



Holy Trinity Church, Lyonsdown Annual Report 2025

For the May 2026 Annual Meetings

Looking back on 2025

Rev Jenny Robinson, Priest in Charge

A new Priest in Charge

In February 2025 Priest in Charge Rev Laura Hewitt moved to Herefordshire, where she is Rector of the Stow Caple group of seven rural churches. Her last Sunday in Barnet on 16 February was marked by special services at Holy Trinity and at St James's.

Holy Trinity was in a Vacancy until September. During the Vacancy, Father Tristan Chapman (Rector of Chipping Barnet Team Ministry) and Archdeacon Janet Mackenzie came to preach and preside at Communion. My curacy at St James's finished at the end of August, and I was Licensed as Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity on 29 September. It was a lovely occasion, with the church full of members of both Holy Trinity and St James, and other local churches. Another guest was the Mayor of Barnet, who is also a local rabbi. In his official welcome he spoke warmly about Holy Trinity Church, and about good interfaith relations. Alison Bond from St John's URC also gave a welcome at the service. The service was led by Jane Mainwaring the Bishop of Hertford, along with Archdeacon Janet MacKenzie.

Services and events

We continued to have a Sunday service at 4pm and a fortnightly Bible Study group, as well as Prayers at the Cross in the prayer garden and the Art and Craft Community Group.

We again held an Easter sunrise service, which was attended by people from a variety of different congregations in the area, and took part in a joint Good Friday family fun time at St James. A member of our congregation was baptised on Easter Sunday, and in June we had a Confirmation service at Holy Trinity. We took part in the service at New Barnet War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. We marked Safeguarding Sunday in November. At Christmas, we ran an Advent retreat, and had a range of Christmas services: Paws in the Pews, Nativity, Reflective Carol Service and Christmas Day service.

During the summer holidays we ran afternoon teas, as well as having a women's bring and share meal. We had a tea for Christian Aid Week in May and took part in the Tearfund Big Quiz in November.

New developments

We have started a Community Library at Holy Trinity in the church porch. It is always open in the daytime, and anyone can come along and take a book away or sit and read it there.

We made plans to start a Community Garden in the grassy area at the front of the church. In late 2025 Paul Robinson created some new raised beds, and the garden will open in the spring. We aim to transform the area into a green, biodiverse space which can be enjoyed by the whole community.

We have continued to build connections with our local dog-walking community that meets at Greenhill Park, and at Christmas held our first Paws in the Pews service. It was very popular, with 50 people and 24 dogs, and even featured on the St Alban's Diocese website. We have a programme of 6 Paws in the Pews services planned for 2026.





Youth and family work

Our youth and family work continued with our monthly Who let the Dads Out (an opportunity for dads and other father-figures and their children to enjoy time together and a bacon sandwich) and the weekly prayer and story time with Twinkle Stars Nursery. In the summer we launched a new youth group, run jointly with other local churches. Bringing together young people from St Mark's Barnet Vale, Holy Trinity Lyonsdown, St James' New Barnet and East Barnet Baptist Church, Rooted Youth has quickly grown into a vibrant and encouraging monthly gathering. We began with five teenagers, and by Christmas numbers had grown to fourteen. Rooted Youth provides a space for young people to build friendships, explore faith, and feel rooted in Christ within a supportive Christian community.

In the autumn we received a grant from the New Barnet Parochial Schools Trust which allowed us to take on a Family Worker, and Paul Robinson was appointed.

Working with other churches

We have a good relationship with many local churches, and especially St James and St John's URC. We ran 2 joint Fun Days with St James – a summer one at Holy Trinity and Christmas one at St James. The Fun Days continue to attract many from the community, with a bouncy castle, games, burgers and other attractions.

With the URC, we run a short service for the residents at the local Cedars Care Centre once a month, and a carol service at Christmas. We are hoping to do Bible studies together in 2026. We had a stall with other local churches at the East Barnet Festival. We again hosted the deanery Walsingham Day, and the ecumenical World Day of Prayer service. Rev Laura and I had regular ministers' breakfasts with other clergy in our area of all denominations.

Community and environment

I have been appointed Chaplain for Chipping Barnet Foodbank, which is located opposite us at Mary Immaculate and St Peter Catholic Church. We have a donation point for the Foodbank at Holy Trinity, and at Harvest collected donations of food. I am also a Trustee for the Foodbank.

Holy Trinity is a 'Fairtrade Church' and we have a bronze Eco Church certificate. We marked 'Creationtide' in the autumn with a sermon series about creation and the environment. In Lent the congregation had the chance to take part in a Carbon Fast, doing one or more small things each week to reduce the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere.

In December we supported an initiative called 'Lights for Ukraine' to donate used and unused candles to provide light and heat in Ukraine during the frequent power cuts over the winter.

Training for ministry

Leslie McCrory has started training to become a Church of England lay minister, while Mali Firoozian and Charles Badu-Kusi both started the Enabling Ministry course, part of the discernment process for lay and ordained ministry.

Twinkle Stars Nursery

We undertook the process of writing a new lease for Twinkle Stars Nursery, which we expect to be signed early in 2026. We are grateful to have a good relationship with the Nursery.

Lyonsdown Hall

Our income from renting the halls and rooms at Lyonsdown Hall to a range of groups has gone down, so the PCC explored other options for the Hall, including selling it or renting it to a single tenant. We decided upon the latter option, and took on estate agents Maunder Taylor to facilitate this for us. The process is still undergoing, but we hope it will be completed in the first half of 2026.

Our vision

As a leadership team, we continue to seek God's vision for us as a worshipping community, and in February we had a PCC Vision Afternoon. I am excited about the unique opportunity to do something different, looking to see where God is already working in the wider community and joining in, as well as building up the family of God on a Sunday, intentionally making it a place of healing, welcome and a safe space for anyone to come into.

Church Governance

Parochial church council (PCC): The PCC has the responsibility of working with the incumbent to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church, in our pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical work. PCC members give feedback from the congregation and are actively involved with the mission and vision of Holy Trinity, as well as with crucial legal, financial and safeguarding matters. PCC members who served in the calendar year of 2025 were:

Rev Canon Laura Hewitt	Priest-in-Charge and Chair until Feb 25
Rev Jennifer Robinson	Curate until Aug 25; Priest in Charge from Sept 25; Chair from Feb 25; Secretary until May 25
Sonia Lucas	Church Warden until Aug 25
Martine Whitaker	Deanery and Diocesan Synod Rep; Church Warden from Oct 25
Fiona Jones	Secretary from May 25
Paul Robinson	Electoral Roll Officer from May 25
Leslie McCrory	
Alison Slade	
Chris Willer	Until May 25

The PCC are all Trustees. The Standing Committee was the Priest-in-Charge, the Curate, the Churchwarden and Alison Slade. Bob Bayman was the Electoral Roll Officer until the 2025 APCM.

Thanks to all the members of the PCC, and particular thanks to Paul Robinson for all the maintenance work he has done, and to Sonia Lucas and Martine Whitaker for being Churchwardens. Thank you also to Treasurer Zoë Jones, Safeguarding Officers Jeremy & Helen Alford, and Gift Aid Officer Chris Jones, who all put in so much work to these vital areas. For more information on our finances, please see our accounts which are published separately.

Staff: There were five staff / contractors at Holy Trinity during 2025:

Paul Robinson – Family Worker	Leslie McCrory – Lyonsdown Hall Manager
Fiona Jones – Administrator	Sue Lyons – Bookkeeper
Malika Assoul – Cleaner	

Working together agreement: Following our close connection of the last few years, we hope that Holy Trinity and St James's will continue to work closely together. To this end the PCCs signed an informal 'working together' agreement, which will be reviewed annually. The aim is to make best use of our resources, to increase the impact of our ministry within the community, and be a witness of Christian unity.

New Barnet Parochial School's Trust: The incumbent at Holy Trinity is the Chair of the New Barnet Parochial Schools Trust, and the Churchwarden(s) are also Trustees. The Trust gives educational grants in the parishes of Holy Trinity Lyonsdown, St James New Barnet and St Mary's East Barnet.

Deanery Synod: One of the groups that brings the churches in our area together is the Deanery Synod, which provides a valuable opportunity for local churches to meet, share ideas and work together. Our Diocese, St Albans, is split into three Deaneries, and the churches in these areas work together to build God's kingdom in their area. Each church sends representatives to attend the Deanery Synod to discuss how this can happen. As well as this, the clergy in these Deaneries meet as a Chapter regularly to discuss how to work together, pray and support each other.

Rev Laura Hewitt was Area Dean, and when she left this role was taken on by the Rev Stefan Chrysostomou, Vicar of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Potters Bar. The Area Dean has oversight of the Deanery.

Reference and administrative information

Holy Trinity Church Lyonsdown is situated at 18 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, EN5 1JE and is part of Barnet Deanery within St Albans Diocese. The correspondence address is 18 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, EN5 1JE

Holy Trinity Church's bank is Barclays, High Street, Barnet

The Independent Examiner is Ruth Savage, Savage Nine Ltd

Our charity registration number is: 1131088

Safeguarding report

Jeremy & Helen Alford, Safeguarding Officers

Jeremy Alford is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Helen Alford is the Deputy PSO, having been in post since 2022. We are also the PSOs for St. James. Throughout the year we have worked closely with Rev Jenny and the PCC. There continues to be strong leadership of the safeguarding agenda with reports via the Churchwardens at each PCC meeting. The PCC discuss safeguarding scenarios at their meetings. The PSO and Deputy PSO appear in person at the PCC each autumn. At that meeting we are asked in line with national requirements to produce a full report on safeguarding issues, to table updated annual policies, and to answer questions from the PCC.

In 2025 the importance of safeguarding in the life of the church was stressed in preaching and leading including a sermon specifically on the topic on Safeguarding Sunday in November. The Church of England over the last two years has gradually introduced five National Safeguarding Standards. As each Standard has been released we have worked closely with the PCC to agree an approach to address that particular standard. As a result, in 2025 the PCC considered Standard 1 (Culture, Leadership and Capacity), Standard 2 (Prevention) by closely analysing and improving safer recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers and Standard 3 (Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk) by scrutinising and updating risk assessments. Standard 4 (Victims and Survivors) and Standard 5 (Learning, Supervision and Support) have recently been released. The PCC has a plan in place to consider these two Standards during 2026.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team are excellent and we are able to tap into their resources. This includes the Parish Dashboard which is a tool which scores each parish on a Green, Amber and Red basis across all safeguarding activities. At the time of writing, 93% of the dashboard for Holy Trinity in terms of mandatory safeguarding requirements is Green. At their Autumn meeting the PCC agreed updated policies and a safeguarding procedures document and these are now displayed in the church and on the website.

Holy Trinity currently has 8 people who undertake a role which requires both Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and differing levels of safeguarding training. We are really grateful for the understanding that is shown of the importance of safeguarding in when we ask people to undertake time-consuming training or to complete forms and produce their documents to enable background checks to be carried out.

We were able to advise and respond on those occasions that issues arose during the year and have liaised effectively with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Safeguarding is vitally important in the running of a healthy church and it will never be taken for granted at Holy Trinity.

Fabric report

Rev Jenny Robinson

As well as the annual fire equipment inspection, we had a new fire system installed. A hole in one of our stained glass windows was repaired. The north and south porches were painted. We were grateful to receive a grant from the City Churches Fund for these jobs.

The ceiling was repaired after a fall of plaster, and the rest of the ceiling assessed. Further work will be undertaken in 2026. A hot water heater was repaired. The boiler and heaters were serviced and we had a gas safety inspection. We undertook routine gutter maintenance, cleared blocked drains, and repaired broken roof tiles. We had a lightning conductor test and PAT testing. Repairs were made to the gates to the nursery playground and the door into the baby room.

Electoral Roll report

Paul Robinson, Electoral Roll Officer

The number recorded on the Church Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2026 is 37.

The number recorded in 2025 was 30: since then 7 names have been added and 0 removed.



Holy Trinity Church Lyonsdown Annual Report approved by the Trustees (PCC) on 19 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by Rev Jenny Robinson (Priest in Charge)