrowth. It took them two complete days to clear it and has been cut regularly ever since. I'm not sure exactly what Silvia & Sonia said but I know that if I need to get the council to do something I will be setting the two of them on the case!

The barn dance was a great success, the local band from the previous year returned and the church was packed with all ages and many attendees from the broader East Finchley community. Many thanks for Tam and Elwin for all their hard work and it truly was so much fun!

The autumn fair was also very successful. There was a steady flow of customers throughout the duration of the fair. There were some amazing British Bake off standard cakes that had been donated and you had to get there very early to catch a slice of the spectacular green matcha cream cake. Thanks to Barbara for all her hard work in organising the fair.

A new feature of both the BBQ and the Autumn fair was the ability to take payments on our phones, set up by Stephen using the Sumup app. This made the whole process very efficient, and was quite fun to use. I got slightly carried away and narrowly avoided charging Sarah £240 for a small plate of cakes, that however was due to operator ineptitude and the technology itself was pretty sound!

The carol service was so popular this year that it was standing room only. As ever, Wiebke produced a beautiful musical programme and conducted and rehearsed the choir and instruments. There were some lovely new additions this year. The choir with the help of Cristina fearlessly tackled a Romanian carol and were up to scratch in just one rehearsal. There seemed to be more anxiety about making the sound of the wind in between verses than there was over the pronunciation of the Romanian words. Also, many thanks to Joe who each year just runs with whatever combination of instruments are thrown at him “yes sure ok guitar, alpine horn and triangle no problem” or something similar, disappears for 10 minutes and then comes back to the room with the most beautiful arrangement for the instruments.

Every year we say to Sarah how are you going to beat that when she writes the script for the children’s nativity service and this year was no exception. The story of a local documentary maker and the trusty producer was beautifully written and very enthusiastically and ably acted by the cast.

As well as being master of the spreadsheet, holder of the purse and patient teacher of how the Church’s finances work, Stephen ran two new discussion events this year. An Advent evening based on Isaiah’s prophecy about the coming Messiah and The Lent exploration: Jesus the man of sorrows. These were both lovely evenings. Father Marius donned his chef’s hat again and prepared some amazing food. After being very well fed, we split up into small groups. We were given gospel readings and music to

inspire us and help us to discuss what we felt that these readings meant to us. It gave us the opportunity to explore and grow our faith in a friendly and supportive environment.

The close connections with Holy Trinity School continue with Father Marius visiting each Wednesday to give an assembly and many school services are held in church, including the year 6 leavers service. This moved to a Monday evening for the first time and was very well attended by year 6 pupils, parents and teachers.

Each week we look forward to hearing about what the younger members of church have done that day in Sunday Club and each week we get to marvel at the ingenuity of the Sunday Club leaders when it comes to craft activities or the acting out of plays. The children always proudly display their creations and usually are absolutely spot on in what they've learnt that week. I think my favourite craft activity was the sparkle jar. I don't think that I was the only member of the congregation to feel a pang of envy that I didn't get to take home my own sparkle jar. A very big thank you to Marina and all the Sunday club volunteers who volunteer for a shift or two each month and work hard to prepare for each session. It is always especially lovely to see those volunteers who were themselves members of Sunday club only a few years back and who are an inspiration to today's group of children.

This year has not been the easiest for several people in our church community. I wanted to say a big thank you to Sarah for teaching me how to be a churchwarden, and for also writing and rehearsing the nativity play with the children and teaching Sunday club, all done in the toughest of circumstances. We hope that the love and prayers of the Holy Trinity community will provide both Sarah and Cerys with some small comfort.

I wanted to end with a big thank you to everyone who helps to make and enrich our community, for everyone who volunteers in some capacity, to those I've already mentioned and for those who read, bake, arrange the flowers and make teas and coffees after the service. The biggest thank you of all has to be for Father Marius for continuously going above and beyond in looking after both the church building and his congregation.

SECRETARY TO THE PCC
Paula Quiddington

Since the last APCM meeting, the Parochial Church Council has met bi-monthly on the following dates, with the noted number of attendees:

May 21st - 12 members present

July 9th – 12 members present

September 17th - 11 members present

November 19th - 13 members present

January 21st - 11 members present

March 18th - 12 members present

All meetings bar March 18th were conducted in the church lounge, with several members attending via Zoom and lasted approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

Agenda topics for discussion are the same in each meeting and include finances, fabric, safeguarding, Holy Trinity School and the Vicar's report.

A summary of what has been discussed over the last 12 months is as follows:

Financial management of the church and its incomings and outgoings, including donations and contributions is always a hot topic, generating lots of questions for poor Stephen. This year we have mostly covered the Common Fund contribution, ever increasing utility bills, diminishing cash flow buffers, emergency reserve funds, as well as profits from the Barn Dance, Autumn Fair and church rental income.

The Church Fabric has been another time-consuming matter for discussion and approval this past year, including the installation of the new kitchen and the extensive repairs to the church roof and drainage systems. Thankfully all with a very good outcome. Ongoing discussions will be around other priorities highlighted in last year's Quinquennial report.

Safeguarding is discussed each meeting, including updates on training and the church dashboard.

Each meeting Fr Marius updates us with information from Holy Trinity School and the governor meetings. Current discussions include the continued support from the 3-school partnership, with St Marys Finchley and Christchurch High Barnet Primary Schools, under the continued management of Executive Head Teacher, Stefan Roos.

The meeting concludes with Fr Marius' report, bringing the team up to speed on clergy meetings, information from the Diocese, important upcoming events and dates and general information for approval and discussion.

We thank all volunteers for their tireless efforts in supporting our church, most especially Stephen Hiscock as our Treasurer and Sarah Tyner and Alexandra Thomson as our Church Wardens.

All minutes of the PCC meetings are available, should you wish to see them in more detail.

The next meeting of the PCC will take place on May 20th 2026 in the Church lounge.

ELLECTORAL ROLL OFFICER
Jennifer Borst

As of May 2025, the electoral roll stood at 106.

In April 2026, the electoral roll currently stands at 106.

FINANCE REPORT
Stephen Hiscock, Treasurer

There are a few copies of the Annual Report & Accounts at the back of the church, and they are available on the website. There are more copies of an extract, for those who would like to focus on the numbers today and perhaps ask questions at the meeting itself.

For the Treasurer the eventual outcome for 2025 was a considerable relief. Having chosen to refit the aging kitchen, we were then hit with the cost of repairing the roof and digging out the drains. In total we spent some £32,000 on refitting, repairing and maintaining the building last year.

Fortunately, I knew we had a very good surplus from 2024 as a cushion, and once again we were helped enormously by some very generous single donations. So, overall, the deficit was limited to just short of £6,000.

I must, however, just say this, perhaps like a broken record (if you remember those). We must not be complacent.

The roof is not the only building problem. The work done so far is just the start. To add to our woes the VAT relief the government used to provide has gone.

Equally important, we have to find ways to increase our commitment to the Diocese Common Fund. This year our contribution will be £48,000. That is only half what it costs to enable the church to provide essential central support and a full-time vicar in the parishes across the Diocese. Not paying our full share drains the reserves. That obviously cannot be sustained for ever.

So, a quick reminder, we are now fully digital. It is very easy to set up a direct debit or make a one-off donation. And we are getting used to using the donation station at the back of the church. Please don't forget it is there.

I hope you agree that we are a vibrant Christian community which is shaped around the parish, this building, a full-time pastor and a church primary school. For that to continue it needs everyone to continue to think carefully about the financial and practical support they can give. The answer may be very little, or it may be very substantial. Already the range is considerable. That is how it should be in a community to which we can all feel we belong.

Holy Trinity Church East Finchley

Extracts from the Accounts 2025

Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Incoming Resources				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid	9,502	0	9,502	8,188
Grants	0	0	0	0
Legacies	0	0	0	0
One off Donations	22,760	0	22,760	16,377
Regular Donations	32,390	0	32,390	33,538
Charitable Activities				
Event Income	4,199	0	4,199	2,430
Investments				
Bank Interest	6,776	0	6,776	7,618
Trading Activities				
Rental Income	11,735	0	11,735	14,045
Sales	0	0	0	0
Other				
Other Income	5,447	1,356	6,803	2,554
Total incoming resources	92,808	1,356	94,164	84,749

Analysis of Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Resources Used				
Charitable Activities				
Activities	46,926	0	46,926	41,200
Admin	3,886	0	3,886	4,486
Advertising	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges	174	0	174	147
Building Work	23,671	0	23,671	0
Charitable Donations	0	0	0	1,200
Church Repairs & Maintenance	9,810	0	9,810	4,899
Depreciation	0	0	0	0
Event Costs	2,021	0	2,021	1,354
Gifts Given	138	0	138	100
Other Expenditure	63	2,508	2,571	433
Other Premises Costs	10,967	0	10,967	13,931
Premises	321	0	321	0
Staff Costs	703	0	703	526
Governance Costs				
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0

Total resources used	98,679	2,508	101,187	68,276
----------------------	--------	-------	---------	--------

Statement of Financial Position

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Current Assets				
Cash	82,330	117,500	199,830	208,242
Accounts Receivable	0	0	0	0
Prepayments	0	0	0	0
Total	82,330	117,500	199,830	208,242
Non-Current Assets				
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Investments	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	0	0	0	1,639
Deferred Income	250	0	250	0
Total	250	0	250	1,639
Non-Current Liabilities				
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Net Current Assets	82,080	117,500	199,580	206,603
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	82,080	117,500	199,580	206,603
Represented By				
General (Unrestricted)	82,080	0	82,080	87,951
Church Trust Fund (Restricted)	0	115,500	115,500	115,500
Vicar's Discretionary Fund (Restricted)	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
Diocese Fees Collected (Restricted)	0	0	0	1,152
Charitable Funds Collected (Restricted)	0	0	0	0

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT
David Holt

The lack of Deanery Synod secretary has made relating the more detailed contents of these meetings a little challenging, so forgive the brevity of this report.

Barnet Deanery Synod meetings have been spread throughout the year. They have been well organised by Area Dean Reverend Julie Gittoes, well attended, and interesting. A wide range of topics has been up for discussion, including: Finances, School Governors, Deanery appointments and vacancies, safeguarding, reports from Diocesan Synod, and indeed Living in Love & Faith. There are often useful and interesting presentations too, from organisations such as AgeUK, one of which took place on the 16th June last year.

Suffice to say that the meetings are always a good opportunity to meet clergy and parishioners from across the Barnet Deanery in all their various guises, and to compare and contrast what our various churches do, and how we operate. Each meeting is in a different venue, and it is always interesting to visit other church buildings and see how they are run. There is always hospitality on offer in the form of drinks and snacks – which make the meetings more enjoyable.

Incredibly, I have served for six years as Deanery Synod representative for Holy Trinity and now feel it is time I stepped back to let someone else take my place, so I can become a regular PCC member once more. Therefore, I would urge you to consider this valuable contribution to parish life and representing our church in the Deanery. The commitment is light - four evening meetings per year at a church in the area. Fr Marius usually attends so transport can be arranged.

I know how much the attendance and contributions of Holy Trinity are valued by the Area Dean, so let's ensure it can continue.

SUNDAY CLUB
Marina Tebbutt

It's been a slower year for Sunday School seeing a definite decline in numbers and weekly attendance. This is due to a combination of factors, the 2 main ones being the drop in birth rate since Covid and the usual cycle of losing the early teens as they outgrow the structure of the lesson. We have around 20 children who regularly attend, compared to last year's headcount of 30 to 40 children.

The children remain a core feature in the church's celebrations and events throughout the year. We had a respectable turnout of youngsters at the Nativity and Easter Sunday,

- Again, we had a large attendance of teenagers at the annual Barn Dance
- The carol service saw the return of many Holy Trinity alumni and the children are keen to participate in the service.
- We had another successful Nativity and after the previous year's featuring the return of historic linchpins, they were a little too eager to take part again and we

struggled to keep them off the stage.

As a team we strongly believe that Sunday school should continue to run despite the fall in numbers, although we have discussed trialing a slight change in the lesson structure to reduce the workload.

Encouragingly, we have a solid and regular attendance of our young adults, Nmeso, Luke, Cerys, and Evie. They have recently begun attending evening bible studies with Stephen with every intention of opening up the sessions to others of their generation. This may be the way forward for Sunday club and they are extremely grateful to Stephen for giving up his time to guide them.

We are delighted to welcome back Alex to our strong and successful team of Sunday club volunteers.

Thank you to Alice, Linda, Tom, Cerys, Evie, Nmeso, Luke, and Sarah for their commitment and efforts. It's a pleasure to work with you all. As always, thank you to Marius for his consistent encouragement and enthusiasm.

THE VICAR
Marius Mirt

Having listen to the reports of the members of our ministry team, it is only fair to acknowledge that the accomplishments of our church community over the last year are the result of a shared effort, the hard work of a dedicated team, and the generosity of many among us.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered time, skills, wisdom, and indeed financial support. Your support has made it possible to continue to be a flourishing Christian community in East Finchley.

Since our previous APCM on 11th May 2025, a number of liturgical celebrations and social events have been a testimony to our efforts and, in many respects, to our achievement in continuing to be a visible community of faith here in East Fichley.

Alex has already referred to them in her churchwarden's report, so I won't list them again.

In addition to what she has mentioned, I am happy to report that our church community has welcomed eight new members through Baptism in 2025. Also, that five of our own were confirmed by Bishop Anderson on Pentecost Sunday (8 June 2025).

Since our last APCM, we have welcomed into our church the pupils of Holy Trinity School (and their parents / carers) for their Harvest, Christingle, and the Easter assemblies. We also welcomed pupils from Martin Primary School (December 2025) for a RE lesson visit. These have been opportunities for reaching out to the local community and for sharing the good news of the Gospel with people beyond our church congregation.

It so happens that we hold this APCM meeting on the 4th Sunday After Easter, also known as the Good Shepherd's Sunday. I am sure you have already noted the theme of today's readings and hymns in church.

As we look back to the last 12 months with gratitude, and as we look forward to the future with hope, may we commit ourselves once again today, to be a community of people who listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd. May we do our best to follow Christ in everything we do, and so, may we walk together the way of the Kingdom by caring for and supporting one another.

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for being part of this community and for your contribution to its life and work.