

Annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of St Mark and All Saints Church, Reading 2025

St Mark's Church, Cranbury Road, Reading

Part 1 – Buildings, fixtures and equipment

Generally, the building is in good condition. The five-year quinquennial report carried out in March 2026 will be published soon.

Ongoing works are as follows: -

1. The church roof has been repaired following a recent leak. There are a couple of minor leaks by the north door and choir vestry. These are under investigation and repairs done.
2. Internal wall painting peeling off in chancel and nave. The walls above the south aisle needs urgent attention. Chris Everett is going to do the decorating once his estimates is approved.
3. Windows – There are 3 broken panes in the non-stained-glass windows around the church. We are getting quotes for their repair as soon as possible.
4. Main carpark gates – The gates dropped due to wear and tear making them difficult to open and close. They are being fixed as I write.

Net Zero Carbon –

Following the energy audit report done in November 2024, the recommendation was to install Infrared heaters and various draft proofing measures.

We are still exploring the best system and applying for grants to pay for it.

We are also beginning a fund-raising scheme for funds.

We will need faculty and grants to be able to do the work. Proposals will be discussed at PCC and help is needed to secure funding.

All safety reports are up to date and certified. These are Electrical installation condition report, Portable appliance testing, Fire safety report and Health and safety report. All certificates are displayed.

Part 2 – Church Grounds

The church grounds have been kept in excellent condition by Teresa and the Community Payback team.

All Saints Church, Downshire Square, Reading

All Safety reports are up-to-date including annual fire alarm testing (annually in October) and PAT testing (annually in March).

The community payback team are doing an excellent job with the cleaning at All Saints Church and keeping the gardens maintained.

Kwaw Elliott / Linda Parish, Churchwardens

Annual Report for St Mark's Hall (Reading) 2025

Hall Office – ABC to Read

The Hall Office continues to be used by ABC to Read.

We have increased their rent and they are happy to continue renting the hall and having their book sales in the hall every so many months.

Hall Hire

The hall hire continues to have a steady flow of ad hoc hires and social events from various groups within the community. We still have regular clients who hire the hall every week. One group in particular LAS Fitness hire the hall 3 times a week, twice on a Monday and Wednesday.

Repairs/Instalments

The hall has had the walls painted for a fresh look.

The Hall guttering on the South side, is rotten. 3 quotes have been received ranging from £900 (repair) to £2000+ (complete replacement of south side.) The complete replacement was rejected, but the artisans for the repair have miraculously disappeared. This leak has caused a lot of problems for ABC to Read.

A Lot of Hall chairs need replacing. At least 20 more needed.

Services

The windows have continued to be cleaned every 8 weeks to maintain the standards of the hall and the guttering cleared once a year.

The bins are cleaned once every 3 months to help keep the area clean and free from vermin.

The Payback team come periodically and help keep the grounds clear and have made a compost bin at the back of the hall.

PAT Testing has been completed.

Atlas – Have serviced all our fire extinguishers in the hall.

Fire Alarms – We need to look to get these serviced and make sure they are all working as they should.

Hall Cleaning

Mrs Lewis continues to clean the hall but will be retiring at the end of August to fully retire.

Security

The hall alarm will now be given to those members who use the hall on a long-term basis.

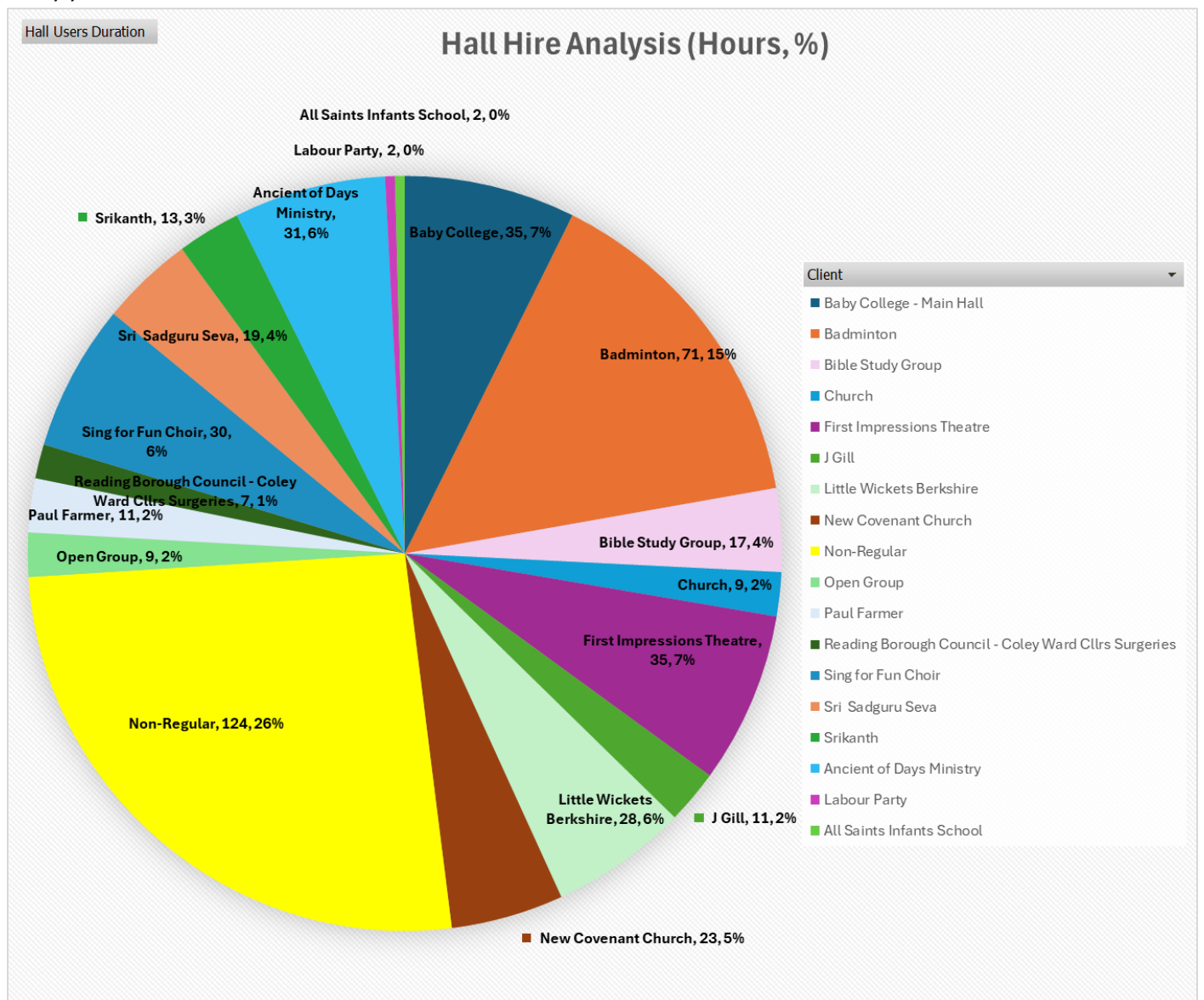
Sharon Hyman, St Mark's Hall Secretary

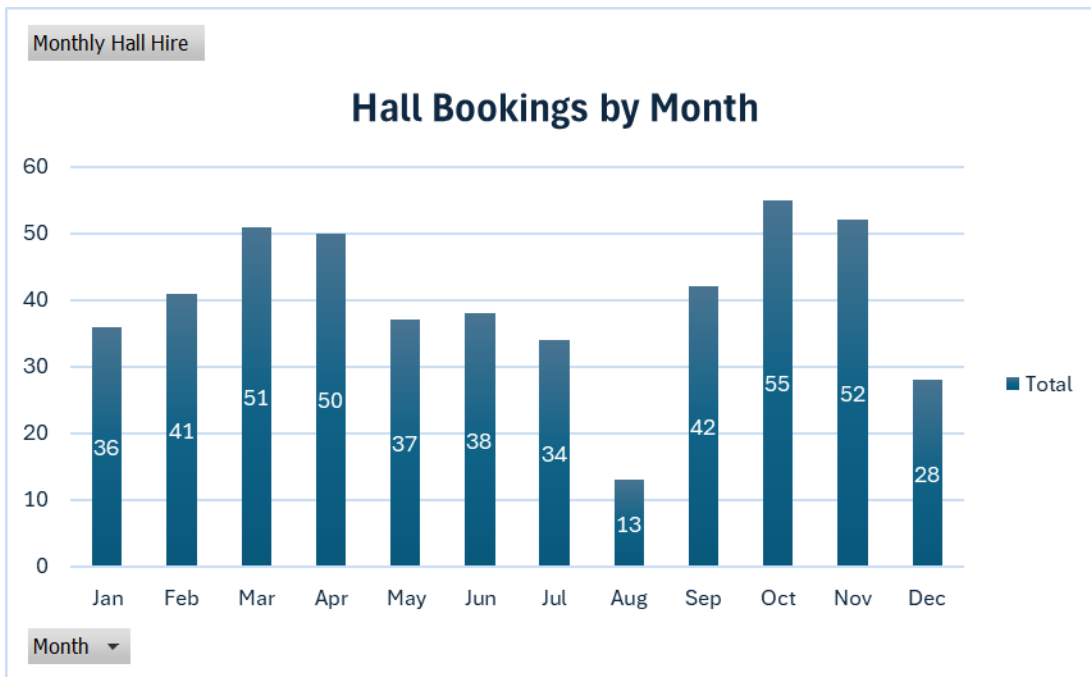
Annual Report for All Saints Hall (Reading) 2025

Hall Hire

Our hall hire hours are 223 hours in 2022, 396 hours in 2023, 471 hours in 2024 and 477 hours in 2025 which shows hall letting is successfully increasing every year, and usually 70 % of church hall was used by the regular customers and the rest of 30% was used by the one-off contracts. This ratio has not been changed for these years. Please see the hall hire analysis below. One of our long-term customers, Ancient of Days Ministry left us, but three new long-term customers, Little Wickets, Sri Sadguru Seva / Srikanth and New Covenant Church joined us and regularly bring us healthy incomes every month.

Our hall bookings are always lower in August and December when many regular customers are on holiday every year.





Repair / Instalment / Services

Jan – Gas boiler service by Gardner Mechanical Services

Feb – 1 x 50-watt PIR flood light to sidewalk leading to office / 1 x Led PIR security light by main entrance door supplied by LVS Electrical.

Mar – PAT Test carried out by Janus Safety Solutions

May – *Supplied and installed a new Dudley Turbo Edge syphon / Lever arm and doughnut sealing washer to Disabled W.C. cistern by J E Drisse Plumbing & Heating (*Oven repair by UpFix)

Jul – Asbestos Survey carried out by Mark Clifford Surveys

Sep – Supplied and installed a new Dudley Victoria dual flush valve to W.C. cistern / Electrical Installation carried out – 16 x 6-foot twin Led light fittings by J E Drisse Plumbing & Heating

Oct – Atlas Fire Protection – Fire extinguisher annual service / Smoke Heat detectors / LED Emergency lights bulb

Oct – Roof Repair carried out by L&E Leadwork and Roofing Services

Nov – Supplied and installed 1 x 1500mm Led baton light fitting under stage / 1 x Led lamp to church entrance light.

Dec – Supplied and Fitted Replacement Glass to Window (Windows damaged by the hall hire)

Hall Cleaning

The hall has been clean, tidy and well-presented thanks to Paul, Jackie, Wendy, John, Elizabeth and some of our members clean and the maintain high standards.

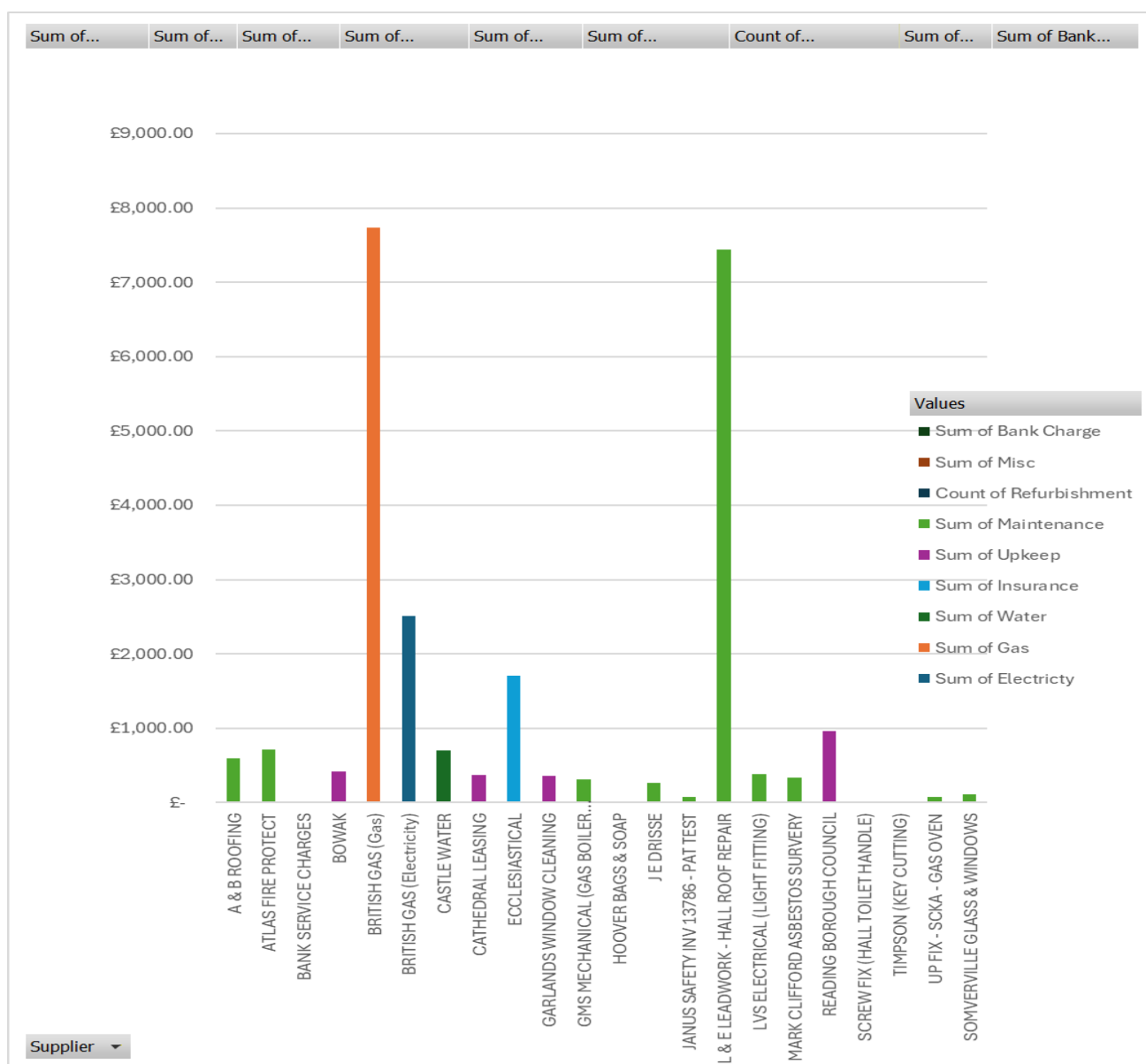
Our contractors for the hall cleaning are as below:

Garlands for exterior window cleaning bimonthly.

Cathedral Leasing for Hygiene bins.

Bowak – We regularly buy cleaning and hygiene materials from Bowak.

Reading Borough Council – Trade Waste



Security

A new code for the hall was changed April 2026. This will help with security for any unauthorised entry to the hall.

Finance

The total of revenue of the hall in 2025 was £26,262.85, which is just over 5% more than previous year. The total expenses were £17,664.55, which was increased by 3.8 % more than last year. The main expenses for the hall were Gas, Electricity, Insurance and Repair. Gas cost went up by 14 % compared with the cost of last year.

Notably, one of our big expenses in 2025 was the church hall roof repair we carried out. The hall used to have a serious water leak which was damaging the ceiling.

Profit & Loss

2025

Revenue:	£26,262.85
Expenses:	-£17,664.55
Roof Repair:	<u>-£ 7,440.00</u>
Profit:	£1,158.30

Tammy Goto

All Saints Hall Treasurer

Safeguarding Report 2025

Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is engrained in our church activities and essential to allow all to worship and grow in Christ safely. As such safeguarding is a standing item on PCC agenda and actively discussed.

Formal Obligation

We, the PCC complies with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2006 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding Roles

During the year our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Levine Whitham, stepped down due to other commitments. We record our thanks to her and are working to recruit a new PSO. Our DBS Verifier is Elizabeth Hodge.

Policy, Guidance, and information

We have adopted the CoE, 'Promoting a Safer Church' as our safeguarding policy, signed and dated 19th June 2025, available on our website. We have also adopted the CoE Safer Recruitment of Ex-offenders policy, endorsed by the PCC in May 2023.

We work in line with the CoE safeguarding policy and practice guidance and record our safeguarding activities on the 'Reading St Mark and All Saints Safeguarding Dashboard'. The dashboard is a great resource as it aligns to the Parish Safeguarding handbook guidance, and gives advice and weblinks to policy and the handbook to ensure compliance. The dashboard is regularly reviewed and updated. Our dashboard status is Level 3, 99% complete.

Safeguarding learning and Development

All PCC members have completed the required safeguarding training for their allocated roles. Training is up to date and recorded. Regular checks are undertaken to ensure training is kept up to date by the PCC secretary. The last check on training was undertaken at PCC on 7th May 2026.

Safer recruitment and people management

The PSO, DBS administrator, and clergy have undertaken safer recruitment and people management training pathway, and training is up to date.

Concerns raised

Any safeguarding concerns raised are routinely reported to PSO and the diocesan safeguarding team.

Next Steps

We will continue to promote a safer church and respond to concerns as raised. We will review and update the dashboard, risk assessments and procedures where necessary. We will ensure the PCC are kept up to date with any progress, concerns and matters raised.

Health and Safety Report 2025

Health and Safety checks are carried out at both churches regularly and all actions are discussed with the churchwardens and brought up at PCC meetings.

The Ecclesiastical template for Health and Safety checks is used for accuracy and consistency.

The churches are in good order, and I thank both wardens for their assistance with the checks.

Susan Carter

Health and Safety Officer