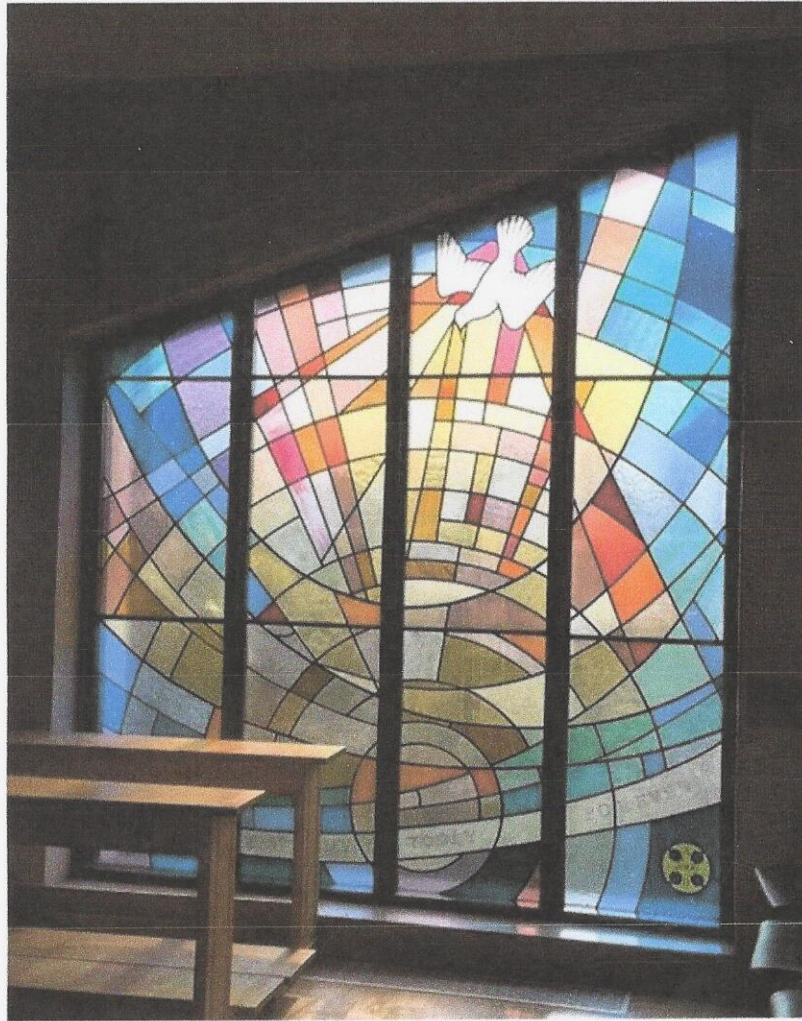


**Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church
North Springfield, Chelmsford**

Reports including the financial report for the 2026 AGM



Information

Ministers:

Currently in interregnum.

Church Officers:

Church Warden – Val Jellows

Church Warden – Janet Matthams

Church Steward, Methodist Church – Doug Hayton

Church Steward, Methodist Church – Pamela Scammell

PCC Members (in addition to the Ministers and Officers listed above) who have served during the year

Treasurer – Carolyn Smith – co-opted

Church Council Secretary – Deborah Wilkes – lay rep.

Safeguarding Officers – Val Jellows & Carolyn Smith

Cristian Bora – co-opted

Simon Carpenter – lay rep.

Ben Torkornoo – lay rep.

Helen Leverett – lay rep.

Jenny Murphy – lay rep.

Nicole Wilson – lay rep.

Methodist Circuit rep. (ex officio) – Nigel Murrell & Val Carter

Bank:

National Westminster PLC

4-5 High Street

Chelmsford

CM1 1FZ

Independent Financial Examiner:

Mary Betley

Yew Tree Barn

Pleshey

St Augustine of Canterbury Church is situated in St Augustine Way, North Springfield, Chelmsford. It is part of the diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. It is part of an ecumenical partnership shared between the Roman Catholic Church; Church of England; Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.



**St Augustine of Canterbury, North Springfield
Reports for 2026 APCM**

Update on the Life of the Church - Val Jellows and Janet Matthams

First of all, a big Thank You to all The Team at St Augustine's who help us run the Church. It is much appreciated by myself, and Val. Although we may not have a vicar, the church can provide comfort and support whilst also continuing to be available for baptisms, weddings or funerals.

Our Church Family WhatsApp group helps us stay connected during the week and gives details of activities and prayer requests too. Our church isn't just for Sundays, and we love to hear from you and what you are up to at any time. Many activities have been happening in church over the past year, and we praise the Lord that we continue to grow with new members. We are very proud of our Ecumenical roots being Anglian, Methodist and URC worshipping together. It was sad to learn of Father Martin's departure and even sadder to learn of his health problems. We continue to pray for him, and we welcome Father Barto as part of the Catholic ministerial team. We hope for continued worship and events together in the future.

We are fortunate to have Val as an Authorised Lay Preacher, taking services. Simon Carpenter as a Lay Reader has also taken some services. Unfortunately, Simon will be leaving us soon, again, as he feels called to lead more local services at St Mary's Dunow (where he now resides with his wife Linda). We will miss you Simon, but we know your number!

Charlotte Freeman joins the Team as our new publicity officer, to help Val with advertising events and posters, also boosting our online presence in the community.

Here are some of the things that have happened in church over this last year.

- **BAPTISMS** during the year we have been grateful for Rev Sally Croft from All Saints church to come to our church for infant baptisms. However, on the 1st February, Deborah Wilkes, our URC Elder baptised Taliyah and Nylah into God's family and the community of St Augustine's Church. It was a lovely service; wonderful hymns and some great photos were taken. We pray for the girls and their onward Christian journey.

- **ECUMENICAL LINKS**

METHODIST

- **COVENANT SERVICE.** In January we were pleased to have a Methodist Covenant and Communion service with Revd Jennifer Walters. It was great to renew our yearly Covenant with God. "The Methodist Covenant Service is an annual, deeply personal and corporate renewal of commitment to God, usually held at the start of the year, focusing on surrendering one's life to God's will through prayer, hymns (like "I am no longer my own but yours"), Scripture, and often Holy Communion, affirming the loving relationship God offers and our joyful response to follow Him in all aspects of life.
- Val Carter, Methodist circuit steward, has attended the Church Council meetings and we were blessed with her beautiful Maundy Thursday Communion Service.
- We welcomed Revd Jennifer Walters, Methodist minister, on Remembrance Sunday in November.
- Doug and Pat Hayton celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in October with a service led by Minister Superintendent Revd Asif Karam

ANGLICAN Last October, the Archdeacon of Chelmsford Ven Jonathan Croucher came and led worship with Holy Communion.

URC – Revd David Coaker has taken a few services including Communion during the year.

- **CHRISTMAS**

- The annual Christingle service at beginning of December was well attended, Thanks to all the

helpers who met the day before to prepare.

- There was a joint Carols by Candlelight service with the Catholics. Wonderful Carols and readings and many thanks to Carolyn who provided the mince pies and apple mulled wine after. It was good to meet and mingle with our Catholics brothers and sisters. We look forward to joint events in the future.
 - Carolyn led a thoughtful Blue Christmas service for those who may find Christmas difficult. Although the numbers were small, it is felt that for those who came it was right for them.
 - A pop-up Nativity was organised by Deborah and many people dressed up, this may be repeated as I know you like dressing up!
 - We had a busy Crib Service on Christmas Eve with Revd Keith Anderson, retired Anglian minister. Lots of children from The Bishops School, Springfield Primary, the Brownies and Beavers as well as the wider community came. Everyone visited the crib and lit a candle.
 - On Christmas Eve Deborah led the Midnight URC Communion service.
 - The Christmas Day service was led by Revd Rob Cadman with Holy Communion, although sadly a poor turn out.
- **LENT COURSE** on Sunday evenings. A small group of people gathered for “Set our Hearts on Fire” lent course from the Diocesan of Lincoln.
 - **FAMILY SERVICES** It’s great that a variety of people from the team are taking the Family Services on first week of the month. Helen and Deborah “Happy St David’s Day – Dydd Gwyl, Dewi Hapus” was great!

Other activities – in no particular order

- **CRAFT & CHAT** -twice a month. Attracting new members to chat and craft with coffee. This continues to be a good community outreach and new people are always welcome.
- **PCN** (Progressive Christian Network) on the 2nd Sunday on zoom and open to all. For more details speak to Jenny Murphy
- **B&B** (Beer and Bible)– A chance to have an informal chat about the Bible and your faith. The group meet at the Endeavour Pub. A very friendly group looking at various topics and relating them to the Bible.
- **THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY** is still in great demand, a thank you to all who contribute to keeping this well stocked. However, items go fast and we need a constant supply. We also host the Pop up Food bus on a Thursday.
- **THE EASYFUNDRAISING** app on your mobile device brings in money to the church. We can raise free donations every time you shop online with easyfundraising – its such a simple way to make a difference. See the QR code in Church Newsletter to scan.
- **QUIZ NIGHT** was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Ian Wilkes for being a great quiz master. The questions were local and aimed at all ages. Eleven tables were full and the money raised, by tickets and the raffle, went straight into church funds.
- **ECO MESSY CHURCH** in May half term with Shaun the Sheep, The Countryside Code and how to look after God’s Creation.
- **PANCAKE PARTY** in February half term. Messy Church has been going for a while in half terms and it was good to mix it up and have a party at church. Charlotte Freeman organised great games and Carolyn made scotch pancakes to be decorated. Many thanks to all our helpers who enabled all the 100 people that wanted to come to attend. It was packed and a great atmosphere.
- **GAMES NIGHT** meets once a month on a Monday night in the small hall and everyone is welcome. Please bring your friends.
- **RAINBOW TOTS** Babies to Toddlers & Carers playgroup meets every Friday during term time. New helpers are always needed and please speak to Pam if you have any free time. The Rainbow Tots then feed into our Team Rainbow Sunday school which meets every Sunday, but not the first as its Family Service. All are welcome even the noisy ones and our helpers always prepare such great

activities for the children.

- **CHRISTMAS FAIR.** This was a great success and thanks to Pam for organising. Many thanks especially to Jenny who encouraged the Springfield Primary school choir to come and many parents and siblings too. Thanks also goes to Carolyn and Helen who worked especially hard in the kitchen, not forgetting the many stall holders too. THANKS!! All the money raised went to help the work of our church.
Father Christmas also made time to stop by. Many thanks to all the people who distributed our Christmas events leaflets around the Parish.
- **MURDER MYSTERY HARVEST SUPPER** This was a first at church. It was an evening of great fun and dressing up. Many thanks to all the actors who took part. It was a fund raiser for UNICEF, for every child. It was very well attended with friends and neighbours coming along.
- **RIDE AND STRIDE** came to our church in September and thanks for the helpers and cake. We welcomed various people in Lycra. Looking forward to this years one being bigger as it's their 75th Anniversary!! More details and sponsor forms from Janet M.
- **SUMMER FETE** - great fun was had by all. We had a bottle tombola instead of chocolates. Many thanks to the stall holders and it is a great fundraiser for the church.

The Catholic lawyers are currently working on the Sharing Agreement and are working closely with Archdeacon Jonathan and the Anglican lawyers concerning the ownership and use of our church building. Hopefully good news to follow but we do not know when. The JMC, (joint management committee) still meets, and we look forward to re-starting the Ecumenical Council soon.

The Anglian Diocesan who owns the Vicarage is currently doing building works with their Property Services team making it a Green Vicarage. Our Vicarage has been chosen as a demonstrator house for solar panels, battery storage and air source heat pump systems.

We are about to enter the second year of our interregnum, and we have been grateful to all the visiting preachers and the Church Council Team who have helped during this time. There has been much discussion about the Future Ministry at St Augustine's, and we look forward to the outcome hopefully in the near future. We will keep you all informed when we have some news. It is with Christian certainty that we look forward to the future, sure in the faith that God has a plan for our church. Please continue to pray the Interregnum Prayer whilst we are in vacancy.

Fundamentals

Electoral Roll – Doug Hayton (Electoral Roll Officer)

Last year we prepared a new Church Electoral Roll, (CER) a legal obligation placed on all Anglican churches every sixth year. In between a revision of the CER must be undertaken every year to keep it up to date. Inevitably there will be some changes as a result people leaving or sadly passing away. Some new arrivals may wish to apply to be on the roll and we will happily welcome them provided they meet the legal criteria set out on the back of the application form.

The statutory notice of the revision was placed at the church door on the 26 March and the revision was completed by the date stipulated in the notice, The numbers on the revised roll will be given at the AGM

GDPR – Doug Hayton (Local Information Officer)

The past year has, thankfully, been a relatively quiet one in that there have been no complaints lodged with the Information Commissioner's Office. Everyone on whom the Church Council keeps personal data is entitled to ask to see that record to check that the data held is accurate and to request that any necessary changes to that record are made. If not satisfied then they can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner.

It is now some time since those whose written consent to keep their data for Church purposes was given and some may not have done so. To comply with the regulations these need to be renewed from time to time. It

is my intention during 2026 to issue the relevant forms to all members to enable this to be done. This would include parental consent in respect of their children for such groups as Rainbow Tots and Team Rainbow.

Report on the Fabric of St Augustine of Canterbury - Val Jellows (Church Warden)

The JMC continues to meet infrequently as sometimes several people are unable to attend the meeting.

Carolyn Smith has temporarily taken over the role of Treasurer and the accounts are now up-to-date.

There was some good progress with an updated version of the sharing agreement which had been worked on by the Archdeacon of Southend and Fr Martin. However with a change of RC clergy things have not made much progress. The Anglican Diocesan lawyers are in touch with the RC lawyers but the ownership of the church has not been transferred to the Roman Catholics. However, we have been assured that the use of the church by our community will remain as it is now.

On a practical note, the JMC are needing to replace the light bulbs in the Main Hall and chapel and this might involve extra expenditure as the ceiling may require work. The JMC are awaiting quotes.

Safeguarding – Carolyn Smith (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Val Jellows and Carolyn Smith are joint Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO). We remain mindful of what has happened in the past and current concerns and will be following diocesan guidance on recruitment and risk assessment of church activities. Safeguarding is considered within church council.

Whilst there were no safeguarding concerns raised during 2025, we would encourage anyone who has concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or adult to contact us. Contact details are available on the website and church notice board and to ensure confidentiality a dedicated mobile phone has been purchased for this purpose and the number for this phone is 07729746842. Anyone ringing this is invited to either leave a voicemail message or send a text.

Safeguarding training is mandatory for clergy, members of church council and people in certain roles where they are in contact with children or vulnerable adults. This is available online through the diocese or face to face if required. Please contact Carolyn or Val and we will help facilitate this. We congratulated Janet Matthams who completed her safeguarding leadership training in 2025, and following on from this produced the What 3 Words posters which can be seen around the church. What3Words for St. Augustine's is United.Spring.Letter and can be used by emergency services to find a location.

Enhanced DBS checks are requested for everyone who is eligible. We are required to renew a DBS check every 3 years and people will be invited to renew as and when appropriate. Carolyn is lead recruiter on this and can be contacted if people have any queries.

Statistics for Mission – Val Jellows

Attached to this report is the Statistic for Mission summary (page 20) which gives an overview of what has been happening last year and preceding years. It is worth mentioning that sometimes what appears to be improved or decreased figures is sometimes a result of which dates are covered by the question. Also, for the second part of 2024 the church has been in vacancy plus 2023 was unusual as the figures include services for the 40th Anniversary. We have now been in vacancy for nearly two years.

In summary

- Attendance – During 2025, there was evidence of improved attendance at Christmas but in general the attendance has stayed the same which is reassuring.
- Worshipping Communities – These are people who would consider themselves as part of St Augustine's and attend possibly about once a month. The total has dropped slightly but is more than the years prior to 2022.
- Usual Sunday Attendance – this continues to be about 20 but the number of children each week does vary.

- Average weekly attendance in October. – Whilst there have been fewer children on a Sunday, during October the school services which happen once a week continues to dominate our figures.
- Baptism, marriage and funerals. Last year we had 4 baptisms and no weddings or funerals.
- Electoral Role – there has been a slight increase

Youth & Children's Work

Messy Church – Pamela Scammell

We have continued to hold a Messy Church from 2-4pm during each half term holiday. In the Summer the Theme was 'God's Beautiful Creation', and in the Autumn we focused on 'Love thy Neighbour.' Numbers seemed to be decreasing so in the Spring half term, as it was at the beginning of Lent, it was decided to hold a 'Pancake Party.' This was a great success, appealing to many families and about 100 attended. Everyone enjoyed a pancake and Charlotte was a super star arranging party games with a pancake theme. At Messy Church we don't usually charge, but because of the outlay of buying pancakes and pass the parcel prizes, it was decided to charge £1 a person.

Rainbow Tots – Pamela Scammell

Grace and Martine started Rainbow Tots a couple of years ago, doing a great job advertising the group for mums and tots. They gathered lots of toys and began a successful routine every Friday morning. During the Autumn Term they both had other commitments at home because their children were no longer in the Toddler age bracket any more. I felt the group was worth continuing as it is a place of outreach where God can help carers who would like a friendly chat, so with the help of volunteers we have managed to keep the Rainbow Tots running. Drinks are provided for parents and fruit or a biscuit is on offer for the Tots. £1.50 is charged per family. The children play and about 15 minutes before the end we have a short sing song, story and a prayer. If you have a spare Friday morning to help, please contact me and we would love to have your help.

School Liaison - Jenny Murphy

Our church has always had a special relationship with the Bishops' School, not only because of its physical proximity but also due to our being ecumenical and its being a joint CofE and RC school. Our vicar and the RC priest have led school weekly services, taken school assemblies and assisted with RE lessons and inspections since it was founded. The school now relies on Rev. Sally Croft (All Saints) and our new Catholic priest. It is very sad that, due to our extended interregnum, we, at St Augustine's, seem to be losing the close links we formally enjoyed.

I have met with Greg Waters, school head teacher, and offered to go into classes to assist. I joined the community choir, held in school, and performed with them at the school music concert, held at Christchurch in June.

I email Greg when we are planning special events so that the school children can be made aware of church activities and impending services. Over the past year when we have asked for groups to come and sing at church events, they have unfortunately been unable to help. Choirmaster, Martin Barlow, who was a willing and reliable contact has recently retired.

Charlotte Freeman and I hope to meet with Greg to discuss better advertising of our church events on their school website, so that, in future, they will appear on their Weekly Page rather than under 'Community Matters', which may be ignored.

Greg is retiring as head of the Bishops' School at the end of the summer term and his replacement is to be Richard McIntosh, who is a practising Roman Catholic and currently head of Baddow Hall Junior School. Greg has spent many, many hours leading school children in worship at our church and we should plan a suitable farewell celebration for him.

Meanwhile our links with Springfield School have continued. Ms Tilly Selwood-Thomas has moved to another school but Sarah Chilvers, also Year One teacher, asked to bring 55 children and 8 staff to church at the beginning of December. I welcomed the group and was able to talk to the children about the Christmas story and Christian traditions. We then had a lively sing-song! Each child was given a Christmas card from

the church which detailed Christmas services and offered a warm welcome to them and their families. Many thanks to Charlotte Freeman who helped design the card.

At our Christmas Fair we were delighted when members of the Springfield School choir came to sing. We were very grateful to Mrs Carole Jones who organised the festive programme. The children and their families boosted the numbers and the atmosphere of the occasion.

I hope to be able to maintain links with both our local primary schools.

We had a new school request - from the Boswells School in February, when Ms Laura Wigglesworth came to church and was interested to learn more about our being ecumenical and inclusive. She asked if someone could visit the school to talk to Year Seven pupils. Val Jellows and Deborah Wilkes obliged and spoke to a group of three classes about the background of our church and explained how we work to help our local community. The students were keen to ask questions after the talk.

(April 2026)

Team Rainbow – Deborah Wilkes

This has been a shared responsibility this year, with Deborah, Pamela, Nicole, Charlotte and Jenny all taking sessions. Deborah organised a Nativity play which all the church took part in as well as the children who were at the service. This was enjoyed by all.

The number of children who attend still varies from six to zero. Any volunteers to help at Team Rainbow would be gratefully received.

Teen Worship – Charlotte Tew

We were delighted to see Nylah and Taliyah take the next step on their Christian journey with their baptism in February and it was good to see some of our young people at the quiz and the murder mystery evening. Numbers of young people aged 10-16 attending St Augustine's services are relatively low, but I encourage any young people I meet see to attend the North Springfield Baptist Church Youth group.

North Springfield Baptist Church youth group continues to grow. Numbers average about 15-20 at meetings which are held on the first Friday of each month and it is open to young people from a range of backgrounds, however most of them are from a Christian denomination of some sort. The group has just been successful in achieving a grant which has enabled them to purchase a pool table and games as well as fund a day for all the young people at Danbury Outdoors Centre which was a great success, Tobenna Obi and Imogen Tew both attended.

Steve Readings is taking a group of young people to Fellowship Afloat this year and 4 of the young people from the youth group hope to go, so myself or one other leader will join them.

Prior to organising this, a bowling evening was also arranged for a cross section of young people from local churches, many of whom attended Fellowship Afloat last year. It was a successful evening with 30 children attending.

We would welcome continued prayer for all the young people and leaders and for even greater growth and reach in the coming year.

Deepening Discipleship

Bible & Beverage- Jenny Murphy

We are now entering our third year of Beer and Bible at the Endeavour. It started when Rev Caroline was still with us and Cristian Bora and I agreed to keep it going. Cristian has had to take a back seat since his studies as an ordinand take up so much of his time. We are a small group, of 4 -10, which meets from 7.30pm on a Wednesday, once a month.

Our programme over the past year has included topics such as Mary Magdalene, plants of the Bible and sickness and healing. We even managed a quiz about Naomi and Ben. (They are not just characters in the Bible but the names of the landlady and her husband at the pub, who were delighted to receive their quiz questions on the occasion of their recent marriage!)

Our six monthly programme, for the period April – September 2026, has now been compiled and are available on the handy printed cards which Val makes for us. This time, various group members have made suggestions for topics to study. Anyone is welcome to join us – just come along and bring a Bible.

Lent Group – Val Jellows

For the lent course this year we used again a study guide produced by the Diocese of Lincoln called *Hearts on Fire*. It was divided into 5 sessions which were held on a Sunday evening and led by different people. Numbers varied but about 8 people took part. The sessions were full of discussion and hopefully helped those who took part be more reflective during the Lent Period.

Community Outreach



**CHELMSFORD
KNITTED
POPPY
APPEAL**

**Calling all knitters, crocheters,
and craft groups!**

- Can you help fill Chelmsford with thousands of handmade poppies for Remembrance Day 2026?
- Poppies to be displayed on multiple City Centre landmarks
- Can't knit? Donate a ball of red wool or join a local group to learn!
- Raising funds & awareness for the Royal British Legion

Visit the website for Poppy Patterns & more information:
chelmsfordcvs.org.uk/poppies
01245 351888

CVS Chelmsford City Council RL MLCT

Craft and chat – Val Jellows

Our Craft and Chat group has become an established event meeting twice a month. The people who come range from regulars to those who drop in when they can. On average we have about ten people but the volume of conversation is always about the same. We welcome new members – come along for a chat or do some knitting, crocheting, sewing, craft etc.

This year we are going to try to produce poppies to decorate Chelmsford – if you want to join us even if you cannot manage to get to Craft and Chat see Val Jellows for patterns.

Fundraising including charity fundraising – Pamela Scammell

We have had a few events during the year enabling us to fund raise for charities or for church funds. The Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar raised a few hundred but we are always looking for ways to increase the amount. Near Christmas a very successful quiz night was held, and so it was followed by another quiz night in March organized by Ian. These were good outreach events as they were well attended and people came who were from outside Springfield. Val organized a Murder Mystery evening at Harvest time. Once again this was well attended, enjoyed by all, involving a three course meal led by Carolyn.

Games Evening – Deborah Wilkes

Games evening continues to thrive on the last Monday evening of the month from 7-9pm. We play modern games like 'Flip 7' as well as playing the more traditional board games like 'Snap' and 'Boggle'. Grant explains the rules as we go along, which is very helpful. We usually play one game altogether which means adapting a game for four players and playing it with ten. Occasionally, we split into two groups and play separate games, but we always share a drink and something chocolate/sweet – unless it is Lent. All welcome and bring along your favourite game.

Litter Picking (Springfield Wombles) – Ian Wilkes

The Springfield Wombles meet 6pm, in the church car park, weather permitting on Tuesdays from April until the clocks go back at the end of October and spend around an hour collecting litter in the local area. We are often stopped by people thanking us and in return we tell them who we are and ask about their dogs which they are invariably walking.

We have a core group of around 6 but are happy to welcome more. Litter pickers and bags can be provided if you let us know you are coming.

We have a WhatsApp group and post some of our more interesting finds.

Progressive Christianity Network (PCN) – Jenny Murphy

Our PCN group convenes once a month for an hour via Zoom. We used to meet in the small hall before the pandemic but since our group is so far-flung (from Stebbing, Bury St Edmunds and beyond) it suits members to use technology! This year, I stepped down as co-ordinator of our group and the new contact is Paul Gilman.

Our programme over the past year has been to hear more from individual members about their personal Christian beliefs and now we are studying the wonderful book by Richard Holloway entitled “Waiting for the Last Bus”. The book explores the many lessons we can learn from contemplating death: facing up to the limitations of our bodies as they falter, reflecting on our failings and forgiving ourselves and others. I thoroughly recommend it to you.

In October the group had an “away day” at the Diocesan Retreat House in Pleshey where we discussed prayer, shared a service in the chapel, enjoyed an historic walk led by archaeologist, Paul, and enjoyed food and chat together.

Please ask for more information if you feel you would like to join in discussing religious matters with sympathetic, broad-minded fellow Christians.

The Little Free Pantry – Pamela Scammell

The Little Free Pantry continues to be well supported by the church, the Ecumenical and the Catholic congregations, and also by the local community. It is also well used and every day, many people of different ages come by and take items of food or toiletries. Occasionally there is some vandalism where food has been spilt or thrown around, but this is rare and is usually quickly reported and cleared up. Essex County Council has been generous and on 3 occasions has provided a grant of between one and two thousand pounds, enabling us to purchase food and toiletries. At Christmas we decided to use some of the money to buy hampers for identified families who were struggling financially. We have also used the money to help families with cash donations to assist with a weekly shop. God has enabled us to help others, and we have frequently been rewarded by comments from people who have used the Pantry who have been so grateful.

Ecumenical Work

Anglican Deanery Synod of Chelmsford – Janet Matthams

Nothing to report except there was a Deanery day in February.

Methodist Update – Deborah Wilkes

During the course of the year Nigel Murrell was replaced by Val Carter as our Methodist circuit rep. Val has been and is helping us to apply for a Methodist grant to fund a com

URC Update – Deborah Wilkes

Our mission partnership which is Chelmsford and South West Essex Mission Partnership and includes us, Christ Church, Church of Our Saviour, Howe Greene, Ingatestone, Billercay, Hutton & Shenfield, Wickford, Grays, Basildon and Hockley.

The Mission Partnership held its launch service last May at Grays URC, with the moderator Lythan preaching. It was a very joyful service involving congregation participation with balloons and followed by a celebration cake and other cakes. The Mission Partnership is now looking ahead to the induction of two ministers.

Deborah has attended a Baptism training and is now authorised to take Baptism services.

Deborah has also attended various meetings of our mission partnership.

Accounts and Stewardship

Financial Review

The financial statements show that despite the difficult economic climate which we are continuing to experience and being in interregnum, we managed to cover our costs and meet agreed commitments for 2025.

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £22,196 (£27,696 in 2024) and total expenditure was £24,590 (£25,147 in 2024) which are detailed in the R&P account and attached notes. These show a small increase in planned through the parish giving scheme (PGS), however other planned giving and loose plate collections were down which in turn contributed to an decrease in the amount recovered from HMRC through gift aid and GASDS. Total income and expenditure were broadly in line with the budget, with the amount taken from reserves less than predicted.

Whilst we were still not in a position to pay our parish share in full (£35,787 was assessment for 2025) we did pay the £17,508 which we had offered and which was an increase on 2024. Our parish share assessment for 2026 is £36,295, we remain unable to pay our full parish share and after taking into account the drop in income over 2025 and the impact of an ongoing interregnum, we have felt it necessary to further reduce our contribution to the parish share for 2026 to £14,400.

At the end of 2025 we had 11 donors signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is provided through the Church of England and has the benefit of allowing donors to give anonymously if they wish and also decide on frequency of donations eg monthly, quarterly, yearly or as a one off, and for the church gift aid is claimed monthly from HMRC on our behalf and there is no charge for administration. We also have a CollectTin machine which enables people are also able to make contactless payments through SumUp. Although a small charge is made for this, we are finding that more people are using this both on a Sunday morning and for fundraising events.

Fundraising activities included summer and christmas fayres, harvest supper and a murder mystery evening, which together raised £2,229 so a very big thank you to everyone who organised, helped and supported these. In addition people were also able to raise funds for us by registering with Easy Fundraising when shopping online at selected retailers (this includes Amazon, Sainsbury, Tesco Asda, Iceland etc), the retailers pay a percentage of the sale with no additional costs to the purchaser. We currently have 17 people registered. Details of how to join are on the church website - <http://staugustinespringfield.org.uk>

The value of the CBF investment fund shares dropped slightly over the year and lower interest rates meant that the amount we received from bank and investments was lower than 2024. Income from church activities such as banns and funerals remained the same with only 2 sets of banns and no funerals or weddings.

A big thank you to Pam Scammell who secured two grants for the Little Free Pantry (LFP), amounting to £2200. These together with the generosity of everyone who donates to the LFP have enabled it to continue to help anyone in need, including providing christmas hampers to several families. We have also raised £350 for Action for Family Carers, money raised for the Children's Society at Christingle is not included in our accounts as it goes directly to Karin Seeman who is the Children's Society representative.

Expenditure over the year slightly higher than budget due to additional £955 paid to JMC.

With regard to the honorarium for Mary Betley (Independent Examiner), Mary declined payment and was provided with a small gift instead.

The net result for 2025 was that both income and expenditure were broadly inline with budget, with slightly less reserves used than anticipated. For 2026 we have again included the use of reserves in the budget, however these are finite and we will not be able to sustain this

The total known balance on unrestricted funds at the year end (including cash, bank balances and investments at market value) amounted to £22,492 (2024 - £24,818)

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of the Church Council has been reviewed. The Church Council aims to keep approximately three months general running costs in reserves. In addition CBF deposit fund (£4,464 at 31/12/25) to be restricted to cover emergency/unplanned building /maintenance costs.

The Church Council recognises its responsibility to increase its contribution towards paying parish share and gradually increase its contribution towards payment in full. Therefore monies remaining will normally be used to increase contribution to parish share and/or mission within the parish.

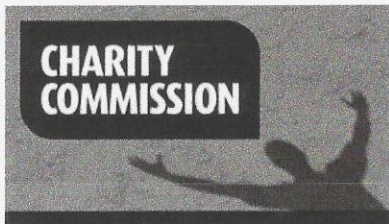
We will continue to maintain shares and investment in CBF Fund.

It is the policy of the Church Council to invest any unrestricted funds in excess of £10,000 with the CBF Church of England Funds. As we have yet to pay our parish share in full, no additional monies were invested, other than dividends and interest received in 2025.

Any other balances are invested in an ordinary deposit account with the National Westminster Bank plc. The balance remaining at 31 December 2025 is after deducting appropriate income and expenditure.

Approved by the Church Council on 30th April, 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature:
Mrs Val Jellows (Church Warden)



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

St. Augustine's Church, N. Springfield, Chelmsford

On accounts for the year ended

3 1 1 2 2 5

Charity no (if any)

Grid for charity number

Set out on pages

14-19

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

Mary Betley signature

Date

31 March 2026

Name

Mary Betley

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

CIPFA

Address

Yew Tree Barn

Pleshey

CM3 1HX

Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church, North Springfield , Chelmsford

Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025

	General Fund		Totals		Totals	
Notes	U	R	2025	U	R	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds						
Bank current and deposit accounts	8613	339	8952	11184	1788	12972
CBF deposit fund	4464		4464	4018		4018
	<u>13,077</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>13,416</u>	<u>15,202</u>	<u>1,788</u>	<u>16,990</u>
Other Monetary assets						
Cash in safe	401		401	226		226
			<u>401</u>	<u>226</u>		<u>226</u>
Investment Assets						
406.08 CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income shares (market value)			<u>9014</u>			<u>9390</u>
The historical cost of these shares was £5000						
Other assets						
Electric Piano (original cost)			1,499			1,499
Printer (original cost)			284			284
Epson projector (original cost)			430			430
Mobile phone x2			85			
			<u>2298</u>			<u>2213</u>
Liabilities						
	1					
(paid over after 31 December 2025)			0	0		0
			<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
Credits (monies received but paid in after 31 December 2025 – cash in safe)						
loose collections	209		209	129		129 loose collections
Donation	25		25	20		20 donation
Coffee/small donations	58		58	32		32 coffee/small donat
Rainbow tots	109		109	45		45 xmas fair
	<u>401</u>		<u>401</u>	<u>226</u>		<u>226</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 19 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Church Council on 30th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

**Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church
North Springfield , Chelmsford**

**Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025**

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

(R = Restricted, U = Unrestricted)

	Note	2025			2024		
		U £	R £	Total £	U £	R £	Total £
Receipts							
Voluntary Receipts							
Regular Giving	2	18,564	1,055	19,648	24,502		24,502
Receipts from activities for generating funds	3	3,412	2,200	5,690	2,935	2,828	5,763
Receipts from Church activities	4a	107		107	108		108
Receipts from investments/bank interest	5	113	445	558	151	447	598
Receipts - Missionary & charitable giving (earmarked charitable fundraising)	9a		365	365		385	385
Total Receipts		22,196	4,065	26,368	27,696	3,660	31,356
Payments							
Church Activities	6	24,540	4,705	29,245	25,131	1,270	26,401
Church activities(CDBF fees)	4b	0		0		227	227
Missionary & charitable giving	9b	50	365	415	16	385	401
Total Payments		24,590	5,070	29,660	25,147	1,882	27,029
Excess of Receipts over payments		-2,394	-1,005	-3,292	2,549	1,778	4,327
Cash & bank accounts at 1 January 2025				13,198			8,899
		Bank	Cash	Total	Bank	Cash	Total
Cash & bank accounts at 31 December 2025 (excluding CBF deposit fund)		8,953	401	9,354	12,972	226	13,198

The notes on pages 16 to 17 form part of these accounts

**Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church
North Springfield , Chelmsford**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025**

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value

Funds

Unrestricted General Funds represent the funds of the CC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the CC.

Restricted General Funds are accounted for separately within the General Fund and are expended solely according to the restriction(s) placed upon the donation(s) by the donor(s)

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the CC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment where the CC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £500.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.
- Any other amounts owing to the CC.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments account.

Investments are shown at historical cost

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Note 1 Creditors for goods and services where the supply has been received and invoiced by
31/12/25

**Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church
North Springfield , Chelmsford**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025**

	2025			2024
	U	R £	Total	£
2 Regular Giving				
Planned Giving (gift aid bank & envelopes)	2,168		2,168	4,888
Other planned giving(PGS)	10,386		10,386	10,760
Loose plate Collections	2,278		2,278	3,328
All other giving/Donations/Messy Church	164	1055	1,219	593
Gift Aid recovered(see note 10)	3568		3,568	4,933
	<u>18,564</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>19,619</u>	<u>24,502</u>
3 Receipts from activities for generating funds/Miscellaneous income				
Coffee/small donations/craft & chat	308		308	15 Plant sale
Rainbow tots	439		439	172 Coffee/small donations/craft& chat
Summer fayre	572		572	843 Christmas Fayre
Murder mystery	596		596	84 Easy fundraising
Harvest supper	276		276	19 Harvest/scarecrow
Easy fundraising	123		123	95 Harvest supper
Christmas fayre	785		785	1024 Train exhibition
Piano repair from JMC	313		313	422 Rainbow tots
LFP		2200		261 summer fete
				2458 LFP (see note 11)
				370 Rev. Caroline leaving (see note 8)
	<u>3,412</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>5,612</u>	<u>5,763</u>
4 Receipts & payments from Church activities (gross - including monies due to CDBF)				
4a Receipts				
Fees (Banns)	107		107	108 Fees (Banns)
Fees (funeral)	0		0	0 Fees (funeral)
Fees (other)	0		0	0 Fees (other)
			0	0
	<u>107</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>108</u>
4b Payments				
Fees - weddings/funerals paid to CDBF			0	72 Fees - weddings/funerals paid to CDBF
			0	155 Fees – funeral paid to Rev. C Brown
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>227</u>
5 Receipts from Investments				
Interest CBF Deposit Account		184	184	192
Dividends received from CCLA Investments		261	261	255
Bank Interest	113		113	151
	<u>113</u>	<u>445</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>598</u>
6 Church activities				
Diocesan parish share	17,508		17,508	16,500
Clergy expenses /upkeep vicarage	341		341	287
Buildings maintenance (JMC)	4,440	955	5,395	4567
Cost of services	586		586	665
Fundraising expenses	233		233	299
Governance costs(see note 7)	420		420	377
Sundries (see note 8)	419	100	519	1515
Insurance	299		299	298
Children/Youth work/ Rainbow tots	294		294	543
Little Free Pantry(LFP){see note 11}		3650	3,650	900
			0	450
	<u>24,540</u>	<u>4,705</u>	<u>29,245</u>	<u>26,401</u>

**Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church, North Springfield , Chelmsford**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025**

7 Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Website	16	16 Website
Music Licence	337	326 Music Licence
Subscriptions and Courses	47	35 Subscriptions and Co
Sundries – honorarium,	20	Sundries – honorarium, re
	<u>420</u>	<u>377</u>

8 Sundries

phone top up	40	20	phone top up
parking	6	24	food hygiene
Stationery-paper/pens/printer ink	190	26	prayer workbook
Easter eggs	9	11	kitchen
Replacement phones x2	85	430	projector
Plates/cups	13	66	Bibles rainbow tots
laminator pouches	11	14	laminator pouches
Leaving & anniversary gifts	65	924	church times advert
leaflets	100	450	Rev. Caroline leaving gift
	<u>519</u>	<u>1,965</u>	

9 Missionary and Other Charitable Giving (gross)

9a Receipts -(earmarked charitable fundraising)

Ride and Stride	15	192	Bishop Guli lent appeal
Action Family Carers	350	100	Food bus
		93	Childrens society
	<u>365</u>	<u>385</u>	

9b Payments (charitable giving)

Churches Together in Chelmsford	50	192	Bishop Guli lent appeal
Action Family Carers	350	100	Food bus
Ride and Stride	15	16	hardship donation
		93	Childrens Society
	<u>415</u>	<u>401</u>	

10 Tax Recoverable

2025	3568	4933	2024
total	<u>3568</u>	<u>4933</u>	

Anglican, Methodist & URC Community
St Augustine of Canterbury Church
North Springfield , Chelmsford

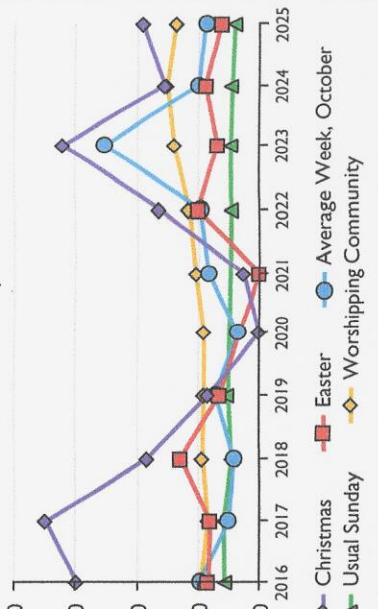
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025

11 *Little Free Pantry (restricted fund)*

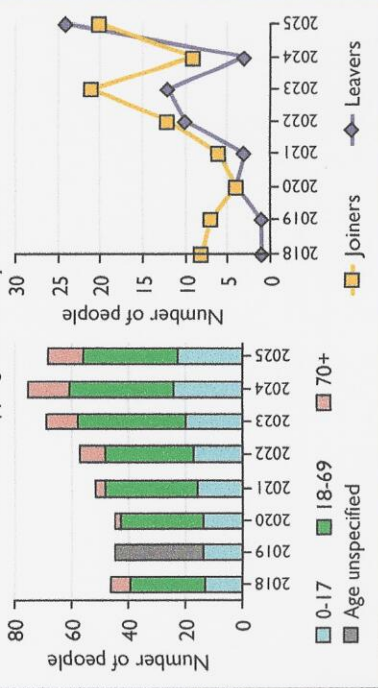
	2025	2024		
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
	£	£	£	£
Balance carried forward	1788		230	900
	2200	3649	2458	
	<u>3988</u>	<u>3649</u>	<u>2688</u>	<u>900</u>
Excess				
Receipts over payments	<u>339</u>		<u>1788</u>	

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of North Springfield: St Augustine Of Canterbury in the Deanery of Chelmsford

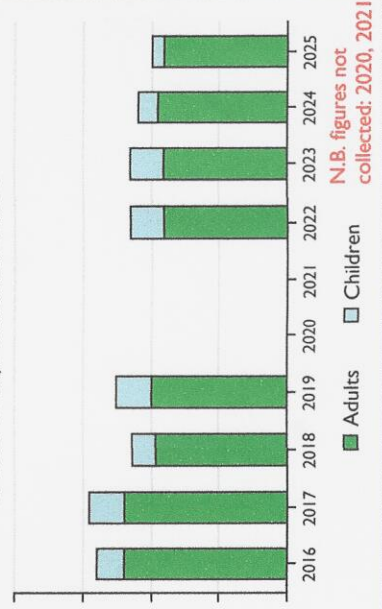
1. Attendance Summary, 2016-25



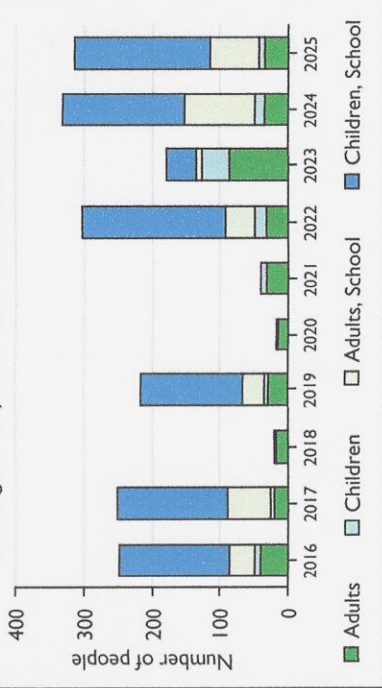
2. Worshipping Community, 2018-25



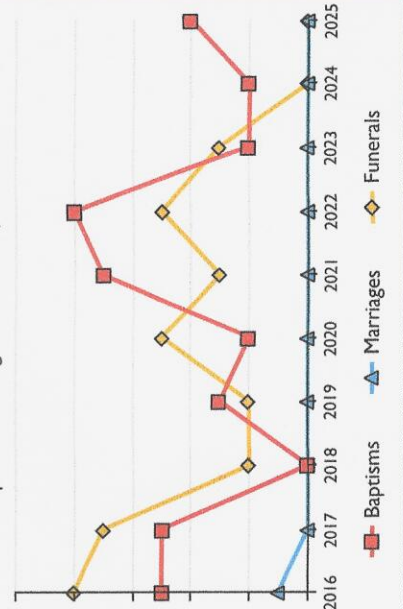
3. Usual Sunday Attendance, 2016-25



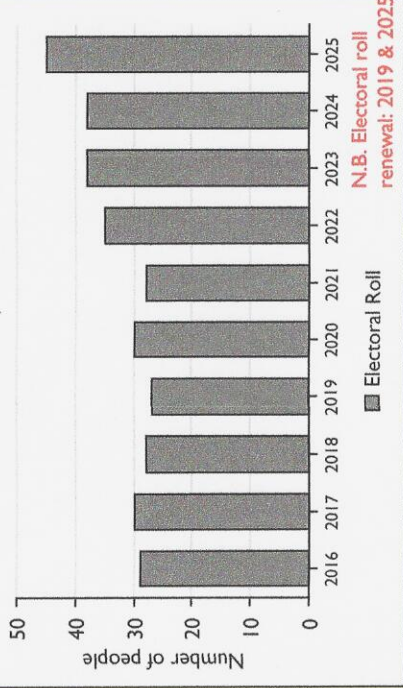
4. Average Weekly Attendance, October, 2016-25



6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, 2016-25



7. Electoral Roll, 2016-25



Parish Census and deprivation summary

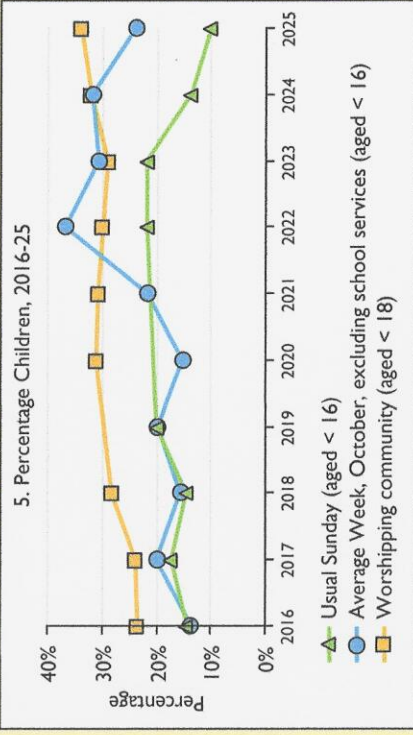
Parish	Diocese	National
Parish population (2021): 10812		
% aged 0-19	26%	23%
% aged 20-44	35%	33%
% aged 45-69	31%	31%
% aged 70 & over	7%	14%
% Christian	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	8%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2025): 10839

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,154=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <https://arcg.is/1WzGbO>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2025): 1 Parish Code: 580642



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.
Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.
Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.
 Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.
Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Oct 2025.
 The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.
 For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND