



Parish of St Barnabas, Swanmore

Annual Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

23rd April 2025

A copy of the Annual Reports is also available via email on application to the PCC secretary
pccsec@stbarnabas.org.uk

PCC Annual Report on the Year 2024

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the body that, with the Incumbent, steers the life of the church in its mission, witness and service in the parish. The PCC's role is governed by law (the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956). It is a charitable trust and PCC members are charitable trustees.

The PCC also owns, lets and maintains the hall and meeting rooms of the Paterson Centre, and Barnaby's Coffee Shop.

The Parish had been in vacancy from 9 May 2021 to 19th February 2024. The new Incumbent is Revd Andy Davis.

PCC Membership

The current membership of the PCC is: the Chairman, two Churchwardens, two Deanery Synod Representatives and 9 Elected PCC Members and one co-opted member. We have no current Diocesan Synod member (Andrew Wilkinson was on the Diocesan Synod from 2016 – July 2024).

PCC membership for 2024/25:

Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd Andy Davis (PCC Chair) from 19th February 2024.

Churchwardens: Janet Chant and Dave Lee (PCC Vice Chair)

Diocesan Synod member: Andrew Wilkinson (Treasurer) up to July 2024.

Deanery Synod Members: Jen Frampton, Allison Gurry

Elected Members:

1. Jenny Sharpe. Electoral Roll Officer
2. Caroline Vost, Parish Safeguarding Officer
3. Emma Sajo, PCC Secretary
4. John Sharpe
5. Derrinda Laing
6. Helen Dyer
7. Emily Singleton
8. David Bakewell
9. Doug Emmett

Co-Opted Members

1. Andrew Wilkinson Treasurer and Co-Opted Member (from July 2024)

Assistant Churchwardens

The Churchwardens invited Jen Frampton, Derrinda Laing, Tony King, John Sharpe, Andrew Wilkinson, Crawford Wright, Shuna Rose and Wendy Horn to act as Assistant Churchwardens.

PCC teams and their abbreviated outline terms of reference

Standing Committee – sets the agenda for PCC meetings and has the authority to transact the business of the PCC as required between meetings.

Paterson Centre Management – manages the day to day running, letting and maintenance of the Paterson Centre, subject to terms of reference and financial control exercised by the PCC.

Magazine – manages the production and distribution of the magazine, subject to terms of reference and financial control exercised by the PCC.

Barnaby's Business Team (BBT), becoming Barnaby's Steering Group (BSG) during 2024 – manages the day to day running of the coffee shop on behalf of the PCC, subject to terms of reference and financial control exercised by the PCC.

Social and Fundraising – supports the people and finances of the Church by promoting social activities that help the Church build community and promote a culture of belonging, engagement, and fun among parishioners.

Communications – manages print and social media to inform the wider community about church activities.

Missions Giving – research missions and charities and advises the PCC on the choice of missions.

Property Team – manages the fabric and grounds within agreed financial limits on behalf of the PCC either directly or through contractors, where necessary liaising with our architect and DAC.

Finance - supports the incumbent and churchwardens by advising on the many aspects of income and expenditure for the church.

PCC Meetings

The PCC met 8 times between January to December 2024, and published minutes of each meeting. Most meetings were held in Barnaby's although use was also made of Zoom. The approved Minutes of the PCC Meetings were made available on the website and posted on the notice board.

Financial Report for the Year 2024

This report covers the finances of the whole church for 2024 (figures for 2023 are in brackets), including the "trading" elements of Barnaby's and the Paterson Centre.

Overall, there was a surplus of £14,207 (deficit of £437) and at 31 Dec 24 the assets stood at £78,870 (£64,664). Total income rose by 12.7% to £161,641 (£143,413) while total expenditure rose by 2.5% to £147,434 (£143,864).

At a time of higher general inflation than we have had for some years, planned giving rose by 5%, partly as a result of the inflation link option offered by the Parish Giving Scheme. The scheme continued to attract donors as the number of standing order donations declined. At December 2024 there were 70 (74) regular donors (or families), of whom 58 (58) were members of PGS. The average annual PGS donation, before Gift Aid, was £780 (£703). No legacies were received in the year but there was one anonymous gift of £3,000.

Collections at services were £6265 (£5,345) and fundraising net income was £6,475 (£6,187) despite poor weather on one of the Open Gardens weekends. The Paterson Centre continued to be well used and lettings income rose to £12,298 (£11,272). Barnaby's community coffee shop again had a very strong year of trading with income of £48,189 (£42,710). The parish magazine The Swanmore Link, funded by advertisers and free to readers, again made a small surplus of £148.

Parish Share continued to be the largest expense, increasing to £57,504 (£54,703) and was paid in full. The only major items of capital expenditure were the purchase of a new photocopier and a large television for the Paterson Centre (with the help of some generous grants). Maintenance work to the buildings (particularly roofs and gutters) and churchyard continued. There was a significant reduction

in utilities costs to £13,074 (£19,429) as a result of new contracts made after the sharp rise in energy costs in 2022.

The system of supporting missions by allocating about 10% of regular giving to three missions continued in the year and £5000 was divided among St George Foundation, Portsmouth Street and School Pastors and the EC Roberts Centre. Collections in church raised a further £2,023. Barnaby's allocated £8,779 (£6,453) to a range of national and local charities including Swanmore Primary School. A further £546 (£1,185) was raised for Rowan's Hospice through Open Gardens.

Andrew Wilkinson. Treasurer

St Barnabas Ministry Team Report

For the first six weeks of the year, the Team comprised Kathy O'Loughlin, Nick and Hazel Whitehead. Ruth Schofield joined us in July.

Andy was licensed as Priest in Charge on 19th February and much enjoyed reacquainting himself with Swanmore and the other six parishes in the new Meon Valley Parishes ministry. Throughout the year there were ongoing explorations and activity centred on adding clergy and others to the evolving Meon Valley Parishes team. Leading Lent groups and Holy Week at St Barnabas was particularly moving and enjoyable for him.

On 14th July just hours after an excellent outdoor service at the Primary School with the Methodist Church, he had an accident which kept him out of ministry for the rest of the year.

Since 14th July, we have provided appropriate and imaginative acts of worship for all ages on Sundays and at other times and seasons. There has been a service of Holy Communion every Sunday and we were grateful to +Ian Brackley and AD Kathryn who stepped in at short notice. We also had an 8am service of Holy Communion about twice a month.

Hazel, Nick and Ben Armstrong have continued the monthly Café Church service with the help of a team which has taken responsibility for music, refreshments, craft work, setting up and leading prayers.

Liturgy has been served well by our musicians – Peter Fellows (who chose the hymns), Claire Eathorne, Tony King, Emily Singleton and Sarah Woodman; by the scratch choir at Christmas; by the sacristy team: Fiona Noble, Richard Greene-Wilkinson, Brian Thompson and Christine Thomas (8am), and Liz Newbold and Vicky Newhouse plus Communion Assts and crucifers at 10am. Vicky Cronin continues to look after linen and altar frontals.

Special services included Summer Sing, the annual Memorial and Thanksgiving service, Remembrance Day, Christingle, Advent Toy service, Nine Lessons and Carols and Crib Service (led by Ben and friends.)

We also continued to facilitate the twice weekly Zoom Morning Prayer.

There were three weddings and three baptisms (one at Winchester Cathedral). Jill Phipps took some funerals and interments of ashes, and Nick took one funeral.

We have overseen our relationship with Swanmore Primary School, facilitating Worship on Wednesdays, Easter Experience, Christmas and Harvest services, and contributions to classwork.

We have been involved in pastoral care, safeguarding issues, church plant maintenance and the day-to-day matters which arise continually.

Our aim has been to encourage and enable as many lay people as we can to participate in all aspects of parish life because it is the responsibility of the whole people of God to share the joys and duties of Christian ministry. We are thankful to have wardens and PCC members who work hard to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Nick and Hazel Whitehead pp The Ministry Team

Fabric and Grounds Report for year 2024

Church Yard

A group of the Strimmers, led by Nick meet regularly on Friday mornings to work on the churchyard and other parts of the site, sometimes is supplemented by the property group inside the buildings to maintain the whole site. The grounds are neat and tidy and respond well to all the time spent. About 20 people are involved in a wide variety of tasks. In early spring a new shed was bought, as the previous one was too small. There was a meeting in February to discuss with the new architect about the replacement of tiles on the roof of Barnaby's and the placing of guards to stop tiles falling to the ground on the area on the west side of Barnaby's. This work was done by the summer.

The condition of the ceiling in the Long room was critical and could not be repaired until the tiles had been secured and the plaster had dried. This group is working steadily through the 2022 Quinquennial report.

Gary (ACSO) has taken a keen interest in the War graves in the churchyard and he is able to find them all. He then turned his attention to the War Memorial and set about making it beautiful. This work involved crowd-funding for the necessary repairs and materials. Over several months the memorial was transformed, with new gravel and repaired metal fencing. A celebration of this was held in August. A small group assisted Gary with this work.

The fire extinguishers were checked by Fire Guard on 26th June 2024

Church flowers

Each week with the exception of Advent and Lent, our church is beautifully decorated with fresh flowers. We all appreciate the skills of the people who arrange the flowers. We particularly look forward the profusion of the arrangements at the major festivals.

Church Cleaning

As well as the flower arrangers, each week a group of people gather to sweep, dust, polish and vacuum! Over the course of a month different groups make sure the whole building is clean. Your work is much appreciated and admired.

Spring Cleaning

As well as regular weekly cleaning, for several years we have had Spring Cleaning one Saturday morning in Lent (16th March 2024). High level cleaning is done by some of the property team, so that on Saturday everyone can have their feet on the ground! As well as cleaning, there is time to chat and share coffee and snacks! A great way to start the weekend!

Electrical Systems

This year there has been on-going maintenance of the electrical circuits. Some work has been done by professionals to keep the systems up to date.

The boiler was serviced in October. The system will need serious work done in a few years. We need to consider the fuel system for this and the method to keep the buildings warm.

Sound system and Projector

A replacement projector was donated to church by the Primary School and was fitted in November.

Filing cabinets and catalogue system

Doug Emmett has spent many hours in the office sorting church documents. The contents of the filing cabinets are now sorted properly. Thank you for all your skill and determination Doug.

Vicarage and Garden

Many hours were spent by many people getting the Vicarage ready for Andy and Chris. The final session was just before they arrived in January when a large group gave the garden a final tidy.

Archdeacon's Inspection

In September we had a successful visit from the Archdeacon to look at registers and silverware. We quickly learnt and forgot the correct names of the items used for communion. This is an inspection that should happen every 5 years. Our last one was a few years before Lockdown. This was affected by the absence of an archdeacon and a huge catch up of all the churches in the Archdeaconry!

"This is our church"

We often say this in services. I think over the last year we can truly say it with feeling. Our buildings and grounds show the care and skill that so many members of our church and community invest at Saint Barnabas. Thank you seems too simple, but everything is much appreciated by parishioners and visitors. Thank you

Dave Lee and Janet Chant March 2025

Annual Report by the Electoral Roll Officer for the year 2024-25

During the year one new person registered and none were recorded as dying or leaving. As a result, the final number of people on the 2024-25 register was 157. However, the new register which came into effect on 8th April 2025 has 117 registered. Of these 113 were on the previous register and 4 were not on the previous register.

In accordance with the wishes of the PCC the full Roll with addresses, etc. is available for PCC business but is not on public display. The Roll is updated as and when I become aware of departures, new members or changes in personal details. In order to keep the Roll up to date please let me know of any changes.

The PCC decided to produce a revised church telephone list and a request for permission to publish was included with the electoral roll application form. The new telephone list will be published shortly after the APCM.

Jenny Sharpe, Electoral Roll Officer, 8th April 2025

Bishops Waltham Deanery Synod Report

The first meeting of the year of the Deanery Synod took place on 28th February, 2024 at St. Nicholas Church, Wickham

A Diocesan Synod report was given and also a General Synod report was presented by Rebecca Hunt. It provided members with a summary of items discussed at General Synod.

A finance report was given showing that in 2023 almost every Parish in the Deanery had managed to pay its Parish Share in full.

A presentation was given on Mission and Ministry Development. This included The Diocesan Vision for engaging Parishes and Deaneries in developing effective practical strategies to enhance the growth of communities of Jesus centred, Kingdom-seeking disciples.

The Strategic Mission Initiative; It was agreed to prepare funding bids for the development of work with young children and families; infrastructure support for the newly formed ministry collective in the Meon Valley Parishes; and Pioneer/outreach ministry on the Boorley Park estate.

The second meeting held on 13th May, 2024 was at St. Peter and St. Paul, Hambledon. The meeting was advised that Diocesan Synod elections would take place in July.

Ghana inter-Diocesan partnership - Bishop Jonathan had recently been to Ghana to visit the several Dioceses, meet with their Bishops and affirm our Diocese's sharing in the Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link. A request had been received from St. Nicholas Seminary (Ghana) for assistance with the purchase of a vehicle to replace the bus used to transport theology students in the course of their studies. It was agreed to send the remaining monies in the Deanery Ghana Support Fund (currently £6,612.00) as a contribution to achieve this.

The bids for Strategic Funding have been submitted to the Diocese.

Chris Parker, the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser gave a presentation on Generosity Week.

The third meeting was on 14th October, 2024 at St. Nicolas, Wickham. The meeting was advised that the transfer of funds to Ghana was still pending, awaiting details from the Diocesan IDWAL team re the transfer route.

The Strategic Funding bid – Outcome expected on 31st October 2024.

The initial cohort of Lay Worship Leaders commissioned in the Deanery are meeting soon to review their involvement so far, leading worship. It is hoped to recruit sufficient participants by next Spring for a further training course.

Details of the Diocesan Synod elections were given.

Finance report was delivered.

Vanda Leary, Diocesan Strategic Development Adviser gave a presentation on Mission and Ministry Development - Vision and Strategy.

Jen Frampton and Allison Gurry

St Barnabas Cygnets Report

We have had another busy year, with many new family registrations. The total number of children currently registered is 105. Average attendance per session is 30 children and 34 adults, 30% of which are grandparents. Children range from newborn babies to 4 years.

With such high attendance a minimum of 5 helpers are needed at each session and we are always grateful for more volunteer helpers, particularly leaders. A new leader (or preferably two to share the load) is being sought from September 2025.

Families attending continue to be predominately from Swanmore and families attending from outside Swanmore have family living in Swanmore.

The session continues to run from 9am-10.30am with a suggested donation of £2 per family. Families have been grateful for the ability to pay by card.

Our craft activities have been numerous, with Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day cards being especially popular. As were potting seed/bulbs, Advent, floral arrangements and anything food related.

We have celebrated birthdays, new births, baptisms, thanksgivings and Christian festivals. We have promoted and encourage attendance at church services and activities. At the end of each term we have given a small Christian themed gift to all children e.g. children who started school in September received a first prayer book, at Christmas all children received the story of the first Christmas book.

One of the many pieces of feedback we have received this year:

I wanted to write to say a big thank you for everything. The provision for the children is everything we could ask for.

A huge part of what makes Swanmore Cygnets so special is the welcome from everyone, the chats and kindness from the team. Motherhood can be challenging and I don't think I'm the only mummy who really looks forward to the warm, friendly chats, thank you all. You do as much for the adults as you do for the children.

I know how much work it must take each week. The arts and crafts table has been so brilliant. My child has gone from being worried about getting their hands messy to approaching art with confidence. Thank you. I will treasure all their pictures they have made with you.

Special thanks to the Cygnets team of volunteers who make running the group possible.

Anne Davies, Jen Frampton, Janet Pancott, Hilary Walsh, Juliet Helbren, Annette Carlisle, Dave Reynolds and Bertie Ferrone.

Teresa Reynolds – Group Leader

St. Barnabas Church Flower Group

We have had another busy year continuing to arrange flowers in St. Barnabas on a weekly basis and for the main church festivals. The weekly flowers are generously given by the person on the flower rota and we also rely on small donation from weddings. Our appeal for donations for Easter flowers and also the generosity of church members and Barnaby's Community Coffee Shop at our Christmas

Coffee morning enabled us to decorate our church as is appropriate for these special festivals. The cost of flowers has risen considerably, and we are most grateful to everyone who supports us. During the year we were delighted to welcome Helen Stead to our group of flower arrangers and would encourage anyone who has a love of flowers to join us. You do not have to be a wonderful flower arranger. We all just try to do our best to decorate St. Barnabas as a way of showing our love for our Lord.

Juliet Helbren

Barnabys

In 2024 Barnabys celebrated its first 10 years of successful operation. During which time it has made financial contributions to The Church, many local charities and more importantly, has provided a social centre which many Swanmore villagers have enjoyed using.

Barnabys' charity support has covered a wide range of charity activities from hospices to the air ambulance. Some support is based on regular gifts, some on a percentage of a particular day's takings. In 2024 this totalled over £8,000.

There has been a steady growth in customer numbers and sales over the years, so that the cafe is truly thriving and often so busy that the staff enjoy being challenged by the numbers who visit for coffee and cake. Sales were nearly £50,000 during 2024.

Barnabys' success is due to the hard work of all those who have been involved over the last 10 years. They have all been volunteers and given their time freely. In some cases, especially the small group who were managing Barnabys up to December 2024, that has been a great deal of time and energy. A thank you is due to all the volunteers, but especially that small team.

A new larger team of volunteers successfully took over managing operations from January 1st 2025, with plans to renew some of the equipment and to develop the kitchen and working areas.

The cafe now operates under a Steering Group, which has members containing both Barnabys managing volunteers and PCC members. That Group operates under an agreed Terms of Reference, which aim to give both more control to Barnabys as well as more links with the PCC.

Barnaby's Team

Swanmore Primary School Update

I am providing the update as the new Chair of Governors, a role which I took on in September. Ian Wollam has stepped down as Chair, but we are very grateful that he has stayed on as a Foundation Governor.

The school continues to a vibrant and central part of our community, offering a fantastic and varied education to the children. There have been some wonderful experiences for the children so far this academic year – residential trips to Wales and Minstead, a trip to the river Meon, author visits, a planetarium experience, sports events and a Zoom call with a Meteorologist in Antarctica to name but a few.

The school's performance and attendance remains good. As noted in last year's report, there were some behavioural challenges, but school now feels a much more settled place to be and it is always a joy to visit and walk around.

The school continues to support families in need, practically, financially and emotionally, with help from external charities and agencies such as Meon Valley Food Bank, and Swanmore Education Trust. The staff team continue to show a real passion for the children and their education, with a mix of new staff and those who have been there for many years. The staff are also very supportive of each other and contribute towards a positive school community.

We are also very grateful for the support of FOSPS (Friends of Swanmore Primary School). They work hard to put on a number of events throughout the year, both for the school (discos, Christmas present sale) and the wider community (Fireworks night, summer fete, quiz). The events are great fun and also provide much appreciated financial support.

The school continues to enjoy a longstanding partnership with the Church – thank you to those who give up their time to support this. The worship council take an active part in worship within the school, and were influential in the plans for the Prayer Pod, which opened in the school grounds last summer. We have a wonderful team of Governors, who have been very supportive as I find my feet as the Chair of Governors! They also give a lot of time in support of the school. The Foundation Governors are myself, Ian Wollam, Andrew Wilkinson, Nina Cawley, Emily Sandoval, Hannah Horner. Bobbie Branson is our LA Governor, Tanya Clay is a co-opted Governor, Steve Tooke and Anna Walklate are Parent Governors and Liv New is our staff governor. Our current clerk, Jackie Finney will retire at the end of March and we are very grateful for all her support during her time as clerk. We do also have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. It is a very fulfilling role and if you are interested in finding out more, please contact me.

Sam Lee - Chair of Governors – Swanmore Primary School

St Barnabas Social & Fundraising Annual Report 2024

The committee aims to put on a varied programme covering most age groups, during the course of each year. Our intention is to provide great entertainment at low cost and some events are free, or almost free, social events. We started the year with the aim of staging about one event a month, hoping to raise a little more than the £6000 we raised in 2023. However, this proved unachievable as we had to cancel the April Open Gardens due to lack of support. As a result, we raised about £5400, plus £540 for Rowans.

We made a brilliant start to the year with a Quiz and Pudding Night at The Village Hall. We relocated the event from The Paterson Centre to cope with the numbers and had 16 teams, though not all were 8 strong. This event was repeated even more successfully in 2025. Following the disappointment over Open Gardens in April we were heartened by the Swanmore Wind Band in May who treated us to a super concert in the Church. In July we had eleven beautiful gardens open and good visitor numbers on both days, with the refreshments team breaking their sales record. Later that month we repeated the 2023 success of the Teddy Bears' Picnic and we hope this will be a regular annual event. September saw a revival of Oh Heck, this is a rather niche event with typically 30-40 players but is easy to stage requiring little manpower. Oh Heck is a form of whist and we enjoy a fish & chip supper at half time. It is primarily a social rather than fundraising event. Beer & Hymns, at around the time of Harvest, has become a firm annual favourite and once again the Paterson Centre was packed. We kicked off our Christmas celebrations with a simply wonderful concert in the Church. Entitled "Silent Night", it featured the beautiful singing of the Winchester Consort punctuated by poetic readings. Our

last event in 2024 was the Children's film and afternoon tea. For the second year running few children turned up and most of them were the offspring of the adults running the event. This event will be dropped from our future calendar.

We had one other significant development during the year. The Nostalgic Film Club was launched in July. Initially this was staged in the Church using our existing audio-visual equipment. However, most of the audience are elderly and were cold and uncomfortable on the pews. Consequently, we relocated to the Paterson Centre and were fortunate to obtain generous grants from: The Parish Council, Bishops Waltham Rotary Club, Meon Valley Lions Club and Barnaby's Coffee Shop that enabled us to buy and install a 85" television. The Club meets once a month on a Tuesday afternoon (in 2025 this will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month). The PCC subsidises these meetings by waiving hall fees and our licence does not allow charging to watch the film, so the meetings are free. However, we do invite donations towards the cost of the tea, coffee and biscuits that are provided. One other quirk of the Church's licence is that we are not allowed to advertise, outside the Church premises, which film will be shown. Films are selected by the members and in 2024 were heavily biased towards classic Hollywood Musicals. It is likely that a wider spread of genres will be seen in 2025.

My thanks to the rest of the S&F committee and to all those that helped us with our various events. We look forward to another successful year in 2025 with a target of raising more than £6000 but, your support is vital for these events to be successful. We would particularly like to recruit enthusiastic volunteers to our committee.

John Sharpe

The Swanmore Link Magazine

The magazine continued to be produced bimonthly throughout 2024. For the December 2024/January 2025 issue the PCC again decided to distribute copies to all households in the parish. Estimates of how many households there are varies but of a print run of 1,550 I was only aware of about 10 surplus issues being left on the table in the Link, so presumably almost all 1,550 were actually delivered.

At the start of the year we increased the print-run to 1,000 for the Feb/Mar 2024 issue in anticipation that some of those who don't usually collect a magazine may have been encouraged to do so by the Christmas delivery (Dec 2023/Jan 2024). However, while copies collected increased slightly (835 in Feb/Mar 2024) this was not sustained so we reverted to a print run of 800 for the following three issues (Apr/May, Jun/Jul and Oct/Nov); numbers of copies remaining when the subsequent issue was due to be delivered were in single digits.

Advertising was down further to 12pp from Feb/Mar 2024 and issues were reduced to 44pp. A high number of contributions from individuals, societies and other organisations in the parish and surrounding district continue to be received regularly.

Sue de Vere had been considering handing over magazine distribution duties to someone else for some time and has now decided to end her involvement from 31st March 2025. Thanks are due to her for all her efforts over several years and also to Roger de Vere for maintaining the Village Directory and to Caroline Clapperton for eagle-eyed proof-reading.

Penny Clive

St Barnabas Pastoral Visitors' Report

1. The team comprises Caroline Edser, Jen Frampton, Allison Gurry, Derrinda Laing and Janet Pancott, with Caroline Vost regularly involved in her safeguarding capacity, and our CSOs consulted when necessary.
2. We have had quarterly supervision meetings to ensure we observe proper boundaries, confidentiality and legalities, and where we plan, prepare, and share wisdom.
3. Home Communion: Allison Gurry and Janet Pancott have been going into Ridgemedede Care Home monthly and were sometimes joined by clergy or lay people from St Peter's BW. A small group (8 – 12) gathers for worship. Allison has also taken Communion into private homes, the result being that one man has joined the congregation. She is always open to receiving invitations from the housebound.
4. Weddings: Derrinda Laing continues as wedding verger (only two weddings this year.)
5. Funerals: Derrinda is verger at funerals (seven funerals, two celebration of life services and two internments of ashes.) Allison acted as verger for two funerals and attended one internment of ashes. Together they kept records, sent anniversary cards and invitations to memorial and thanksgiving service which was held in October and well-attended and appreciated. It was good to see a mix of people from the community, congregation and beyond.
6. Baptisms: There was only one teenager baptised this year, but Jen continued to send anniversary cards and keep in touch with families from previous years.
7. Janet and Jen also helped at Cygnets which provides another opportunity for keeping in touch with young families.
8. Newcomers: Where we know a person is new, we try to welcome them and visit where possible. We also keep an eye on the small new-build developments.
9. Swanmore School: Allison helps the Methodists with Open the Book, PVs help with various school events in Church particularly Experience Easter and Experience Church. Nick Whitehead is making more links on which we hope to build.
10. The Sick, Bereaved and Housebound: The PVs are partly dependent on members of the congregation alerting them to people who are sick, bereaved, incapacitated so that they can make appropriate visits. They have visited or contacted those they have known about in the congregation and community. (Names withheld for obvious reasons.)
11. PVs have been involved with a couple of sensitive cases and some safeguarding issues which have always been discussed with CV and our CSOs, Gary and Sarah.
12. The Prayer Corner: PVs worked (with others) on revitalising the Prayer Corner and continue to monitor and re-stock it. It is not possible to know how often it has been used or how many people, but we know that many people have appreciated it.
13. Street Contacts: This was an idea of Andy's which we set up for him but have no evidence it is proving to be useful.

14. We believe every Christian person provides an element of pastoral care to those around them but are grateful for the team's commitment as they continue to provide pastoral care in this more organised way.

Hazel Whitehead and the PV Team

Paterson Centre Report

The Paterson Centre continues to be used for a wide range of community and private events, with a high level of use in both daytime and evenings. The day-to-day running of the Centre is managed by a subcommittee of the PCC with the support of Gail (bookings) and Lesley (caretaking): many thanks to both! A new large-screen flatscreen television was installed in October, which has enabled the new "Nostalgic Film Club" to meet in comfort. This was supported by generous grant funding from Bishops Waltham Rotary Club, Swanmore Parish Council, Meon Valley Lions Club, and Barnaby's. No major items of maintenance were carried out in 2024, although planning work was undertaken for a double glazing refresh to take place in 2025.

Dave Lee, Andrew Wilkinson, Paterson Centre management subcommittee

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding Policies and Practice:

The PCC has a legal obligation under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. St Barnabas PCC continues to comply with this duty adopting all the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and shares the commitment to safeguarding through 'Promoting a Safer Church' Practice Guidance. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting and our policies are annually reviewed and updated where necessary. They are ratified by the PCC and meet statutory obligations whilst remaining relevant to St Barnabas. In accordance with National Church requirements all current safeguarding policies and procedures are available to view in the dedicated 'Safeguarding' section of the Information Hub. St Barnabas continues to be GDPR compliant with the storage and retention of confidential safeguarding records through the online password protected dropbox storage system. This is in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Records-Retention Guidance and along with the PSO, the dropbox is accessed by our Vicar and Churchwardens.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard (PSD): This online tool helps make safeguarding administration and governance simpler. The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement, Promoting a Safer Church, says 'All Church bodies should ensure that they have a 'Promoting a Safer Church' action place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly'. A Safeguarding Action Plan (SAP), generated from the PSD, is provided to the PCC prior to each meeting for discussion and approval. The SAP is always fluid but it is pleasing to report that St Barnabas maintains at Level 3, the top level, indicating that all essential safeguarding matters are being addressed.

Safer Recruitment: Our Church strives to create and maintain environments that are safer and promote the well-being of children, young people and adults. Volunteers are being safely recruited following the Church of England recommendations. In line with GDPR completed paperwork for this process is stored securely. Role descriptions have been prepared for key Church volunteer roles (there

are still some to create!) ensuring those applying understand the expectations of the role they are undertaking.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): DBS checks are no longer solely relied on, they now form part of the wider Safer Recruitment Process. All our DBS applications are made online using the eBulk system, which is managed by ThirtyOne:Eight. DBS checks are role specific in a faith setting. A number of individuals performing a variety of volunteer roles at St Barnabas are DBS checked at differing levels of clearance. Not every role requires a DBS check or indeed is eligible for one and this is regularly reviewed.

Safeguarding Learning & Development: It is encouraging to report that a growing awareness and understanding of the need for safeguarding training has been noticed. This has been demonstrated with an improved willingness to complete any required safeguarding courses. Safeguarding training is a big ask but a commitment to complete this training shows our volunteers take safeguarding seriously. You may be surprised at how many church volunteers are now required to complete the Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training, so I could be calling on you very soon! The Diocese Safeguarding Team (DST) have increased Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) zoom network meetings and introduced separate zoom question and answer sessions. These forums keep PSO's up to date with national and diocese procedures to ensure good safeguarding practice happens at parish level.

Safeguarding Incidents or Expressions of Concern: St Barnabas has a good safeguarding partnership with CSO Sarah McCulloch and regular conversations between the PSO and Pastoral Visitors lead and team take place. A number of safeguarding concerns were reported during 2024 which have been dealt with in line with safeguarding procedures. Some were considered to be pastoral in nature and dealt with accordingly. Other clear safeguarding concerns were referred to the Diocese Safeguarding Team (DST) who acknowledged the reports raised and went on to liaise with relevant statutory agencies. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility so it is really positive to see that a willingness to come forward and report concerns exists.

Key Message: Remember that ensuring the safety of all children, young people and adults is a shared responsibility amongst everyone at St Barnabas. Do not hesitate to contact the PSO if you see, hear or are told something which doesn't feel right...please act on it! St Barnabas Responding to Safeguarding Allegations or Concerns Procedure provides guidance to anyone who needs to report a concern or allegation of abuse. This is available to view on the Information Hub of the Church web site or a copy can be found on the Church notice board.

Thanks: A big thank you to all those who have contributed in some way to safeguarding at St Barnabas this year and to PCC for their support. My personal thanks to Hazel Whitehead and Janet Chant.

Caroline Vost, Parish Safeguarding Officer, safeguarding@stbarnabas.org.uk

Property Report

Grounds

Hedge cutting and grass cutting went well, though the wild area turned out to be a bit big, as cutting it back at the year-end was a challenge. Work started on reducing the height and width of the SW corner hedge, and continues in 2025. The front lawns were given a feed.

Work continued on improving the gravel paths by levelling, sharpening the edges, adding new chippings and weed-killing. The rope fence by Barnaby's car park has helped to improve the grass coverage in front of the Paterson centre.

Thanks, as ever, to Barnaby's for most excellent coffee to kept us going and facilitating half-time chat.

Gutters and roofs

We continued to make the buildings as watertight as possible, through repairs and regular gutter cleaning. Contracts were completed as follows:

- Replacement of small flat roof above the Long Room
- Replacement of roof strip above Paterson Centre double doors
- Repair to belfry eaves slats, and soffit and gutter adjacent to bell tower.

War Memorial

Refurbishment work continued through most of the year, the most notable projects being significant repairs to, and repainting of the metal fencing, restoring the ground surrounding the memorial, and the cleaning of the Memorial itself.

Boiler Room Steps

These were protected by the installation of a gate and by adding mesh to stop children falling through the existing pipe fence.

Storage Shed

A new, slightly larger shed was installed, strengthened, and shelved. It is now fit for purpose, the old one being donated to Swanmore Primary School

Miscellaneous

In the spring we held our wonderfully successful annual church clean – a highlight, so far as I am concerned, in the church's calendar.

A document has been produced to integrate/cross-reference our property works and the Quinquennial Report. The computer projector in the church was replaced. Sinks and toilets were unblocked from time to time, and the Link toilet repaired. A new, larger, TV screen was installed in the Paterson Centre and an accompanying cabinet built for it. Ventilation was added to the link cupboard doors, and lighting/electrical work undertaken.

Apart from all this, many people look after the buildings (Church, Halls and Barnaby's) in a wide variety of ways: caring for the electrics, the linen, the sound system, the bells, the coffee machines, the lighting, the cleaning, and the heating systems, etc. Our thanks to them all for their most valuable Christian stewardship.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

Friday Home Group Report for 2024

Friday morning Home Group has 8 members and usually meets on the second and fourth Friday of the month in each other's houses. Leadership of each session is taken by individual members.

At the beginning of the year we studied three weeks of *After Christmas* sessions from *Promises, promises* – An Advent study course by Nick Fawcett

Spring Term we joined in the church Lent Course sessions in the Paterson Centre *Exploring Prayer* lead by the Revd Andy Davies.

Summer Term we studied the seven sessions of *Barnabas – Son of Encouragement* a Cover to Cover Bible Study by Christopher Brearley, and also shared a summer lunch, with partners, in a member's garden.

Autumn term study was the first five sessions of *Job – The Source of Wisdom* a Cover to Cover Bible Study by Elizabeth Rundle,

At each meeting opening and closing prayers are included and we and make a small donation for refreshments and during the year we sent £30 each to two charities of members choice.

Derrinda Laing on behalf of Friday Home Group Members

Church Cleaning Team 2024 Report

Our new Henry vacuum cleaner has been a welcome addition to our cleaning equipment as it has enabled us to easily manoeuvre into far more corners this year. After the annual spring clean in March 2024, Jen Frampton hung up her dusters for a final time. Jen had given numerous years of service to the church cleaning team and then also took on the role of co-ordinator for which we are extremely grateful. From April, Penny Smith stepped up to co-ordinate the team of fifteen volunteer cleaners who give an hour a month to cover the weekly cleaning jobs. This, together with the help the church members gave the volunteers for the annual spring clean, has kept St Barnabas sparkling. This year we have welcomed four new members to the team and we have said goodbye and thank you to Alison Gurry, Theresa Reynolds and David Thomas who have retired. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to keeping our church looking its best this year.

Penny Smith

The Communications Team

We continue to manage the digital link between the Church and the Swanmore community via the website <https://stbarnabas.org.uk> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StBarnabasSwanmore>.

This coming year we will be taking on editorial of our 'Church Near You' web page to keep details up to date. The aim is to be welcoming, informative and share how it feels to be part of a Church family. This year we have continued to;

- Manage the website and liaise with 21six to arrange software updates and any hosting/security issues.
- Update the website with forthcoming events, pdf's to the information hub, changes to text & photographs.
- Manage the Facebook Page, posting new information and photos about what's happening in Church and Swanmore.
- Reply to any queries that come in via the Website or Messenger.
- Work with the Events Team & Young Peoples Leader to create Facebook Event posts with ticketing information.
- Liaise with the Primary School to ensure information is shared in their newsletter about family events in church and the monthly Café Church.
- Assist with Facebook Live recordings of significant events.

- Provide awareness of help required within voluntary Church teams and safeguarding information.

Helen Dyer

Elected Missions Giving Report

For the second year of the three-year-term the elected Missions for 2024 were St George Foundation, EC Roberts Centre Portsmouth and Street Pastors, Portsmouth. At the end of the year, from Planned Giving, a payment of £1667 was made to each mission. In the summer, Philip and Richard from St George Foundation visited a Sunday morning service to tell us about the work in Sierra Leone and the collection of £509 raised extra Giving. In December Robert the Bear and his carer from the Roberts Centre Portsmouth visited a Sunday morning service to tell us about their work supporting families in the Portsmouth area. A large collection of Toys were donated by the congregation in support of our giving. Street Pastors Portsmouth were unable to visit during the year however a representative is planned to visit Cafe Church in July 2025 to tell us about their work nationally.

Derrinda Laing, Missions Giving

St Barnabas Swanmore PCC Clock Report 2023-2024

Points

1. Serviced by Cumbria Clock Company on 25 July 2024; Cost £190 plus VAT. This service was delayed from April 2023 due to other commitments.
2. Next service is due July 25. Current forecast it will be £190 ex VAT
3. Team of 6 winders wind clock usually on each Saturday of each calendar month The Rota was agreed by all by end of previous year. Changeover last Saturday of month after wind. Currently 2 winders are on IR.
4. All clock winders signed up to working alone practice. Although I cannot check because I am unable to get confirmation
5. Current Risk Assessment (Swanmore Clock RA V2.0 dated 29/11/2021) sent to the clock winders for review in November 24. No updates requested
6. Objective to keep the clock to +/- 20 seconds of real time taken on the 1st strike of the bell on the hour. Also to be +/- 2 seconds on Armistice Day.
7. There have been no unusual stoppages this year.
8. Given the age of the clock, I requested a quotation from Cumberland Clock for an 'in situ' overhaul. The price quoted is £2864.00 plus Vat.
9. The winding chamber is scheduled to be cleaned in May 25.