

ST MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Great Hampden PCC is responsible for promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is responsible for maintaining the fabric and security of St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden, and its contents.

Members of the PCC during the year were

Clergy	Rev. Deiniol Heywood	(resigned 24/8/25)
	Rev. Kayleigh Lucas	(ex officio)
	Rev. Nigel Spoor	(ex officio)
Churchwarden	Val Gristwood	
Members	Tony Blackburn	
	Dorothy Charles	
	Alan Costin	Treasurer
	Roger Craft	
	Jonathan Knight	
	Libby Rodda	Secretary (resigned 18/5/25)
	Jim Rodda	(resigned 18/5/25)
	Val Firth	Minutes Secretary (appointed 18/5/25)

Following their move away from their home in Great Hampden, Jim and Libby Rodda resigned from the PCC in May 2025. The PCC was very grateful to Libby for all she contributed during her three years as Secretary, and to Jim who was Deanery Synod representative for four years.

The PCC met on five occasions during the year. In addition, the Annual Parochial Meeting was held on Sunday 18 May 2025.

The agendas for the PCC meetings dealt with ongoing and recurring responsibilities e.g. finance, maintaining the fabric of the church, arrangements for special services, managing the programme of weddings, the format and mix of regular Sunday services, matters arising at Deanery Synod, maintaining the parish electoral roll, consideration of charitable donations, safeguarding, and health and safety matters.

Following completion of the major refurbishment and redecoration project in December 2024, the PCC commissioned restoration work and cleaning of the finials either side of the altar and to certain monuments, and liaised with The National Lottery Heritage Fund who provided the finance.

In conjunction with Holy Trinity Prestwood PCC, the PCC was very involved in the process of recruiting a new rector to take the place of Rev. Deiniol Heywood who announced in April 2025 his intention to resign from his role as Rector. A very comprehensive and totally redrafted Parish Profile was produced along with a detailed job description, person profile and job advertisement.

Total attendance at all Sunday services, Good Friday and Christmas Day was 1335 (1353 in 2024). The average number of people attending normal Sunday services (i.e. excluding special services and those incorporating a baptism) was 15 (18 in 2024).

During the course of the year there were no weddings at the church (9 in 2024); there were 3 baptisms (8); there were 3 funerals (0).

The Electoral Roll of the parish numbered 50 at the end of the year.

The Financial Statements for the year showed an excess of Payments over Receipts in the General Fund amounting to £3,449 (£1,228 surplus in 2024). The balance carried forward on the General Fund at 31 December 2025 was £17,518 (£20,968 at 31/12/24).

In light of the projected financial deficit for the year, a Giving Appeal was launched in the late Spring of 2025. To date this has produced a generous response from eleven individuals accounting for annualised additional income of just over £5,000 including Gift Aid, although this will be partially offset by the loss of one of our most generous regular donations. The PCC hopes to see some further increases in Giving in 2026.

The PCC has agreed a policy to seek to maintain a balance on the General Fund, an unrestricted fund, equal to at least six months' expenditure - normally approximately £18,000 - and that whilst the payment of our proportion of the Cost of Ministry for the benefice will be the top financial priority, any further payment of Parish Share will be subject to maintaining such balance. The Cost of Ministry element was paid in full for 2025, but in the light of the significant deficit for the year no Mutual Support payment was made

In the Fabric Fund, Receipts exceeded Payments in the year by £4,208 (excess Payments £7,760 in 2024). We received a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of hatchment repairs. The balance on the Fabric Fund at 31 December 2025 was £7,079 (£2,871 at 31/12/24).

The PCC seeks to maintain a balance on the Fabric Fund, a restricted fund, of at least £30,000, which has typically been the approximate cost of repairs identified as urgent in past Quinquennial Reports; the PCC recognises that the cost of maintaining the fabric of an ancient building will always place a significant and somewhat unpredictable burden on the resources of a small parish church.

During the course of the year a further £16,202 income was received towards the cost of the refurbishment works, bringing the total raised since the project was launched in 2019 to

£392,004. This included £207,458 in personal donations. Expenditure on the project during the year amounted to £19,305, bringing the total to date to £391,256.

The net balance of income less expenditure on the 2023 and Beyond project was £748 at 31 December 2025.

The balance on the Hill Fund (a permanent endowment to maintain the Hill family grave) was £4,741 at 31 December 2025 (£4,615 at 31/12/24).

The annual Harvest Lunch and produce auction raised £468. Though the numbers attending were slightly down on the previous year, the event was greatly enjoyed by everyone who came along.

Our appeal for individual sponsorships enabled the PCC to purchase ten new chairs, designed specifically for churches, at a cost of £3,635.

In July, The Hampden Ensemble treated us to another lovely concert which raised £652 for the Fabric Fund.

Donations received during the year amounted to £1,014 for the General Fund (£4,642 in 2024). Weddings are a very important source of donations and fees; there were none in 2025.

Donations out of church funds in the year comprised £180 to Action Aid and our regular donations of the Remembrance Sunday collection to The Poppy Appeal £40, the Christingle collection to The Children's Society £80 and the Harvest auction proceeds of £193 to Farm Africa.

The thanks and appreciation of the PCC go to Sam Laughton, our Director of Music, and to Adrian Felaar; we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy their excellent playing at our Sunday services. We are also most grateful to all the musicians who played or sung at our Holy Week services, at our carol service and at the July concert.

As always, many people gave generously of their time to enable the church to function; they included the flower arrangers, those who help maintain the church, those who tidy the churchyard, the vergers at weddings, baptisms and funerals, the sides persons, the readers, and the editor and contributors to the parish magazine. The PCC is grateful to all who helped with these tasks.

Most important of all is the dedicated leadership and work of the clergy team in caring for our church, the congregation and the parish. The PCC's thanks and appreciation go to Rev. Deiniol Heywood, and to Rev. Nigel Spoor, Rev. Kayleigh Lucas, and Lorna Crook and Lesley Nicholl in the church office who all took on a very significant extra workload in the second half of the year.

In July we said goodbye to Deiniol and Velvet after seventeen years. Deiniol received a memorable send off at a wonderful party in Hampden House; it was the perfect opportunity for the PCC and the church community in Great Hampden and Prestwood to express our heartfelt thanks and love.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

