

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
CATHERINGTON**



**YEAR BOOK
2025/26**

including APCM reports iaw Church Representation Rules 2025
not included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements

Welcome to our 2025/6 Year Book,

This document contains certain specified reports on behalf of the PCC, as well as short reports from a number of groups who are part of the life of our church, covering the period between April 2025 and now – please enjoy reading it.

If you are a member of the All Saints Church Electoral Roll then please do bring your comments, questions and points for discussion to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 3rd May 2026 at 10.45am in the church hall (following the 9.30am Church Service).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard". The script is cursive and fluid.

The Reverend Richard Hutchins
Vicar
All Saints Catherington

Reports Mandated by Church Representation Rules 2025

Electoral Roll Report

Last year the ER was completely renewed. There has been a small change to the Electoral Roll this year with six people added. The ER is now at 51 persons.

The percentage on the roll who live within the parish is 70% and outside parish boundary is 30%. As required the list of names has been displayed on the church noticeboard.

Nicola Ellis

PCC Secretary Report

There have been 6 PCC meetings (92.35% attendance) and 5 Standing committee meetings (100% attendance). Jacqueline Byatt was elected by the PCC in March, to fill a casual vacancy, having attended as an observer at the previous PCC meeting. Joe Edwards was co-opted to the PCC, also in March. Matters discussed have included: Finances, Church Hall, heating and community events amongst other general church business.

Wendy Haxell

Annual Report and Financial Statements – see separate report

Churchwarden Fabric & Safeguarding Report

The roofing repairs that were undertaken in early 2025 together with cleaning of the gutters and downpipes to the church have helped to reduce the moisture ingress however rainwater goods and fascias need replacing. With a milder winter and ongoing beneficial utility costs the heating has helped to reduce the penetrating damp in the north aisle of the nave and the Hyde chapel. Another tree fell down into the edge of the council cemetery from the churchyard boundary which required removal. The PCC are working to develop a tree management plan to identify a proactive schedule of works to maintain our trees.

The PCC were planning a visit to St Peter and St Paul in Fareham who have recently had infrared heating installed to see an example of the system in situ. However, due to electrical issues not related to the installation, their heating is not yet fully operational. We are hoping that a future visit can be arranged to support a future decision around the heating solution for All Saints. There is still an outstanding request with our electricity supplier, EDF, to reinstate the 3-phase power to the church.

Churchyard maintenance continues to be supported by the churchyard working party. Their voluntary service, supported by our paid contractor, has kept the balance between neat, accessible pathways and the purposely wild area to the south of the churchyard.

Other tasks involved repairing the gate to the council cemetery, reinstating signage, repairs to the car park surface, continuing refurbishment of the footpath to the south-east corner and removing various fallen trees and branches. It is fitting to record the appreciation of the PCC for the work of the group, and for the receipt of £1000 grant from Horndean Parish Council to support the costs of maintaining the grounds.

Jason Peett

Safeguarding. The House of Bishops policy statement Promoting a Safer Church remains the foundation statement of All Saints' preparation, planning and response with regards to safeguarding issues. It is a requirement of all PCC members and church officers that they are familiar with this policy.

Our Parish is committed to the five National Safeguarding Standards, which are broad statements of what the Church of England wants to achieve in its safeguarding work and describe the characteristics of a healthy, safe church. The standards are prominently displayed in the church and a personal copy has been presented to every member of the congregation.

The parish safeguarding dashboard provides the framework for the PCC's safeguarding plan; the plan is thus kept under regular review, with a report received at every meeting of the PCC. The dashboard is currently 'green', indicating the church has maintained level 3 compliance in all mandatory areas of safeguarding throughout the year.

On Safeguarding Sunday (November) Rev Richard announced an ambition to encourage those members of the benefice congregation who are not required by policy to complete safeguarding training, to do so (specifically, the Basic module). In support of this, every member has been given an individual safeguarding information pack, and group training events offered. Green shoots are showing.

The PCC remains committed to The House of Bishops statement 'Promoting a Safer Church' and the five national safeguarding standards.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Joe Edwards

Deanery Synod Report

Our elected Deanery Synod representative in 2025/26 has been Wendy Haxell. Revd Richard is a clergy member of Deanery Synod and was also a member of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral and Standing and Finance Committee until Summer 2025 when he stood down from this additional responsibility. Deanery Synod reconstitutes with the elections this year.

The Deanery Synod met in June and November 2025 and March 2026. Unfortunately, the dates of Deanery Synod have meant that our representatives have not been available to attend on more than one occasion. The Synod has continued to be blessed by the worship ministry of the Deanery Band – much of the core of which comes from our parish musicians.

In the period of March 2024 to March 2025 a range of business has been covered – including welcome time spend sharing good news about parish life to encourage one another.

In June 2025 our new Associate Area Dean, The Revd Jonathan Jeffries, was licensed, and we had an update on the Ghana-Portsmouth link followed by updates on 5 different fresh expressions in the deanery. In November 2025 the Synod received a brief from the Diocese Children's, Youth and Families Office (Heather Powney) about her role and how she can support the parishes. The meeting also noted the forthcoming retirement of The Revd Andy Wilson from Portsdown and Purbrook. The March 2026 Deanery Synod focussed on the Deanery Plan, but unfortunately no-one from All Saints was able to be present and the minutes have not yet been published.

Revd Richard Hutchins

Other Reports

Vicar's Report

The period of preparation for an APCM is one time in the year when emails and paperwork are things of delight – as reports of activities in our life as church family are sent in. There are so many good things to reflect upon over the past year, to celebrate and take joy in, both in the Benefice and in the individual parishes. The joy is often tinged with some sadness as we look back and reflect on precious friends in the church family who we have lost, and we said farewell (for now) to Dennis Haxell and Pat Nundy this year.

Without exactly copying the text of last year, the right place to start in my short report is with my most heartfelt thanks to the PCC, who provide such wisdom and strength in leading a guiding our church life. Jason has been stalwart as our Churchwarden this year, supporting and challenging me so helpfully. Wendy has continued to be the organised one, in her role as PCC Secretary, keeping me and PCC records straight. And all of the PCC members together have borne the weight of this leadership role with grace and aplomb. Thank you to you all (and to Joe Edwards and Caroline Rose for their support in safeguarding roles). There are spaces on the PCC this year (in part because of an increased Electoral Roll) so if you can serve your church brothers and sisters in this capacity, please step forward! If you have financial skills (even basic ones), and particularly if you have any experience of using Xero, please consider stepping up as Treasurer. Acting as Interim Treasurer (for 3 years so far!) is a substantial distraction away from my core ministry as Vicar and a dedicated Treasurer is what we need. This is not necessarily a PCC role but would report and make recommendations to the PCC – and training and support will be provided. Failing the emergence of a new Treasurer, is there anyone that could step forward to be Gift Aid secretary. This role would deal with Gift Aid submissions to the Diocese – a route of funding that we are not pursuing at the moment as I don't have the capacity on top of the Interim Treasurer role to process the paperwork without further detriment to core ministry.

I repeat what I said last year, that without Anna, our Parish Administrator, I would probably have sunk numerous times in the year – thank you for taking so much of the day-to-day burden from me to allow space for ministry and mission! Thank you to Revd Anne for her support throughout the year and her accompaniment in ordained ministry.

THANK YOU to everyone who gives financially with such faithfulness to enable our life as church together. While we remain reliant on our reserves to meet our annual financial commitments, I am blessed (as Treasurer) that we have been able to start making regular monthly contributions to our Parish Share in 2026, which will reduce the lump sum burden later in the year. This is a small sign that we are making gains on our financial position – again THANK YOU to everyone that is making this possible. Again I offer an additional sprinkling of thanks to those who give via the Parish Giving Scheme, as this ensures that Gift Aid payments are received automatically.

Revd Jan Fuller completed her placement from St Lukes, Southsea, in the summer and is now licensed on Hayling Island.

Our regular plant sale was a great success – thank you again to Jason Peett for pulling together this year's sale; and to everyone that grew and bought plants. The Vicarage particularly enjoyed our bountiful crop of cabbage, broccoli and brussels sprouts (not things we had ever grown before). Thank you to the Peett family for the hugely fun Quiz and Fish & Chip supper evening – and I probably shouldn't say who won!

We continue to work closely with Revd Joy Windsor (particularly in her part role as Horndean Missioner) and part of this was a repeat Alpha Course in Merchistoun Hall in Autumn 2025. We used the balance of a grant from the Trinity Trust to help fund this and it has been exciting to see people find faith for the first time through the course. The Flourish project at Horndean CE Junior School continued in 2025, establishing the seeds of a worshipping community. Unfortunately, the dedicated Flourish Lead Worker, Nick, departed in the summer holidays for pastures new, and we were unable to find a replacement in time for the Autumn term. We therefore decided, with the Diocese, to draw a line under the project and look at other ways of growing a worshipping community in the school from existing resources.

In January, the joint PCCs spent a day at Beckett House (Portsmouth Cathedral) to consider our vision as a Benefice and in each parish. It was a great day of sharing with each other under the facilitating presence of the Revd Andrew Hargreaves (from the Diocese). A small vision team has been called together and they will be meeting to champion the output of that day with the PCCs. On the day we spent time thinking about our context and things that we celebrate and find challenging, and we thought about what season we are experiencing in our church life. We shared an exercise in groups of where we felt we are in the churches in terms of the seven marks of a healthy church and identified key areas to focus upon. We then looked at hopes and dreams for the short, medium and longer term under headings of Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship/Community and Ministry/Leadership; this included gathering ideas from those present and then everyone having "votes" on the priorities. More on this to come as the Vision Team get their teeth into the championing role.

Following the New Wine Festival 2025, Encounter became Awaken – our Benefice informal evening service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at St James Church; an opportunity to wait on the Holy Spirit and pray with one another. We have enjoyed material from the NW Festival, via New Wine Online – with a dramatic recitation of the book of Ruth and impactful teaching. We held our first Abide in summer – an extended period for people to come and find a meditative and prayerful space.

God bless – and humblest apologies if I have missed anything!

Revd Richard Hutchins

Bellringers

We continue to have a thriving group of ringers at Catherington. We practice on Monday evenings with an early start for our newer learners so they get some uninterrupted practice in handling the bells and advancing their skills. The main practice starts at 19:30 with ringers of all abilities, ranging from those ringing simpler methods to others who have progressed further. As well as our own band, we have several regular visitors from other towers who enhance our practice. We ring for the 09:30 service at All Saints and for weddings and funerals as requested. We also have an advanced practice on 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday afternoons for those who are able to ring more complicated methods, to enhance our local band, we also invite a few ringers from other towers to the benefit of all.

We hosted and rang for the Portsmouth District 6 bell striking competition in March, entering two teams. One team won and the other came fourth out of 8.

Last year a group of Catherington ringers met in Vernet les Bains in the French Pyrenees, where there is an Anglican church with bells hung for ringing in the English style. We travelled by motor bike, car or plane and had a very enjoyable few days helping the local ringers at their annual ringing school. This October we plan to have an outing to towers in Somerset.

At our AGM in February, we said goodbye to our Treasurer, Ted Herrington, who has stepped down after many years' service to the tower, both as treasurer and erstwhile tower captain. Many thanks go to Ted for his long service, and thanks to Andrew Byford for taking over the role of treasurer. Andrew Halls is working with Andrew Ramsay to learn the role of steeple keeper. All other positions remain as they were with Mark Esbester as tower captain, Marie Boniface as secretary and Catherine Piper as events organiser.

In line with guidance from the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild of Bellringers we now keep a register of attendance in the tower.

Catherington and Clanfield Mothers' Union

'Caring for families worldwide through fellowship, fundraising and prayer'.

Since the last APCM Mothers' Union have continued to meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except during August) at 2pm in St James Church Hall. We are a Committee Led group so many thanks to all our committee members.

During 2025 we enjoyed various interesting talks such as 'The History of Catherington and Clanfield' from John Vincent and his wife, a talk from Neil Whitmore about an annual holiday he helps to run, for young people with special needs and at short notice, a very interesting talk from the 'Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation'. We also used the Church of England resource called 'Grave Talk', which Ruth Bever led, to aid small group discussion about the end of life. This was not at all morbid but extremely useful. January 2026 was our AGM and since then we have had an enlightening talk from Diana Hutchins about her work at Portsmouth Cathedral and a very moving Lent talk from Reverend Judy Henning about the 'Stations of the Cross'. In 2025 we also enjoyed a 'Strawberry Tea' in Di Reynold's garden, a 'Coffee Morning'. also at Di's, to raise funds for the MU Christmas Appeal and lunch at The Rising Sun in December. In August those who were able, joined in a walk around Clanfield, stopping in various places to pray and we also left painted stones, decorated with bible verses. Our members have attended 'The Wave of Prayer' service, The 'Mary Sumner Day' service in 2025 and 'The World Day of Prayer' and 'The Lady Day' service so far this year.

2026 is the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of MU so we are looking forward to celebrating various events both locally and in London. If anyone would like to join the abseil down Spinnaker Tower on 8th August, please let us know!!

Trish Biggs on behalf of the Committee

Children's Church

Children's Church has met on the fourth Sunday of the month (except August) in All Saints Church Hall. This is an opportunity for children from 3 years old to Year 6 to come together to find out more about "Who is Jesus?" through bible stories, crafts, games, songs and prayers. The children are brought to the hall by their parents and parents then attend the service in Church. The children then join the service at the distribution of Holy Communion and share what they have been doing with the congregation. Each session focuses on a Bible story with a brief talk and then activities linked to the Bible story. The children enjoy their sessions in the hall and are always keen to share what they have learnt in Church.

Diana Hutchins

Churches Together in Horndean and Clanfield

Churches Together (consisting of United Benefice of Catherington and Clanfield, United Benefice of Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth, St Edmund's RC Church and Horndean Baptist Church) have held a number of activities and acts of worship from Easter 2025 to Easter 2026.

Prayer Breakfast: This was held on the fourth Saturday of most months with the five churches taking it in turns to organise the breakfast. Generally, about twenty people have attended from the different churches and it has been good to chat to each other over a light breakfast. After this a period of prayer led by the host church gave everyone the opportunity to contribute prayers for local church and community matters or important national and international concerns.

Pentecost Prayer Room: This was held in the week before Pentecost in the chapel at the Blendworth Centre and organised by Revd. Sam of Horndean Baptist. Each church organised an activity/prayer station and people could sign up to go along for an hour. Not as many people attended as had done in previous years. However, it was decided to have the prayer room in 2026 with the suggestion that some sessions could have a minister present for those who wanted that and help should be offered by the churches with the online booking.

Pentecost Picnic: This was held on the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday at St Edmund's Church and garden but the number of people attending was disappointing. The Open the Book Team performed one of the Bible stories that they have done at school assemblies in the hope that it would encourage more volunteers to come forward. Afterwards people had lunch with meat brought to barbeque and other donations of food.

Open the Book: This started some years ago with support from Churches Together, although people from some Cowplain and Waterlooville churches have been involved. The team went into Petersgate Infant School in Clanfield every other week to act out a Bible Story. Open the Book is organised by the Bible Society and the Bible stories are carefully written to appeal to the children, who take part with actions and some children acting alongside the team. A rehearsal for the team was held in the intervening week.

Online Christmas Card: It had been the intention to have an online Christmas card with a short video from each church and indeed some videos had been taken but they proved too difficult to combine into the card.

January Service for the Week of Christian Unity: This was an excellent service organised by Revd. Richard and held at St James. It was written by the Armenian Church and was enhanced by pictures and comments from Revd Richard's visit and knowledge of Armenia. The attendance of only twenty one people was most disappointing. In future years it was suggested we might have just one morning service locally in the host church, to which everyone will come and no main services held in other churches.

Lent Lunches at Blendworth Church Centre: These have occurred for many years but there has been renewed interest for all the local churches to take part in hosting one of the Friday soup lunches held in support of the Bishop of Portsmouth's Lent Appeal.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: In 2025 the cross had been taken from St James by walking around Clanfield and then by car to St Edmund's so in 2026 it was the turn of St Edmund's to host the sending out service with the walk carrying the cross to All Saints. There were stops along the way for a hymn, prayer and reading. The cross was received at All Saints with a short service followed by drinks and hot cross buns. As usual this was the best attended Churches Together event.

Hilary Batchelor, St James rep.

Flower Report

We continue to be blessed by a dedicated group of ladies who make arrangements for the North and South windows, the pedestal and the porch. An arrangement was made in front of the altar to show the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent and Advent are quiet times. We would welcome new members.

Sue Howard-Harwood

Illumin8

Our youth group, called Illumin8, is for children in Year 6 through to Year 11 and meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm (except August). We have had an encouraging year with 3 new members of the group joining after we held a family BBQ and taster session in June 2025. This was open to Year 5 children and their families, as well as others who would already fit the age range for Illumin8 – we will be running this again in 2026. We meet at the Vicarage (while numbers allow us to) and we are very grateful to Chloe Peett for joining us in leading the sessions. We have looked at The Bible Series from the Bible Society this year, alongside sharing a meal together and some outdoor activities. Before Easter 2026 we canvassed the group about what they wanted to see going forward. They said they are happy with the frequency of Illumin8 and look forward to diving deeper into Christian themes.

Revd Richard has also attended Youthscape Launchpad training provided by the Diocese, between January and March 2026. While this is aimed at senior church leaders (clergy) who have no youthwork, it was a very useful programme to help think about how Illumin8 may develop in the future.

Revd Richard Hutchins

School Governors' Reports

Horndean Church of England Junior School

All Saints Church hold 2 positions as Governors at Horndean Church of England Junior School. Reverend Richard Hutchins holds the Ex-Officio post and Katherine Peett holds the other Foundation Governor post.

During 2025 Reverend Richard and I continued to support the school as Governors. Our regular Governing Board meetings support the Leadership and Management of the school, and it has been evident that these strong links have enabled the distinct Christian character of the school to grow and flourish, which in turn enables the children and staff to grow and flourish too. Reverend Richard regularly leads Collective Worship, and is well known by the whole school community. At our regular meetings supporting the Christian life of the school, more attention has turned in the last year to the next Church schools inspection, which is due soon, and we have been working with staff to ensure we are maintaining and developing the ways in which the children are able to explore their own spirituality within the context of a Church of England school.

Also, over the last year, we have been able to share in the development of the plans for the school rebuilding project which was finally given the go ahead in early December. The new building will enable the school to serve our local community well into the future, in spaces purposely designed to fulfil the educational, social and spiritual needs of today's children.

In June, it was lovely to be able to support the school in person on Trinity Day – an off-curriculum day when we give the children space to explore their own spirituality through various activities linked to the Trinity. A team from All Saints hosted a year group in the church to support this special day.

Later in the summer term year 6 had leavers services at the cathedral and at All Saints, both important occasions to mark the end of their time at the school, and in December all year groups had their Christmas carol services at the church, which further strengthens the links between the church and the school.

Katherine Peett

Catherington Church of England Infant School

I have attended 5 governor meetings since May 25 as well as governor training focusing on how to get the school to outstanding in all areas. I also attended training on SIAMS. I have also done all the online updates for safeguarding as well as some monitoring.

Wendy Haxell

Messy Church

Messy Church met every fourth Saturday of the month (except August) at St. James Clanfield for craft, a short celebration and food. We currently have over 30 families registered and since January 2026 we have seen a significant increase in the numbers attending Messy Church each month. Our theme from April 2025 to July 2025 focused on significant events in the Church year and then from September 2025 our theme has been the "I am" statements. In December we had a Messy Church Christingle and in addition to the usual craft and food the celebration was open to anyone in the community to attend. We have continued to have young people volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award and one young person has completed their gold volunteering with us and recently received their invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive their award. Our fantastic team of volunteers from those who prepare the craft, particular thanks to Trish and Liz, to those who lead activities to those who prepare the tea and bake cakes ensures each month Messy Church is a success and helps families to learn more about Jesus.

Diana Hutchins

Open the Book

A team of 10 from various local churches continue to go into Petersgate Infants School every fortnight to dramatise Bible stories. Sadly, we were unable to go into the school for the first half of the Spring Term as 6 members were abroad and each story usually requires at least 6 people. We desperately need more 'storytellers' as Open the Book, part of the Bible Society, calls the volunteers. The more people who are involved, the less everyone has to do! The group on Hayling Island has 15 members which means that they may only do 2-4 sessions a term. Here, some of us do 5 out of the 7 sessions in a term. A session involves a rehearsal at St James' Church Hall on a Thursday at 1pm for approximately half an hour and then going into Petersgate Infants school on the following Thursday at 1.05 to do the assembly. Storytellers do not have to learn words - scripts are provided. The stories only take about 5-8 minutes to perform and we usually manage to have some children taking part in the story too. The children and staff are very receptive and seem to enjoy our visits. This is an important outreach into the community so PLEASE think seriously as to whether you could join the group.

Ruth Bever

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 till 11:30. The Scrabble boards and counters are provided. We even have small dictionaries to check two letter words. We would welcome new members - come and give it try. We are very sociable!

Sue Howard-Harwood and Janet Giles

Small Groups

In 2025 we added another Benefice small group, when the Vicarage small group was “sent” to be hosted elsewhere, freeing up Revd Richard to start another new small group. The four groups meet regularly to study the Bible, enjoy company and to pray together – they are a great place to support one another and live out our Christian faith in company and everyone is encouraged to join a group. We have looked at two main courses – Reimagine from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, and The Bible Series, which is a light touch version of the Bible Course from The Bible Society. The Lent Course for 2026 was shared across the Churches Together where we joined with members from other churches to follow the Talking Jesus course. The groups meet on Monday evenings (2 of them) and Thursday afternoon and evening.

Revd Richard Hutchins

