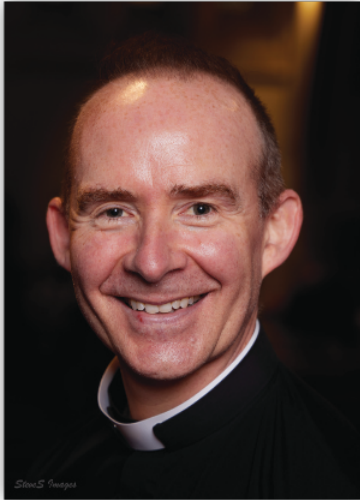


Windsor Church News



**The Revd Richard
Terrado-Reardon**

Dear friends,

May is a month that stretches our imagination. It asks us to look beyond what is immediately visible and to trust that reality is deeper, wider, and more held than it often appears. Two great feasts shape this vision: the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

At first glance, Ascension can feel like absence. Jesus is "taken from their sight," and the disciples are left looking upwards, perhaps bewildered, perhaps



May 2026

the online newsletter from
the Church of England in Central Windsor

bereft. But the New Testament insists this is not a departure into distance, but an arrival into fullness. As theologian Herbert McCabe so strikingly put it, the Ascension is not Jesus going "away" but Jesus becoming present in a new way—no longer confined to a single place and time, but present to all creation in the life of God.

Rowan Williams similarly suggests that in the Ascension, humanity is taken into God. The human life of Jesus, his wounds, his compassion, his solidarity with the poor and the suffering, is not discarded but carried into the very heart of divine life. In other words, what is truly human is now inseparable from God's own being. This has profound implications for how we see the world. Because if humanity is held within God, then no human life is disposable. No nation, no people, no story can be reduced to a problem to be eliminated. The Ascension quietly but powerfully

undermines every system that treats human beings as expendable.

And yet, as we look around the world today, we see realities that seem to contradict this vision. Wars continue to tear communities apart. Violence is justified in the language of necessity, security, or even righteousness. Narratives are constructed that simplify complex human lives into enemies and allies, into those who matter and those who do not.

The way we imagine power, authority, and belonging is never neutral. The stories we tell about the world shape the world we create. War, at its heart, depends on a distortion of reality. It requires us to believe that the other is less human, less worthy, less held within the purposes of God. It narrows our vision until we can no longer see the fullness of what is.



31 May

**Holy Trinity
Church**

10am
Sung
Eucharist

5.30pm
Choral
Evensong

All welcome

continued on next page

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Ascension resists this narrowing. It proclaims that all of humanity is gathered into Christ, and therefore into God. It insists that reality is not fragmented into competing absolutes, but held together in a unity that we do not create and cannot destroy. Then, ten days later, Pentecost arrives.

If Ascension tells us that humanity is held in God, Pentecost tells us that God is active within humanity. The Spirit descends, not upon a select few in isolation, but upon a gathered community, and significantly, a diverse one. Different languages are spoken, and yet understanding emerges. Difference is not erased, but communion is created. Again, the implications are striking. Where war divides, the Spirit gathers. Where violence silences, the Spirit gives voice. Where fear isolates, the Spirit forms community.

Pentecost does not create uniformity; it creates unity-in-difference. It reveals a reality in which diversity is not a threat but a gift, something to be received, not overcome. In this light, the conflicts of our world appear not only tragic but profoundly out of step with the deeper truth of things. They are, in a sense, illusions made powerful, stories that deny the fundamental connectedness of humanity in God.

This does not mean that the world's complexities can be resolved with easy answers. Faith does not offer simplistic solutions, nor does the Gospel call us to naive optimism. But it does call us to see

more clearly. It calls us to recognise that every act of dehumanisation is a denial of the Ascension. That every refusal to listen across difference resists the Spirit of Pentecost. That every system built on fear and exclusion stands in tension with the life of the Trinity, which is eternally self-giving, relational, and open.

So what might this mean for us, here in Central Windsor?

It may begin with something as simple, and as difficult, as how we see one another. Do we allow the narratives of our time to shape our imagination, reducing people to labels, positions, or threats? Or do we dare to see each person as one whose life is hidden with Christ in God? Do we retreat into the safety of sameness, or do we remain open to the surprising work of the Spirit in those who are different from us? Do we accept the world as it is presented to us, a world of division and inevitability, or do we live as if a deeper unity is already true?

The Church, at its best, is a sign of this deeper reality. Not because we get everything right, but because we are called to live from a different centre. A centre not of fear, but of communion. Not of control, but of trust in the God who holds all things together.

Ascension and Pentecost remind us that reality is larger than conflict, deeper than division, and more hopeful than despair. They invite us to inhabit that reality, not perfectly, but faithfully. And

continued on next page



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continued from previous page

perhaps that is our calling in this season: to be people who resist the distortions of fear, who refuse the simplifications of violence, and who bear witness, in small and quiet ways, to a world already held in the love of the Holy Trinity.

With faith, hope and love,

Fr Richard.

Mothers' UNION

Our April meeting of Mothers' Union began with members' regret that Estlyn was unable to preside due to her recent accident, and we sent prayers and wishes that she will be with us again very soon. Our Mothers' Union meeting this month combined 4 celebrations:

1. Easter tide
2. 150th Anniversary of the founding of our movement
3. A welcome to our newest member, Jackie Clark
4. The 21st anniversary of the Revd. Richard's ordination.

Our introduction and prayers' focus was on the services, events and activities to celebrate our 150th anniversary as published in the latest edition of Focus. Many of us were sad not to be able to take such an active part as previously, but we determined to play a key part in the year by providing a powerhouse of prayer, both to support the more active members and by using prayers from

Focus to unite us within our own community.

We were so glad to welcome Revd. Richard Terrado-Reardon as our speaker on this important anniversary of his ordination. He spoke to us of his journey, which was not at all the life he had planned. His was a family with a strong military tradition, and his expectation was to join the RAF. However, after some initial training he found his chosen path would not be available to him. Such disappointment, dashing all his hopes and dreams caused a major loss of confidence, and he had no idea where his future would be. He worked for a while in retail (very successfully) but couldn't see this as a permanent role. As a teenager who had imagined his future would be entirely within his control, he came to the realisation that his future rested entirely with God. He earnestly prayed for guidance, but the only word he heard was 'missionary'. Being guided by his parish priest, he set out to save the world, embarking on years of training and travel. He joined the White Fathers in Dublin, spending his noviciate year in Tanzania, very conscious of being the only foreigner, having to learn local languages, and living and working in the agricultural community. His Pastors Placement was in Zambia. Returning to Wales, he accepted that despite reservations regarding celibacy, he was willing to offer total surrender to the will of God. In 2004 he was made deacon, and was sent to work within the community in Cardiff. On 9th April 2005

he was ordained at St. Mary's RC Church, Newport, with 600 friends and family, an occasion of great joy.

He saw that the Sandhurst motto "Lead to serve". applied equally to the priesthood. However, Richard found that as a Roman Catholic priest he was carrying a burden of sorrow, which was only lifted when he joined the Anglican Church in Wales, and found only joy. The Revd. Richard summed up with a quotation from "Let your life speak", regarding vocation - "Inner gladness meets the needs of the world".

It was indeed a privilege to hear this deeply moving and personal account of his journey so far, and we were very grateful that Richard was willing to share with us.

Margaret Parsons

Morning Prayer

A small group of us meet to say Morning Prayer at gam on weekdays on Zoom and some days also in a church. Please contact [Revd Sally](#) if you'd like a Zoom invitation. You can download the Daily Prayer app with the order of service [here](#) (there are also books available in churches).

Daily
Prayer

Remembering The Iraq War – 15 Years On



Church Open
for prayer &
lighting of candles

9.30am to 4pm

Friday
22 May

Holy Trinity Parish
Garrison Church



**Friday 5 June
4-6pm
at
All Saints' Church
Frances Road**

**Fun for all ages!...crafts,
bible stories and a meal**



Please click to book or
email **windsor.
churchbookings
@gmail.com**,
to let us know you are
coming

**Children must bring
an adult**

Little People, Big Faith

A view from the children's corner



Dear Friends from Church,

I like going to church because I get to help. Sometimes I serve in the Eucharist and help with the bread and the wine, which makes me feel important.

My favourite thing at Sunday Club is doing drawing and colouring. We also listen to lots of Bible stories, and I really like those - especially the ones with all the miracles. My favourite story is about Jesus when he died on the cross and then came back to life. It's a bit like a superhero story, and I think that's really cool. I like when Richard or Sally asks us to come to the front and tell everyone what we learned. I really like talking into the microphone!

I love singing in church too, especially the songs I know like "Glory to God" because I can sing it really loudly! I also like watching the choir because they are very good singers and they make me feel things in church.

I love going to church because it's fun and I learn lots of new things and I like the people there and being with God.

With love,

Roman

Church Opening Times

St John the Baptist Church
High Street - daily, all day

~
St Stephen & St Agnes Church,
Vansittart Road - daily, all day

~
All Saints' Church,
Frances Road - Mon-Wed & Sat, all day

~
Holy Trinity Church,
Claremont Road
- Wed, Thu & Fri, 10am-12pm

You are invited to a
Coffee Morning

**Friday
29 May
(and the last Friday
of each month)**

10am-12pm

**Holy Trinity
Church**

**donations
welcomed for
Christian Aid**

~
**donations of cakes
also needed please!**

**Please contact
Penny Wells
if you are able to
help on the day**





A Year of Listening – an invitation

Central Windsor Parish invites you to join in its Year of Listening. As a new single parish we want to discern what God is calling us to be and do here in Windsor – and we want to hear what God is saying to you. Follow the QR code here (or click if reading an electronic copy of the magazine) to the website and you will find a Biblical listening process called Dwelling in the Word to help you hear what God is saying. There are guides and materials to support you. Let us know what you discover so we can plan for the next decade or so.



Thank you to Harriet Paynter for sharing the stunning photo above with the spire of Holy Trinity Church visible just below the rainbow.

How well do you know the bible?

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, if you would like to know more about the bible, you are encouraged to join Revd Sally and Fr Richard for their study group, which continues on Sunday 3rd, 10th & 17th May and 7th & 14th June, 4.30-5.30pm, at St Stephen & St Agnes Church. We would love to see you, but [please let us know](#) in advance so we can ensure we have sufficient resources.



Pause for a Poem

Many of us know Flora Thompson as the author of “Lark Rise to Candleford”, her semi-autobiographical account of life in country villages in north Oxfordshire. I recently learned that her first published work was a collection of poems entitled “Bog-Myrtle and Peat” written in 1921, many years before Lark Rise. One of the poems is “May Moonlight”, so I decided that would be appropriate for our May magazine. I like the image of the moon and stars reflected in the rippling water of the lake in the dark of night, but disappearing with the dawn.

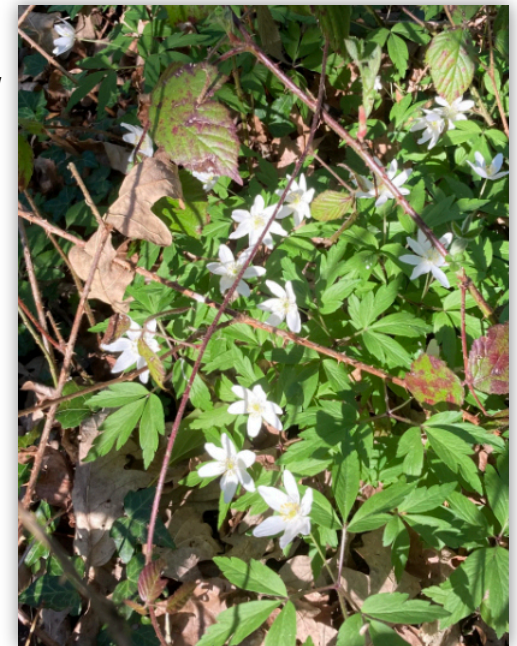
Michael Bailey

May Moonlight

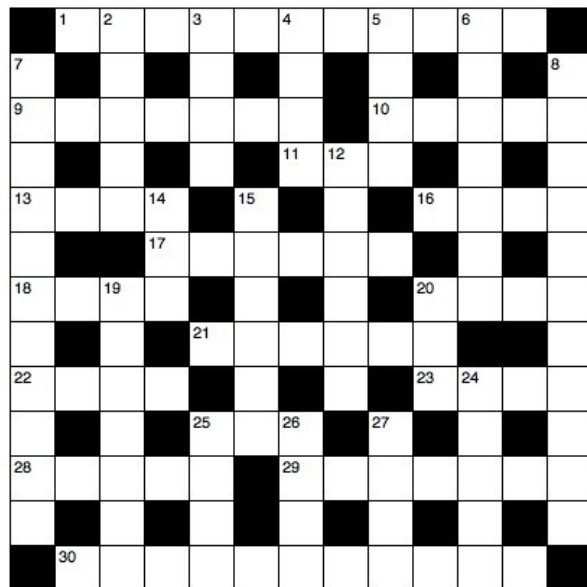
Birch trees dip their boughs to slake
Day’s green fires in the enchanted lake.
Along the shore, beneath the trees,
A drift of wan anemones
Bow their heads, and shiver and swoon,
Mourning for the drownéd moon.
Stark acacias cast a dim
Net of shade to rescue him.
Captive in its shadowy bars,
Glimmering, multitudinous stars
Burn to orange; pale, and die,
As dawn-light steals across the sky;
Skylark shrills into the grey,
And moonlight magic melts away.

Flora Thompson (1876-1947)

Thank you to Michael for the photo of the wood anemones as well the poem



Puzzle Page



Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)

- 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my— come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)



A prayer for the Middle East

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to de-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Middle	War	Bows	Fire	Lord	Hope
East	Cease	Shatter	crisis	Our	Kyrie
Conflict	Earth	Spears	many	Rock	in
Pray	Break	Burn	Lives	Fortress	You
Damage		Shields	millions	Deliverer	mercy



The Bible used is the New International Version.

Puzzle solutions are on page 12

This month it was...

400 years ago, on 4th May 1626 that the Dutch explorer Peter Minuit arrived on the east coast of what is now the USA. He negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for \$24 worth of cloth and buttons. (Equal to about \$1,150 today.)

300 years ago, on 25th May 1726 that the world's first Circulating Library (lending library) was launched by Scottish poet and bookseller Allan Ramsay at his bookshop in Edinburgh.

250 years ago, on 4th May 1776 that Rhode Island became the first of the Thirteen Colonies to renounce allegiance to the British Crown and instead, to declare independence.

200 years ago, on 29th May 1826 that Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor was born. He and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

180 years ago, on 30th May 1846 that Peter Carl Fabergé was born. This Russian goldsmith and jeweller was best known for his fabulously decorated Fabergé eggs.

175 years ago, from 1st May to 15th October 1851 that the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.

105 years ago, on 15th May, that the British Legion was founded.

100 years ago, on 4th to 12th May 1926 that the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.

90 years ago, on 7th May 1936 that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town.

Also 90 years ago, on 27th May 1936 that the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.

80 years ago, on 11th May 1946 that the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre, to help people who were starving after WWII.

75 years ago, on 3rd May 1951 that the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened. The aim of the Festival was to lift the nation's spirits by celebrating British industry, arts and science.


Also 75 years ago, on 9th May 1951 that the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park.

Also 75 years ago, on 25th May 1951 that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.



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70 years ago, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

65 years ago, on 31st May 1961 that Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).

60 years ago, on 30th May 1966 that British racing driver Graham Hill won the 1966 Indianapolis 500. He was the only driver in history to win the 'triple crown of motor racing': the Formula One World Championship, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Indianapolis 500.

40 years ago, on 9th May 1986 that Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa Tenzing), died. This Tibetan/Nepalese mountaineer

had been with Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand when in 1953 they became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

15 years ago, on 2nd May 2011 that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan. He was the founder of Al-Qaeda and is thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA.

10 years ago, on 31st May 2016 that Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died, aged 87. Best remembered for creating the sitcoms *The Liver Birds*, *Butterflies*, and *Bread*.

from Parish Pump

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Annual (Vestry) Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held at the end of April. Churchwardens were elected for the coming year and, during the APCM, Deanery Synod representatives for the parish as well as some new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Many thanks to those who have now been duly elected.

As you will see there are two vacancies for a churchwardens and two PCC member vacancies. If you might be interested in one of these

roles, please do have a chat to Revd Sally or one of the wardens.

You might also like to read Revd Sally's article from 2023 [explaining what a PCC is](#) and how it fits into the organisation of the church.

The Annual Report is [available to download](#) from the APCM page on our website and you can also read the Rector's Report on 2025 on the next page. Paper copies of the reports are also available in churches. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Windsor Parish Church, High St, Windsor, Berks, SL4 1LT
Saturday 2 May 2026 7:30pm
Thames Valley Festival Orchestra
with conductor Stephen Ellery
plays
Symphonic ABBA
Arranged by Louis Clark
Tickets £25-Adult £15-U18
TVFOABBA2026.eventbrite.co.uk
or click to book

PARISH OF
CENTRAL
WINDSOR
windsorchurches.org.uk

St John the Baptist Parish Church
Parish Church of All Saints
Parish Church of St Stephen & St Agnes
Holy Trinity Parish & Garrison Church

Parochial Church Council 2026

Churchwardens

Karen Allott - All Saints' Church
Jane Burr (and Deanery Synod) - St Stephen & St Agnes Church
Megan Gent - Holy Trinity Church
Steve Holton (elected Vice Chair and appointed Health & Safety Officer)
- Holy Trinity Church
Katy Kerr - All Saints' Church
Trevor Parsons - St Stephen & St Agnes Church
vacancy - St John the Baptist Church
vacancy - St John the Baptist Church

Clergy and Licensed Lay Workers

Revd Canon Sally Lodge
Revd Richard Terrado-Reardon
Anne Casson (also in capacity as Diocesan Synod rep)
Revd John Quick – co-opted under Rule M15(1)(k)
Revd Canon David Dadswell – co-opted under Rule M15(1)(k)

Deanery Synod (until 2029)

Jane Burr (and St Stephen & St Agnes Churchwarden)
Estlyn Davies (appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Steve Smith

Elected Lay Members (10 with 2 vacancies)

Laura Betteridge until 2027
Richard Cox until 2028
Mary Delaney (appointed Treasurer) until 2027
John Halsey until 2028
Trevor Kirby until 2027
Mary Skelton until 2028
Penny Wells until 2029
Michael Harding until 2029
Robin McConnell until 2029
Kate McQuillian until 2029

PCC Secretary (appointed by PCC)

Victoria Stevens (appointed Electoral Roll Officer)

Rector's Report on 2025 for APCM held on 26th April 2026

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29.11

These words from the prophet Jeremiah are often quoted as a kind of divine guarantee that God has a perfect, stress-free plan for every individual. The words are used as a reassurance that everything will turn out fine in the end. They are however a little more challenging than this I feel. The words were spoken to people in exile, many of whom would never see their homeland again. And yet, in the midst of their anxiety about their future, God tells them he has a plan—a plan that is bigger than them, a plan that requires patience, endurance, and faithfulness even when circumstances are hard.

God is not saying to them that their life will be free from hardship. What is being said is that, even in exile, God knows what he is doing.

It is perhaps too big a leap to compare the struggles of an exiled people with our endeavours to become a single parish but the verse from Jeremiah came to my mind as I began to write this report so perhaps it can offer something for us to consider today. The words are a reminder that God's plans are often long-term and not always immediately visible. I have on the noticeboard in my study typed minutes of a meeting of the "Shaping the

Church Working Group" dated 9th November 1998 and headed "One Parish?". There were 7 people present with two apologies. Five of those present are in our current worshipping congregation. Thank you for your resilience and strength over the 27 years which followed! The minutes begin by stating that "Some members of the group feel very positive about the idea of one parish, whilst others question its timing and wisdom". The document goes on to list the Advantages and Disadvantages before noting other matters voiced, including that "we should not be frightened by the prospect of disagreement" and that "none of the reservations expressed was insuperable". It also notes that "the process is likely to take longer than six months".

So, here we are in 2026, looking back at our first year as One Parish. It did indeed take longer than six months but on the 1st January 2025, the former parishes of New Windsor, Holy Trinity and Clewer St Stephen with Spital became the Parish of Central Windsor.

This was a very long season of waiting, a very long exile, but through it all there was a commitment to the bigger picture, a faithfulness to serve God and to believe that there was a plan and a future worth hoping for.

In 2025, we began a new way of living out our vision of working together to show God's love in Windsor. This vision

which had been acted upon in and through many activities and much service to the local community over many years is now flourishing with a new energy and new inspiration.

Our four churches (St John the Baptist, All Saints, Holy Trinity and St Stephen & St Agnes) now have equal status in the newly formed parish. They are all now "Parish Churches" and in 2025 for the first time they each had two churchwardens working together in one PCC.

As in previous years there have been many highlights and celebrations in 2025. As our Children & Families Leader, working 12 hours a week across our four churches, Revd Richard has continued to build up our Sunday Club with the valuable input of a small group of lay leaders who bring great energy into this vital area of ministry. Richard continued throughout 2025 to put much work into the Toddler Group which began in November 2024. This has proved to be a great source of outreach and ministry to local families. We also held a Children's Holiday Club in the February Half Term – the first time this had been done for many years. It was hugely enjoyable and will undoubtedly become an annual event in our parish calendar.

The usual pattern of church festivals, commemorations and celebrations began with Epiphany and journeyed quickly towards Candlemas and onto

Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It was a delight once again to have a donkey (and Shetland Pony!) for our Palm Sunday procession from All Saints to St Stephen & St Agnes via Holy Trinity (with a basket of blessed palms taken to St John the Baptist).

A faithful group of worshippers enjoyed the Dawn Service at St Stephen & St Agnes – a glorious celebration of the resurrection and a wonderful start to Easter Day (followed by a hearty breakfast!) and there were well attended celebratory services too at 8am, 10am and 11.15am at our other three churches.

On Thursday 8th May we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a Civic Service at St John the Baptist Church attended by the Mayor and RBWM Councillors, with a similar service at Holy Trinity Church on 15th August to mark the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day.

There was a glorious service for Ascension Day at All Saints Church on 29th May and on 19th June for Corpus Christi we were once again joined by the choir and congregation of All Saints' Boyne Hill and Burnham Parish Church for a beautiful Sung Eucharist.

Bishop Mary, Bishop of Reading, celebrated and preached at the Patronal Festival at St John the Baptist on 22nd June, a service which also incorporated a special thanksgiving for

continued on next page

continued from previous page

the formation of the Parish of Central Windsor. On 13th July we held our second "Hymns and Pimms" service at All Saints which was much enjoyed once again. It was also the day on which 4 adult members of our congregation were confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St Michael's, Bray.

We marked Education Sunday (Second Sunday of September) during our morning Eucharist at St Stephen & St Agnes Church

Our Harvest Thanksgiving took place on 5th October at Holy Trinity Church with Choral Evensong at All Saints. The annual "In Loving Memory" service took place on 19th October and on 2nd November the choir sang a beautiful Fauré Requiem for All Souls' Day. Services were held in St Stephen & St Agnes, Holy Trinity and St John the Baptist on Remembrance Sunday. On 16th November, we had the pleasure of launching The Windsor Mass, a mass setting composed for us by choir member, Carolyn Gower, to celebrate our coming together as one parish and we were then into Advent and the carols services, school concerts and festivities of Christmas. Our third Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church took place over the Advent weekend, with an increased number of trees. This event is certainly catching the attention of the local community. We were without Military Bands at our

two Carol by Candlelight services at Holy Trinity but this did not affect the attendance figures (450 on Friday and 900 on Sunday) nor the quality of the service. Our local MP, Jack Rankin, read one of the nine lessons on the Friday and wrote to me afterwards thanking us for "one of the most beautiful events in the constituency". Midnight Mass was celebrated at Holy Trinity and St Stephen & St Agnes and on Christmas Day we had services at Holy Trinity (8am), All Saints (10am) and St John the Baptist Parish Church (11.15am).

My gratitude as ever to our Director of Music, John Halsey, to our choir and to our assistant organists. We are so very fortunate to be blessed with such talented and committed musicians.

On 5th June, I was licensed as Area Dean of Maidenhead & Windsor Deanery, an interim position until 5th June 2026. In this capacity, I attended two Area Mission and Pastoral Meetings and two Area Dean/Lay Chair meetings at the Berkshire Area Office in Theale during 2025. Having been elected to Diocesan Synod in November 2024, I attended the three meetings of Diocesan Synod which took place in 2025. As a member of the Diocesan Development Fund Panel, I attended four meetings at Church House, Oxford.

My commitment as foundation governor (*ex officio*) at Trinity St Stephen C of E First School and Queen Anne C of E First School, and associate

governor at St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School continued in 2025, as did my *ex officio* trusteeship of the following charitable trusts/funds: Clewer St Stephen Curate's House, Trinity St Stephen Charitable Fund, Windsor Holy Trinity School Sale Proceeds Fund, New Windsor Municipal Charities (Ellison House), St John the Baptist Parish Hall Charity and the Royal Free Trust.

Following the unexpected resignation of the Treasurer in November 2025, I am hugely indebted to Mary Delaney, Deputy Treasurer, for all she has done to ensure our accounts are in order.

During the year, the Next 200 Committee has continued to meet regularly to steer the major project of refurbishment and redevelopment of St John the Baptist Parish Church. In November, after interviews and careful consideration, Christian Randall of Conservation Architects was appointed to carry out a feasibility and design study.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, schools work (including provision of regular collective worship in Trinity St Stephen First School, Queen Anne First School, Oakfield First School, St Edward's Royal Free Middle School and Upton House School), Messy Church and pastoral care continued throughout the year.

We sadly said goodbye to several former congregation members including Pamela Kay, Margaret Martin, Sheila Boshier, Dee Mulley and Gill Pengilly. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

My sincere thanks to our churchwardens, deputy treasurer, PCC secretary, Parish Safeguarding Officer, PCC members, bell ringers, Sunday Club leaders, Messy Church volunteers, parish administrators, readers, intercessors, caterers, my fellow clergy, my ever-patient husband and **all** those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our churches are safe, accessible, well maintained and welcoming places of worship for all who come through our doors. And thank you to each and everyone of you as members of our congregation, regular or occasional. Thank you for making the vision to become one a reality, for being the Body of Christ in this place and the means by which we fulfil our commitment to show God's love in Windsor.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen

Revd Canon Sally Lodge

Rector, Parish of Central Windsor

The following reflection on the ministry of Churchwardens by Rt Revd Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading, was published in the Diocesan Newsletter of 23 April.

Thank you to all those who have served as wardens in our parish in the past and those who have stood again this year. We do have two vacancies for St John the Baptist Church, where the outgoing wardens are willing to continue with some of the day to day tasks associated with the role - if you feel you might be called this office please do have a chat with Revd Sally.



Cherish your churchwardens

Usually, when we say that we're 'glad to see the back' of someone, we're saying that we're relieved that, with their departure, a difficult chapter is over.

Not so, for me, with churchwardens. You see, very often, the view I have of churchwardens is of their backs as, wands in hand, they lead me into a licensing or confirmation service. I am

then glad to see their backs; thankful to be supported by these faithful people, to receive their kindness, to know that they have prepared the way for my ministry, that they are front-footed.

Over the last few weeks I've witnessed churchwardens overseeing barbecues; building bonfires; wrestling tough issues with wisdom and compassion; leading communities through vacancies; planning for worship; cheering clergy on (and knowing when to caution them!); advocating for congregations; restoring buildings; moving chairs; moving mountains. I could go on! All this means that I'm always glad to see the back of churchwardens because that means they are way ahead of me, doing the work that God has called them to do; as leaders in God's Church, surveying the horizon.

I've done a count and, over the course of my parochial ministry, I worked with twenty-eight churchwardens. In case that sounds rather a lot over nineteen years - as though I was careless in my

custody of these excellent people - I should say that my second incumbency consisted of seven churches and that Coventry Cathedral had an abundance of wardens. So not - I promise - a total based on repeated subtractions and additions, but on multiplication: a multiplication of blessing.

Over those years, these twenty-eight people supported me through tough personal times: a rat infestation in one rectory (think Stephen King horror film), major surgery and a close family bereavement. With me, they led our church communities through unbearable tragedies, repeated lead thefts, occasional bad behaviour (not mine - I trust!), gargantuan building projects, big cleans, change management and barrowing tonnes of topsoil from one part of the churchyard to the other. I still have the muscles to prove it.

Their companionship cut through the loneliness of my ministry; their wisdom enriched me; their perspectives reset me; their challenge corrected me; their

love held me steady; their constancy carried change; their service enabled and modelled kingdom life. As we served together, I thanked God for them daily. I still do.

For many churches, this is the month of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, when outgoing churchwardens are thanked for their service and their successors are elected for their next term of office. Perhaps you're preparing to stand for election as a churchwarden or to nominate or vote for someone else.

Whatever part you will play in these annual meetings, do so with huge gratitude for those who have served as churchwardens or who are offering to do so. When you're exploring a dilemma, listen to their wisdom. When they lead through change and difficulty, thank God for their care. When they seem weighed down, help to carry their burdens. And when you see their backs, pray for them in their busyness.



Regular midweek services

Mondays

9am Morning Prayer - All Saints' Church

Wednesdays

9am Morning Prayer - St Stephen & St Agnes Church

11am Holy Communion (BCP) - Holy Trinity Church

Fridays

9am Morning Prayer - Holy Trinity Church

Occasional Offices

During 2025 our clergy conducted:

56 baptisms

10 weddings

1 marriage blessing

14 funeral services in our churches

6 funeral services at a crematorium or graveside

2 committals only of ashes

4 parishioners were confirmed in 2025.

Dawn Easter Service at St Stephen & St Agnes Church



something very significant. It didn't seem an especially long service but the symbolism of the light was compounded as I walked out into the unexpected sunlight of a spring day.

I have to acknowledge that 6am is very early (especially just a week after the clocks went forward) and I *may* have had a nap later in the morning. Do go along, if you can next year, on 28 March (when the joy of Easter will help us to embrace the clocks going forward on the same day!). You will also be treated to breakfast afterwards and, of course, there's still plenty of time to get to one of the mid-morning services if you'd like to as well.

Thank you to the clergy, wardens and sidespeople for all our wonderful Easter services.

VS

There were thirty one people at the Dawn Service this year. It was an amazing start to Easter Day. Almost part of the experience was walking to church in the dark, not a person in sight, accompanied by only the sound of enthusiastic birdsong.

The service started in the car park, with the Paschal Candle being lit from a brazier. We then processed into the dark church behind the lit Paschal Candle – at which point the light was shared with the congregation and our individual candles, the church lights came on later in the service. Some of the service was very reminiscent of baptism and it really felt like the start of



Above the new Paschal candle, with all the altar candles lit behind

Puzzle Solutions



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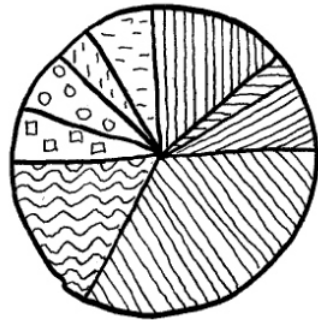
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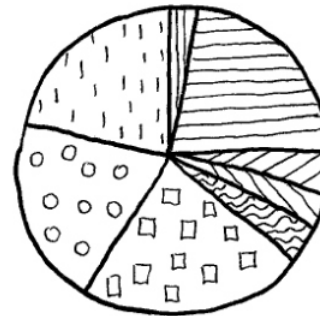
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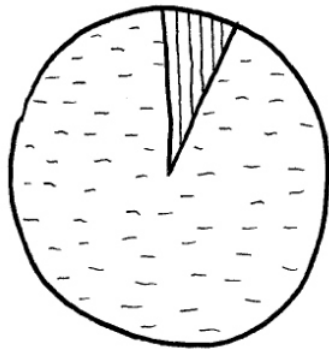
WHAT THE CLERGY DO ALL WEEK



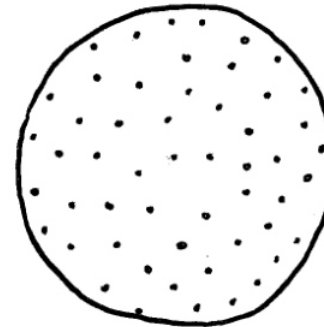
WHAT THE CLERGY DO



WHAT THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY DO








WHAT THE CLERGY THINK THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY DO



WHAT THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY THINK THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY DO

-  GO TO CHURCH, PRAY ETC
-  PREPARE SERMONS
-  GO TO MEETINGS
-  VISIT THE SICK
-  HELP PEOPLE BE BORN, GET MARRIED AND DIE

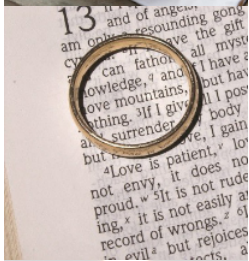
-  SURF THE INTERNET
-  PLAY GOLF
-  KEEP UP TO DATE WITH POPULAR CULTURE (TV, MUSIC ETC)
-  NOTHING
-  TO BE HONEST IT IS NOT SOMETHING I HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME THINKING ABOUT

From the April registers...



Baptisms

Harriet Paynter - Holy Trinity Church
Violet Fenlon - All Saints' Church
Caleb Evans - Holy Trinity Church



Weddings

Charlie Kreil & Gemma Morgan - All Saints' Church

Wedding Blessings

Joseph & Alaina Watson



Interment of Ashes

Charles & Edith Steele



For your prayers this month

Anne Harding
Steve Smith
Colin Oakley
Elena Hicks

New Pathways



New Pathways is an informal bereavement group, which meets monthly, in the Mountbatten

Room at Holy Trinity Church, 2.30-3.30pm, on the last Thursday of the month - do come along for a cuppa and a chat! Everyone is welcome, no matter whether your loss was recent or a long time ago.

Loving Care

Do you care for a loved one or friend?

Would you like to meet up with others in a similar situation?

Join us for tea and biscuits on the **second Thursday** of each month from **2pm** to 3.00pm in the Mountbatten Room (opposite the Car Park) at **Holy Trinity Church in Claremont Road**

All welcome



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May

- 1 Philip and James, Apostles (Festival)
- 2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
11am Wedding: James Beedle & Jessica Saunders - All Saints' Church
- 3 **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church
4.30pm Bible Course Session 2 – St Stephen & St Agnes Church
- 4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
- 8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417
- 10 **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church
4.30pm Bible Course Session 3 – St Stephen & St Agnes Church
- 10-16 Christian Aid Week
- 11 Rogation Day
- 12 Rogation Day
Gregory Dix, Priest, Monk, Scholar, 1952
- 13 Rogation Day
- 14 **Ascension Day (Principal Feast)**
7.30pm Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church
- 15 Matthias the Apostle (Festival) (transferred from 14 May)
6.30pm CTW* Ecumenical Vespers – St Edward's Church, Alma Road
- 16 *Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877*
- 17 **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
10am Sung Eucharist – St John the Baptist Church
4.30pm Bible Course Session 4 – St Stephen & St Agnes Church
- 19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988
- 20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
7.30pm PCC Meeting – All Saints' Hall
- 21 *Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330*
7.30pm Deanery Synod Meeting – TBC
- 22 9am Holy Trinity Church open for prayers on 15th Anniversary of Iraq War

24 Pentecost (Principal Feast)

- 10am Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church**
- 4pm TBC CTW* Picnic in the Park – Alexandra Gardens
- 25 The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735
Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709
- 26 Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
John Calvin, Reformer, 1564
Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595
- 28 *Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089*
- 30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906
Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431
Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933

31 Trinity Sunday (Principal Feast)

- 10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Patronal Festival**
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong – Holy Trinity Church**

* CTW – Churches Together in Windsor

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 14 May

7.30pm

Sung Eucharist

Holy Trinity Church

All welcome

