

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT FOR 2025

Jean Roper and Rob Ponsford

As Jean so graciously prepared the Church Wardens report for the last APCM it seemed only right that at this forthcoming APCM, I prepared the Church Wardens report on behalf of both of us.

This marks my third year in role. A major part of the role as a church warden is to have oversight of the church finance and site. Sue Turner our previous church warden is still taking a large role in the management of the buildings, and we are so grateful for all she does, which makes our job a lot easier. As always, we are supported by a Finance Team and Buildings Management Group, who maintain an oversight of these critical areas of church life. Their helpful recommendations to the PCC throughout the year are a vital part of the church functioning well.

A massive thank you to all the members of these groups for your time and effort. To our cleaner Jess who has been a fantastic though often unseen part of the team here, making sure our buildings are clean and tidy.

It's safe to say that during 2025 the role of Wardens in a Church Vacancy as sequesters became very clear with the realities of making sure services continue to run, that we have communion presidents and that the church doesn't just "tick over" but continues in the mission that has always been at the heart of St Jude's the community and people of St Jude's.

I want to use this space to thank Jean who has been the one most responsible for ensuring we have a steady rota of Communion Presidents each month, ensuring this vital part of church life and sacrament continued. I also wanted to thank those Priests who have also helped us when over the course of 2025 we have sadly lost members of the congregation, and with a special mention to Rev Carl Budden who has been a massive support to myself when organising these funerals, along with all those who help run these services from AV support, Worship Leaders.

As I think about services I need to thank the small team who have helped plan out services and lead and preach at services, this includes Peter Hadden, Jane Sanham, Jackie Yates, Jean, and Sue as a group we have ensured Rota's are planned out well in advance and are adaptable. Speaking as someone who also has had the privilege of leading and preaching I want to thank the Worship team for the way they always approach services with such enthusiasm, I want to thank those who lead the worship team as well, So Jackie, Debbie and Nick a massive thank you.

To those who weekly provide prayers during the service and afterwards as part of the prayer ministry team, to those who give a welcome serve refreshments, to those who provide their time to bring glorious flower arrangements another massive thanks. If I attempted to name all those who help or serve St Jude's and what you all did, it would fill several more pages so simply I express gratitude for all you do to help St Jude's remain the welcoming place it is.

It is no exaggeration to say that we are blessed at St Jude's with the number of people we have who give their time and service to the various different ministries we have. The monthly Church Brunches continue to be very popular. Thank you to Ian, Gordon and Jayne who have taken over from Tim to provide a simple service on these Sundays. Tots' Time, Girls' and Boys' Brigade, the Community Hub, Midweeker Group, Snack and Chat, all use the buildings regularly and are in many cases extending a welcome to those outside of the church family.

The Mission Partners group keep us in touch with the missionaries and ministries that we support, they are a vital part of ensuring that we look beyond our church walls.

2025 has also seen the Church building be used for a variety of events including the Diocesan Foundations Course which serves as a foundational year for all those looking at all forms of authorised, licensed and ordained ministry within the Diocese.

The Church has also hosted events by the Bishop of Exeter and several other charitable events, as well as events as part of the Hub and various others.

Safety and wellbeing

Many thanks to our Safeguarding Team - Ian and Kathy - who work hard to make sure the correct procedures are in place for the protection of all. Thanks to all who have completed the necessary safeguarding courses to ensure compliance with diocesan guidelines.

Our Health and Safety Policy is reviewed annually. Grateful thanks to Gordon for his oversight on behalf of the PCC. His experience in this area will be invaluable. Risk assessments are in place for all church activities. The church kitchen is registered with the Council, with the appropriate paperwork in place. Those involved in food preparation are required to follow the protocols and guidelines for food safety.

The well-stocked First Aid kits in all buildings are checked regularly. A defibrillator is located outside the church for community access, with a number of church members trained in its use. The Pastoral Care Team meets regularly to identify care needs and promote inclusion.

Rough sleepers found on the site are always treated with respect and offered practical help and support wherever possible.

The site is regularly inspected for needles and other dangerous or unsightly items which are disposed of appropriately.

I would be remiss if I also didn't thank the whole congregation for their giving of time, money and talents as a result St Jude's remains in a good financial position, and so a big thank you to our finance team and I will make special mention to our Church treasurer Debbie, who has been a massive support to myself and Jean over the course of 2025 when it has come to making sure invoices and the financial side of things is well looked after.

Finally as 2025 came to an end a tremendous amount of work went into the Parish Profile and with tight deadlines given that profile was ready for completion by the deadline, a big thank you for all those involved with working on the text of the profile, and those who helped assemble the final version you all know who you are.

2025 has seen new people continue to come to St Jude's which is very encouraging and an indication that we have remained true to our mission as a Church, and as 2026 continues we continue to be thankful to God for all that has been provided and to the future that awaits this Church.