

CHASE TEAM MALVERN

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025



ChaseTeamMalvern
St Andrew's - All Saints - St Mary's

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RECTOR'S REVIEW



At the start of 2025 we sensed God calling us to a year of 'courageously sowing seeds' and this annual review describes some of those new seeds we have sown over the last 12 months. It has been exciting to see a new St Mary's life group birthed; Walkies, Wellbeing and Worship meeting every Wednesday morning on the hills; the Youth Bible study at Abbey Road bringing together around 30 teenagers from across our town; Churches Together hosting HOPE25 in Priory Park in June and a very joyful 'Carols on Malvern Rise' on our new housing estate.

We give thanks for these and all the different ministries through which we have served our congregations and our town this last year.

Nationally, there has been much talk of revival in 2025 where God seems to be on the move in a new and special way, particularly amongst young adults, and we have seen our own evidence of this new spiritual awakening here in Malvern. We have had a good number of new people connect up and make their home with us, and encouragingly, several have come to faith during 2025. A very special Pentecost baptism service at St Andrew's was certainly one of the highlights of the year.

There have been some changes amongst our staff team, with Neil joining us as Operations Manager in January and Nathan moving on from the Youth Ministry Leader role and Tristan taking over that role temporarily, before he becomes our curate in 2026. We are very grateful for all that Nathan contributed to the youth and we are currently praying that God will provide the right person now to lead our important youth ministry into the next season.

As we look forward to 2026, we sense a call to particularly 'strengthen our teams' across our churches in this next season, and we continue to explore exciting ways to reach out to those who we are not yet reaching with the good news of Jesus.

Thank you all for supporting in so many ways over this last year. I continually tell people what amazing congregation members we have in the Chase Team and every person and every contribution is greatly valued. It is a huge privilege to minister among you all and Alice and I want to express our heartfelt thanks for all your support for us. We look forward to what God is going to do in 2026!

Rev Dave Bruce, Chase Team Rector



**“NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT” SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.’
ZECHARIAH 4:6**

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

2025 seems to have flown by – in a good way - so much has happened! It's been great to see relationships strengthen across the team and between the churches. We have continued to unite together in worship. I think back to the beautiful gathering we had at St Mary's last Ash Wednesday and the special shared meal at All Saints on Maundy Thursday. Prayer continues to undergird our relating together as we gather in each church on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning to pray.

We've also come together to have fun. Who can forget the Chase Team summer picnic organised by the Thursday women's group (complete with Pimm's and homemade scones)? Also the first Chase Team Beetle Drive at St Mary's where certain clergy apparently got a little too competitive!

The strength of relationships between our churches enabled us to come together in mission throughout 2025. Just one example of this was the Family Fun Day at St Mary's in July which was supported by all three churches and was an amazing way to bless the local community, including giving away nearly 200 ice creams for free from the ice-cream van we hired for the event!

I've also loved observing each church doing its distinct thing in 2025. I see that particularly in the different worship offerings across the churches as I move around each Sunday, and it's beautiful. Whether in the five minutes of silence at the beginning of services at All Saints, sharing Communion in the Sanctuary space at St Mary's or in powerful sung worship at St Andrews, there's so often a tangible sense of God moving and ministering among us and it is so good!



And in the midst of it all, it's been a joy to continue welcoming a steady stream of new people across the team and seeing people finding a new or renewed sense of faith, through Alpha and other courses, friendships, the weekly worship services, the bereavement café and much more! A very special memory from 2025 was the baptism service on Pentecost when three people were baptized and two reaffirmed their baptism vows, for each a really significant marker on their faith journey and a huge encouragement to us all.

Moving forward, let's continue to unite together in worship, fun and mission, trusting in God and, as ever, be prepared to welcome newcomers in. As I said way back at my licensing: party on!

*Rev Emily Spencer
Chase Team Vicar*





WARDENS' REPORTS

ALL SAINTS

The new change in 2025 is that wardens from across the team meet with the rector and vicar on a monthly basis. This has proved useful in giving mutual support and ensuring that we are working together. The numbers attending the All Saints Sunday service grew steadily during the year. Following the successful Lent Lunches we now have a community lunch (soup and cheese) once a month on a Monday, to which all are welcome.

Peter Buchanan & Sarah Yeadon

ST MARY'S

In 2025 there has been a steady growth in numbers of adults and children alike at St Mary's and a full year of community and team activities, creating a huge rise in church footfall through our doors. Thank you to all our regular volunteers from cleaners to service leaders who keep the Faith spreading in our community.

Jenny Green

ST ANDREW'S

There has been much house-keeping, repairs and routine to keep everything in motion and to provide a platform from which St Andrew's can serve our churches and community. Thank you each one for the regular faithfulness in so many ways which enables the content of this report to be delivered. It is an honour to be a part of this relational Kingdom work.

Steve Beldon & Carole Nicholls

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN WORSHIP, WORD, PRAYER & SPIRIT SERVICES OVERVIEW

ST ANDREW'S 10.30

It has been great to see how the 10:30 service has developed over this last year. The music team continue to lead us into deep encounter with God in our sung worship and our experienced preachers faithfully open God's word to us in an engaging and transforming way, which helps us to grow as disciples on our different 'frontlines'.

Our children and youth continue to be a key part of this service and it has been great to learn together, celebrate together and share stories across the generations in the first part of the service.

We hope, over this coming year, to empower our children and young people to be more involved in the service itself as we seek to keep them at the very heart of this service. This year we have also re-instigated our popular Seminar Sundays and have covered a variety of topics including mental health, creation and eco-theology, creative collage, Genesis 1, the Quiet Revival and how to support those who are bereaved.

As ever, the service would not happen without those 'behind the scenes' on tech, coffee, welcome, children's ministry and all the other rotas, who, together with those who are up front, serve faithfully each week. We are grateful for you all. Thank you.



*Endings and New Beginnings; a Collage from Seminar Sunday
at St Andrew's 23.11.25, led by Bonnie Clarke*

'THE SIX' @ ST ANDREW'S

This year, services of 'Worship and Waiting' have become deeply embedded in the programme of The Six. All of these times have been deeply significant as we have dwelt in the Lord's presence and waited on God. We have found the Holy Spirit working in profound ways among us to draw us into deeper fellowship with Him and with one another.



The number of services of Holy Communion has also increased this year – again, to enable us to sit in wonder together as we focus on the cross of Jesus, remembering His sacrifice for us.

In terms of Bible teaching we have followed the same plan as most of the other congregations in the Chase Team: 'Journeying with Jesus', 'Looking through the Cross' (Lent), 'The Holy Spirit' (Pentecost), 'The Sermon on the Mount', 'Great Verses of the Bible', 'Prayer', 'The Book of Jonah' and messages of 'Hope', 'Peace' and 'Joy' in Advent. These have been set in the context of the regular sung worship, testimony, corporate prayer and prayer ministry.

At the beginning of August we had an inspiring and challenging update from CAP (Christians Against Poverty) who operate locally in Malvern and Ledbury.

On 5 October the LICC roadshow came with their message of 'Empowering Christians to Make a Difference in Daily Life' which inspired many. A large number of people attended from other Malvern churches, which was very encouraging. In November we had a special service with Prayer for Healing when many were touched by the presence of the Lord.

A big thank you to so many who have carried this service during 2025. It is a privilege to be part of such a committed and loving team who serve the congregation of The Six so faithfully.

Rev Helen Wilkinson

ALL SAINTS

We have seen a steady increase in attendance at our 10am service on Sundays over the year; people attracted by our style which is a mature mix of contemporary and traditional. Our services are both reflective and engaging, with Holy Communion every Sunday except 2nd Sundays. We offer a contrast to other forms of worship in the Chase Team, making use of a wide variety of liturgical materials and different preachers.

Second Sundays are non-eucharistic and a little more experimental, and in 2025 we had a Taize/Celtic Service, a Healing Service, a Harvest Praise Service and a Carol Praise Service. We begin each of our services with 5 minutes of silence, sometimes accompanied by quiet music, and this sets the atmosphere of holy contemplation that makes our worship so special.

Rev Geoff Vevers



MIDWEEK SERVICE

The midweek service takes place at 11am on Thursdays, and is well attended, with numbers sometimes exceeding 30. It is usually a communion service, and we appreciate Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer, David Ritchie or Mark Slater officiating. Derham Cook and Heather Williamson also lead and preach, as Licensed Lay Ministers. We have followed each sermon series and grown through them, both in richer worship and understanding, and in deeper commitment to 24/7 discipleship. We offer prayer ministry, and there is a strong sense of friendship, fellowship and mutual support among the members, which is reinforced over coffee in the foyer after the service, and through our occasional Bring and Share lunches. We are indebted to Sylvia Knott, who gives expert tech support, is the Warden-in-Charge for this service and organises the rotas for greeting/coffee, reading and prayers.

Heather Williamson

ST MARY'S



Services at St Mary's this year have continued to be a wonderful mix of both traditional and informal styles. We've experimented with different layouts, sung songs old and new, incorporated new instruments, benefitted from a range of leaders and preachers from the Chase Team and beyond, used multimedia to enhance our worship and even enjoyed a number of very engaging puppet shows! We've also seen new people join the church and begin to help serve our services in different ways, for example in reading and leading prayers. Towards the end of the year, some children began regularly attending services and so we've had the joy of starting a children's Sunday group, following similar material to the children's groups at St Andrews.

Special services and festivals are always a highlight at St Mary's - Harvest 2025 was particularly memorable, with the 'Harvest Samba', instruments and flags!

St Mary's is a small congregation, with a very big heart, worshipping God in Pickersleigh with authenticity, joy and reverence.

Rev Emily Spencer

THE WAITING ROOM

The Waiting Room meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7pm at All Saints. A rare hour spent in the presence of God without distraction or pressure. The words from Psalm 46v10: 'Be still and know that I am God' become more alive. All are welcome. What an opportunity!

We use the book "Coming to God in the Stillness" by Jim Borst. The ideas underpin and guide our time with God.

The Waiting Room is a good way to follow up the practice of "Abiding with God" modelled in the Rhythms of Grace Lent Course.

Susan Crumpler with words from Paul Hunt

MUSIC TEAM



What a joy it is to belong to the group of musicians who lead All Saints' worship. We are still six in number – all playing keys of some sort. Having the organ as well as the keyboard means we have variety in our worship, each bringing its own dimension and 'colour'. Once again, we thank Andy and Paul for their AV work which greatly enhances our services.

Janet Finch

2025 has seen more growth in music, with the introduction of multitracks for a fuller sound, and a number of new worship songs, particularly at the 10:30 as we seek to embrace the younger church members. God's word to us for the year has been *unity*, so we meet monthly for prayer and worship together, and are now opening this up to the rest of the Chase Team with monthly Friday night Spontaneous Worship and Prayer gatherings. We're so thankful to our volunteers in music and tech that have faithfully served the juggernaut of Sunday services, and would welcome more help across our teams involving instruments, voices, sound, and visuals.

Chris Murr

St Mary's is a church that loves to sing. The worship continues to be enhanced by pianists from all three churches who are greatly appreciated. This year, the 'St Mary's Singers' were established, a new iteration of a longstanding choir tradition at St Mary's. Since forming, the group has sung in services, at the Family Fun Day, at the Refresh Community Café and in a local Care Home at Christmas. The group sings together on a Wednesday evening with both children and adults taking part, drawing in people who may not otherwise connect with church services.

ONLINE SERVICES, TECH AND STREAMING

Throughout the year we have produced two online services each week, plus various other events and recordings. These are all available through our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/@ChaseTeamMalvern) with over 330 subscribers from countries around the world.

The live streamed services each week were:

- All Saints 10:00 Sunday morning services, including Holy Communion.
- St Andrew's 10:30 Sunday morning contemporary services.

Through the year, we normally live stream about 3 hours of online content each week, attracting over a hundred and fifty weekly viewings and regular positive, grateful feedback. That equals over 13,000 viewings totalling 3,300 hours watching time (often by groups of people) per year.

Thank you to all those who have helped make this possible this year.

Almost every service or event we stage requires technical support (normally sound and visuals) with an additional person required if we are streaming or recording. We have a brilliant and dedicated team but we are always in need of more volunteers. It's a great skill to have and a great way to serve. **Could God be calling you to serve? Full training provided.**

Derek Barnes & Andy Green



EASTER



Easter was again a very special time this year with some very meaningful services throughout Holy Week offered across our three churches as we focussed on 'Easter: A Life-Changing Story.'

On Good Friday this year, as well as having our 'Last Hour at the Cross' service, we created a reflective space to sit around the cross for the preceding two hours which was greatly valued by many. Our children's activities included an Easter Craft Workshop at St Mary's and an interactive Good Friday for families service at All Saints. Once again on Maundy Thursday we gathered for a memorable shared meal at All Saints as we reflected on the events of the night before Jesus' death. Easter Day saw celebrations across our churches with the traditional crême egg rolling competition at St Andrew's rounding off a special Easter.

Rev Dave Bruce





Advent began with a special Advent Quiet Morning up at All Saints led by Nick and Cherry which led into weekly online compline led by Emily to slow us down in this busy season.

Our Christmas services were full to overflowing, with nearly 550 people attending our churches on Christmas Eve alone. The St Mary's Carol service had around 60 attend and it was such an encouragement to see many members of the Pickersleigh community joining us to celebrate together. Messy Christmas and the Christingle at All Saints were, as ever, special times and the Pop-up Nativity at St Andrew's was bigger than ever with over 60 people dressing up to be part of the story.

The 'Hope in the Darkness' service was well attended and very meaningful for the bereaved, and Ivor shared his testimony really powerfully at the St Andrew's Carol service where we gave away copies of Bear Grylls' 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' to those who were interested.

Rev Dave Bruce



GROWING WHOLE-LIFE, LIFELONG DISCIPLES

LIFE GROUPS

We end 2025 with 15 Life Groups across the Chase Team involving around 150 people – a mixture of day time and evening groups with some meeting in local homes and others in our church buildings. In 2025, a new St Mary's Life Group was established and three other groups came to an end, having met their originally intended purpose. In 2025 three meetings were held over the year for leaders which included input and space for mutual support. Group material is provided centrally, accompanying the sermon series, and many groups make use of that with others opting to do something different. Examples of material in 2025 included the following series: Journeying with Jesus, Looking through the Cross, and Jonah: the mystery of God's mercy. Life Groups are a really vital part of the Chase Team, where so much pastoral support and discipleship happens. Thank you to the leaders of the Life Groups and to all who participate in a group.

Rev Emily Spencer

FRONTLINES

We continue to be committed to helping people follow Jesus on their 'frontlines' and it has been very encouraging this year to hear many different stories of how people are doing that, particularly at the evening service. If you would like to talk to someone and pray with them about following Jesus on your frontline, or to have someone visit you there, then do get in touch with Dave and we'd love to do that to support you.

Rev Dave Bruce



DISCIPLESHIP COURSES

The Bible Course

This 8-week course, held in June and July and attended by 8-15 people, followed the Bible Society Bible Course, which takes people through a Genesis to Revelation overview of the Bible with teaching videos that include Bible teaching, on site filming, expert interviews and personal testimonies. The weekly sessions had a great atmosphere with both mature believers and new Christians actively participating in the discussions. Participants were enthusiastic about how the overview was helping them understand the scriptures better and most people were managing to keep up with the daily readings.

Foundation Stones

Foundation Stones was held in the autumn and covered a series of foundational truths for living the Christian life. Each session is self-contained and designed to be accessible for new believers as well as those who have been walking with God longer. The sessions have a mix of group discussion, group interaction and teaching. We welcomed 11 participants, who were enthusiastically engaged.

Darryl Greig

“Thank you .. for bringing God's word to us, helping us understand it in a new way and exciting us to read it. Really enjoyed the sessions.”

LENT - AROUND THE CROSS

The topic of Lent this year was ‘Around the Cross’ and we gathered around the cross on the five Mondays of Lent to reflect on topics including characters of the cross, music of the cross, silence of the cross, and scenes of the cross. This complemented our sermon series based on Graham Tomlin’s book ‘Looking Through the Cross’ which proved very thought provoking. A Lent quiet morning and an evening looking at ‘Journeying through the wall’ by Dave, weekly Lent lunches with a thought of the day at All Saints and a special ‘Worship and Waiting’ at the Six, made it another very memorable Lent.

Rev Dave Bruce

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

In August, we started Creative Conversations – a relaxed, open craft group for adults, that meets weekly on Thursdays. This has been a great success, with up to 10 people attending each week. We have quickly formed a warm, supportive community eager to share skills, creativity, and conversation. Through exploring new crafts and chatting about life and Christianity, the group has shared encouragement and inspiration, and built lasting friendships. We look forward to welcoming more members in 2026!

Michelle Gregory



LADIES' BREAKFAST

This year we have continued to meet at Alturo Lounge on the 3rd Saturday of each month. It has been an opportunity to build friendships old and new, and a time for mutual encouragement and support. We would welcome more ladies to come and join us, and enjoy a toasted teacake, sausage butty or even a full English Breakfast. Thanks to all who have come and shared.

Ann Harvey

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mens Breakfast continues to flourish on the 1st Saturday of every month, 8.30-10.00am. Some 25-35 guys attend at Wetherspoons Hotel for a great time of fellowship and marvellous range of inexpensive breakfasts and drinks. Furthermore, we are indebted and blessed with a range of interesting speakers from inside and outside our community every other month. All are welcome to join us!

Derek Sheldon

PRAYER

Prayer continues to be an integral part of The Chase Team and underpins all we do. It's a weekly heartbeat on three mornings at each of our churches, as well as in our services with prayer ministry offered at some. We pray in our Life Groups, and several ministries hold their own prayer meetings. We also have an active online Prayer Chain providing a lifeline for urgent prayer needs. Monthly we have an hour to draw aside into quietness and listening to God at 'The Waiting Room'.

Several events are held during Lent, Thy Kingdom Come (a global prayer event) and Advent. These include 'Quiet Mornings' where we come aside to be led through scripture and silence to wait and be with Jesus. We have 'Half Nights of Prayer' with time to pray specifically for some of the vast array of ministries within our Churches and this year we also had an Advent Zoom Compline.

Helen Simpson

VOLUNTEERING

We are so grateful for all our 'unpaid team members' (otherwise known as our volunteers) who serve in so many ways across our team of churches. There are over 160 people who serve in different ways and it was very special to gather many of them for 'Thank You' events at the start of the year to celebrate the amazing work that happens each week. You are all truly fantastic and we could not do it without you! If anyone wants to serve in any way, please get in touch with Neil, our Operations Manager.

Rev Dave Bruce



RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION TO LIVE FOR JESUS



Our dedicated children's team have continued to lead some amazing sessions on Sunday mornings at St Andrew's, their imagination and commitment to growing faith in the children is endless! Much of the time we follow the same theme as the grown-ups, enabling families to reflect together over Sunday lunch.

In the autumn a Sunday group at St Mary's was formed as a few families have started coming regularly which has been very exciting, they meet in the Jubilee room and have enjoyed watching a Bible story video, playing games and making crafts to remind them of the story.

A variety of children's and family events took place across the Chase Team over the year including an Easter craft workshop, a Family fun day and a Christmas craft workshop with Christingle at St Mary's, and a pancake party, Good Friday for families' service, Light party and Christingle at All Saints. The Family fun day was a great success with over 200 people attending, enjoying free ice creams, outdoor games, facepainting and for the children – testing the police car sirens! It was great to have so many opportunities to share God's love with families from across our communities!

Helen Attree, Children and Families Ministry Leader

PARENTING

We were blessed by a visit from Jim and Lynne Jackson, founders of Connected Families. With Ruth, they led an evening seminar exploring the four identity messages we long to build in our children: that they are safe, deeply loved, called and capable, and responsible. We also continued running courses on sibling conflict, helping parents reflect Christ's love in everyday family life.

Ruth Wharton

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Holiday clubs at St Mary's took place on Mondays and Tuesdays in many of the school holidays, welcoming around 25 - 30 children who enjoyed Bible stories, singing, crafts linked to the story, games and a cooked lunch. The team of volunteers work hard to make it a very special time for the children and it's a real privilege to welcome children from the local community into the church.

We welcomed around 75 children each day to Wonder Zone Holiday club at St Andrew's for 4 days at the end of August. The children explored creation, space, creatures of the world and robots! An amazing team of adults and young leaders helped to make the whole week a success, with children learning about Jesus, praying together, singing and enjoying many different activities.

EARLY BIRDS

Early Birds is a short, friendly and informal service for families with young children which meets on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month in the hall at St Andrew's. We enjoy singing, acting out Bible stories, making a reminder craft and listening to a short 'thought' for the grown-ups. More families have joined us over the year and there is a real sense of community as we grow in faith, journeying together, and enjoying fellowship over coffee and biscuits! It is a joy to see the children 'Jumping for God' (our first song every week) taking part playing the different Bible characters and growing in confidence, to see the care they take in making their crafts and their delight as they play together after the service.

TODDLERS

An increasing number of families appreciate the warm, safe space we provide mid-week for pre-school children and carers. The children enjoy a wide range of creative and construction activities provided; the adults make new connections and share experiences. At snack/circle time we model calmer behaviour as we enjoy songs and stories together. Generally, the St Andrew's' story reflects the Sunday Groups' theme. Helpers regularly get the opportunity to share faith and invite visitors to other church activities. Positive relationships are steadily being built alongside the chat and fun...

Helen Attree





MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church – church but not as you know it. We continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month and in December on Christmas Eve. We have a good number of families who come regularly and have also welcomed several new ones. In August we did ‘Messy Goes Wild’ on the common and had a gazebo with Bible crafts at the village fete in September. We have thought about people Jesus healed, resurrection appearances, and Old Testament characters, Jonah and Ruth. On Thursdays we enjoy a story, crafts, song, prayer time and then jacket potatoes! We are very grateful to all those who help with Messy Church; please contact us if it is something you would like to be involved in.

Margaret Buchanan

SCHOOLS

We have continued to build close and valued relationships with Malvern Wells Primary School, The Wyche Primary School, Malvern Parish CofE Primary School, Great Malvern Primary School and The Grove Primary School. We are especially thankful for the opportunity to visit Malvern Wells and Malvern Parish regularly to deliver Open the Book, sharing the message of God’s love through Bible stories. We also ran a very successful ‘Moving On Day’ for Year 6 pupils, supporting them as they prepare for new beginnings in secondary school. We have also enjoyed supporting learning in classes, welcoming pupils into church, and celebrating Easter and Christmas with School communities.

Helen Attree

YOUTH MINISTRY

CHAOS

Chaos is a great place for the youth to come chill out and chat with cake and hot chocolate, followed by a game (which can get quite competitive) and then a discussion. We have delved into the bible this year, looking at Characteristics of God and how we display them, the Lectio prayer course and Jesus studies. We've also enjoyed having regular testimonies from individuals on their walk with God and Open Doors, a highlight of the summer term. Each term Chaos has a question panel; this is a great opportunity for the youth to ask any questions of three 'slightly nervous' grown-ups within the Chase congregation. These questions are normally very diverse from 'What's your favourite colour?' to deep theological issues, with all questions sparking great conversations! One of the important aspects of Chaos is our regular socials, with pizza and fire in the summer and finishing the year with a Christmas dinner, attended by 31 youth and leaders.

Jan Mitchell

PATHFINDERS

Pathfinders is great! In 2025 we looked at Genesis, which was interesting, the Sermon on the Mount (my personal favourite), the meaning of the fruits of the spirit and what it's like to know Jesus. We have been creative, making paper fruits, wood carving with Nathan (lots of fun!) and making our own wooden prayer crosses. Games are a big part of Pathfinders with dodgeball, and the plate and pool noodle game being a firm favourite!

Flo Mitchell



YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY

In March, the Youth Ministry Team accompanied 20 of our young people on a fantastic weekend away to Gaines Manor, where we enjoyed games, bible teaching and a murder mystery! It was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to deepen their faith, bond with one another and have fun!



“There were lots of activities and things to bond over with other people. It was a good experience to get outside and make new friends , or even just talk to people.” - Gabriella Murr

TRANSFORMING LIVES

AS WE PROCLAIM AND DEMONSTRATE THE KINGDOM GREAT GOSPEL GIVEAWAY

2025 was the year where we started talking about the ‘Quiet Revival’ – how young adult numbers in churches were dramatically increasing as young people (and particularly men) were looking for community, meaning and purpose. This led to a national demand for Bibles and so we decided around Easter time that we would be part of the ‘Great Gospel Give-Away.’ We raised enough money to buy nearly 1000 of the ‘Easy Read Gospels’ and managed to give them all away over a period of a few months. It was lovely to hear stories of them ending up in prison, with work colleagues, children and grandchildren and friends. On one school Easter service alone we gave away 40 to parents who wanted to take them. We don’t know what has happened to all of these gospels but trust that God will use these in his own unique way to draw others to him. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this give-away and well done to all who were courageous enough to give them away to people they know.

ALIVE COURSE

After Easter this year we had another ALIVE Course based at the Lyttelton Well where we looked at the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the themes of Hope, Peace, Love, Freedom and Purpose. This prompted some lively and sometimes deep discussion from the two tables of guests. The group included some who had done Alpha previously and some who went on to do Alpha afterwards.

Rev Dave Bruce



ALPHA COURSE

We ran two Alpha courses in 2025 and it was wonderful to see God at work in so many lives.

The Spring course saw engagement from our friends at St Mary's as well as some new faces. God took many of our guests on personal journeys of faith. Each bespoke, each beautiful to behold. We were so pleased to witness four guests confirming their faith through baptism last summer.

The course in the Autumn was held at St Mary's and again we welcomed folk from Pickersleigh as well as some new faces not previously connected with the Chase Team churches. God amazed us in the way, yet again, He gently drew people to Himself in individual and personal ways, some commencing their faith journey while others recommitted to God.

It is such a blessing to be able to share in what God is doing and such a joy to welcome new folk into our Christian family. And we pray - 'Father, do it again in 2026!'

Colin & Marion Robbins

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Praise God for showing His love in our community by providing free debt help to over 50 households, families and individuals, young and old. We are seeing prayers answered, clients go debt-free, and faith being explored.



2025 was a year of challenges for our clients, as well as for our CAP team, marked with poor health, family bereavements and exhaustion. But in God's mercy and grace, He stirred our amazing team to pray and seek God's heart and wisdom, to discern how best to meet these needs in our community. A number of our volunteers are giving additional support, and praise God for His generous church, which stepped out in faith and recruited two new Debt Coaches to serve in this valued work. Adrian and Polly started their training in February 2026. So this year we look forward in great excitement and expectation to see what God will do through the Church and through our Debt Centre in its 7th year!

Denise & Kat, CAP Malvern & Ledbury Debt Centre Coaches

For free debt advice call CAP new client enquiries on 0800 328 006

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

We continue to serve members of our churches and our community through occasional offices. We have conducted fourteen funerals over the last year including the funerals of some precious members of our congregations who are sadly no longer with us including Shirley Noble, Margaret Smith, Mabbs Webb and Jack Adams. It is great having the Bereavement Café as a place of follow up for these families and we had a very special 'Hope in the Darkness Service' just before Christmas to remember loved ones.

We had one joyful wedding at St Andrew's this year of Sarah and Alex Andrews who have become well-loved members of our community. During the year we baptised eleven people – eight children (including a packed service for Grace Mehta's baptism) and three adults at a very special Chase Team baptism service on Pentecost Sunday.

Rev Dave Bruce

SIDE BY SIDE BEREAVEMENT CAFE



We welcomed an average of 20 at the café during 2025 and we met every single Monday, including the Bank Holidays. This was possible because of the dedication of the team, now 11 strong and soon to be 12. We know how challenging it can be for the newly bereaved to attend their first session so we now have a welcome pack containing useful information. In October we ran our “Memories Day”, a chance for individuals to share their grief stories with others in a safe space. We also encouraged people to try the soup lunches at All Saints and advertised other suitable church events. The Quiet Christmas service was well attended and much appreciated. In November some of the team led a seminar on how as a church we can respond to the bereaved. We ended the year with a buffet lunch.

Angela Gibson

AMEN TRUST SHOEBOXES

After another year of amazing generosity from our congregations, community and Girl Guiding we were able to put together 84 shoeboxes to send to gipsy families in Romania. Shoeboxes are filled with gifts for all the family including hand knitted hats, gloves & socks, sewing kits, toiletries, games and cuddly toys. Thank you to everyone who contributed and we are already collecting for 2026!

Helen Attree

SHARED LUNCHES

St Andrew's and All Saints continue to facilitate monthly, well received Shared Lunches, where all ages and dietary preferences enjoy fellowship after morning worship. Over 30 of us celebrated Christmas Day Lunch together, many who would otherwise dine alone. Come dine with us and build community.

Mary Flynn and Ken Becroft



MALVERN WIDE INITIATIVES: FOODBANK & LYTTTELTON WELL

Jesus said, "You will always have the poor". Sadly, he was right, even in Malvern. In 2025, the Foodbank fulfilled 1600 vouchers. With the help of our on-site CAB worker we solved the crisis with 83% of clients needing 3 or fewer vouchers. Thank you for your continuing support.

The Lyttelton Well offers a café, Christian bookshop, chaplaincy, low-cost counselling, and room hire. Founded over 30 years ago by churches across Malvern, it is supported by the Chase Team and valued for strengthening church links and developing initiatives that serve and support the local community.

Peter Buchanan and Neil Hornby

OCTAGON MINISTRIES

2025 saw the departure of one of our Coffee Shop team members due to relocation and the death of two stalwarts of Coffee Shop within a few months of each other. We had some joyous times too including four lunches and services to celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest. In September, we invited friends to join us for a Macmillan coffee morning and we had a time of remembrance in November and for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We have started doing a fortnightly 'Thought for the Day' and we are looking forward to serving baked potato lunches in 2026. Visitors are always welcome.

Volunteers from the Chase Team churches support both the Thursday Project – an after school session with crafts, games and a meal for primary school children and their families – and the Community Pantry, a surplus food project, which is open on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings throughout the year.

Angela Gibson & Helen Attree

MALVERN WELLS VILLAGE FETE

After a worryingly wet Sunday morning, the Fete turned out well, with good numbers attending. Many visited the Church tent, where we were promoting all aspects of All Saints life. We were also offering the ever popular Messy Church activities. The 2026 Fete will be on Sunday 6th September.

Ken Beecroft

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY LUNCHEs

Following the very successful Lent lunches it was decided to offer a monthly Community lunch on the 3rd Monday of the month from 12.30 – 2pm open to the wider community as well as the Chase Team.

We offer a simple lunch of soup with a roll, cheese and grapes followed by coffee and cake. During lunch we listen to a short ‘Thought for the Day’ offered by someone from our Churches.

It is a time of friendship and warmth and we welcome everyone who would care to join us. There is no charge but a small donation is welcome.

Patience Broad



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We delivered the Christmas message to our community in a number of ways: we organised ‘Beer and Carols’ community singing in three different local pubs and ‘Carols on the Green’ on the new Malvern Rise estate, featuring the Malvern Chase Brass Band, mulled wine and mince pies and an impromptu nativity re-enactment with local children in full costume. This was not only great fun but an excellent opportunity to come alongside our neighbours and the key players in our local community and share the good news of the new born King. Thanks to all involved.

Neil Attewell

WALKIES, WELLBEING AND WORSHIP

A new venture this year was 'Walkies, Wellbeing and Worship' which is a group of us who gather (with or without our dogs) at 7:30am on a Wednesday morning at British Camp car park to walk, share and worship together. On our hour-long walk around British Camp, we read a short Bible passage, go off on our own to reflect on it, pray for each other and pray blessing on our communities. Numbers range from 4 to 8 each week and we have enjoyed having a few people join us who don't currently attend church. One of our members described it lately as 'the most important time of my week to encounter God'. If you want a beautiful walk with others and God each Wednesday, do come and join us!



Rev Dave Bruce

CHURCH CENTRES

It was another good year for bookings at St Andrew's. We have increased our regular bookings from 17 to 20 groups across the Church Centre. The hall now has limited spaces available. We also have a few groups that use us on a semi regular basis. Occasional bookings increased again this year, especially for children's parties, due largely to the successful toddler group here.

St Mary's continues to host several community groups on a regular basis including Keep Fit, Line Dancing, Karate, AA, Senior Residents, and, during 2025 welcomed a Taiko Drumming group and a Baby Weighing clinic, both now part of our regular calendar. Sunday afternoons saw the church transformed by bouncy castles to host 20 parties across the year! As well as providing a great resource for the local community, the money raised from hiring out the building made up one third of total income for the year.

Kirsty Oldfield & Helen Weir

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The community fridge team at St Mary's has grown to 17 volunteers who work together to make food available for members of the community. The fridge is open two mornings each week and around 90 households collect bread, cakes, frozen food and fresh fruit and vegetables; the supplies are kindly donated by local supermarkets and are supplemented by household support funding from Malvern Hills Council.

We held two extra events in the lead up to Christmas - a store cupboard morning where each household could take 6 items of their choice, and Christmas Eve opening, at which hot drinks and mince pies were served, carols and songs played and toys and gifts available for the families to take. This was the first time the fridge had been open on Christmas Eve and over 46 people/families attended!

Cherry Clarke

REFRESH COMMUNITY CAFE



This year has seen a couple of changes to the Refresh Community Cafe at St Mary's, including Janet's knitted tea cosies and free hot drinks through winter (including Community Fridge customers), due to a warm space grant. We had a successful craft fair during December with carols at the last session.

Jenny Green

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

On many Tuesdays during 2025, St Mary's hosted Tuesday Lunch Club, from 12-2pm, for residents from the local area. The team who run it are locals from St Mary's Church and community. The team have cooked and served a two-course hot lunch for about 20 people each time, for just a small charge utilising donations from the likes of Cook. For some local residents, the chance to have a hot meal in the company of others makes a huge difference to their week and shows God's love in action in our local community.

Rev Emily Spencer & Brenda White

WORLD MISSION

ST ANDREW'S WORLD MISSION GROUP

In 2025 we welcomed a new partner - Hope and Vision - an organisation with local connections who provide supported, move-on accommodation for people who have successfully completed residential rehabilitation from addiction. As a group we are inspired as we read the stories from our wonderful kingdom partners, which can be accessed on the website.

ALL SAINTS WORLD MISSION GROUP

As a team we have continued to support people whose lives and actions shine God's Love on those in need among whom they live and work. All Saints continued the policy of planning to give away 10% of the previous year's freewill donations, split roughly 50:50 between missions partners in the UK and partners abroad. In 2025, planned giving totalled £8,625 with other giving of £644.

Jesus Loves Me Hospital, Liberia	£4,100	Lyttelton Well	£1,350
Jon and Elise Fletcher (CMS) in Thailand	£4,100	Malvern CAP	£1,350
Msalato Theological College	£2,805	Anna Sims (CMS) in Peru	£700
iSingPop	£2,400	Brook Farm Community Trust	£500
Open Doors	£2,300	Guy Crumpler (Mission to Seafarers in Japan)	£375
CMS	£2,300	SKY Autism Support Malvern	£375
Terry English (Josiah Ventures)	£2,300	Other (including Hope and Vision)	£2,100
A-Rocha	£2,300	TOTAL	£29,355

BUILDING TOGETHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER

The year began with a united service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and daily prayers in different churches. Easter was marked by the traditional procession of witness and open-air service in the Priory churchyard on Good Friday, and the Easter Sunday sunrise service on the Beacon. June again heralded Lifepath week in the Priory, enjoyed not only by hundreds of primary school children, but also by the team, drawn from many different churches, working and praying together. Churches Together in Malvern's new venture this year was to host 'Hope25', a public celebration



of hope in Priory Park in June. It was great to see people from a range of churches across our town, including our own, contributing through music, testimonies and lots of stalls advertising our churches. A great witness to those passing by.

Heather Williamson and Dave Bruce

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod continues to meet four or five times a year as we gather with those from other churches in the deanery to seek to support and encourage each other. We still have several Deanery Synod vacancies so if you are interested then please do get in touch.

CHURCHSUITE

In the spring, after much careful consideration, we entered the brave new world of co-ordinated computer based administration. ChurchSuite will eventually be a 'one-stop shop' for accessing rotas, room bookings, calendars, event planning and communication, enabling us to save time and energy and better see the operational big picture.

Neil Attewell

PCC

St Andrew's PCC met six times through 2025 (including two joint meetings with All Saints' and St Mary's PCCs). The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held at The Six service on the 6th April 2025. Between meetings, the Standing Committee has met regularly to action ongoing issues and outline the agenda for the next PCC meeting.

2025 was a year that continued to bring The Chase Team together. Key items for the PCC during the year included our finances (including budgets), staffing, cover, recruitment, safeguarding, the fabric of our building, trips, service patterns, licenses, Deanery and Chase Team related issues, the Malvern branch of Christians Against Poverty (CAP), our children and young people, risk assessments, church centre issues including hire charges and bookings and Net-Zero.

As Treasurer, Andy Lymer has ably steered us through the management of finances. Our new Operations Manager, Neil Attewell, has picked up the reins as PCC Secretary, including taking the minutes of meetings. Prayer continues to provide the guidance for our PCC meetings and we thank God for His provision and guidance.

Derek Barnes, St Andrew's PCC Lay-Chair

Membership of All Saints PCC has been very stable in recent years and our meetings are marked by unity of spirit and purpose, as we work together to discern God's will for our church. The renovation of roof timbers and rainwater goods was a major project overseen by the PCC. Positive links with our two parish schools continue, and we are delighted with how Megan's Kitchen is being used for the church and the community. We thank God for His continued provision and guidance.

Kathleen Horwood, All Saints PCC Secretary

Meetings of the St Mary's PCC every other month have produced an introduction of new things happening in St Mary's and the usual smooth running of the Church, and the activities within the building during the week. We increased our mission donations and ran our first community fun day, which we will repeat.

Jenny Green, St Mary's PCC Secretary

CHURCH FABRIC

ST ANDREW'S

Through 2025 the Church Centre and Fabric Committee has ensured everything is kept up to date, well kept, improved and looked after for both internal and external users, including Health and Safety. The Committee meets 4 times per year, but conducts much of its business remotely.

- Addressing repairs including blocked pipes and drains, problems with memorial stones, decorating, lighting and electrics.
 - Continued maintenance (including lighting, front doors, church doors, boilers, lightning conductors, fire extinguishers, chairs, etc.) and addressing issues raised in our Quinquennial Inspection Report.
 - Continued improvement of our IT infrastructure, including online facilities, our website and supporting staff, volunteers and CAP.
 - Grounds clearance and maintenance, repairs to gutters, roofs, car park, trees, etc.
- There is an online and paper-based reporting system for maintenance issues that quickly flags up items for attention.

Derek Barnes



ST MARY'S

After the refurbishment activity that took much of 2023 and 2024, 2025 was a quiet year on the Fabric front.

We installed a dishwasher in the kitchen, had a broken ridge tile mended at minimal cost and improved the soakaways at the west end of the building.

A new volunteer took on the role of co-ordinating the cleaning of the building and the organisation of the storeroom and kitchen, as well as cleaning the brasses and undertaking all the laundry associated with the church and its many groups; we are extremely grateful for the time and dedication to everyone who helps in this area.

Helen Weir

ALL SAINTS

Our thanks again to Paul Southern and Angela Davison for their faithful attendance to the grounds, mowing the lawns and cutting back the overgrowth, and to those who sweep the leaves. Paul has also replaced the exterior lights attached to the building.

The gutters and rainwater goods were renovated, at some considerable cost, most of which went on wrap-around scaffolding over the summer. Some of the cost was offset by grants which we applied for. We were blessed with grants of:

£3,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, £1,000 each from the Worcester and Dudley Historic Churches Trust and the Laslett's Charity, £1,750 from the Benefact Trust and £10,000 from the Droitwich Preservation Trust.

Geoff Vevers

SAFEGUARDING

The PCCs have fulfilled their duty to comply with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

During 2024, 38 members of the three churches have completed DBS checks and 134 safeguarding training courses have been completed at various levels. The number is high because there is a new requirement for people in many roles to complete 'Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse' training.

A few safeguarding concerns have arisen during the year, which have been addressed promptly by Dave Bruce, Emily Spencer and ourselves. Support and advice have been sought from the Diocese.

The parishes are now compliant with all Church of England requirements. All required documents and procedures are in place and good practice is being implemented.

Val Fane & Helen Weir, Parish Safeguarding Officers

TREASURERS' REPORTS

ALL SAINTS

In 2025, All Saints income was slightly higher than budget driven by a small increase in giving for which we are very grateful. Expenditure was much higher than budget driven largely by the cost of having the roof timbers and rainwater goods painted. The PCC had set aside £10,000 towards this work from reserves but in the end paid nearly £18,000 towards it. Utility bills were also significantly higher than budget, probably due to the increased use of the church and Megan's Kitchen in particular.

Paul Southern, All Saints' Treasurer

ST MARY'S

2025 saw total unrestricted income increase by 10% over 2024, with large increases in planned giving and hall income more than compensating for declining income from investments. Overall, having budgeted for a deficit of nearly £10,000, our extra income and day-to-day management of expenditure - including continued willingness of volunteers to take on roles we had budgeted to pay for - meant that we virtually broke even for the year. Another incredible result!

Our restricted funds supporting the Community Fridge, Refresh Café, Children's Holiday Club, St Mary's Toddlers and Tuesday Lunch Club were once again well supported by grants and donations meaning that the valuable work in these areas could continue. Once again we feel truly blessed to be going into 2026 in a good financial position.

Helen Weir, St Mary's Treasurer



ST ANDREW'S

During 2025 we received £307,743 from all sources (£295,520 in 2024 - representing a small increase of 4% year on year). We spent £328,409 (£314,784 in 2024 - an increase of 4%). Overall, this means that our total fund balances at the end of 2025 were 8.7% lower than at the start of the year (following a reduction also of 7.4% in 2024).

At the end of the year we held around £218,000 in all funds related to St Andrew's church of which just over £37,000 was held in restricted funds (whose use must be limited to the purposes these sums were raised or given to us).

Our largest costs in the year were staffing (just under £130,000 in total, including pension costs - £108,500 in 2024 - a 20% increase year on year) and the Ministry Share payment to the Diocese (£101,100 paid in 2025 v £100,000 in 2024 representing a 1.1% increase) - paid in support of the salary and some of the other costs of our clergy and of other Diocesan costs and mission work. This (again - as we have for many years now) represented the full ask of St Andrew's for this cost from the Diocese £20,255 was given away to support God's work beyond our immediate parish activities. This represents 10.7% of our voluntary (unrestricted) income. A further £18,421 was given away to support more local mission we are involved with in and around Malvern. The direct (non-staff) funding of our children and youth work rose considerably in the year to £6,409 - a rise of nearly 86% year on year.

On behalf of the PCC, I very much want to express my thanks for your very significant giving to God's work at St Andrew's Church again this year. We are very aware of what sacrificial giving this is for many and do our very best to make sure these funds are managed and spent to the greatest effect. I also thank those who have taken up the offer to switch their giving to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) over this year as part of our attempts to minimise the cost and effort involved in managing our income.

I want to offer thanks again to Marion Robbins, St Andrew's bookkeeper. She does the bulk of the finances work week by week. I get the easy bits! We would value others getting involved in the finance team of the church if anyone would be interested and feels they have a suitable aptitude for this way of serving God.

Andy Lymer, St Andrew's Church Treasurer

ACCOUNTS

	All Saints	St Andrew's	St Mary's	Chase Total
2025 Expenditure	94,424	328,479	19,827	442,627
2025 Income	85,907	307,743	19,724	413,477
2025 Deficit	8,517	20,736	-103	29,150
Reserves	64,690	179,380	54,455	298,525
2026 Budgeted Expenditure	91,613	336,895	26,456	447,283
2026 Budgeted Income	83,500	256,426	18,775	366,382
2026 Projected Deficit	8,113	80,469	7,681	96,263
Projected Position Year End 2026	56,577	98,911	46,774	202,262



"EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS." - 1 PETER 4:10



ChaseTeamMalvern

St Andrew's - All Saints - St Mary's

ST ANDREW'S IS REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1128973.
ST MARY'S & ALL SAINTS ARE EXCEPTED CHARITIES

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