

VICARS REPORT TO THE APCM - 27th April 2026 at FPCC at 7.30pm.

- 2025 was a good year. A year of consolidation and steady growth
- Thank you to the innumerable number of people who have served God and the parish with their time, talents, money, prayer and wisdom.
- We are richly blest in so many ways!
- Our worship has continued to flourish - and we have learned to relax and enjoy it!
- Jane was ordained Priest.
- We have finally appointed a Children and Families Chaplain (Janette) and her work is bearing fruit.
- I want to mention particularly all the unglamorous but important work that has been done with 'compliance' and governance.
- Our church family have grown younger, deeper and more diverse, as we hoped.
- Some more people are dipping their toe in helping to lead worship
- Once again, by the grace of God, we have survived financially, complied with all we are required to do, and ended the year in a good place and in good heart.

HOWEVER - Some concerns!

- We are still largely an elderly congregation.
- If our work with Children and families is to flourish, we will need to be flexible and accept that things will change. We also need to find a way to finance this ministry for the future.
- We face big financial challenges - for which we will all need to review our stewardship.
- Too big a burden is carried by too few - they need help, and they need succession planning!
- We will need to appoint a new parish administrator before Rebecca leaves in June.
- We still do little to attract people from 11 – 49!
- The parish needs to prepare for the time when I will not be here, and the burden cannot fall on Jane!

PROJECTS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

- A Stewardship campaign for October, to help us all review our giving and our discipleship.
- Phase two of rebuilding All Saints - to provide toilets, kitchen, and public meeting space in an annex attached to AS church.
- To review our provision for Children and Families and also young adults, and to make such changes or initiatives as might be necessary to enable them to worship God and be nourished by his church.
- New toilets for P&J hall!
- To identify new churchwardens, deputies, deputy to safeguarding and Health and Safety, and more people to be involved in leading worship.
- To gradually spend less time, money and energy on buildings and money and much more on worship, prayer, fellowship, outreach and service.

I have no doubt that we will achieve all of this - because God is faithful and has never let us down, and because he has put together here an exceptional community of generous, faithful and delightful people! God bless all of you! Come to the APCM to hear more and to share your own thoughts on all of this.

