



Holy Trinity

Coxheath

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 4th May 2025
following the 11am service

Report and Associated Information

**“Growing as Disciples of Christ to Build the
Kingdom of God”**

Annual Business Meetings

Election of Churchwardens Meeting

Agenda

1. Election of Churchwarden(s) for the Parish of Coxheath

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last APCM 5th May 2024 for approval
3. Election of PCC members (3 x 3-year vacancies, 1 x 1-year casual vacancy)
4. Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM
5. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and parish activities
6. Presentation of Financial Statement and Accounts for year ending 31st December 2024
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025
8. Report on fabric, goods and ornaments
9. Report on the Deanery Synod
10. Chairman's Address
11. Open Discussion



HOLY TRINITY COXHEATH ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 5th May 2024

Present:	There were 20 parishioners present
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CHURCHWARDEN ELECTION	<p>Welcome Rev. Lorna Faulkner welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
Item 1	<p>Election of Churchwardens Sandra Baker (SB) was proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England requirements and was duly elected. SB was thanked for her continued service. This will be SB's final year as Churchwarden. Jen Tobin (JT) was proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England requirements and was duly elected. SB will have the opportunity to mentor JT before she stands down in 2025.</p>
APCM Item 1	<p>Apologies for Absence None received</p>
Item 2	<p>Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 5th May 2024 The minutes were received and approved with the addition of Amanda Bird listed under apologies for absence.</p>
Item 4	<p>Election of PCC Members Under previously agreed rules 3 PCC members stood down leaving 3 vacancies. There were also 2 casual vacancies remaining on the PCC from previous years. Tim Gregson, Amanda Bird and Judy Weeks were proposed and seconded in accordance with Church of England rules and were duly elected. There were no further nominations.</p>
Item 5	<p>Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll Marian Simpson, our Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there are 65 people on the Electoral Roll with 24 people not resident in the Parish.</p>
Item 6	<p>Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and Parish Activities Rev. Lorna Faulkner encouraged everyone to take home the Annual Report and be encouraged by the work that is being done in the Parish and the Benefice. Rev. Lorna also drew attention to the work of the Pastoral Support Team which works across the Benefice and encouraged others to engage in this work. This is a message that has been given at all APCM's to urge Benefice engagement with the team.</p>

Item 7	<p>Presentation of Financial Statements and Accounts for the year ending December 2020</p> <p>Treasurer, Tim Gregson (TG), reported that the Accounts had been externally examined and approved by the PCC at their last meeting.</p> <p>TG thanked all those that raise money towards Church funds, give regularly and have donated to the building works. He drew attention to the fact that our regular income has increased by 2% but that other costs have increased by 5.4% and that this is a concern going forward. He asked that people prayerfully considered increasing their regular giving. We now have a CollectTin to enable digital giving. This is as part of a pilot by the DChurch of England and will be available at most weekly services and additional services and events. Our major challenge for 2025 will be funding our Children and Families Work.</p> <p>The congregation were invited to ask questions:</p> <p>Q Sue Elliott asked if it was possible to direct giving specifically towards Childrens work.</p> <p>A Yes this is possible and money can be ring fenced if TG is informed.</p> <p>Rev. Lorna thanked Tim for all his work as Treasurer and his clear reporting.</p>
Item 8	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024</p> <p>Clare O’Farrell is happy to continue in her role as our Independent Examiner for 2024 and was elected unanimously by the attending parishioners.</p>
Item 9	<p>Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments</p> <p>All details of on-going works and previous work are included in the Annual Report.</p> <p>SB thanked the Fabric Committee for lightening her load and Rev. Lorna thanked them for keeping a watchful eye on the building.</p>
Item 10	<p>Report on the Deanery Synod</p> <p>Holy Trinity is the only Church within the Benefice to have Deanery Synod Representatives. The other Churches have been encouraged to consider representation as these are informative and enjoyable meetings. A full report of the meetings is included in the Annual Report.</p>
Item 11	<p>Chairman’s address</p> <p>Rev. Lorna thanked Helen Gregson for successfully applying for building work grants and continuing to work during her illness.</p> <p>Our seasonal services have worked well this year leading to many conversations with our community and return visits. We should be encouraged that God is working in our community. Our building is now being considered and used as a community space by the local craft group. We need to encourage families that have shown some interest in joining us and two leaflets have been produced to help both visitors and the congregation adjust to family worship.</p> <p>Rev. Lorna thanked everyone including the PCC for all they do in encouraging people to attend our Church.</p>

Item 11	<p>Open discussion</p> <p>Q How are new attendees reflected in our numbers? (Marilyn Hansford)</p> <p>A These are reported to the Diocese in 'Stats for Mission' by the Churchwarden annually, and in the electoral roll. Maybe this could be shared wider (LF).</p> <p>Q When do Sides-people get elected? (Barry Doyle)</p> <p>A This is a PCC responsibility and they will be elected at the short PCC meeting following this APCM.</p> <p>Marilyn Hansford offered thanks to the Ministry Team for all that they do throughout the year.</p>
	The meeting closed at 12.45 pm with a prayer from Rev. Lorna Faulkner.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Annual Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and Church/Benefice Activities 2023/24

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Introduction

Holy Trinity Church is a friendly, welcoming church at the heart of the ecclesiastical parish of Coxheath and is part of the United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh. The Church was built in 1884 as the chapel to the Workhouse and then became the chapel to the former Linton Hospital at Coxheath. It became the Parish church for the village in 1996. The village has a population of 4,931 (Census 2021) and continues to grow.

Rev. Lorna Faulkner has been the Incumbent of our Benefice since October 2022. She is supported by two retired ministers with Permission to Officiate, a Lay Reader who is also the Children and Families Worker and a Pastoral Assistant with permission to take services.

Services are held every Sunday morning apart from in a five Sunday month when the fifth Sunday is a joint service for all our Churches held at one of the Churches in the Benefice. There is a mid-week celebration of Holy Communion every Thursday morning and the Church offers a range of Sunday services which includes an all-age service on the fourth Sunday of the month. There are children's groups covering a variety of ages and opportunities for bible study, prayer and social activities.

Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll

2025 was the year for a complete revision of the Church Electoral Roll. There are now 52 members on the roll, 17 of whom are not resident within the parish. 8 new names have been added and 21 have been removed. You can have your name added at any point during the year so please contact Marian Simpson, our electoral roll officer, if you would like more information.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

Holy Trinity's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of supporting those in the Ministry Team and our Churchwardens to promote, within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of Holy Trinity Church, Heath Road, Coxheath, which is owned by the Rochester Diocese.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and for the Church to become part of the wider parish community. The PCC relies upon the voluntary contributions of its members and the Church community to support worship, prayer, pastoral care and outreach.

Proceedings of the PCC

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 85%.

The only statutory committee of the PCC is the Standing Committee which currently consists of our Rector, our Churchwardens, Treasurer and one lay member of the PCC. The Standing Committee is responsible to the PCC and makes decisions on items that need immediate attention between PCC meetings.

During the year the Standing Committee communicated, over email, in October 2024 to approve the costs for the repointing of the stained-glass window to stop water ingress.

It is the PCC's policy to support Charities throughout the year by way of Giving Sundays. On these Sundays, the loose collection is passed to the Charities together with a donation from the PCC.

The Giving Sundays for 2024/2025 were:

- May 2024 – Restored
- July 2024 – Crossroads Care Maidstone
- September 2024 - Involve
- Harvest Sunday 2024 – Homeless Care/Making a Difference to Maidstone
- November 2024 – Making Miracles
- Christmas Services 2024 – Heart of Kent Hospice and Demelza House
- February 2025 – Maidstone Street Pastors
- March 2025 – The Princess Project

Charitable status: Holy Trinity PCC is treated as a charity.

PCC membership currently consists of the Rector Rev. Lorna Faulkner, a Churchwarden and our Lay Reader together with up to 9 lay members elected by those who are on the Church electoral roll. Additionally, there is provision for 2 Deanery Synod Representatives. Anyone on the Electoral Roll who meets the criteria under the Charities Act 2011, can stand for election to the PCC. Each elected member stands for a term of 3 years. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the PCC on an annual basis at the first meeting after the APCM.

Current PCC Membership

Name	Role	Name	Role
Rev. Lorna Faulkner	Rector/Chairperson	Tim Gregson	Treasurer
Becky Parnham	Lay Reader/Children's Worker	Helen Gregson	Secretary
Sandra Baker	Churchwarden	Amanda Bird	Member
Jen Tobin	Churchwarden	Marilyn Hansford	Member
Marian Simpson	Deanery Synod Rep.	Mike Marsh	Member
Sue Elliott	Deanery Synod Rep.	Judy Weeks	Member

Mike Marsh has completed his term of office on the PCC. The PCC would like to thank him for his time of service during this time.

Sandra Baker will be standing down as Churchwarden after 28 years of service to Holy Trinity.

The PCC would like to thank Sandra for her unfailing service during this time.

There are four PCC vacancies to be filled at this year's APCM. There are three vacancies for a three year term, as there are each year, and a casual vacancy for a one year term where there is an outstanding vacancy.

Safeguarding

Benefice Safeguarding Officer Report

Last year safeguarding and The Church of England were very much in the public eye.

In 2023 The National Safeguarding Team introduced 5 National Safeguarding Standards for parishes to work towards achieving. These standards will underpin the work of the (INEQE) Independent Safeguarding Group Audit which is due to be carried out in Rochester in 2027.

The need for this work was highlighted in November 2024 following the independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth.

The PCC and the incumbent have always had a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their church community. Every year they adopt and implement The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church'

The PCC spent a great deal of time discussing how we can promote a healthy and safe culture in Holy Trinity and I am grateful to Helen Gregson, the PCC secretary, for taking notes during this discussion and producing an action plan to take things forward.

All those responsible for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults in Holy Trinity continue to be recruited safely following the Safer Recruitment criteria and will undertake the relevant safeguarding training when required.

The Reverend David Jones continues to renew any DBS checks in this parish and across the whole benefice, for which I am extremely grateful.

I would also like to thank Tim Gregson for updating the safeguarding information on the Benefice website.

Mags Poole

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

[Lead Recruiters Report](#)

The role of Lead Recruiter is the last part of the Safer Recruiting Procedure and comes into play when others have done their work in seeking, discerning, interviewing and recommending people to specific role in the Benefice.

It involves checking that the job description fits with the level of Disclosure being applied for, obtaining the completed Self Declaration Form from the person being appointed to the role and then finally applying for the Disclosure Certificate from the Barring and Disclosure Service.

I am pleased to report firstly the willingness of everyone to engage fully with the process, the speed at which Disclosures are obtained and that everyone at present is fully compliant. A Disclosure lasts for 3 years and this year we begin another large renewal of Disclosures for PCC members and children's workers. Early 2025 saw a revision of the Pastoral Care Team job description and a renewal of Disclosures for all members.

The task of the Lead Recruiter, as with all Safeguarding issues is never over but the support of the people involved makes my life simpler and more enjoyable.

Rev. David Jones

Lead Recruiter

Ministry Team Reports

Rectors Report

Life and ministry at Holy Trinity continues to be a blessing.

We are seeing gentle growth with a few new people and families starting to come along, finding God's love and welcome among us. It's lovely to see friendships growing and people enjoying our times of worship and fellowship week by week.

Brew and Bite continues to bless the community and BB Youth has emerged out of those times – an extended session with the young people where there's an opportunity for food and space to ask questions and be together.

We continue to engage with our local community in many ways – hosting the community forum meetings, a space for the crafting group to work their magic, and welcoming class visits from Coxheath Primary and a local pre-school, as well as providing music and fun at the annual Christmas Light switch-on

It's been quite a year for me, personally too, and I would like to thank you all for your love, prayers, concern and support.

I would also like to pay tribute to the fantastic Ministry Team and all those of you who make life happen in our church community. Everyone has had a part in keeping life going and I am excited to see how God wants to grow and stretch us in the coming year.

Rev. Lorna Faulkner

Rector

Minister with Permission to Officiate (PTO)

Every 3 years I am required to seek the permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Rochester to operate as a priest in their Dioceses. This is not an automatic process as it involves a report, interview with the Area Deans and appropriate Archdeacons and then the Bishop's signature. Without a PTO (Permission to Officiate) my role as a priest comes to an end. In addition, I must obtain all the necessary Safeguarding Requirements. These have been obtained and are valid until 2028.

The first call to my time is the Coxheath Benefice. Here I offer 3 out of 4 Sundays a month and also mid-week services. I am also available for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Outside this commitment I am invited to cover at All Saint's Staplehurst when the incumbent is away on holiday and because St Peter's Boughton is in interregnum the occasional 8am Sunday Communion there. I can only offer my services when invited by the incumbent and that also applies to work in the Coxheath Benefice.

Finally, I serve the PCC at St Mary's Hunton as secretary and treasurer,

Outside my parish commitments I am the 'on-call' chaplain at Maidstone Hospital on a Friday night each week and the chaplain at the SECamb (South East Coast Ambulance Service's) East Emergency Operations Control at Gillingham.

I am very grateful to be asked to take services by the local incumbents and for the support of many people in the community. I also get tremendous support from the Retired Clergy Chapter of the

Malling Deanery – a collection of about 15 retired clergy who meet bi-monthly and provide peer group encouragement and support to the parishes in the Malling Deanery.

Finally thank you to Lorna, fellow members of the Ministry Team and all of you for your support over many years now. This year marks my 25th anniversary of ordination in 2000.

Rev. David Jones

Minister with Permission to Officiate (PTO)

Permission to officiate was renewed by Bishop Jonathan at the end of my first year ministering in the Benefice, so I can now take services until the end of May 2027. I continue also to have PtO for the diocese of Canterbury.

The most recent safeguarding course for clergy has been passed, updating what was already in place, and, by the time of the annual parochial church meeting, training in connection with domestic abuse will have been completed.

In the eleven months since the end of March last year, I will have taken five Sunday services at Coxheath and twenty midweek Communion. The number of services in the other parishes come to eight at East Farleigh, two at Hunton, six at Linton plus two midweeks there, and five at West Farleigh. That is a total of forty-eight services in my honorary capacity. In addition, with Lorna's blessing, I am volunteering from time to time at St Peter's, Boughton Monchelsea, which has now been eighteen months without a vicar.

Meetings of the ministry team are much appreciated as an opportunity for fellowship as well as for disseminating information and discussion. I am grateful, too, for those in the congregations who give feedback, and to be able to talk about what has been shared during worship. Clergy do not have a monopoly of knowledge and insight!

I look forward to continuing to provide ministry of the word and sacrament, God willing, as we worship together and learn more through the Scriptures. May Christ nourish us and build us up in faith, love and action.

Rev. Clinton Davis

Licensed Lay Minister Report

2024 has seen me continue to exercise this calling on my life through leading and preaching at services across the benefice, as well as attending and sometimes co-ordinating, community events too.

I was invited to participate in the Rochester Lay Leadership programme which saw a small group of lay ministers from across the diocese gathering together 4 times across the year delving deeper into the theology of Wisdom for Leaders and being equipped to 'meet the leadership challenges that the church faces in the 21st Century'. Whether it was truly successful only time will tell; but I found it a very useful time of listening, learning, reflecting on my journey so far as well as looking forward to seeing how I could put into practice the things we were learning.

I continue to meet with my spiritual adviser who often challenges my thinking and helps me to keep my feet on God's path whilst providing a safe place to discuss any challenges I am facing.

It is always a privilege to share God's word with others and this ministry continually stretches me and challenges my preconceptions as well as allowing me time and space to deepen my faith in ways I didn't think possible.

I am also incredibly grateful to everyone who upholds me in prayer, especially on those Sunday mornings when the message is a hard one to deliver.

God bless,

Becky Parnham

Licensed Lay Minister

Pastoral Assistant Report

For the past year I have continued to facilitate the Benefice Pastoral Support Team by leading the monthly worship and team meetings, updating our job description and risk assessment, and assigning referred folks to the team members to visit. Those that we visit are so grateful and it is very rewarding.

My other main role has been taking Services of the Word, usually at West Farleigh, sometimes East Farleigh or Coxheath. This is something that is a real privilege and that I really enjoy doing, though it still takes me forever to write a sermon!

Once a month I am on the rota as a Maidstone Street Pastor, going into town on Saturday evening and helping folks in vulnerable situations, a practical way of working out my Christian faith.

Do ask me if you'd like to find out more about the Pastoral Support Team or Street Pastoring. New volunteers for both of these groups are always welcome.

Blessings,

Sue Elliott

Pastoral Assistant

Worship, Bible Study and Prayer

The Church is open for Sunday services and any additional services required throughout the year including the main Church festivals of Christmas and Easter. Our Harvest celebration included breakfast before the service.

We held 5 Funerals and 7 Baptisms in the period January – December 2024

Thursday Communion

Thursday Communion takes place weekly at 10am and includes the Mothers Union Corporate Holy Communion on the first Thursday of the month.

Bible Study Groups

Our Lent study groups took place in homes across the Benefice looking at 'The Hardest Part' by Kate Bowler https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-hardest-part/

Benefice Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is a small group of people who have continued throughout the year to respond to prayer requests. The requests cover a wide variety of needs and situations. People can ask for themselves, for others or a specific situation. If requesting prayer for others their permission must be given and all prayer requests are kept confidential within the group.

It is a joy to receive updates and hear when prayers have been answered. The prayers for a person or situation usually continue for one month but in some cases, where there is an ongoing need, that is extended. Prayer requests are circulated by email to members of the group so that there can be a confidential and rapid response.

Prayer requests can be emailed to Marian Simpson at david.marian@btinternet.com or by phoning 01622 743977

Marian Simpson

Prayer Chain Co-Ordinator

Benefice Ladies Prayer Group

The benefice Ladies prayer group meets weekly on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11 am.

I requested some impressions of what the group means to Ladies who attend week by week:

- Safe place for prayer. Fellowship, peace, being of some use.
- Our prayer group is a way for asking help for others who sometimes unable to do so.
- Our lovely prayer group generates its own power and nurtures empathy.
- Peace, friendship, learning, like minded. Personal, local, UK and worldwide prayer.
- A time to pause and be still.
- People around the world and locally have problems and our prayer group gives us a chance to collectively to pray for needs. Also a chance to thank the Lord for all he has done.
- Supportive. Some laughter and joy.

We give thanks for another year and always hope to welcome new members.

Anyone interested please contact Dawn 01622 435882

Dawn Burnell

Benefice Men's Prayer Group

The group continue to meet once a week on a Tuesday morning at 9 am for an hour. The venue alternates between Mike and Steve's houses for convenience and consistency.

In terms of numbers of men attending, we can have as many as seven which is encouraging. There is always room for more of course and we would welcome any new faces to join us for this time of fellowship.

We meet in a friendly and calm atmosphere as we open with some topical discussion or news, (we have some laughs too) followed by reading a bible passage together that someone has chosen.

A few of us have bible commentaries which are always useful in opening up and understanding the bible verses, context and historical notes. Some use the UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) daily bible notes and topics here will come up in conversation regularly.

On occasions, we play reflective music as we go into the prayer time where there is no obligation to pray aloud and just listening in quiet reflection is fine. Why not join us on a Tuesday morning?

Please call Mike 07595 428639 or Steve 07904 212245 find out where we are meeting that day.

Mike Marsh

Church in the Community

Benefice Children and Families Work

2024 has seen the team spending time considering the activities and groups we run, especially in light of the uncertainty there has been around the employed worker role.

We have continued to meet regularly as a team, not only to discuss plans for the term ahead but also for a time of prayer and fellowship.

We use these meetings to consider training requirements and do invite others, such as the Diocesan Team Lead for Children and Young People's Mission and Ministry Team, to join us and share their expertise.

It has been encouraging this year to see the Diocese recognise the importance of working with children and young people as they brought the team into the wider Mission and Ministry team during their restructuring.

Nationally the Church of England has also realised the importance of encouraging children and young people through their intention to grow a younger and more diverse church community nationally. This has led to two of the team taking part in the pilot training programme – Catalyst – designed by Ridley Theological College to help support and enable children and youth workers.

As a team we remain committed to building relationships with the families we have contact with whether through our regular groups and activities or through the crafternoons and other one-off events. We may not be seeing a huge increase in the numbers of families attending church on a Sunday morning, but we are seeing an increase in the numbers attending the family focussed activities we are providing.

Prayer and hospitality are key ingredients in this ministry and, as a team we are incredibly grateful for all who supply either (or both) of those throughout the year.

On a personal note, I am thankful to the members of the PCC's who have seen the benefit of the Employed Worker Role and have dug deep to be able to continue the funding for the post. I am, as ever, grateful to every single member of the team who regularly give of their time whilst exercising their gifts in the fulfilment of this ministry to children and families, and at the same time, trusting that, however hair-brained the scheme may sound, I have actually rooted it in Jesus first!

As ever, if you want more detail about anything the team have been up to, or have planned, please feel free to get in touch – I'm always happy to share information.

Blessings,

Becky Paruham

Children and Families Worker

Benefice Pastoral Support Team (PST)

The Pastoral Support Team (PST) meets monthly, when possible, for worship followed by discussion. There are seven members.

When appropriate we have visited or sent 'Thinking of You' cards to those members of our congregations who are sick, bereaved or in difficulty. We continue to be present at Baptisms within the Benefice, when possible, and to send Baptism Anniversary and Wedding Anniversary cards.

We are continuing to work with the Social Prescriber, Lyndsey Cooper, from Greensands Health Centre, who has referred folks to us. These are people who are usually housebound, for a variety of reasons, and have given Lyndsey their permission for her to pass their details on to us. One person in West Farleigh was referred to us via the Anna Chaplaincy Lead, Julia Burton-Jones. Sadly, that lovely Christian lady died in August and had a wonderful funeral in West Farleigh church which two PST members took part in. A couple, that Lyndsey had referred to us, both died within a couple of weeks of one another. Their double funeral was in November and three team members attended.

Four members of the team did three 2-hour sessions of Anna Friends training in May with Suzanne Yeo from Canterbury Diocese. This helped us with our understanding of dementia and how to help.

We will be sending out cards to the whole Benefice, some in the village Newsletters, to offer a listening ear and company for people who are housebound, for various reasons.

As our workload increases, we really would welcome others to join the team. The time needed is not onerous especially if we had more members. All our members at the moment are worshippers at Coxheath and it would be good to have people from the other parishes because we are a Benefice Group.

If you would like to join the Team or find out more about us, please contact us via the Benefice website Pastoral Support Team page under the Groups tab or speak to one of the team.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to each member of the team; Lesley, Margaret, Marian, Marilyn, Barry and Steve, for all that you have done and continue to do for those in need in our Benefice.

Sue Elliott

Pastoral Assistant and Ministry Team Member

[Brew and a Bite](#)

Brew and A Bite is a space for members of the community to come and chat, receive some food and drink and have a warm and welcoming place to be with other people.

From 2024 to 2025 we have seen Brew and A Bite develop further, particularly in our work with young people. In early 2024, it was agreed by the PCC for Brew and Bite to continue on a Tuesday with the new hours of 12 noon to 5pm. This was to ensure that we were able to offer a space for those within our community who may be seeking company due to issues such as loneliness. This has continued to serve many regular attendees, including approximately 5 regulars outside of the usual church congregation and a number of occasional attendees and those who pop in due to one off visits to Coxheath, such as attending an appointment at the medical centre.

It has been noted that more can be done to raise awareness of our presence to the general public, particularly during the hours of 12-3pm. Plans have been made and are underway to develop a campaign which will reach a wider audience so that they are aware of our presence and the space and service we offer.

From our 5 regulars at Brew and A Bite who are outside the usual church congregation, we have seen 3 come to church occasionally and 2 come forward to be part of the volunteer team for Brew and A Bite.

Brew and A Bite continues to be incredibly popular from 3-5pm. We see a large proportion of children, families and young people come every week. On an average week, we tend to see around

15-20 regulars come into the church and the majority of these stay for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. We have also seen the number of primary school age children grow in attendance by around 3-4. This is due to children, who have been before, telling their friends about it at school. There has been evidence of this attendance transferring into church attendance too. Although not on a weekly basis, we have now seen at least 2 of our families come to church on the odd occasion due to their connection to Brew and A Bite and therefore a new connection to church.

In October 2024, the PCC agreed to extend the hours of Brew and A Bite to 7pm, so that from 5:30-7pm we could hold a space specifically for the youth (B&B Youth) who had been regularly attending Brew and A Bite. This space is open to anyone aged 11-18. During this time we eat a meal together, have discussions and spend time together in games, activities and conversation. Since the start of B&B Youth we have already seen the number of young people attending grow from 9 to 13. This, again, is due to the young people telling their friends about it.

We have now also developed links with Cornwallis Academy (the school from which the majority of our young people come) and the plan is to extend our ministry into the school in the form of independent listeners at break and lunch time. We have connected with other local churches to provide this and the hope is that we will be able to connect more young people to the work of Brew and A Bite and B&B Youth.

Jen Tobin

Beacon Men

On the evening of the 26th of January, we started the year off with a gathering at the Bull Inn at Linton. As last year, this was a much less formal event than previous years. Accounts are still scrupulously kept by our treasurer, Mike Marsh, which are officially checked and circulated to members. The evening is more of a planning meeting for suggestions about events for the coming year and serves as a watered-down AGM. It's also a lovely occasion for fellowship and beer sampling. This year we had 11 attendees with a couple of very welcome new faces.

The second event of the year was a very successful movie night held on Friday the 23rd of February at the church. Twenty people attended to watch 'Castles in the Sky' starring Eddie Izzard, the true story of the development of radar which gave the RAF a twenty-minute warning of the approach of enemy aircraft allowing vital time for our pilots to get airborne and provide the Luftwaffe with a reception committee.

On Saturday the 16th of March, seven Beacon Men met at the Toby Inn in Langley for breakfast. It didn't go completely to plan as we were supposed to be joining the men's group from All Saints in Loose. It turned out, however, that the two groups were given separate parts of the restaurant. I didn't matter though because the breakfast was terrific as was the fellowship around the Beacon Men table.

We had a very pleasant evening on Friday the 26th of April. The weather was dry and mild as 18 Beacon People (this event was open to ladies) met in the car park next to St Nicholas's Church, Linton, before walking along a footpath which wends its way through orchards and woods to Boughton Monchelsea where we visited St Peter's Church. Mike Marsh had arranged for one of the Churchwardens to open the church and give us a very interesting talk about its history. The highlight, though, was viewing the Millennium Window which was not just a window but a musical light show. This was followed by another stroll back along the footpath to Linton and the Bull Inn for drinks and nibbles.

I've always loved the account of the Risen Jesus inviting the disciples to "Come and have breakfast." On Saturday morning, the 18th of May, a total of 30 men responded to an invitation from the Beacon Men to come and have breakfast at the Scout Hut in the village. I never cease to be amazed at how popular and successful these events are. We had a riveting and sometimes moving talk from Rupert of the 'Jesus Saves' Racing Team. Founded by Alex Rebeiro in Brazil in 1967, 'Jesus Saves' has appeared on the side of Formula 1, 2, 3, and Formula Ford cars since the '70s. Rupert brought along a Formula Ford racing car for us to see. Powered by nothing more than a 1600cc Cortina engine it can reach 120mph. As usual, the superb breakfast was cooked by James Small who was ably assisted by Matt Edwards and, as always, the driving force (excuse the pun) for this event was Mike Marsh, so grateful thanks to all of them.

The evening of Wednesday the 12th of June saw the increasingly popular annual ten pin bowling competition at the Lockmeadow Hollywood Bowl, followed by a meal at the nearby Thai Orchid restaurant. This year we had a total of 18 Beacon People (this event being open to ladies) for the bowling and 16 for the meal. The good thing about including ladies who are keen to join our events is that they often bring along their non-church going husbands who may then be encouraged to join future Beacon Men events. Barry Doyle won the bowling for the second year running by coming joint first with Chris Bird. The meal at the Thai Orchid was superb, very reasonably priced, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

Saturday the 13th of July was a good day. This was when 21 Beacon People (we were again joined by ladies for this event) met at the Grove Ferry Inn at Upstreet for an hours boat trip along the delightfully meandering Great Stour River. The weather was dull and unseasonably chilly for July but this did nothing to detract from the beautiful scenery and the peace and quiet. We were hailed by other friendly boaters when we passed them while enjoying the sights of crack willows, beaver lodges, and the magnificent sight of a marsh harrier on the wing. After the trip, we had a delicious lunch in the inn. All in all, a really pleasant day.

On the evening of Saturday the 14th of September, James Small hosted the annual barbecue in the charmingly rustic setting of his back garden. Unfortunately, I can't comment much about the event this year as I was unable to attend, but from the photographs I've seen and from what I have been told it was a well attended and enjoyable evening. As usual, James supplied a sumptuous feast, so many thanks to him for his culinary expertise and warm hospitality.

The penultimate Beacon Men event of 2024 was on the evening of Saturday the 9th of November. About 60 people attended Boughton Monchelsea Working Men's Club for a night of dancing to the music of the '60s and '70s provided by the amazing local band, 2BC. This band really is good and on this occasion was ably assisted by our own Barry Doyle, who guested as lead singer for four songs. Halfway through the evening sausages and chips were supplied to everyone. It was a great evening.

The last event of 2024 was a very successful French food night at Holy Trinity Church on Friday 22nd of November. Our Beacon Men professional chef, James Small, worked his usual magic and provided the most delicious French cuisine and thankfully there wasn't a snail or frog's leg in sight. The meal was followed by a very interesting talk and slide show by Steve (Peanut) Parnham about his 2023 trip along the famous Route 66 from Chicago to California. It has to be said, it was a très bon nuit.

Steve Poole

Beacon Men Chairman

Mothers' Union (Coxheath Area Branch)

The branch currently has 12 members and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us. Contact number for information is listed below.

We meet monthly at 12 midday on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at a member's house. The meeting starts with worship, then an update on Mothers' Union news, followed by a fun activity and a 'bring and share' lunch. Occasionally we will have a guest speaker.

On the first Thursday of the month we celebrate communion at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath.

We host Soup on Sunday bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Members of the branch and church congregation make soup and join an average of 23 people to enjoy the soup and fellowship. Any donations are put towards Mothers' Union projects.

Throughout the year we have continued to work with the Coxheath Community Craft group to knit or sew figures to be displayed on the postbox in the centre of the village, and at the library.

We ran a stall at the Village Fete and a Strawberry Tea in the church in order to raise awareness of the work that The Mothers' Union do locally, nationally and globally.

For the last 4 years we have been involved with the Community Tea Boxes, providing a tea at home for nominated people in the local villages, and we continue to provide Bags of Love to parents/carers of children entering reception classes at our local schools.

In July we were presented with a Bronze Award by our Diocesan President for our work in the RISE UP campaign. The branch, together with donations from the church congregation, had purchased goods to make 'Moving In' and 'Moving On' packages that were delivered to OASIS, a local charity that supports victims of Domestic Abuse.

A list of all the projects we have supported is displayed on the Mothers' Union noticeboard at the back of Holy Trinity Church Coxheath.

Margaret Poole

Branch Contact Person - 07729176762

Coffee Morning

The success of the Coffee Morning continues on 2nd Saturday in each month in the Scout Hut with a few new faces joining us this year.

This is still a good outreach to the community who can come for a cuppa and chat and will often buy cakes to have with their drinks. The bric a brac stall, which is run by Mags Poole, is very successful with lots to look at. Thank you, Mags, for your continued support.

Although we do not seem to make quite as much money on the cake stall it is still worth making cakes etc. for people to enjoy. Thank you to those who contribute and support each month.

As usual the Easter and Christmas raffles are very popular and well supported. Thank you to everyone who donates the prizes, it is much appreciated as without their generosity it would not be worth doing.

Thanks must go to Christine and Kate in the kitchen for providing us with tea and coffees etc.

I am sure the Coffee Mornings will continue and provide the community with somewhere to go, relax and chat.

Sandra Baker

Coffee Morning Team Co-Ordinator

Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Fabric Committee consists of small number of PCC members plus some members of the congregation. It follows Terms of Reference set out by the PCC and provides update reports at the bimonthly PCC meetings. No decisions are taken without PCC approval.

The maintenance of our building continues with new problems always coming to light as we struggle to maintain a building that is over 100 years old.

The stained-glass window above the altar was repointed to prevent water ingress and we are still waiting for work to the apex stone and finial above the boiler room steps to be completed. A contractor has been engaged but as lime mortar needs to be used the progress of this repair has been hampered by the weather. We have fortunately been able to secure grants for the stonework which will cover a large proportion of the costs. We are grateful to both Friends of Kent Churches and the National Churches trust for their continued support.

The work to the Chancel has enabled the PCC to reimagine the space and you will have noticed the new carpet in the central aisle as well as the rug and cupboards in the alcove. The alcove is now being developed as a quiet reflective space for prayer and contemplation. At time of writing we are looking to source some new chairs and books for the library.

It has been noted that there is a fresh damp area appearing on the wall facing the piano. Investigations into this are ongoing but once the source of the issue is found and corrected the wall will need replastering.

Helen Gregson

Fabric Committee Lead

Churchwarden

This will be my last report as Churchwarden, as I am retiring from this role at the APCM after over 28 years in this position.

Although it has been a responsible position in the church, I have enjoyed it. The last few years without my soul mate David Simpson, have not been the same. We got on so well together and were on the same "hymn sheet" re the church.

However, you will not be left without a warden as Jen Tobin has felt the calling to come forward and take up this role. She has been shadowing me for the past year.

Please give her the support and encouragement that you have given me over the years. I wish you well Jen in your new role as Churchwarden and will always be willing to help you as and when needed.

Our various rotas help to keep the church running efficiently and I thank everyone for the continued commitment.

New units have been bought for the recess and blend in well. The carpet has now been laid where the old tiles were which unfortunately could not be restored.

The Terrier, Inventory and Logbook will be presented at the next PCC meeting in March.

Please continue with your prayers for the running of our church in the future.

Sandra Baker

Churchwarden

Deanery Synod

As is customary there have been 3 Deanery Synod meetings since the last APCM report. The meetings are informative and provide an opportunity to visit different places of worship and engage with other Deanery Synod representatives.

The first meeting was held on Tuesday 18th June at the Brassey Centre, Aylesford

The Rev. Wil North chaired the meeting and opened by reading from Psalm 39.

The Rev. Ruth Peet gave an introduction and an overview of Aylesford Parish. It has an interesting history and includes 3 primary schools, 1 secondary school, the Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford Priory and The Heart of Kent Hospice. The Brassey Centre was a former school building and the church uses the centre to connect with the village.

John Constanti, Director of Education, Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, gave a presentation and talked about how he felt all schools would eventually become academies. He emphasised the need for links between schools and churches as with church schools the PCCs should be involved with appointing school governors.

There followed updates on the Environment and Eco Church and Safeguarding.

This was the Rev. Wil North's last chairing of Deanery Synod meetings as he was ending his term as Rural Dean to take up a part time role as Associate Archdeacon in Tonbridge Archdeaconry.

The second meeting was held on Monday 7th October at All Saints Church, Snodland

The Rev. Danielle Pearson-Smith welcomed attendees and opened the meeting with prayers.

The Rev. Sue Brooks provided an introduction to Snodland Benefice which is a two church Benefice.

The population of the area expanded greatly in the 1960's and then again in 1972.

Ruth Campbell, Safeguarding Trainer at Rochester Diocese gave an informative and enthusiastic presentation. By the end of 2025 she hopes to have set up five local partnership courses recognising zoom doesn't work for everyone and face to face can make it easier for training. She emphasised the need to support each other and that she is available for advice and can support local churches.

Rev. Wil North gave an account of his sabbatical research looking at the experience of ordinands, curates, training incumbents and first incumbency appointments in Rochester Diocese 2023. The overall findings were a successful experience which relies on clear expectations and communication and those who struggled most with transition to curacy for a number of reasons were those on a part time course.

The third meeting was held on Tuesday 4th February at St Lawrence Church, Mereworth

The Rev. Danielle Pearson-Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Gary Townsend introduced Mereworth parish which includes West Peckham and Watlingbury churches. He explained how they were building connections between children, parents and school with a range of activities including concerts.

Matthew Girt, Diocesan Secretary talked about Vision and Strategy (previously known as Called Together) He outlined the strategy and the eventual outcomes for the Diocese.

Rev. Gary Townsend is hoping to lead a Healing and Wholeness course which will be open to any interested parties.

Rev. Sue Brooks gave an update on Environment and Eco-Church with special reference to any churches buying a new boiler for which she has forms available to help through the process.

Barry Foster reminded the meeting that as a Deanery we still have places to fill at Diocesan Synod. He asked that people consider taking on this role so that the Deanery has a voice at Diocesan level.

Marian Simpson

Deanery Synod Representative

Financial Statement and Accounts

Reserve Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to hold reserves of £12,500 of unrestricted money together with £600 ringfenced money for Children's work contributions. These are equivalent to 6 months of running expenses. There will also be £10,000 restricted money held in reserve for repairs and future works.

Bank

National Westminster Bank, 3 High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HJ.

Financial Summary of the year 2024 January – December.

The outturn for our 2024 financial year is far more positive than I had originally anticipated due the additional grants of £21,387.26 that we received toward our building works.

We also received an increase in regular giving during 2024 some of which has been ringfenced to allow us to continue to employ Becky as our Children and Families Worker going forward.

April 2024 also saw the arrival of the CollecTin digital giving device at Holy Trinity which raised £770 up until the end of our financial year in December. This equates to almost £1,000 of additional income once we have reclaimed Gift Aid on the donations.

Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)

The total amount of donations received, without conditions, from our trustees (the PCC) for 2024 was £13,959. This figure includes £11,146 of regular giving, £1,947 of Gift Aid recovered and £866 of gifts in kind.

Tim Gregson

Treasurer

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2024

2023	RECEIPTS	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
	COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS				
5,588.94	Collections at Services	6,809.62	-	6,809.62	
2,388.24	Charitable Giving Sunday Collections/Donations	-	1,787.47	1,787.47	
11,009.00	Gift Aid Donations	14,940.00	-	14,940.00	
4,637.15	Income tax recovered	4,714.08	3,087.74	7,801.82	
11,047.50	Building Repair/Maintenance Donations	-	1,045.00	1,045.00	32,383.91
	FEES FOR WEDDINGS/FUNERALS				
593.60	DBF Fees	-	340.40	340.40	
576.00	PCC & PTO Fees	406.00	589.60	995.60	1,336.00
	EVENTS AND FUND RAISING				
2,534.33	Fundraising events (Coffee Mornings etc.)	3,553.15	-	3,553.15	
1,801.37	Fundraising events for Floor/Drainage repairs	-	650.00	650.00	4,203.15
	YOUTH AND CHILDRENS WORK				
7,230.76	Income from other Parishes and donations	-	6,584.98	6,584.98	6,584.98
	GRANTS AND LEGACIES				
11,293.88	Floor and Drainage Repairs Grants	-	21,387.26	21,387.26	
1,095.95	Brew and a Bite Grants	-	4,575.00	4,575.00	25,962.26
	OTHER INCOME				
40.00	Funeral Heating	40.00	-	40.00	
-	Parish Council donation	150.00	-	150.00	
-	Brew & Bite donations	-	619.96	619.96	
-	Donation from Prayer Group	80.00	-	80.00	
-	Boiler insurance claim	-	161.26	161.26	1,051.22
59,836.72		Current Account TOTAL RECEIPTS			71,521.52
	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS				
44.60	Business Reserve Account	54.15	-	54.15	
350.00	Church Repair Fund	283.44	-	283.44	337.59
60,231.32		TOTAL RECEIPTS			71,859.11

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2024

2023	PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
3,217.79	UTILITIES	2,621.58	-	2,621.58	2,621.58
	RUNNING EXPENSES (INSURANCE, UPKEEP OF SERVICES)				
1,940.28	Insurance	1,941.45	-	1,941.45	
1,907.59	Boiler, Piano Tuner, Wafers, Envelopes, CCLI etc.	2,623.00	-	2,623.00	4,564.45
	MAJOR WORKS/REPAIRS				
13,033.04	Major Repairs	-	36,807.07	36,807.07	36,807.07
	OTHER PARISH COSTS				
141.17	Brew and a Bite Expenses	-	794.74	794.74	
10.00	Deanery Synod annual donation	10.00	-	10.00	
-	Friends of Kent Churches membership	10.00	-	10.00	814.74
	COST OF FUNDRAISING				
220.00	Fete & Hall hire	275.00	-	275.00	275.00
	ROCHESTER DIOCESE/COXHEATH BENEFICE				
1,500.00	United Benefice account	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	
490.00	Rochester Diocese DBF Fees	-	108.80	108.80	
-	Clergy Funeral Expenses	-	435.20	435.20	
30.00	Readers in the Parish Fee	30.00	-	30.00	
13,826.00	Diocesan Pledge/Offer	-	14,350.00	14,350.00	16,424.00
	YOUTH & CHILDRENS WORK				
7,250.86	Salary and Expenses	-	8,101.62	8,101.62	8,101.62
	MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING				
2,388.24	Nominated Giving Sundays, Christmas etc.	-	2,375.00	2,375.00	2,375.00
45,954.97		TOTAL PAYMENTS			71,983.46

Coxheath Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2024

SUMMARY

Receipts 2024	71,859.11
Payments 2024	71,983.46
Deficit of Receipts over Payments for 2024	-124.35
Surplus balance for 2023 b/f	<u>50,922.66</u>
Surplus balance for 2024	<u>50,798.31</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
Current Bank Account	25,356.18	12,277.24	154.40	37,787.82
Church Repair Fund	9,222.72			9,222.72
Business Reserve Account	3,787.77			<u>3,787.77</u>
				<u>50,798.31</u>

Independent Financial Examiner

Clare O'Farrell, Hylands, 91 Heath Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4EH

The financial statement and accounts were approved at the PCC meeting held on 18th March 2024.

Church: Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath

Address: Heath Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Correspondence Address: The Rectory, 144 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4PL