



Parish of St Barnabas, Swanmore

Annual Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

29th April 2026

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

Electoral Roll

The new register which came into effect on 8th April 2025 had 118 registered. During the subsequent year three new persons registered and none were recorded as dying or leaving, although a few moved out of the area. As a result, the number of people on the Electoral Roll as of 19/2/26 is 121. This figure will be updated, if necessary, and reported at the APCM on 29/4/26. 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.

Jenny Sharpe, Electoral Roll Officer

Annual PCC Report

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 Revd Andy Davis retired as Priest in Charge in June 2025. The Revd Sandra Matthews was appointed as the new Priest in Charge of the Meon Valley Parishes in November 2025, to officially take on the role on 25th February 2026.

PCC Membership

The current membership of the PCC is: the Chairman, two Churchwardens, two Deanery Synod Representatives and 7 Elected PCC Members and two co-opted members. There is

no current Diocesan Synod member (Andrew Wilkinson was on the Diocesan Synod from 2016 – July 2024).

PCC membership for 2025/26

Ex Officio

Incumbent: Revd Andy Davis (PCC Chair) up to 9th June 2025.

Churchwardens: Dave Lee, Helen Dyer (from 26th June 2025) and Janet Chant Janet (until 26th June 2025).

Deanery Synod Members: Jen Frampton, Allison Gurry

Associate Priests (from 16th June): Revd Emma Andersen, Revd Jill Kingston, Revd Liz Quinn

Elected Members

Jenny Sharpe, Electoral Roll Officer

Caroline Vost, Parish Safeguarding Officer

John Sharpe

Emily Sandoval

David Bakewell

Doug Emmett

Wendy Horn

Co-Opted Members

Andrew Wilkinson Treasurer and co-opted Member from July 2024

Emma Sajo, PCC Secretary and co-opted member from May 2025

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 Steering Group (BSG) – 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 9 times between January to December 2025, and published minutes of each meeting. All meetings were held in Barnaby's. The approved Minutes of the PCC Meetings were made available on the website and posted on the notice board.

Assistant Churchwardens

The following were agreed by PCC to perform the role of Assistant Churchwarden for the year from May 2025: Janet Chant, Jen Frampton, Wendy Horn, Derrinda Laing, Shuna Rose, John Sharpe, Andrew Wilkinson, and Crawford Wright.

Financial Report for the Year 2025

This report covers the finances of the whole church for 2025 (figures for 2024 are in brackets), including the “trading” elements of Barnaby’s and the Paterson Centre. This year, for the first time, the accounts include those for Barn Church, established mid-year and “parented” by St Barnabas.

Overall, there was a surplus of £32,326 (£14,207) and at 31 Dec 25 the assets stood at £111,196 (£78,870). Total income rose by 18% to £190,722 (£161,641) while total expenditure rose by 7% to £158,396 (£147,434). Of this, the income to Barn Church was £13,504, with expenditure of £5,579.

Planned giving remained steady at around £50,000 plus Gift Aid. The PGS scheme continued to attract donors as the number of standing order donations declined, but the number of planned givers reduced in the year; at December 2024 there were 68 (70) regular donors (or families), of whom 56 (58) were members of PGS while Barn Church had 12 regular donors. No legacies were received in the year.

Collections at services were £5,732 (£6,265). In the Autumn, the fundraising appeal to mark the 180th anniversary of the church raised £11,486 plus Gift Aid and continued into 2026. Fundraising net income was £6,932. The Paterson Centre continued to be well used but lettings income fell slightly to £11,039 (£12,298). Barnaby’s community coffee shop again had a very strong year of trading with income of £54,454 (£48,189). The parish magazine The Swanmore Link, funded

by advertisers and free to readers, again made a small surplus of £298.

Parish Share continued to be the largest expense, falling marginally to £57,179 (£57,504) and was paid in full. The major items of capital expenditure were the refurbishment of Barnaby's kitchen area costing £17,539, replacement of window glass in the Paterson Centre for £2,631 and some roof repairs. The 180 Appeal fundraising is intended to pay for further repairs to the Paterson Centre roof and other remedial internal and external work. Utilities costs were £11,111 (£13,074).

The system of supporting missions by allocating about 10% of regular giving to three missions continued in the year and £6000 was divided among St George Foundation, Portsmouth Street and School Pastors and the EC Roberts Centre. Barnaby's allocated £14,546 (£8,779) to a range of national and local charities including Swanmore Primary School and further sums from collection boxes. A further £1,135 (£546) was raised for Rowan's Hospice through Open Gardens.

Andrew Wilkinson, Treasurer

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding Policies & Procedures: The PCC have complied with their legal duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on safeguarding. In May the PCC re-adopted all the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies, including 'Promoting a Safer Church' Practice Guidance, Policy Statements for Responding Well to Domestic Abuse and Recruitment of Ex-Offenders. The PCC commits to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk, to supporting victims and survivors as well as those who present

a risk to others. In October the PCC published a Safeguarding GPDR Policy and Data Privacy Notice. All current safeguarding policies and procedures are available to view in the dedicated 'Safeguarding' folder on the website Information Hub.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard (PSD): The generated Safeguarding Action Plan (SAP) is presented at every PCC meeting where safeguarding is a standing agenda item. The SAP aids us in ensuring we continue to be compliant, with safeguarding policies, procedures, training DBS checks and risk assessments. It also identifies how we can move forward with any outstanding safeguarding governance matters. The PSD fluctuates but it is pleasing to report that St Barnabas maintains around 98% compliance at Level 3, the top level.

Safer Recruitment: We continue to follow Safer Recruitment Policy and Procedures so that all volunteers are safely recruited to roles and teams. In July, two members of Barn Church completed the process for the role of Barn Church Assistant PSO and The Link Magazine new team in September. November saw the PCC publish Paid Staff Safer Recruitment Guidance and Procedure.

Safeguarding Learning & Development: With the shifting culture there has been a growing awareness and understanding of the importance for safeguarding training. Our volunteers renew training at the highest level for their role every 3 years. New volunteers to Barn Church are completing training as their role requires.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): A number of individuals performing a variety of volunteer roles at St Barnabas are DBS checked at differing levels of clearance.

Safeguarding Incidents or Expressions of Concern: Since the last APCM one safeguarding concern has been recorded, consultation with Hazel Whitehead and PCSO Sarah McCulloch

was made. We recognised 'Action Speaks Louder' Safeguarding Sunday at café church in November, renewing awareness of safeguarding situations

Key Message: The profile of safeguarding in churches is higher than ever before and for good reason. You will no doubt be familiar with the saying 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility', that is because we all really do have a part to play. If you see, hear or are told something that doesn't feel right, please act on it. There will never be room for complacency!

Thanks: A big thank you to everyone for your support in so many ways this last year, safeguarding is always a team effort. My personal thanks to Hazel Whitehead.

Caroline Vost, Parish Safeguarding Officer

St Barnabas Ministry Team Report

Until mid-June, the Team comprised Revs Kathy O'Loughlin, Ruth Schofield and Nick & Hazel Whitehead. In June, as Revd Andy officially retired on grounds of ill-health, three priests were licensed to all the parishes, but with designated primary responsibilities: Revd Jill Kingston to the *Meon Bridge Benefice*, Revd Liz Quinn to *Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon* and Revd Emma Andersen to *Barn Church* which began to meet formally in Soberton Guide Hut from September. Our report only reflects what has happened at St Barnabas.

Hazel, Nick and Ben Armstrong have continued the monthly **Café Church** service with the help of others taking responsibility for music, refreshments, craft work, setting up and leading prayers etc.

We have maintained the regular range of services including an 8 am Holy Communion about twice a month (attended by 8 –

16 people), a 10am service of **Holy Communion** every Sunday (attended by between 40 and 70 people) except where there is Café Church. We have provided appropriate and imaginative acts of worship at special times and seasons e.g. Songs of Praise, Annual Thanksgiving and Memorial Service, Remembrance Day, Nine Lessons & Carols etc. We have been grateful for the support of +Ian Brackley and Archdeacon Kathryn.

Liturgy has been served well by our musicians, by the scratch choir at Christmas, by the sacristy teams and welcomers, sides people, Communion Assistants etc.

We continued to join the twice weekly Zoom Morning Prayer. Nick has overseen our relationship with Swanmore Primary School, aided and abetted by others, facilitating *Worship on Wednesdays, Easter Experience, Experience Church*, Christmas and Harvest services, and contributions to classwork. He has also worked with the *Mowers & Strimmers* to ensure the grounds and plant are maintained.

Ruth has been involved regularly at *Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon*, and was a member of the Cairn. Kathy continued to support the 8am congregation.

Hazel has supervised the Pastoral Visitors' team.

We have been involved in 1:1 pastoral care, safeguarding issues, church plant maintenance and the day-to-day matters which arise continually. There has been the normal stream of pastoral issues including bereavement, ill-health of all kinds, hospital stays.

We have tried 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, Kathy and Ruth

Churchwardens Report for year 2025

Buildings and Fabric The Barnaby's kitchen area had a much-needed refurbishment during the summer, providing better usage of the area behind the servery. This is a very positive development for the volunteers working in this space.

For other maintenance works on the buildings during the year, please see the Property Team report. We would like to extend our thanks to Nick Whitehead, who has taken the lead on much of the building maintenance work this year, and also to Doug Emmett for maintaining the church Logbook.

Planned maintenance works in the near future include: renewing the flat roof above the Parish Office, reflashing drainage gullies in the Paterson Centre roof, and repainting gable ends and fascias on Barnaby's (the old Victorian school house). Faculties and List B permissions for these works are in progress or obtained.

Inside the church: the fabric is in generally good condition, with the exception of the damp in the wall behind the Lectern. This is in monitor mode while we see whether the external works to improve the guttering and drain flow is helping to stop the water ingress in this area.

Churchyard and Grounds The "strimmers group", led by Nick and with a scope far greater than their name suggests, meet regularly on Friday mornings to work on the churchyard and other parts of the 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.

Personnel After serving for four years, Janet Chant announced her intention of standing down as Churchwarden, and Helen Dyer's nomination was approved at the meeting of Parishioners. Helen became Churchwarden at the Archdeacon's visitation in June. Thanks to both Janet and Helen for their willingness to serve in this role.

In June, St Barnabas hosted a Licensing service for three Associate Priests to serve the Meon Valley Parishes: Jill Kingston (principally working in the Meon Bridge Benefice), Liz Quinn (Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon), and Emma Andersen (Barn Church: a new expression of worship for the Meon Valley). The service also provided an opportunity to say thanks and farewell to Andy Davis, who retired as Interim Priest in Charge following his accident in July 2024.

Once again in vacancy, we have been very grateful to Nick and Hazel and Kathy, who continued covering services as they had been doing during Andy's sick leave. Happily, the Diocese moved swiftly to start the process of appointing a new Priest in Charge. The Parish Day and Interviews took place in November, and we were able to be involved in this process with a number of the PCC being able to meet and chat to the candidates, as well as the Primary School Worship Council conducting interviews! All feedback from these sessions was taken into the interview process, which duly appointed Rev Sandra Matthews, to take up her appointment in February 2026.

Our appointed Architect remained Warren Whyte, RIBA.

Fundraising and 180th Anniversary Celebration St Barnabas church was built in 1845, and as the 175th celebration opportunity was missed due to covid19, we decided to celebrate the 180th anniversary this year. Celebrations took the form of the "Out of the Box" community art project, along

with capital fundraising to address some of the major repair needs as well as to enhance the facilities in the church. The Out of the Box project was a great success, with many groups from church and the wider community decorating boxes to show facets of village and church life which then formed a fantastic display in the Link. Contributions to the 180 project had raised over £11,000 by the end of the year.

Magazine Having served as Editor of the Link magazine for four years, Penny Clive informed PCC of her intention stand down after five years. This long notice period was incredibly valuable as it gave time to put in place a new editorial committee and have an extensive handover. From November, the full magazine team comprises Fiona Chan, Vicki Horn, Georgina Willis, Michael White, Dennis Wheeler, Caroline Clapperton, Allison Gurry and Helen Dyer. The first issue under new management will be in February 2026!

We extend heartfelt thanks to Penny for her sterling work over the past five years, and thanks to the new committee who will take the magazine forward!

Flowers and Cleaning 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.

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.

Thank You 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 Helen Dyer, Churchwardens

St Barnabas' Pastoral Visitors' Annual 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 observed proper boundaries, confidentiality and legalities, and where we planned, prepared, and shared wisdom and ideas. DBS checks and safeguarding courses have all been done in accordance with Caroline Vosts' instructions.
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 and is always open to receiving invitations from the housebound.
4. **Weddings** Derrinda Laing continued as wedding verger (two weddings this year) a role which takes more time than might be imagined, especially when visiting florists need 'minding' and there are more than 100 guests. Derrinda calls in other PVs to help when needed.
5. **Funerals** Derrinda was verger at funerals, assisted by Allison (twelve funerals, two celebration of life services and six interment of ashes) and calls in others when necessary. Together Allison and Derrinda kept records, sent anniversary cards, and invitations to the annual Memorial and

Thanksgiving service. This was held in October and was well-attended and appreciated. It was good to see a mix of people from the community, congregation and beyond. The team was assisted by Anne Pearson who oversaw refreshments.

6. **Baptisms** There were seven infant baptisms. Jen Frampton assisted the minister, often attending the preparatory meetings. She sent anniversary cards as usual.

7. Janet and Jen also helped at **Cygnets**: another opportunity for keeping in touch with many young families.

8. **Newcomers** Janet Pancott keeps an eye on moves in and out of the village and, where possible, calls in to welcome people. The PVs discussed producing a small pack which might be delivered to the new-build estates/developments but decided to await the arrival of a new priest-in-charge. PVs continued to be alert to newcomers in church and welcomed them.

9. **Swanmore School** Allison continued to help the Methodists with Open the Book, PVs helped with various school events in Church particularly Experience Easter, led by Janet Pancott and Experience Church.

10. **The Sick, Bereaved and Housebound** The PVs were partly dependent on members of the congregation alerting them to people who were sick, bereaved or otherwise incapacitated so that they could 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 continued to monitor and re-stock this. Candles and holding crosses were very popular. Prayers from the book were used in Café Church and other places. It is

impossible to monitor the numbers who visited it but we heard from several people who missed the opportunity when the Church had to be closed due to vandalism.

We believe every Christian person in the congregation provides an element of pastoral care to their neighbours but are grateful for the team's particular commitment as they continue to provide pastoral care in this more organised way.

Hazel Whitehead and the PV Team March 2026

Bishops Waltham Deanery Synod Report

There were three Deanery Synod meetings held last year, together with a Training Day.

18th February - there was a presentation given by Mark Maitland, Community Engagement Officer from Winchester City Council outlining details of the Spaces of Sanctuary Project in our area. Archdeacon Kathryn gave a presentation of Living in Love and Faith – next steps.

Lay Worship training update was given.

There was an update on the Diocesan strategic direction, including resourcing of the Meon Valley Parishes. (pilot cairn)

2nd June - The new Area Dean, James Hunt, introduced himself. He summarised his vision for the future of the Deanery.

27th September - This was a training day entitled "How to help your Church and our Deanery grow!"

23rd October - The Deanery Vision/Plan was set out by James Hunt and outlined the Possible Future for the Deanery.

Allison Gurry and Jen Frampton, Deanery Synod Members

St Barnabas Cygnets Report

It's been another busy year for Cygnets, with many families from both Swanmore and the surrounding villages continuing to attend, the total number of children registered currently

standing at 50. We see an average of 23 families each week, with an average of 30 children, around 30% of adults being grandparents. This provides a good range of ages and experience, enabling many valuable friendships to be formed, which can be a real help for some of the younger carers.

The session continues to run from 9am-10.30am on Mondays in term-time with a suggested donation of £2 per family. Families have been grateful for the ability to pay by card and this is fast becoming the most popular method of payment. Our craft activities have been numerous, with Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day flower wreaths being especially popular. All children really enjoy the painting, and adults appreciate an opportunity to allow the children to paint when others are responsible for the clear-up!!! The activities table is always busy!!

A few of the many pieces of feedback we have received this year:

'It's the highlight of the week. Lots of provision for all ages – we love the songs and snack. It's the perfect ratio of play and songs.'

'We love the free flow and activities for all ages.'

'What an absolute pleasure it is coming to Cygnets – seeing my friends. The warm welcome we receive, the delicious coffee, the variety of activities – what a joy.'

One mother wanted us to know that the group has been a real lifeline for her following the birth of her first child. The group made her come out on a Monday and she has now made some great friends. This makes the work required to run the session each week really worthwhile to all the volunteers involved.

We currently have a team of 6 committed and hardworking volunteers, which, with the numbers of children involved, together with the activities offered, means that we all

volunteer most weeks. This can be quite a challenging commitment for some, so we would be pleased to welcome others to join us.

The group has been energetically led by Teresa Reynolds for several years, but in July 2025 Teresa stepped down due to a change in her grandparenting commitments. We are extremely grateful to Teresa for all that she has put into the leadership of Cygnets and miss her input greatly, together with that given by her husband David, who was a lynchpin for the morning refreshments.

We also said goodbye to Jen Frampton, who has been with the group for many years, and always provided a warm welcome at the reception table. We are very grateful for all that Jen has contributed over the years.

With gratitude to all the team of volunteers who make this possible each week. Janet Pancott, Hilary Walsh, Anne Davies, Juliet Helbren, Annette Carlisle.

Dot Holubinka, Cygnets 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 donations from weddings. Although our appeals for donations for the cost of flowers at Easter and also for support for our Christmas Coffee morning was not as successful as in previous years, we were very grateful and thank members of the congregation who subsequently gave donations to enable us to pay for our Christmas flowers. The cost of flowers has risen considerably. We did have to reduce the amount of flowers in church this Christmas and hope that in the future with the congregation's

support we will still be able to decorate the church for festivals as is fitting for the celebration of Easter and Christmas.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join the flower team. 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

Barnaby's

Barnaby's commenced 2025 under a new administrative team overseeing its day-to-day operations, with oversight by a Steering Group set up by the PCC with representatives from both PCC and the administrative team.

Our Mission is to:

- To provide a safe, welcoming and inclusive venue for the community to meet; and
- To donate monies to local charities, community projects and other good causes

Our achievements include being nominated as Hampshire Café of the Year which we believe has increased our customer base, with customers now coming from further afield. With the increase in customers, we have been able to donate over £15,000 to 26 charities, community projects and good causes which is a substantial increase over the 2024 performance. We have also achieved registration of Barnaby's under the Winchester City Council Places of Sanctuary Project.

Improvements to the café have included the refurbishment and new layout of the kitchen, which has enabled more staff to work at peak times, as well as a new coffee machine, dishwasher and hot chocolate machine. We have also been able to extend our opening hours on Thursdays and Fridays.

On finances, our rising customer numbers have led to an increase in sales over prior year of around 13%, to over £54,000 in 2025. This has enabled us to increase donations to good causes.

The Classic Car monthly events, although not part of Barnaby's, have been supported by Barnaby's through donations of coffee and pastries which are not included in our donations figure above. Classic Cars themselves have raised over £1,850 in support of our Charity Saturday events.

Our regular Artist of the Month feature continues to be a success, and we were delighted to extend this in 2025 to include a space for Young Artists to exhibit their work. Three exhibitions were hung in the second half of the year and this will now be a regular feature in the coming months.

The café is thriving and its success is due to the hard work of all our volunteers, café staff and cake bakers, in particular, who give their time and resources freely and is much appreciated. We are also pleased to have welcomed nine new bakers and twelve new volunteers to the team.

The Barnaby's Team

Swanmore Primary School

The school continues to be a vibrant and central part of our community, offering a fantastic and varied education to the children. There were some fantastic experiences for the children last year – residential trips to Wales, Minstead, and Swanage and sports events to name a few. There were also very entertaining drama productions from Y4 and Y6. What a talented bunch.

The school's performance and attendance remain good. Behaviour is generally good, with a warm, welcoming and

settled atmosphere in school. There are still small pockets of challenge, but staff deal with this well.

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 we were pleased that they could be involved in the Parish Days for the new vicar recruitment. They asked some thoughtful questions and I was very impressed with the way in which they provided feedback. The staff, children and governors look forward to working with Sandra!

We have a wonderful team of Governors, who have been very supportive to me as Chair. They also give a lot of time in support of the school. The Foundation Governors are myself, Ian Wollam, Andrew Wilkinson, 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. Unfortunately two of our foundation governors stepped down in 2025, due to other commitments. We were sad to see them go but appreciate the support they gave as governors. We welcomed Caroline Brownlie as our new clerk who has fitted in well and has quickly settled into the role. We currently 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 Committee

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 about £6000. However, thanks to many, many people we managed to raise about £7000 plus £1100 for Rowans (see below).

Yet again we made a brilliant start to the year with a Quiz and Pudding Night at The Village Hall. In 2024 we had relocated the event from The Paterson Centre to cope with the numbers. This year we had a few more participants (115) but still with 16 teams. The Village Hall has space for another couple of teams so there is the potential for further expansion of the event.

In April the Church hosted a super concert by the Hampshire Police Male Voice Choir. It was a great success and we were complimented by the Choir, especially as they were able to continue singing in the Hall whilst having a well-earned beer. Indeed, they were so taken by the reception they received that they asked to come again, despite the venue and audience

being smaller than usual for them. As a result, they have been booked for a Christmas Concert on 12th December 2026.

Also in April, and again in July, we had our usual Swanmore Open Gardens with ticket proceeds shared with Rowans. This is a major manpower commitment for the Church congregation as well as the garden owners. This year we had 8 gardens in April and 10 in July. In total there were 12 different gardens, for some this was the first time they had opened. We are immensely grateful to all the owners and to Meon Valley Lions for the loan of their minibus. The park & ride provided by the latter keeps the traffic and car parking within acceptable bounds and is vital to the event. The tea team and programme sellers worked their socks off throughout.

In late July we held a "Teddy Bears Picnic". This was not well supported, and the event will be dropped in future years.

In October, although numbers were slightly down on previous years, excellent music, lusty singing, a bit of wine and beer and a superb ploughman's supper proved a successful combination for the fifth "Beer & Hymns".

This year our Christmas Concert featured The Swanmore Wind Band. Attendance at these concerts has maintained a gentle increase year on year and this year we had just over 120 people paying for tickets, so the Central portion of the Church was nicely full. Our thanks to all those involved and especially to the Wind Band who gave us a splendid evening of music.

Following its launch in 2024, the Nostalgic Film Club ran throughout 2025 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Average attendance was 22 and donations for refreshments covered the costs, excluding room hire which the PCC donates, leaving a small surplus.

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 2026 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 and welcome suggestions for different events that we could stage.

John Sharpe

The Swanmore Link Magazine

The magazine continued to be produced bimonthly throughout 2025. In previous years the print run for the February/March issue had been increased to 1,000 in anticipation that people who don't usually collect the magazine may be tempted to do so following the PCC's distribution of the December/January issue to all households in the village. This has, however, not proved to be the case, so for February/March 2025 the print run was kept to 850 of which 796 copies were collected. For the following four issues the print run was reduced to 800 and the numbers collected were: April/May – 787, June/July – 796, August/September – 775 (the Link was locked during August so although copies were available at the village shop not everyone was able to find them), October/November – 770. For the Dec 2025/Jan 2026 issue the PCC again decided to distribute copies to all households in the parish. For Dec 2024/Jan 2025 the print run had been 1,550 with 10 copies remaining in the Link after the deliveries were completed. Since then the Persimmon's development (64 houses) has been fully sold so the print run for Dec 2025/Jan 2026 was increased to 1,650 – although it appeared that in excess of 50 copies remained after distribution. Further developments at Belmont Farm are

expected to be completed during 2026/2027. Advertising for most of the year was 11pp and most issues ran to 44pp. Dennis Wheeler took over advertising from John Austin from the Dec 2025/Jan 2026 issue. A high number of contributions from individuals, societies and other organisations in the parish and surrounding district continued to be received regularly. My agreed term as editor ended with the Dec 2025/Jan 2026 issue and a new team has now taken over. My thanks to all those who helped with production during my five years as editor: Caroline Clapperton for eagle-eyed proof-reading, Roger de Vere for his work on the Village Directory, John Austin for advertising and Sue de Vere who looked after distribution until March 2025.

Penny Clive

Paterson Centre Report

The Paterson Centre continues to be used for a wide range of community and private events, with a good 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 number of refurbishments took place during 2025, principally the replacement of the majority of double-glazing units - improving the look and temperature of the building. Special thanks to Nick Whitehead for leading on this project. Other updates included more hygienic push-taps for the toilets, and a new fridge and water boiler for the kitchen. Please remember that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the Paterson Centre is left clean and tidy after use.

Dave Lee

Property Team Report

Personnel We have a wide range of skills placed at our disposal by generous and committed members of the congregation (and beyond). These reduce expenditure on property throughout the year and enable us to keep a watching brief on potential issues. They also mean that the building and grounds remain a silent witness to the vibrancy of the Christian community in Swanmore. If not mentioned elsewhere, a special mention is due to those who regularly clean our buildings.

Quinquennial Following the works that we have done over the last two years, in early 2026 we will review the outstanding items on the June 2022 report and report our findings to the PCC. We may undertake a new Quinquennial in 2026 - the last one having been delayed due to Covid.

Gutters, Downpipes and Flat Roof These are cleared out in annually in January by DM Exterior Cleaning Services at a cost of approximately £320. It would be dangerous for us to access the Chancel and Nave high level gutters, downpipes and gullies. 2025 showed, again, that the worst areas are the hidden valleys where leaves collect. They did a repair to a leaking cast iron gutter and commented: All that cast-iron guttering is pretty corroded so it's not in the best condition. The wider issue is the heavier rainfall we are now experiencing, which overwhelms most standard gutters.

We clear the Paterson Centre gutters quite regularly, especially on the north side. We have installed a small natural soakaway in the path to the south of the church to take rainwater from the downpipe adjacent to the cellar steps. We are also exploring the drain and soakaway by the north junction of the nave and chancel, as the building remains very wet despite gutter repairs.

Church Interior Decoration Following the fund-raising programme in autumn 2025, which raised over £16,000, the Standing Committee agreed to us instructing our Architect to advise us on the poor condition of decoration on the north side of the church. Gutters, downpipes and mortar joints have been repaired but moisture readings remain very high in various areas. Works might include creating new soakaways along the lines of the architect's drawings created in the early 2000s, and a review of the ground level relative to the damp proof course.

Barnaby's Café Kitchen Extension This work was done in August 2025, including our helping by painting the walls and ceiling.

Barnaby's Café Exterior Paintwork We have received a quotation from Spokes of Hampshire for £5,400 for the repair and repainting of the gable ends and fascias on Barnaby's Café. This assumes that the underlying woodwork is reasonably sound, which it appears to be at present. Barnaby's is willing to fund this work and the Diocese has given its permission (Feb 2026) to proceed (Table B Archdeacon's approval).

Paterson Centre Roofing In July 25, the PCC approved the repair to the lead gully above the Link entrance doors, and to the repair of the Parish Office flat roof. A Faculty was sought from the DAC, who responded with doubts about the origin of the water leak from the valley gutter; following discussion with us, they agreed with our original analysis. They subsequently arranged for a drone to take a close look at the (nearly inaccessible) Parish Office flat roof and determined that it was not finished in lead but in asphalt. This issue has had added complications over the year end, but it is hoped to have a contractor on site before the APCM. The total cost will be likely be in the region of £6,000.

Long Room Ceiling Repainting The repainting of the ceiling and walls (both affected by re-plastering) was completed at the beginning of April and the carpet, blinds and chairs, cleaned

Churchyard We created a wild area as last year, but not quite so large. It is very hard work getting it back under control in the autumn. The old Flower Arrangers' Millennial bench has been removed to the south side of the church, renovated, and replaced on the main path with a new bench in memory of Jan and John White. A location for a new bench, in memory of John Ward, is being considered. We used a contractor in August to reduce the height of the western hedge, to make it more manageable in future years. Following discussions with the householder who shares part of the southern hedge (near the new road Lychgate), his contractor is now responsible for the top of the hedge, with us doing the side facing the churchyard. We have made it clear that we cannot help with the top whilst the hedge is as high as it is.

Church 'Fuse'/MCB Boards Brian Pancott and John Branson re-labelled all of the church distribution boards, including those in the bell ringing chamber.

PENDING FUTURE DECISION

Paterson Centre & Kitchen Window Glass The last of the ground level 'blown' double glazing was replaced in July 2025. Were further funds available, it is likely that the three Long Room windows might be replaced.

New Road Lychgate The PCC decided that it was not possible to repair the wooden structure in the short term; we were going to diarise it for an annual review, to check on the level of deterioration that is occurring, but the roof is also causing concern. (It will most likely appear in the next Quinquennial Report due in 2026).

Please note that this report is on works undertaken in 2025. It does not cover the period Jan – April 2026. Questions may arise at the APCM regarding this latter period.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

Friday Home Group Report

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

From January 2025 we continued to study *Job – The Source of Wisdom* a Cover to Cover Bible Study by Elizabeth Rundle, and Revd Nick Whitehead joined the group for the last session to answer our queries and help us understand Job's rantings!

On Friday 14th February we thought about St Valentine and his legacy and studied various bible readings concerning Love.

At the end of the Spring Term we joined in the church Lent Course sessions *All in the Family* held in the Paterson Centre.

Summer Term we studied five of the seven prayers of *Great Prayers of the Bible – applying them to our lives today* a Cover to Cover Bible Study by Jennifer Oldroyd.

At the end of term, before the summer break, we shared a lunch, with partners, in a member's garden.

Autumn term study was six stories from *Women of the Nativity* by Paula Gooder.

Also, in the Autumn Friday Home Group members created a display box for the church's 180th anniversary 'Out of the Box' project displayed in the Link.

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 2025 Report

During the past year our cleaning team of 14 volunteers has kept St Barnabas looking its very best. Both week on week and for special occasions, we all enjoy worshipping in a lovely clean church. Teams of three spend up to an hour once a week cleaning to keep everything sparkling. During the year we have thanked four members of the team for their services and we have welcomed four new recruits in their places. Our annual Spring cleaning party is a highlight on the calendar when team members are joined by others from the congregation for a fun filled morning. Giving the church this big spruce up once a year helps to keep the weekly cleans manageable. In 2025 twenty-five people came to help and we had time to include giving the light bulbs a much needed wash. Many hands certainly make light work and giving our services on a voluntary basis is a way we all help the church budget stretch considerably further.

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>. The aim is to be welcoming, informative and share how it feels to be part of a Church family. In 2025 with a new editor needed for The Link magazine, we worked with the new team to consider how the magazine could be developed further to reflect both the local church and community news. Also particular to 2025 was the '180' fundraising appeal, for which

we supported with the production of printed and digital info. This past year the key tasks have been 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.
- Provide awareness of help required within voluntary Church teams and safeguarding information.
- Share events being held by other Churches in the Parish.
- Share any photographs and news with the Portsmouth Diocese Bulletin.
- Write any articles required for The Link Magazine to support activities and events held by St Barnabas.

Helen Dyer

Elected Missions Giving Report

In 2025, the last year of the 3-year period, we continued to support the following charities: -

- Local- Roberts Centre, Portsmouth
- National- Street Pastors
- International- St George Foundation

Roberts Centre, Portsmouth Whilst we had Robert the Bear and his carer visit us in December 2024, as they were moving premises in December 2025, they were unable to visit. However, we were asked if we could collect and donate items such as gloves, hats and scarfs, vouchers and new/nearly new books which was done on a dedicated day and taken direct to them. We also supported them with £2066.66 during 2025.

Street Pastors We welcomed Steve MacFarlane in July, who gave us a very interesting talk and power point presentation on the work of the Street Pastors and what a typical night could involve. The charity is heavily supported by the police and local council. We also supported them with £2066.66 during 2025.

St George Foundation Philip Dean (CEO) arranged an AGM in January and coffee morning in the Paterson Centre in May. It was an opportunity to share what was happening with the children and charity. This was a chance to exhibit, update supporters and run the event as a 'Gift' day. Unfortunately, Justina and Arun were unable to come over to the UK to visit us in the summer as planned owing to visa issues. We also supported them with £2066.66 during 2025.

Wendy Horn - PCC member of Mission Team

St Barnabas Swanmore PCC Clock Report 2025-2026

1. Serviced by Cumbria Clock Company on 26 August 2025; Cost £190 plus VAT. This service was delayed from July due to other commitments.
2. Next service is due July 26 2026. Current forecast it will be £190 ex VAT
3. A 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. An additional clock winder was recruited in 4th quarter (to start training in January 26).
4. All clock winders signed up to working previous alone practice. Updated Working alone guidelines in process of sign off.
5. Risk Assessment updated (Swanmore Clock RA V4.0 dated 25/11/2026) sent to the clock winders for review. No changes requested. Final sent to Paul Eathorne and Churchwardens.
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. Although recently it has been losing time and has become difficult to regulate. This maybe a consequence of its age.
8. The winding chamber is scheduled to be cleaned in May 26.

Roger de Vere

Barn Church report for St Barnabas APCM 2026

At the Beginning of 2025 a few people started gathering monthly to pray for what would be launched in September, which is now Barn Church. This idea was to have an alternative

“flavour” on the menu of worship available to all across the Meon Valley Parishes. We are governed by the St Barnabas PCC and have a Steering Group that reports into the PCC.

We launched on 21st September at Soberton Guide Hut and had over 100 people come long which was incredible.

Since then we have been meeting weekly, mostly in the Guide Hut, although we occasionally take “Barn Church on the Move” when we go for prayer walks. And most recently in March we took “Barn Church to the Beach” for some baptisms. We are an intergenerational, congregation that has been growing over the last few months and we have over 40 on a typical Sunday, most of whom are under 50.

Our services are interactive with questions to discuss and often games to help us learn in different ways from God’s word. We always start with fresh coffee and pastries as well as a Bouncy Castle (if it is dry) and then as we gather together we have some modern sung worship, often led simply by someone with a guitar (always starting with a “Worship workout” with a song with actions) and then we look at God’s word before having opportunity to pray together.

Once a month we eat together – this may be as simple as bacon rolls, or we might have a Barn Church BASH which is a bring and share breakfast where we all sit round a long table. Also once a month we have an afternoon “Family walk.” All the aim of creating community all around the person of Jesus.

We had a brilliant light party on October 31st as an alternative to Halloween where we saw people from across all the villages come, young and not as young to enjoy community, hot chocolate and hotdogs as well as fun and games, ending in fireworks, hearing that Jesus is the light of the world.

We had an amazing first Christmas – we were able to hand out over 70 bags of kindness to those who needed them most in

our communities, and went into all the schools with gifts and bags. We had 3 “easy invitation” services where we saw families coming who might not usually come to church. Now we are looking forward to our first Easter.

Our vision is to play our part in making Jesus known across the Meon Valley, and the values we believe we need to live by in order to fulfil that vision are being Jesus Centred, Expectant of God, Extravagantly Generous, Joyful in all Circumstances, and Community Focused. All we do has to embody at least one of these values. The community that has formed so quickly has been a huge blessing to everyone. God has been incredibly faithful so far and we have seen people accept Jesus as their Saviour for the first time and many people back worshipping regularly where they live. We are praying for more people to come to know Jesus and possibly for a bigger venue!

Revd Emma Andersen

Hospitality

Over the past year various teams of church members have served coffee/tea/cake/canapes to assorted visitors and church members. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with this.

On a Sunday there are either members of the Sunday team or of Café Church team who keep smiling. Some folk are in more than one team.

On a Monday during CYGNETS another group are beavering away with coffee/ tea, and squash or milk for the little ones. Janet Pancott looks after this.

Special events, such as Open Gardens, Beer and Hymns, Concerts and Easter Craft mornings are covered by what is lovingly known as the A team. Members are Allison, Anne, Derrinda, Janet, Jen. They would be very happy to hear from

anyone who can join if only for a short period of time. Their elderly bones (mine) are beginning to creak!

Washing up is another chore which would appreciate additional members, dish washer is available.

So many of you are very good at saying THANK YOU which is much appreciated.

There is one additional church member who must be mentioned – Jenny Sharpe who washes and irons every tea towel used. When anyone opens the top drawer on the left hand side in the kitchen they are more than pleasantly surprised to be met by a vast array of sparkling laundry.

THANK YOU to all who help in any way.

Anne Pearson

Sound and Audio-Visual Report 2025

The church sound desk equipment has been generally reliable in 2025. A few inexpensive repairs were required to microphones. Expenses were covered by donations. The overall performance of the 'sound' equipment is adequate and could not be significantly improved without major expenditure. It might be necessary to replace one radio microphone in the coming year (Approx cost £900).

The projector (the second one donated by the school) is working well. The old church laptop is generally adequate although sometimes we have had to use privately owned laptops to get video clips to project properly. A second hand 'Mac' laptop which was donated to the church has had very limited use because we do not have experienced Mac users on the team. It may be necessary to buy a new 'Windows' laptop soon. (Not yet costed but possibly about £500 plus software). We are short of volunteers to run the sound desk and occasionally we are not able to provide cover for some small

church services. The sound desk volunteers also cover weddings, funerals, christenings and community events such as concerts. Some of these tasks are technically complex, are quite onerous and require preparation time and rehearsals. Finding volunteers in the future is likely to be problematic.

Brian Pancott