

# Annual meetings *at* The Vine

Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 10 May 2026

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# Report from Parochial Church Council (PCC)

## **Davo Smith, PCC Vice Chair**

Since last year's APCM, there have been some big changes in our parish life, but also a strong sense of continuity.

We have said our goodbyes to Will Briggs as our Incumbent and Oversight Minister, as he has moved on to pursue different roles within and beyond the Diocese. At the same time we've said goodbye to Gill Briggs, as she has taken up the role of Curate at St Thomas Philadelphia. Other faithful members of our church community have also moved on to worship as part of different churches. All of these are missed, but we are thankful for the ways God has blessed us through their time with us.

The House of Prayer that has been faithfully seeking after God and blessing the area in regular rhythms of prayer, has moved into a different phase and is no longer gathering in St Stephen's building. We give thanks for all God has already done and will continue to do through this ministry.

We look forward to further changes still to come, as the appointment process for a new Incumbent and Oversight Minister for The Vine and St Timothy's continues. We trust in God's hand in this process and pray that the right person, with a strong desire to serve the people of Netherthorpe, Upperthorpe, Langsett and Crookes is appointed to this role.

We are also hopeful that this year we can be a blessing to the people of Netherthorpe, by releasing St Stephen's building to a church plant from St Thomas Crookes. We trust this will build on the foundations of prayer and service already established in and around that church building. We also hope that, in God's strength, His good news will be shared ever more deeply with the people who live in the area.

As we look back over the last year, we celebrate the continuity of a strong and insightful PCC, acting as faithful trustees for our church. We also give thanks for the active Standing Committee, that works year round alongside our church wardens, Paul Sheridan and Dave Neath, to make sure that the day to day activities of our parish and our buildings can take place. We are also grateful to our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Andy Bryce and Katie Smith who, along with our employed admin staff, Jackie Kieran and Siobhan Melville, make sure our finances stay under control.

We are grateful for our Focal Ministers team of Andy Bryce, Vicki Neath, Paul Sheridan, Rachel Widdows and Tina Powell-Wiffen as they look after the mission and ministry of our parish of The Vine. Particularly as we move through the current vacancy, it is a great blessing to have this team, seeking to discern and act upon

God's heart for our parish. We look forward to them working closely with the new Incumbent we hope to be appointing soon.

A highlight of the last year was the fantastic weekend away to Swanwick in October. Toby Hole shared some great insights into the Disenchantment and Re-enchantment of the Church, alongside times of worship and celebration, fun and fellowship.

This report would be incomplete without mention of our children's and youth ministry. Our children's worker Esther Graze has continued to provide excellent leadership to our team of volunteers helping the youngest members of our church family to learn about being followers of Jesus. Our youth team, headed by Vicki Neath, continues to build on these foundations, helping our teenagers to live out their faith. It continues to be a great delight to see half of our congregation leave when these groups head out during the Sunday services.

We have seen investment in our building at St Bart's, with grant funding allowing us to replace our aging A/V equipment (including several, temporary, Covid-era gaffa tape solutions). This supports both the Sunday morning worship in our building and those able to join us remotely via our livestream. This has worked well with our growing music group - under the leadership of Jonathan Neme, it has been great to reduce our dependence on pre-recorded music videos and to be able to worship with live musicians.

We've also been able to provide accessibility improvements downstairs, with sound dampening and spaces for children to take time out from noisy group sessions.

Separate grant funding has enabled some new raised beds and other improvements to our garden space at St Bart's. Ruth and Emma have headed up the volunteer teams who have worked hard to bring the garden together.

During the week it is good to see our buildings being put to good use, with our own Welcome Space ministry on Thursday mornings providing a point of engagement with people from across the area. The church is also being hired out to various groups, including FoodCycle at St Bart's on a Tuesday evening, cooking club at St Stephen's and St Philip's and Vineyard churches making use of St Stephen's.

We give thanks for all that God has done this year and look forward to the ways He leads us to serve His Kingdom in the year to come.

# Focal Ministry Team

## **Rachel Widdows, Focal Minister**

Andy Bryce, Vicki Neath, Paul Sheridan, Rachel Widdows and Tina Powell-Wiffen were authorised during 2024 as Focal Ministers for the Vine and have since then been carrying out their roles.

The main leadership responsibilities of Focal Ministers are defined as:

To be the public face of the church to their congregation and/or community.

The Focal Ministry Team take responsibility, with the Oversight Minister and relevant others, for the development and delivery of mission and ministry in a parish.

As individuals, Focal Ministers may take oversight of a specific aspect of mission or ministry.

A final responsibility of Focal Ministers is to encourage and support the vocations of everyone, and build teams around their areas of responsibility.

The roles of the FM team are as follows:

Andy Bryce: Sunday services co-ordinator, Communications, Small Groups

Vicki Neath: Community engagement, Youth

Paul Sheridan: Convening focal minister, Co-ordination with PCC

Rachel Widdows: Children and families discipleship, Baptisms

Tina Powell-Wiffen: Pastoral care, Third age ministry, Lay reader ministry

We have met through the year approximately once a month, with more regular meetings in between as required to liaise among specific members of the team.

The team continues to be well-supported through practical support, prayer and encouragement of the congregation at the Vine, as well as through diocesan support through Mike Gilbert, Associate Archdeacon transition-enabler, who has supported the Focal Ministers during this period of vacancy.

A key event during the past year was a church weekend away at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. This was a valuable time to spend time together as a congregation, to pray, worship and explore matters of faith and our identity as a church family.

We are now looking ahead to what God has in store in the coming year. Along with St Tim's, we hope to be able to appoint an oversight minister in the coming months as we seek to continue to grow in faith and discern our calling as a church in this community.

Please feel free to contact any of the Focal Ministers to ask questions, to offer support or advice. They would love to hear from you.

Andy, Vicki, Paul, Rachel & Tina.

## Churchwardens' report

### **Paul Sheridan and Dave Neath, Churchwardens**

Well, another year has flown by in the life of The Vine. 2025 was another year with a mixture of continuity and change.

As you all know we have two buildings to look after so Dave Neath and Paul Sheridan share the responsibility for both.

### **St Stephen's**

The building was regularly used by the

- House of Prayer (Monday- Thursday mornings and lunchtimes, as well as regular events through the year),
- St Philip's (they use the office space regularly on weekdays and for youth and Sunday services),
- an Arabic group meets monthly,
- a cooking club uses the kitchen each week
- the building has a flat which is attached to, but separate from the main church, and provides us with a good income
- the hall and kitchen has also been hired out for the odd parties and gatherings.

At present, the building is used far more frequently than St Bart's and generally pays its way with regard to general upkeep and covering of utility bills. Problems and questions arise when we have to look at changing the fabric of the building, having expensive repairs or replacements, or dealing with subsidence or damp.

Not much work has been done on St Stephen's building in 2025 so 2026 will mean that work needs to be done.

The gas boiler had to be repaired last year and this has worked well over the last winter.

The old dishwasher has been replaced

The gas kitchen boiler has been replaced with a new electric boiler.

Discussions have been had involving the architect, as the extension towards the side of the church will need some substantial work done due to cracks the walls in one of the rooms. We are beginning the process of getting this important done.

There is damp in some areas of the church (worship area, old vestry, toilets and so on). Some of this damp needs treating in the near future and is in the nature of the type of church building St Stephen's is.

As most people will be aware the season of HOP using the building is coming to an end so important questions need to be asked about its future. St Phillips are also considering their future use of St Stephen's

Its future will be decided in 2026 with consultation with The Diocese of Sheffield.

### **St Bart's**

At St Bart's it does sometimes seem that as we sort an issue a couple more appear, but slowly but surely, we are moving forward in terms of the fabric of the building.

We got the Solar Panels installed Autumn 2024 fully funded from a Low Carbon Grant. They on a regular basis cover our electricity usage day today which is great in so many ways.

The ongoing leak by the stage was repaired in 2025 by stripping all the of the internal plasterwork and repairing it and repairing the roof above.

We have been very fortunate to have a group of people who are prepared to work hard on getting grants. The main driver for this has been Lucy Smith and she has been invaluable in the search for this money.

We received £5,000 from the Church of England accessibility grant which we were able to spend on both children's work and on some AV improvements.

Another grant was awarded to The Vine for the gardens and work on improving the raised beds and so on. This has started.

The AV system was updated, this may not be noticed by all the congregation but has been a great blessing to those that lead and use the tech, it has made a Sunday morning and many other events so much easier!!

Emma and Ruth and team have continued their work with the gardens. The Sundays that they have organised have been well supported but more help is always needed. These Sundays have also been used to keep the building tidy and maintained. The grant mentioned above has made the allotments look really great.

The Eco Church group led by Lucy Smith has brought new energy to the "Green credentials" of the Vine and we are looking towards a silver award.

The Warm Welcome Thursdays have also seen the building used more and it's great to see this ministry develop.

We also rent the building out a few times a week, a good source of income for us.

As we gather and grow as a church, rotas inevitably follow so please let us know if you would like to be involved in helping out whether it is doing the washing up after the service, being on tech or doing a reading there is always lots to do in the life of the church. It's a great way of feeling part of all that goes on. There are so many people who help out in these ways and big thanks to them.

A massive thank you to the PCC and Standing Committee's from the Wardens for all their help and a very BIG THANK YOU to Jackie and Shiv who both do so much to help the Wardens and The Vine.

Also a big Thank You to all those that worship at The Vine. A period of vacancy can often be draining for Wardens but the encouragement Dave and I get and the help received from all of you has made the process relatively easy 😊

Please be in touch with comments or questions, always happy to have a chat.

Thanks and blessings

Paul and Dave

## Financial Review

### **Andy Bryce, Treasurer**

We are pleased to note the ongoing stability in The Vine's finances during 2025, despite a challenging climate. We recorded a surplus of £3,771 on the general fund. There was also a surplus of £4,840 on restricted funds and a larger deficit of £41,213 on designated funds, but these latter expenses were planned and expected, as we continue to use our legacy funds to further the mission of the church.

### **Income**

The Vine received £142,254 in total during 2025, an decrease from £154,663 in 2024. The main contributors to this increase were planned giving (down 5%), investment income (down 10%) and building hire (up 8%).

### **Expenditure**

We spent £174,856 in total in 2025, decreasing from £182,864 in 2024. Most of this expenditure came from general funds (£121,528) but we also spent significant amounts from designated funds (£48,458) and restricted funds (£4,870).

Building maintenance costs are still high but decreased by 12% compared to 2024. Much of this can be attributed to planned investment in the buildings covered by the designated building improvement fund. Energy costs have fallen significantly thanks to our first full year of generating our own electricity from the solar panels at the St Bart's building.

Aside from building improvement, most other spending from Designated Funds was for children's worker salary contributions and a contribution to our church weekend away.

### **Net Position & Balance**

The cash balances carried forward on 31 December 2025 for General Funds totalled £24,543, Restricted Funds £5,749 and Designated Funds £146,742, leading to an overall total of £177,034. The total market value of investments held on 31 December 2025 was £601,471, a decrease of 3% from 2024.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on general funds to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. This is a minimum of £24,000 based on three months of expected expenditure of general funds. The reserves policy will be reviewed if circumstances significantly change.

The Vine's year end general fund cash balance was £24,543. However, adjusted for debtors due and liabilities payable at the year end (mostly related to the timing of payments), the adjusted balance is £19,988, which is below our desired threshold. On 19 March 2024, the PCC agreed that funds from the Building Improvement Fund could be redesignated to general funds to cover expenses if necessary. This continues to be our policy.

Overall balances will continue to be monitored on a regular basis during 2026.

## **Electoral roll update**

### **Dave Neath, Electoral Roll Officer**

Last year after an updated Electoral Roll we had 57 on the roll (41 Resident and 16 non-resident in the parish). This year two people were removed and four were added.

We now have 59 on the Electoral role (41 are resident and 18 are non-resident in the parish).

## Deanery Synod report

### **Paul Sheridan, Deanery Synod Representative**

Deanery synod is a statutory representative body in the Church of England that connects parishes within a specific deanery to the wider diocese. It consists of clergy and elected lay members who discuss Diocesan initiatives and vision, local church issues and form a bridge between PCCs and the Diocesan Synod. We have convened three times over the past year as a joint Ecclesfield and Hallam Deanery Synod as well as being invited to an additional meeting from the Diocese's Strategic Programme Team to update churches on the refreshed Diocesan Strategy, recently secured funding and what this means for Ecclesfield and Hallam Deaneries and to the annual Bishops' Roadshow event.

We have heard from the Sheffield Diocesan Advisory Group for Healing and Wholeness, the Diocese of Sheffield's Racial Justice Officer and the Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry.

We also receive a report from the general synod.

Next year voting will take place for general synod which runs on a five-year cycle. For more information on this see the Church of England website

## Safeguarding

### **Siobhan Melville, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

The Safeguarding policy was reviewed and adopted by PCC on 17 June 2025.

Safeguarding has been on every PCC, agenda during the year.

Staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults (or supervising those who do) have completed safeguarding training and DBS checks throughout the year. These are renewed every three years.

We have liaised with the Diocesan safeguarding team as necessary through the year.

## Children and Families

### **Esther Gratze, Children's Worker**

#### **Schools Work.**

There are a number of different activities that take place within the local schools. We have got a weekly lunchtime club which Kate and I really enjoy. It is a brilliant space for the young people to come and be creative and also find friendship and a place to talk and be together. There has been brilliant occasions during the year to model friendship and to talk about faith. The children often say that they wish they could come every day – 20 come regularly and there is always more on an Easter egg hunt! When its quiet its also a great opportunity to get to know the children better.

I also do weekly reading support with the Y2 class at St Mary's and have got to know them really well and it would be great if we could offer this to other classes.

There is also a team of us going into St Mary's every month to do an 'Open the Book' assembly which is a brilliant way of sharing God's love and stories from the Bible with the children.

There is also a team of us that twice a year (Christmas and Easter) put on an event that is partway between an assembly and a show for the children from Walkley school. They are a lot of fun and brilliant opportunities for the young people to ask questions and engage with issues of faith around these two festivals. It has also been a good opportunity to work together with Christians from lots of churches in the local area.

This relationship with Walkley school has also led to a year group coming to visit and find out about the church specifically as a place of worship which was a brilliant opportunity to discuss what belonging to a church means to us.

### **Community Events**

The pancake party is a great event and a lot of fun and it's brilliant to see the church full and people really enjoying themselves. The first time we did this in half term it was so well attended and people really valued it and we have extended this to one in each half term. The 'ice cream' summer party was also incredibly popular and positive, and we are looking forward to developing ways to build links with upcoming church services and share our beliefs more at these events. It has also been great to see these events supported by members of Hampden View and also St Tim's especially the youth from there as well as our own children and youth helping out at these events and inviting their friends. We are looking forward to a second Saltmine visit at the end of April, and I am hoping it is an opportunity to develop a link with another school.

### **Families**

As families we meet together to eat and enjoy time and different activities most months. Apologies if you're still finding nerf bullets – there was a casualty last month! It's a lot of fun and a chance to relax and enjoy spending time together in

less of a rush and a good time to share and support each other. We also benefitted from a visit from Andy Freeman from 'Space to Breathe' earlier in the year who helped us think about how we look after and care for ourselves as parents in what can be a stressful, pressured time.

### **Liturgical events**

We have a nativity which the children really enjoyed preparing for and getting involved with and there is a family Good Friday service shared with St. Tims which a number of The Vine Families enjoyed. It is great to find ways to explore these and other festivals or celebrations in a way that children and families can enjoy together. Around Christmas the children also really enjoyed participating in the Christmas sale by selling the biscuits they had made and this would be something we would love to do more of to develop their understanding of the global church and of ways we can support and care for our 'neighbours.'

### **Sundays**

All Age – It has been a lot of fun doing All Age services together this year and it has been really positive to see people of all ages participating and joining in with the discussions and chats and activities both in the all-age services and at the beginnings of services. It's really valuable for us to develop our understanding and work out the challenges of faith together and also to spend time together as a wider church family and develop our friendships and love for and understanding of each other. A lot of the children are often keen to do the readings and prayers at these services too.

**Children's Group** – we follow the same theme in children's church as in the main church so that we are all exploring the same content and families can (occasionally!) talk about things together. We just do this in a different style!

We pray and introduce the session then may have games, craft or activities and discussions, debates and Bible exploration and dramas. A lot of the children are very keen to read the Bible passages and read the prayers. We pray to end the sessions and have recently been trialling some 'catch and chat' methods of prayer from the 'Parenting for Faith' course which has been interesting and something we are going to do more of. I would love us to develop our times to pray so the children are praying for each other more. It is great to be part of their conversations where they are very keen to share their biblical knowledge and to challenge them to apply that knowledge to their everyday life.

The numbers of families have grown however due to the specific ages of the children we are doing most of the session as one big group. During some of the recent sessions we have trialled the older children working together so that the

content they cover can be more challenging and detailed. This will be especially important as they move up and leave the children's group.

**Going Forward** – I would love to embed and strengthen and develop the work we are doing in the community and schools – please let me know if anything I have said interests you!

In the Sunday work it would be great to develop the depth more and to have the children also praying for each other. Again let me know if you want to be part of this.

I also want to continue and develop our 'whole church' events whether that's services or picnics or time together as that is so important.

**Thankyou** - thank you to everyone who has been a part of the children and families work at the Vine whether downstairs or in Open the Book or the other events that take place and the teams that make them happen.

## Arabic Fellowship

### **Jonathon and Charlotte Neme**

The Arabic Fellowship is continuing to grow and develop into what the Lord has in mind for the ministry. We always submit it Him, asking that it would become what it needs for the people it seeks to serve and provide fellowship for. This isn't always clear in the here and now, but rather we look back over the previous season and notice God's hand at work.

A recent example of this is one of the Egyptians in our group gradually taking on more of the planning for the services and helping lead them on the once monthly gatherings. It has also been suggested by this same Egyptian that we make it more of a habit to engage with one another more throughout the month in the form of visits, shared meals, meetings to pray for upcoming gatherings, etc.

Anne Kingstone continues to help organise childcare for our gatherings and a good number of people from the Vine have offered to help with that.

For those who aren't familiar with what we do, we usually gather on the second Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at St Stephen's. We sing some worship songs, pray for the world and each other, discuss a passage from the Bible and say the Creed, all in Arabic. Then we either share a potluck meal or coffee/tea and snacks. Charlotte, Jonathon and Anne help facilitate the gatherings with the help of the fellowship's members.

Please pray in particular for one of our members, a single older man (new believer from Iraq) who was moved from Sheffield to a small village outside of Durham by

the Home Office and has had to start from scratch in a strange place, far from all of his friends here in Sheffield.

Please also pray for an Egyptian family that have just submitted their Minister of Religion visa application to come and serve alongside us here in Sheffield, focusing on leading the Arabic fellowship. It will be a huge blessing having them with us. It isn't a given that their visas will be granted so it's a big prayer request for it to be successful if it's God's will. A lot of time, prayer, energy and finances have been put into this and it would be a big disappointment if it came to nothing.

Thank you for taking time to read through this and for praying for us.

Blessings, Jonathon and Charlotte

## Youth

### **Vicki Neath, Youth leader**

#### **Ben Widdows and Dave Neath alternate as second leaders**

We have 11 Vine Youth (VY), attendance fluctuates week by week, depending on other commitments; family events, sport, etc

VY meet in the former Vestry, now Youth Snug. Each week we meet to share how things are going and consider how to apply our Christian faith in our own lives, especially within the family, and at school and other places. We share thoughts about Christianity and life through discussion, reading the bible and watching video clips, sometimes through a story in a Godly Play style.

We learn memory verses to help equip, strengthen and encourage ourselves as we go about our daily living. In preparation for moving on from VY we stay in for the sermon at least once every couple of months, we then retire to the Snug to discuss it further, helped along by the obligatory hot chocolate and biscuits or cake.

The majority of VY also attend either Quest or Venture, the St Tim's after school youth groups, Vicki is also part of the St Tim's youth leadership. Nine VY attended the St Tim's annual Thornbridge Youth weekend away in May 2025, with Vicki and other youth leaders from St Tim's. This year, again, nine VY will be attending the St Tim's annual Thornbridge Youth weekend away in April, with Vicki and other youth leaders from St Tim's.

We are praying and looking for additional leaders and helpers. Two people have come forward so far. This is particularly needed as there will be seven new Year 7s moving up to join VY in September. We are also considering alternative rooms from our lovely Youth Snug to accommodate the larger group of 17 VY and able separating into two smaller groups for some discussion times

# Welcome Space

## **Vicki Neath, Welcome Space volunteer**

The Welcome Space Team: Vicki Neath, Alan Harrison, Stella Harrison, Tim Hawkins, Dave Neath, Sharon Jacobs, Phil Townsend

Welcome Space originally opened as part of the Warm Spaces initiative three years ago. There was a regular weekly attendance of up to 24, so we continued passed the cold winter months, changing the name to Welcome Space. Over time numbers have diminished, but we have committed members who also attend Vine fellowship activities from time to time, including coming on the church weekend away.

We provide free refreshments and fresh homemade vegetarian soup, bread and cheese, along with a warm and friendly welcome. We are always ready to pray with people and sometimes tell the Christian story in a Godly Play style, which has always been received well with plenty of discussion and questioning We also have a growing relationship with local services : Primrose Family Hub, Langsett and Walkley Residents Association, Zest and Walkley Events Collective. We mentored two medical students via Walkley Events Collective on Thursday 4th December.