St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury

Annual Parochial Church Report 2025

Presented at a meeting held on 31 May 2026

This combined report is presented in accordance with the Charity Commissioner's Statement of Recommended Practice commonly known as SORP 2005.

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St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Almondsbury, BS32 4DT

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally for the year to 31 December 2025.

Correspondence address: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DT

PCC Members:

Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, Priest -in-Charge	Rev Paul Van Rossum, Associate Vicar & Treasurer
Astrid Domingo Molyneux, Lay Minister	Pam Van Rossum
Helen Hine	Clare Jefferis, Deanery Synod
Tim Jefferis, Churchwarden	Gill Bostic
Thelma Gibbs	Mike Keig
Mo Pearson	Rosemary Griffiths, Deanery Synod
Sandy Thompson	Josh Pullan
Pam Skelding, Safeguarding Officer	Hannah Roberts
Mike Jenkinson, PCC Chair and Lay Minister	James Rogers

Commented [MJ1]: Check who is current PCC member

INTRODUCTION

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The Parish of St Mary's, Almondsbury, is part of the Benefice of Almondsbury and Pilning with Compton Greenfield.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules and is drawn from those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1131407).

REPORT OF PRIEST IN CHARGE 2025
APCM Report: Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

As I have reflected on the life of St Mary's over 2025 and look ahead to 2026, this verse from Isaiah has stayed with me. It reminds us that this is God's mission and that we as a church are merely partnering with him in this as we listen and discern his leading. This has been a year of discernment, growth and stepping more fully into what God is calling us to be as a church in this season.

Mission, Vision and Identity

A key priority this year has been to prayerfully discern and articulate our mission and vision following on from the Mission and Vision Day in Nov 2024. I am grateful for the way many in the congregation have engaged with this process. We have now arrived at:

- **Identity Statement:** *St Mary's Church, in the community, for the community*
- **Mission Statement:** *Knowing Jesus and making him known*
- **Vision Statement:** *A community transformed by the love, power and presence of God*

Our next steps will be to embed these into the life and mission of the church, so that they shape not only what we say, but how we live, worship and serve together.

Sunday Services

The regular Sunday service pattern remains unchanged but with the addition of a new service, Encounter, once a month.

- The 8:30am Communion service continues to gather a regular congregation and offers a quiet and reflective space for Eucharistic worship.

- The 10:00am service continues to draw a range of ages, and we have welcomed some new members over the year.
- Encounter began in October 2025 and takes place once a month. It is co-led with Andrew and Fiona Palmer. This is a quiet, reflective service with a time of extended sung worship and time to explore God's word together, offering another space for prayer and encountering God.

We have continued to explore new ways of engaging with God in both word and worship, seeking to be attentive and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Seasonal Services
Our seasonal services continue to be an important point of connection with the wider community: at Easter, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Attendance has remained similar to previous years, with many joining us at key moments in the church calendar. It has been a joy to be able to share the good news of Jesus with so many people.

Ministry Team
It has been encouraging to see the ministry team continue to grow. Alongside Rev Paul van Rossum, Astrid Domingo Molyneux and Mike Jenkinson:

- Val Slade, an ordinand from Trinity College, has continued her involvement in the ministry of the church.
- Andrew Palmer has been licensed as an occasional preacher.
- James Rogers and Hannah Roberts have begun to participate regularly in leading, following their involvement in the Exploring Christianity course.

We continue to conduct a number of pastoral services for the community and those connected to St Mary's.

Outreach and Community Engagement
Our outreach activities with children have continued with ongoing connections through our weekly toddler group, Messy Church, Oasis, the Good Friday Activity morning and our link with Almondsbury Primary School. Pam Skelding and I continue to lead collective worship, and the children visit the church regularly for collective worship, end of term services and the occasional RE lessons. I also continue to be involved in the life of the school in my capacity as Foundation Governor.

In October, a new Wednesday Community Coffee morning began, under the leadership of Lucy Rogers and supported by a team from the church. This has been a way of expanding our outreach to the community, especially older residents. It is already proving to be a valuable space for connection and welcome .

Discipleship: The online home group and the Lent and Advent groups have provided opportunities for discipleship as have the various regular prayer groups: the weekly Tuesday morning prayer group at the Old Hospital and the monthly Tea and Toast and Prayers for a suffering church.

Charitable Giving
We have continued to support a range of local and national charities: Bristol Home bank (until its closure), Community of the Sisters of the Church Food Bank, the Salvation Army Toy Appeal, the Children's society (through the Christingle service collection) and the British Legion (through the Remembrance Sunday Collection.) The "Charity of the Month" initiative has been under review over the year as we considered how best to approach our charitable giving.

A team effort: The ongoing life, ministry and mission of the church is only possible through the commitment and service of so many people, including those in the wider community. Much of this contribution happens quietly and behind the scenes. I am grateful to God for each and every person who gives so generously for their time, energy and resources.

There is much to be thankful for this year. As we look ahead, we trust that God is continuing to do a new thing among us, calling us to be a part of it as we continue to grow in knowing Jesus, making him known and serving our community.

CHURCH WARDEN
APCM Report: Tim Jefferis

As churchwardens we have done our best through the year to support Anjali, Paul Van Rossum, Astrid Domingo Molyneux and Mike Jenkinson in their vital work ministering to the congregation and more broadly to the inhabitants of the parish. We have also attempted to support all of the congregation members and other volunteers who help to ensure that St Mary's runs smoothly and touches the lives of as many people as possible. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for all your contributions during 2025.

We would particularly like to thank those who have served as members of PCC this year. This is a responsible role as the PCC is a charity and the PCC members are trustees. They therefore have overall responsibility for the church finances and also the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church and its contents. Much of this work is delegated to the Finance & Buildings and Worship & Mission committees whose focussed work in discussing and resolving issues allows the main meetings to run smoothly.

We commend to you the other reports on activity in 2025 which go some way to illustrating the breadth and depth of activities that we as a church have accomplished during last year.

There are two points that we wish to bring to your attention:
1. The Quinquennial Survey was undertaken in October 2025. This is when the church architect surveys all of the fabric, reports on its condition and makes recommendations for repairs and other improvements. We are pleased to find that no significant additional issues were identified. The most important issues are repointing of the churchyard wall where it abuts the doctors' surgery and investigation of the on-going damp problems in the Lady Chapel.

2. Early in 2025 a tree branch fell across the wall into the Glebe Field. This prompted the PCC to commission a tree survey, which identified a number of issues where remediation work was required. This work was undertaken in November 2025 and successfully completed. The churchyard trees should now all be in a safe condition and are not obstructing any of the paths.

3. A survey was also carried out on the listed Chest Tombs in the churchyard. Having had no maintenance since their installation 200 – 250 years ago many of them are in poor condition. At present it is expected that returning them all to good condition would cost in excess of £100k and the PCC does not have this level of spare funding. The PCC will therefore consider the best way to proceed.

E**LECTORAL ROLL**
APCM Report: Mike Jenkinson
There were 65 names on the Electoral Roll as at 31 December 2025, of which 49 were resident in the Parish and 16 resided outside of the Parish. This was significantly down on the previous year (103 - 72 of which were resident in the parish and 31 outside. This reflected the fact that 2025 was a year in which the whole roll was renewed.

WORSHIP AND MISSION
APCM Report: Pam Van Rossum
We receive regular input from the group members on aspects of the church's spiritual life and on how the church is functioning. Concerns are addressed and recommendations made to the PCC.

The reports we received from the team members highlight that Anjali's ministry is well received and the continuing input from the Ministry team is much appreciated too.

The Praise group and Matthew (on the organ) gave an excellent lead to our worship each week. The worship is tailored to the weeks theme/reading.

It is recognised how many volunteers e.g. welcomers, AV team, cleaners, banner ladies, flower ladies, readers, prayer folk, pull together to be an active part of the worshipping community and to enable us to be a healthy and functioning church.

The 8.30 and 10.00am service reps reported on increasing attendance, excellent input, and good relationships.

The children's group met each week throughout the year during the All- Age service. There were about 5 regular attendees and sometimes more children. There are usually toddlers, with a parent, too. The Roots and other teaching material is used when appropriate.

Messy church met once a month with about 30 children.

Toddlers met in term time with about 8 children.

There are three prayer groups meeting weekly / monthly and a Home Group meeting weekly.

Last year's Good Friday Activity morning was an enjoyable community event attended by 45 children and 60 adults. Church members were involved in welcoming and door monitoring, the music group, managing the AV, craft/garden/ cooking activities and refreshments. Anjali led the service. The children went home with their crafts and a book linked to the video.

The Christingle services are a popular community event too, especially the second one. There were about 650 attendees of which a large proportion were children and young adults. Almondsbury shop donated the oranges and village families made half of the Christingles.

The Catering team provided refreshments for the Carol Service, a breakfast between two services, a Lent Lunch which raised funds for Tools with a Mission, Good Friday morning, as well as coffee after the 10.30 services.

The wider church community services have been well attended e.g. Remembrance, Mothering Sunday

The Charity of the Month in 2025 focused the congregation in looking beyond our immediate concerns. The Charities included The Leprosy Mission, Tools with a Mission, Uganda Link, Ripple Effect, Tearfund, Suicide Prevention Society, Release International, Royal British Legion, Ride and Stride (Gloucestershire Historic Churches) and the Children's Society.

Pam van Rossum, Chair, Worship and Mission

FINANCE & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
APCM report

The Finance and Buildings Committee met on regularly during the year. These meetings were supported by ten different attendees. As chair I would like to thank everybody who has supported these meetings, which have been very useful and productive.

During the year matters discussed can be divided into three main categories:

- Finances and Financial budget
- Energy and Energy Consumption
- General Maintenance and Planning Issues

The results of these discussions have resulted in a number of matters being forwarded to PCC with a recommendation for action, with others being addressed by the members of the Finance and Buildings Committee using available resources.
Mike Jenkinson, Vice Chair

FINANCIAL REVIEW
APCM Finance Report: Paul Van Rossum, Treasurer

Finance Report for year ending December 2025

The church is a registered charity and, as such, is required to prepare its accounts under three separate headings: Unrestricted Funds; Restricted Funds; and Endowment Funds. The Unrestricted Funds also include Designated Funds which have been earmarked for future expenditure.

The principal financial aim of the church is that its regular unrestricted income should cover its normal annual expenditure, including day to day maintenance. In 2025, this income exceeded expenditure by £2,559, which now forms part of the church's unrestricted savings and is available for use in the future.

In addition, the church was fortunate to receive legacies of £156,131 in 2025. These legacies and any income from the sale of assets are held in a Designated Fund for future investments in ministry and buildings.

Restricted Funds can only be spent on the purposes specified for the individual funds. In 2025 the expenditure from restricted funds exceeded income by £3,959. This was mainly as a result of a generous gift of £3,750 (including Gift Aid) for children and youth ministry.

Endowment Funds are funds which have been given in perpetuity. They are held in CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Investment Funds and dividends from these investments are used as restricted funds to support expenditure on, for example, the churchyard and children's ministry.

Finally, we must always remember that the vast majority of our income comes from regular donations by individuals, and we are extremely grateful for your generosity.

A full copy of the Accounts for 2025 is included in section 2 of this Annual Report.

Paul van Rossum
Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

APCM report: Pam Skelding, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The parish of St Marys Almondsbury is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Policies and Statements

The following polocies have been reviewed and accepted by the PCC in March 2026;

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Appropriate Boundaries

Support for Victims and Survivors

Working One to One Policy

Lone Working Policy

Responding to Domestic Abuse

Recruitment of Ex offenders Policy

Activities

The PCC oversees the following activities for children and vulnerable adults:

Messy Church

Toddlers

Oasis

Sunday Group

Pastoral Support.

Safer Recruitment

The PCC is resonsible for the safe recruitment of volunteers working with children, youth and vulnerable adults. During the year 25/26 The following DBS and Training has taken place ;

DBS Enhanced certificates ……. 11 people

Basic Training ……..10 people

Foundation Training ……..5 people

Leadership Training ……..5 people

Responding to Dom Abuse ……..7 people

There are currently 35 volunteers covered and active .

Reporting to PCC At each PCC meeting there is a safeguarding report issued with details of new volunteer training status and safeguarding needs

Safeguarding Action Plan This has been updated and modified in March 2026 so that we have achieved 98% at Level 3 on our Parish Dashboard. Our next task is to collate Risk Assessments and Registers to ensure that they are up to date for 2026.

We continue to use the Church of England Safeguarding Hub to monitor the needs and progress of our parish

safeguarding and recruitment efficiently .

Pam Skelding PSO

DATA PROTECTION REPORT

This role is part of the job description of our Parish Aministrator. After a period of vacancy, a new Administrator has been appointed.