

St Mary-the-Virgin Church

Great Brickhill

Annual Church Meeting

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Wi-Fi access:- Gigaclear A5D1

Password:- dj02tsnu6m

The 2025 Church Annual Report and the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting are available on the website:-

<https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/>

The Annual Vestry Meeting

The Election of the Church Wardens

Phillipa Cook

Stuart Jones

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2025,
available in advance
(No requirement to adopt the Minutes)
4. Elections:-
 - a). Deanery Synod Representative
 - b). Members of the PCC (max 6)
 - c). Appointment of Independent Examiner 2026

NOMINATIONS FOR THE DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

**Deanery Synod Representatives
serve for a term of three years.
New election required in 2026**

**Jeremy Hopkinson has been serving
as our Synod Representative**

No nominations have been received

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PCC

Current members:-

Clare Hankins-Lewis

Sophia Walmsley

Diana Williams

All willing to serve for another year

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Beatty has fulfilled the role of Independent Examiner for the last few years. He is willing to continue in that role.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There has been a review of the Electoral Roll, which was formed last year

Current Number on Electoral Roll

17th March 2026:- 27

(5 not resident in the parish)

(No changes since last Annual Meeting)

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Services, activities, events etc
during 2025 – for full details
see the Annual Report**

SERVICES:

There was no change to the service pattern.

The services are publicised widely – website, Pew Sheet, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp

THANKS TO:

- The Rector, Jeremy Hopkinson, and the visiting clergy
- Jerry Breslin (Organist and Choirmaster)
- The Benefice choir
- Andrew & Margretta Smith and Sophia Walmsley for the music at the Family Services

ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES:

Average attendance for normal Sunday service = 18, the same as in 2024.

Much higher for special services:- 57!

SPECIAL SERVICES

Family baptisms on three occasions

1 blessing service

3 funerals

Remembrance Sunday

Carol Service

PLUS two outdoor services:-

Pimms & Hymns

The Nativity (estimate 200 people)

HIGH ASH SERVICES:

Services held:-

Leavers' service (Key Stage 2 pupils)

Harvest (whole school)

Christingle (Key Stage 1 & Foundation)

Carol Service (Key Stage 2 pupils)

Easter (2 x services Key Stage 1, plus 2)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

**6-week Lent course led by the Rector
based on Paula Gooder's book
"Women of Holy Week"**

**The monthly midweek Bible Group at The
Rectory continues**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (cont):

Food Box in the church porch. Thank you to those who contribute, and to the families of High Ash for the gifts that they gave for their Harvest services, which were passed on to us for Food Box.

Janet Pritchard and Debbie Pincott kindly look after the Food Box for us.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Snowdrop Walks

Plant Fayre

Brickstock Teas

Christmas Coffee Morning

CHURCH MAINTENANCE:

(1) Roof Work:-

Work required to the Chancel Roof and the tower as identified in the Quinquennial Report was done in January 2025

(2). Workday in September – insulation laid in the void of the centre aisle grating and under slabs in the porch around the heating pipes

NET ZERO CARBON PROJECT:

(1) South porch doors to stop draught coming through the porch:-

Planning application granted, Diocesan approval for faculty awaited

(2) Air Source Heat Pump:

Detailed specification and costing being drawn up. Then planning, permission, DAC faculty and grants will be applied for.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications:-

Website, Pew Sheet for every service, Parish Newsletter, weekly e-mail, village WhatsApp

Parish Newsletter:-

Scaled down version with news items is printed and delivered each month to those known to be unable to receive the Newsletter online, and a copy is available in the Church Porch

POLICY DOCUMENTS

All documents are on display in the church porch and in the Great Brickhill section of the website

Safeguarding is an item on the agenda for every PCC meeting, a subject taken very seriously

Annual Safeguarding review was held in November. The Safeguarding Policy & Domestic Abuse Policy were approved.

No safeguarding incidents have been reported.

Treasurer's Report including adoption of the Annual Report

- Accounts prepared on Receipts and Payments basis**
- Deficit for the year of £1,079**
- Total Receipts and Payments very similar to 2024**
- Despite higher gas prices, cost of heating, lighting etc very similar to last year. Electricity supplier switched to Octopus.**

PARISH SHARE PAYMENT TO DIOCESE

Payment due for 2025 was £21,885

Parish Share paid:- £14,000

(64% of amount due)

(Parish Share paid in 2024:- £14,000)

RESERVES

General Reserves £13,984

St Mary's Fund:- £2,006

(64% of amount due)

(Parish Share due in 2026:- £21,810)

WARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Including updates for 2026

Phillipa Cook

2026 UPDATE:

**Service with the Bishop, Sunday 4th January
including Confirmation**

Snowdrop Walks

Baby & Toddler Group starting 20th April

Mains Water Leak

Boiler Replacement

DEANERY SYNOD

Synod representative Jeremy Hopkinson

All officers are wishing to retire and no replacements have been found - Lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Revd Val Plumb will be retiring as Area Dean.

A grant was received for the cost of the new projector, bought for use in the Benefice.

THE RECTOR:

THANK YOU TO

**Everyone who helps with various tasks
around the church and churchyard
but offers of help are always welcome!**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion will be held at 8.15pm to seek the views of what the priorities will be for the new Rector

**DISCUSSION FOR
RECRUITMENT OF
NEW RECTOR**

QUESTION:

What are the priorities for our new Rector?

What do you want him/her to do in the next two years?

CofE Expected Role of a Vicar

**What do you want him to do in
the next two years?**

1. Spiritual and Liturgical Leadership

- **Leading Worship and Sacraments:**

Planning and presiding at Holy Communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

- **Preaching and Teaching:**

Delivering inspiring, Biblically-sound sermons that engage all ages and help people grow in their faith.

- **Developing Prayer Life:**

Nurturing the personal and corporate prayer life of the congregation.

2. Pastoral Care

Walking Alongside People:

Offering pastoral support to the sick, dying, and bereaved, both within the congregation and the wider community.

Being Visible and Approachable:

Acting as a comforting and supportive presence in the parish.

3. Mission and Community Outreach

Growing the Church:

Leading the church in mission, evangelism, and finding new ways to reach people outside the church.

Community Engagement:

Strengthening links between the church and local schools, community groups, and civic leaders.

Hybrid Ministry:

Developing a "new normal" that combines in-person worship with digital and online engagement.

4. Leadership and Administration

Enabling Lay Leadership:

Identifying, training, and empowering laypeople to take on active roles in church life.

Collaborative Working:

Working closely with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and churchwardens to manage church affairs.

Stewardship and Finance:

Encouraging financial stewardship and ensuring proper care of church buildings and finances.

Safeguarding:

Ensuring all church activities adhere strictly to national and diocesan safeguarding policies.

Key Qualities Desired

Authentic Faith:

A secure, confident Christian faith.

Approachable and Empathetic:

A good listener with high emotional intelligence.

Collaborative:

Willing to work as part of a team, not a sole leader.

Resilient and Humorous:

Capable of handling the pressures of the role.

In summary,

A modern CofE vicar is expected to be a **collaborative leader** who empowers others, an **inspiring teacher**, and a **visible, caring pastor** rooted in the local community.