

Holy Saviour Bitterne

Holy
SAVIOUR
BITTERNE

ANNUAL REPORTS

2025

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A beacon of
HOPE for
Bitterne and
beyond

Holy Saviour Bitterne - 2025: A Year of Growth, Courage & New Opportunities

HALLELUJAH - what a year 2025 has been! As we look back, we're so thankful for all that God has been doing in and through Holy Saviour. It's been a year full of growth, new steps of faith, and so many opportunities to connect with our community, one another and the Lord.

A Year of Growth & New Beginnings

One of the real highlights has been expanding our staff team. It's been such a joy to welcome:

- Chelsea as Youth Discipleship Co-ordinator
- Ruth as Youth Outreach Co-ordinator
- Becky as Hope Café Co-ordinator

Each of these roles is already making a huge difference, helping us invest more intentionally in young people, outreach, and hospitality.

Our partnership with Bitterne CE Primary has gone from strength to strength too with Tony becoming Chair of Governors last June. It's been a privilege to serve more deeply—through collective worship, school services, residentials, and exploring the school's values of Courage, Hope & Creativity with staff. The Partnership Celebration Service and Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral were particularly special moments.

Community, Fun & Faith Together

We've loved gathering as a church family in so many different ways this year—whether at the Barn Dance, Church BBQ, Open Day, or even Dying Matters Day. These moments of fun, conversation, and connection are such an important part of who we are.

The launch of the youth mentoring programme has been a big step forward, ensuring that every young person over 14 has someone walking alongside them. And heading to Satellites together was just brilliant—seeing our young people grow in faith, friendship, and confidence in worshipping Jesus.

The New Wine Reset Women's Day was another standout—welcoming over 250 women into church for a powerful day of worship, teaching, and prayer. What an atmosphere!

We've also loved seeing the growth of Hope Café—not just in numbers, but in warmth, welcome, and even the introduction of bacon sandwiches!

And let's not forget the men's events—pizza nights and curry nights—simple but such valuable spaces for building friendships and sharing life.

Ministry Moments That Matter

It's been a real privilege to serve more widely this year too, particularly through being Lord Mayor's Chaplain. Hosting the Civic Service and Carol Concert here at Holy Saviour were real highlights.

Across the year, we've also had the honour of walking with families through key life moments—7 baptisms, 2 weddings, 18 funerals, and many burials of ashes. These are always deeply significant moments of ministry and trust.

Our services have continued to grow and develop, with a real sense of stepping out in worship and prayer. We've also begun to rethink and reshape our 11am service, asking how we can best gather and grow together.

And Christmas... what a joy! It was so special to welcome so many people through our doors once again.

Thank You!

We simply couldn't do any of this without an incredible team of people.

A huge thank you to:

- Sandra Gaffney for all she does (especially as PCC Secretary!)
- Becky & Jo for keeping everything running so smoothly in the office
- Fiona for her wisdom and care with finances
- Our brilliant Churchwarden Team - Brian, Adrian, Roger & Becky
- Our whole staff team - Jo, Becky, Chelsea, Ruth & Lamai

And to all our volunteers—you give your time, energy, and hearts so generously week in, week out. We are so grateful.

Tony would also love to say a special thank you to Ruth—her passion, wisdom, energy, and love for people (and for Jesus!) is such a gift to this church and to our family. It's a joy to lead alongside her.

And finally, thank you to the whole church family—for your prayers, generosity, encouragement, and faithfulness. You make this church what it is.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look ahead, our heart is simple: to grow deeper as apprentices of Jesus.

We sense God calling us not just to do more, but to go deeper—to be a people rooted in prayer, shaped by Scripture, and transformed by His presence.

We long to see:

- **Children knowing they are deeply loved by Jesus**
- **Young people confident in their identity in Him**
- **Adults growing in courage and spiritual maturity**
- **Older generations flourishing as prayerful mentors**

We want discipleship to be part of everything we do—not just a programme, but a way of life.

We'll be placing a renewed focus on prayer, investing in children and families (including appointing a Children & Families Worker), growing our café and hospitality outreach, and continuing to develop leaders across the church.

We'll also be launching a renewed pledge scheme as we look to sustain and grow all that God is doing here.

Above all, we step into 2026 full of hope—not because of our plans, but because of God's faithfulness. Our prayer is that we would be a church deeply transformed by Jesus, bringing His hope to Bitterne and beyond.

With our love and thanks,

Ruth & Tony

Over the next few pages, you will have the opportunity to hear from a whole range of groups and ministries which run through Holy Saviour. THANK YOU so much to Sandra Gaffney for collating them and for all the group representatives for taking the time to keep us updated with all that is happening!

AROUND THE GROUPS



Omega Ministries - Sandra Gaffney

Omega Ministries continues to flourish with a great team of volunteers.

Our main base is our Wednesday Omega Café.

Armchair Exercise is growing and our exercisers are becoming much fitter after their sessions with Elaine and her DJ, Ken. Exercisers bring tinned food as weights, which are then passed on to Basics Bank after the session. When they have completed their session, they join us for coffee and cake to replace any calories they have lost!! This is enjoyed by all with lots of chat and laughter.

Elaine and Ken now run a Movers and Shakers session on alternate Mondays for anyone wishing to enjoy further exercise.

Our Midweek Communion is slowly growing. It is a quiet, reflective spoken service where many take the opportunity to leave the hustle and bustle of their busy lives to spend some time with our Creator.

It is led by the Ministry Team and often raises questions and comments from the short sermons.

We offer Prayer Ministry after our service, but we also have Prayer Request Boxes for anyone wanting prayer.

At 12.00 lunches are served, for around 40 people. We are joined by fresh faces from the Shed Club as well as others who come to share some hot food and fellowship.

Yaz Parsons and Becky Baillie have highlighted that some local homeless people are in need of hot food during the colder months, and so they are prepared to provide some food for them.

We have people like Tony, Meg, Mike, Brian P. and Jan, Oliver and Brian G. on hand for anyone with questions or may wish to talk throughout the café time. Also, our good listeners are available to welcome new faces or us old regulars!!

Workshops are organised and held monthly on Friday afternoons, which have proved most successful. These include:- Flower Arranging, Cartoon Drawing, Acrylic Painting, Card Making, Lace Making and Beaded Necklaces. If you have a particular skill that you could share with others, please contact us.

We enjoyed a Cream Tea to celebrate VE Day in the summer which was most enjoyable. Lots of new friends were made with non-church members who joined us. Many thanks to Rhoda for making over 100 scones for the occasion.

We had a very successful Mince Pies and Carols morning in December to begin our Christmas celebrations which was enjoyed by many with lots of new friends joining in. Many thanks to James and Peter for using their great talents to help us enjoy a fantastic time.

Our Pastoral Care System is becoming more recognised by the congregation. vSue and Peter work hard, keeping up to date with the needs of those who are unwell or housebound.

Home Communion are available. Regular calls and visits are made to the housebound and comfort calls made to the sick. We have a great many people keeping in touch with those who can no longer get to church as we try to let them know that they are not being ignored and are still loved by us as a Church Family as well as by our heavenly Father, but if we don't know their circumstances, we can't include them. So please tell us of any in need!!

In 2026 we are holding an 'Omega Songs of Praise' with the help of James Baillie, when people can request their favourite hymn/worship song for us to sing together. Some may have something from their past or even school days which they would enjoy singing once again. So, watch out for information if you would like to join us.

Also, we shall hold another Cream Tea in the Summer, so loosen your belts and come and join us.

Not forgetting our Mince Pies and Carols morning to kick off the Christmas Celebrations.

Many, many thanks to those of the team who help us by being welcoming, baking and showing friendship and support to any who come into the Café, Church Service, Armchair Exercise, Lunch or Workshops. Thanks to Yaz for her cooking skills and keeping the lunches coming. Thanks too to Becky for making sure that the food is available and Jo for always being around and sorting out problems and Owen for keeping the dishwasher going.

Special thanks to Aniska and Tony who left us during 2025. We miss you, and your lovely cakes!

Many thanks too, to Tony and Ruth and all of those who support us, and if you know of anyone who would like to join us or who needs a hug or a friendly word, do let us know.

The club meets weekly on a Tuesday afternoon at 1.45 pm, in the Oak Room with about 15 to 20 members. We have two tables. Each member attending pays £3. New members have their first week free of charge. Some of the money goes to the church for the use of electricity and a hot drink etc. As finances allow, we also contribute to various good causes, both home and abroad.

We had a number of new members in the last year but also some regulars have 'retired', at least for the time being. We are always happy to welcome new members. There are a range of abilities in our group, so don't worry if you've not played much, everyone is welcome to try. Tea and chat is a very important part of the afternoon!

Finally, we had an excellent 'Christmas Lunch', held in the Cedar Room, in the now 'traditional' month of January, avoiding the December crush! There was an excellent turnout of members old and new, attracted once again by the excellent catering of Jill and Ian Abrahams. Many thanks, as always, to them.

Mothers' Union - Sandra Payne

During 2025 Mothers' Union has, as usual, been meeting on the first Monday of the month except when it is a bank holiday when we have met on the second Monday.

During the year speakers at our meetings have been Amanda Wood talking on New Beginnings, Chris Harris with a quiz in February, in March Meg Cook was our speaker, April saw Jan Parfitt giving an Easter talk. In May Ruth Palmer told us about how she became a Christian. In June we brought mystery objects which caused a lot of wondering about what they were. Then in July Simon Gomm gave an interesting talk about the High Street which brought back memories of shops no longer in Bitterne and Southampton. Sue Bell spoke in July about Mountbatten Hospice and Karen Kingston in October on being with Caraway and an Anna Chaplain.

November was Gabby North about the work of the Leprosy Mission. Our December meeting last year was a Christmas social with nibbles, quizzes and a time to chat as usual, we also had a social in August.

The numbers at our meeting tend to be around 12 and we would love this number to grow as we warmly welcome anyone to our meetings as they are open to non-MU members.

Our committee consists of Sue Seal as Secretary, Alison Large as Treasurer and myself as Leader.

Craft & Chat - Jean Yardley

We meet regularly, in term time, on a Monday afternoon in the Cedar Room at 2.00pm. Numbers have increased, there are 21 of us and we average 11/12 each week with a range of ages. We are not exclusively for ladies; we have at the present 2 men in our group. At the end of term in July we had afternoon. In the long summer break, we met twice in the Cedar room.

Any craft is welcome, we have had leatherwork, painting, embroidery, knitting, crochet, lino cuts, wood carving and the latest is bead art. There is also room for those who just want to chat. You are welcome to bring your own work, but we also get involved in community projects. Premature baby requests of orange hats, matinee coats and blankets are on-going. The main project this year was poppies. We had to start early to achieve the cascade which went up outside the front of the church in November.

We contribute to the heating and lighting and gave donations to Hamble Lifeboat and Namalemba.

Before Christmas we had mince pies keeping our main celebration for January when we had a full afternoon tea.

Luncheon Club - Julia Mills

I am pleased to report that Luncheon Club was able to meet on the first Tuesday of each month throughout 2025. It caters for people living on their own or couples who would benefit from having a meal provided for them.

Lunch consisted of roast meat, roast potatoes, and vegetables, followed by a homemade pudding then tea or coffee at a cost of £5 per person. A Christmas meal was provided free of charge and included mince pies and a gift for each person attending.

We presently have 30 members with average attendance of 20/25- the reduced number being mainly due to health related issues. We are actively pursuing via the community and church to increase our numbers as 35 regulars would be great.

Table Tennis - Norman Davis

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Bitterne Shed Club - Keith Marsh (Chairman)

Another busy year at the Shed Club. Membership is now 39 full members plus 2 associates, with several members moving away or losing mobility, but more men joining. Bearing in mind that most of the time we have to work outside because of lack of undercover space, it amazes me that, even on cold and wet Wednesdays, we still get over 20 men attend, with 26 on occasions; Tuesdays and Thursdays continue to be less popular. Being able to use the car park again helps our less mobile members, and we are now trying to improve the layout and facilities. This involves moving the power supply so that we can relocate the container. I would like to think that by next winter we'll be able to drink coffee in the warm and dry.

As well as mornings at the shed, our regular breakfasts and lunches at local hostleries continue, and we continue to encourage members to join in the lunch at Omega Café. Our Christmas dinner at The Red Lion, attended by 25 members, was enhanced by the provision of roast potatoes, courtesy of Aunt Bessie and Yaz. Visits to places of interest such as the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Screwfix Live, Duxford Airshow and Yandles sawmill have been enjoyed, and we continue to attend local events (such as the Bitterne Library, Sholing Valley and Peartree Green fayres, and TriFest) with our sales stand. Products sold include garden planters, bird tables and boxes, bug hotels, various garden ornaments, and old tools. We finished painting the fence at Bitterne Library but renovation of memorial benches at the Hampshire Police memorial garden is ongoing, the wet summer having reduced workdays.

Our finances continue to be healthy, though we are likely to have an expensive summer rearranging ourselves.

I'd like to thank our committee for their time and efforts, and, most important, thank the few church men who attend every week, becoming a familiar face, providing a listening ear, and befriending men who desperately need companionship and someone to talk to. I remain convinced of the need for a safe, welcoming place for men to meet, and am so grateful to those within of church who share this vision and support our outreach.

PROPERTY REPORT - Brian Gaffney

We have reviewed the 2021 Quinquennial Report and redone Site inspections, created an action plan from recommendations and work party organised. A new 5-year Quinquennial Report is due in 2026.

PAT Testing – currently visual checks by actual operators when putting an item into use is sufficient.

Liaise with Imperial Homes regarding the compound layout and car parking/recreational area markings, as of 2025 we still haven't transferred ownership or the electrical/water supply to Holy Saviour.

A special mention to the outside ground's maintenance team, who do a super job in all weathers, keeping things in order, looking good to visitors and ourselves. We have various annual maintenance contracts in place for operational equipment, lift/heating/electrical/audio visual/partition/lightning protection/fire protection/alarm, but within our site there are lots we can safely do DIY. Particularly cleaning and decorating.

Thank you to all who turn out for work party days and particular thanks to those who have trade skills who fix/repair items during the year without us having to call on contract staff.

There are still some large item repairs that have been postponed due to high cost, the 1853 church clock and some of our stained-glass window mullions, also we have investigated the cost of solar panels but again the cost causes us to postpone. We are investigating changing from a septic tank to a permanent sewer connection, to reduce costs. We changed from a one toilet church to a church complex with a commercial kitchen, five toilets and two accessible toilets. These additional facilities prove indispensable when we have Festival services, Schools services or whole day conference accommodating circa 400 people moving about Holy Saviour.

A big thank you to all who see something that needs repairing/fixing and reports it and offers to help do it.

HOMEGROUPS - Brian Parfitt

Homegroups play a key role in the life of Holy Saviour. As well as giving people the opportunity to learn with others, they draw people together and the pastoral support and encouragement they give helps to deepen the fellowship and sense of belonging to the church. Prayer for each other is a great strength both in the meetings and beyond - most of the groups have some sort of linking through WhatsApp or emails.

There was a slight increase in the number of people in groups during the year. One big encouragement was the beginning of a day-time group. We have seen the need for one for some time but hadn't managed to make it happen. This year Brian and Sandra Gaffney began leading a group which emerged from the daytime Alpha course which met in the early part of the year. Howard & Suzanne Millman and James & Lizzie Moore took on the leadership of groups. Towards the end of the year the group Derek Rudd had been leading came to an end, as people had died or moved away, but several of them have linked to another group which largely meets on Zoom and now includes former church members as far away as Jersey! Several of the groups meet using Zoom, which misses out a little on personal contact but means that where there are children both parents can be part of the meetings.

Many of the groups followed studies on the parables for the first half of the year and in the autumn thought about the Nicene Creed, formulated 1700 years ago and its relevance still. Really encouraging is the way that in many groups quite a number of the group are happy to lead the studies.

MISSION & OUR PARTNERSHIPS - Mike Cranston

During 2025, the PCC appointed a new "Mission and Outreach Group", (Jane Fisher, Jo Ayres-Proctor, Mike Cranston, Sarah Winning and Sue Bell plus some ex officio PCC members), to review our mission support and giving for the future.

We contacted all missionary societies by email etc, and some societies took the trouble to come and visit us during our Wednesday coffee mornings.

The PCC agreed the following criteria for the societies we should support.

- 1 - Has aims that are consistent with scripture and the church family's vision to be a "beacon of hope in Bitterne and beyond.
- 2 - Complements not duplicates, the other organisations that the church family supports.
- 3 - Allows the church family to have a "creative, living link" to the mission field concerned.
- 4 - Help the whole church family gain an understanding of the Christian faith in different cultures.
- 5 - Should not be supported due to (past) loyalty rather than current need.
- 6 - Should not spread the church family's support and generosity too thinly.
- 7 - Should not create duplication or too much diversity.
- 8 - Is related to a humanitarian issue or a local charity.

At the end of the process, there are now two groups of societies.

The first is the ongoing group, who have met the criteria and who have engaged with us, and we believe are core to a reduced number of societies that we will now support.

The second group includes some societies who we may have been involved with for many decades, whose work we value, who we regretfully can no longer include in our core mission societies. Nevertheless, we will seek to provide opportunities to display their literature, etc., on our premises.

The ongoing group will ensure that their representatives on the mission field and other visitors from their society partner with us in a real way. In future each visit will be the source of a fundraising appeal for the particular mission and their society. Where appropriate we will link this with a special social event relevant to the society and the time of year.

We will be inviting the following to visit us regularly on the basis indicated above:

1. **Church Missionary Society:** Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti and their family lead an 'open air' church in DuPark, Indaiatuba, Brazil, reaching those not engaged with traditional forms of church.
2. **Embrace the Middle East:** This agency enables Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised in their communities, through education, community, and healthcare.
3. **Missionary Aviation Fellowship:** Richard Walls works as a pilot in Papua New Guinea, where in partnership with national church groups and other agencies, MAF seeks to bring help, hope, and healing.
4. **Namalemba:** We will continue to work with our friends in Namalemba and Bumoozi to develop our long-term Ugandan link.

In addition.

5. We will continue to support and collect food for **Southampton City Mission**
6. We will continue to raise money for humanitarian needs that arise throughout the year through the work of **Tearfund** and other agencies. Specifically, we will donate special collections at Harvest to Southampton City Mission and at Christmas to a local charity and a humanitarian need.

We are thankful for all our past relationships that have enabled us to reach this next chapter in the journey of our church family, and we pray for God's continuing blessing on all of the societies that our church family support both together and on an individual basis.

Namalemba Partnership - Ian Ward & Howard Millman

The past year has been marked by reaching our target of £28,000, raised in Bitterne for the construction of Namalemba Health Centre Operating Theatre.

We've had good regular communication with the local Namalemba team which has given us a much better picture of the breakdown in costs for both the health centre and the operating theatre construction.

We've had regular photos and videos of the construction progress and receipts of building cost expenses which is giving us much better confidence about how the funds have been spent.

It has become clear that the equipment for the Operating Theatre, which has now been delivered, cost a very similar amount, funded by Kampala Rotarians.

The group hopes to report very soon that the finished Operating Theatre has been commissioned. When it comes into use the Uganda Government will hopefully take up responsibility for funding the Health Centre running costs.

Meanwhile and pending that support, Holy Saviour has been helping to fund Health Centre staff by matching locally raised funding, amounting to about £200 per month.

And we continue to send funds to support the two nurses in Bumoozi, usually £2300 to cover 7-8 months.

With regard to donations, whilst there are some very generous regular givers that donate to Namalemba each month, we've also had fundraising activities this year (e.g. the barn dance) to enhance the incoming funds.

Uganda has recently re-elected the President, Yowero Museveni, for the seventh time. He has held power since 1986, and this election is considered to have been problematic. However, we can probably be optimistic about the continuity of government support.

We are however prepared for Namalemba Development Committee needing to appoint a new Chairman to follow Charles Kibumba who is not in the best of health.

DEANERY SYNOD - Steve Spencer

Since writing the report for the APCM of 2025 there have been three Deanery Synod meetings - on 3rd April, 11th June and 22nd October 2025, and these meetings have been at St Mary's church Lodge Road, Christ Church Freemantle and St Christopher's church Thornhill.

The elements of these meetings always include 'Updates from Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee' (news about what is happening in the Parishes); 'Comings and Goings' (new clergy appointments/leavings etc); 'Feedback from Diocesan Synod and House of Laity. There is also Deanery Synod business to do.

The other element of these meetings, indeed the main part, is a guest speaker - speaking about their particular expertise that will be of interest/ use to us out in our parishes. In April 2025 we heard from Bishop Rhiannon about the many things that had been done by her and the Deanery of Ipswich (her previous posting) called 'Inspiring Ipswich - Numbers and Stories' to increase church attendance and the number of Christians in Ipswich. She asked us if God is nudging us to do something like this in Southampton. This was the start of her Southampton project called 'Serving Southampton', which is still now in the early stages of development and for which the Southampton Deanery Synod will be the driving engine. This was actually the second of two sessions from Bishop Rhiannon, the first being on 13th March which I was not able to attend.

On 11th June Andrew Holder (Finance Chair for the Southampton Deanery) and Mark Tier (Head of Finance for the Southampton Deanery) spoke to us -with the aid of a powerpoint presentation -about the state of the Diocesan finances. The objectives were to share a summary of our shared financial challenges; to seek views, advice and guidance: to address myths and misconceptions. Basically, it's only when there is sustainable growth in our church that the financial position will also improve, and Bishop Philip has a plan for this (which also links with Bishop Rhiannon 's plan!).

In October 2025 we heard Archdeacon Richard Brand speak about clergy wellbeing. How do clergy thrive? When we all support healthy ministry. We discussed what affects clergy wellbeing and reported back, and there was quite a long list! 'The Clergy Covenant for Wellbeing Act of Synod 2020' says there are 3 levels of care: clergy have a responsibility for themselves, local congregation, Bishops and the wider church. We were also informed about where support and advice is available from and what support the Winchester Diocese now offers to clergy.

The next Deanery Synod meeting is on 24th February at St Michael and All Angels, Bassett.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BITTERNE - Steve Spencer

Since the last APCM the CITB committee has had three meetings in 2025 and early 2026, in Jun and October 2025 and January 2026 in which we made plans for Christmas 25, Lent, Easter and the summer of 2026. The Chairperson for these meetings was Jackie Lang until January 2026 and then Ian Abraham took over as Chair at our January 2026 meeting. The Secretary was (and still is) Steve Spencer and Elaine Coe (from Christ the King and St Colman) is still the Treasurer. Ricky Yardley, Chris Harris and Amanda Wood are also members of this group, from Holy Saviour. From the URC there are Ian Abrahams, Maria Boyes and now Nicky Fisher. Jackie Lang stood down from the committee at our Jan meeting, and we now have Kate Muelhnickel in her place. Again, this year, we had a joint service for Christian Unity at Holy Saviour on Sunday 1st February, followed by a bring and share lunch. Election of Officers took place in our meeting on 28th January 2026.

During the course of 2025 and into 2026 the 'Luncheon Club, led by Julie Mills has been providing a roast lunch and home-made pudding for its members every first Tuesday of the month (except August). Attendance has been a little down from previous years, but the food and the fellowship has been great! We are looking to increase our Lunch Club members.

Our activities during 2025 have been much as in previous years and are as follows: Our Ash Wednesday service at Christ the King was well supported again last year. Two We were not able to organise Lent course evenings in 2025 because we just couldn't find speakers/leaders! On Maunday Thursday an evening service took place at Holy Saviour, which also was the starting place for our Walk of Witness on Good Friday, this was very well supported, and took place at an earlier time than in previous years so that we could all go to the Town Centre for the Good Friday event in Civic Centre Square. Holy Saviour was open as usual for the final hour from 2-3pm. The URC held their Tenebrae service in the evening. Easter service information from all three churches was mainly by means of social media as had been at Christmas and Maria Boyes of URC organised the gifts of chocolate for local shopkeepers at Easter. Christian Aid week was observed by the individual churches as we have no 'Bitterne Committee' now. At Pentecost there was a united service in the URC followed by a roast lunch! Delicious, and well attended. This year we did something new! A 'Healing on the Streets' service of worship, prayer and healing on 11th May at Holy Saviour church. This service was very popular and we filled the church! It was a wonderfully peaceful and affirming service and so many people came forward to be prayed for! We certainly want to do this again before too long. On 6th July the congregation of HS went to Christ the King church for a joint service and thanks to our catholic brothers and sisters for their warm welcome. Again, we hope to do this again this year.

The churches were present as usual at the switching on of the Christmas lights in November and took the opportunity to publicise their Christmas services. The Switch On event had to again be in a different position in the shopping precinct this year because of the play area below the Red Lion pub – but it again worked well at the Sainsburys end and again we had a festive occasion involving the Bitterne CE School choir and some members of Hamwic brass band, and a few community stalls. The Lord Mayor (James Baillie of HS church!) attended and there was free hot chocolate and a lot of people who gathered to watch the event and sing along with the choir/band. Also, Charles Coles funfairs were able to provide a bigger funfair than usual, and we thank them also for the loan of a generator and a trailer stage area. Maria Boyes of URC organised the ‘sheep trail’ around the local shops which a good number of children took part in, Carols were sung by the Christmas tree in the precinct on 17th December, led by Steve and Brian Parfitt, after which the singers retired to the URC for refreshments. We had decided to change to a Wednesday so that more people would attend and join in – and it worked!

CTiB look forward to organising the same sort of events throughout 2026.

The CTiB continues to have these aims (from our Constitution):

- That through prayer its members should seek the unity which Christ wishes in His church.
- That its members should be the means to bring about a closer cooperation and understanding between the members of its churches.
- That wherever it is possible to carry out a service jointly to people of the area it is to be undertaken.

CHURCH WARDENS’ REPORT - Brian Gaffney & Adrian Jacobs

As Churchwardens, we are pleased to report that the goods and ornaments of the Church of the Holy Saviour are in reasonable condition, we experienced a Diocesan visit to inspect our ornaments during the year, and we have given ‘due regard’ to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

We are, as always, very grateful for the work of the Property Group and Lamai in keeping Holy Saviour welcome and available for ministry, worship and activities. Also caring for all of our buildings and site. And for all the volunteers who work in so many ways inside and outside on-site. Without them our job would be much more difficult.

The Property group, at the direction of the Church Council and on behalf of us all, continues to concentrate on improving safe use of all our property and projects that are affordable that either improve the usability of our site and buildings, see property report, or reduce the possibility of damage and we have again been assisted by the members of the shed club in various repairs and specifically relocation of organ speakers, the surround is to be replaced soon.

It has been a pleasure to represent the Parish this year, and we thank you for keeping us informed of the things that are going on in the life of the Church. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your words of encouragement. Please continue to let us know your concerns, your joys and your ideas so that we can maintain Church life and support Ruth, Tony & the whole Church Leadership team.

We would like to thank all of you who play an upfront role in encouraging us in our Christian lives together: by making refreshments, smiling at people entering church, sharing in home groups, leading us in worship, praying at home or tidying and sweeping up. And an apology if you have sometimes been over or underused in recent months. It is great that new offers of various activities are still being brought forward.

Finally, encouragement to those who would like to share in some of the things mentioned above but haven't yet done so. There's a variety of help needed in making the best use of the kitchen facilities throughout the week; always room for another helper, providing for the multiple room use now and soon to expand demand. Welcoming and starting a conversation is important. An hour on a Task Force Day or a chance to smile at a newcomer. We look forward to working with you.

We are all called to share in discipleship and fellowship, to encourage each other through words and actions, to show everyone that God matters to us and that we have the Holy Spirit to help us do all this day by day. Our evolving missional responsibility is exciting across all ages, and we believe more is expected.

Thank you all.

Holy Saviour benefits from the interest from two External Trusts.

BITTERNE EDUCATIONAL TRUST & BITTERNE ECCLESIASTICAL TRUST

which are both managed by Winchester Diocesan Board of finance and our Church Wardens and Vicar manage the interest that accrues from these for the benefit of Holy Saviour Church and Education.

BITTERNE EDUCATIONAL TRUST 2025

01/01/25	Balance brought forward	£ 7,737:50
	Income 2025:	£ 4,893:17
	Expenditure 2025:	
	To Bitterne C of E Primary School*	£ 500:00
	Youth Ministry**	£ 6000.00
31/12/25	Balance carried forward	
	Lloyds Bank A/C	£ 6130:67

*Equipment for worship areas & garden ** supplement for Youth Minister

BITTERNE ECCLESIASTICAL TRUST 2025

01/01/25	Balance brought forward	£ 31953:63
	Income 2025:	£ 8596:00
	Expenditure 2025:	£ 7500:00
31/12/25	Balance carried forward.	
	CCLA A/C	£33049:63

Prepared for APCM by Brian Gaffney - Church Warden

Holy
SAVIOUR
BITTERNE