



Holy Trinity Church, Lyonsdown Annual Reports 2024

For the May 2025 Annual Meetings

Curate's report

Revd Jenny Robinson

Holy Trinity Church in 2024

In February 2025 our Priest in Charge Rev Laura Hewitt moved to a new position in Herefordshire, and so Holy Trinity is now in a Vacancy. My curacy finishes at the end of August, and I have been appointed as Priest in Charge from the autumn.

The 4pm Sunday service continues to grow as a family, with an established congregation that consistently has over 20 people including children. We have started to offer kidschurch during this service. The pattern of a different style of service each week of the month seems to work well (Communion, Healing, Celtic and Evening Prayer). We also made a special focus of Festival Sundays, including themed food treats: profiteroles representing clouds for Ascension Sunday and fire-themed cupcakes for Pentecost (the flames were orange icing and strawberries).

The fortnightly Life Group Bible Study is appreciated as a place where we can grow as disciples, and more members are now helping to lead sessions. We also had three summer Bible studies on prayer, held jointly with St James's.

The summer was busy, with lots of free activities: a Community Fun Day and three Community Café afternoon teas. The Fun Days continue to attract many from the community, with a bouncy castle, games, burgers and other attractions. We have been building connections with our local dog-walking community that meets at Greenhill Park, and held a Christmas and summer doggy tea party.

Our regular activities are Who let the Dads Out, Prayers at the Cross in the prayer garden and the Art and Craft Community Group. Who let the Dads Out is an opportunity for dads (or any father-figures) and their children to enjoy time together and a bacon sandwich. The monthly free community art group included some tutorials and a gallery visit.

We meet regularly with Twinkle Stars (the nursery that rents rooms at Holy Trinity), and every Thursday I meet them in the church to read a Bible story, sing and pray with the children as they start their day. They also came into the church for a special harvest service.

We do a short service for the residents at the local Cedars Care Centre once a month, and a carol service at Christmas. St John's URC joins me in leading these monthly visits.

We had our first Easter sunrise service this year, which was attended by people from a variety of different congregations in the area. Rev Laura and I were part of the service at New Barnet War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. At Christmas, we ran an Advent retreat, and had a Nativity Carol Service and Midnight Communion.

We have positive links with the other churches in the area, and we are thinking how we can work together better. Holy Trinity hosted the deanery Walsingham Day for the second time this year, as well as the ecumenical World Day of prayer. Rev Laura and I had regular ministers' breakfasts with other clergy in our area of all denominations.



It is good to have Chipping Barnet Food Bank opposite (based at Mary Immaculate and St Peter Catholic Church). We now have a donation point for the Foodbank at Holy Trinity, and at Harvest collected donations of food. I have been appointed a Trustee for this foodbank.

Holy Trinity had its first wedding this year from its new congregation, as well as three baptisms. Sadly, we also had the first funeral of a regular member of the congregation.

The garden at Holy Trinity is a special place, and we are continuing to look to develop it further as a place of fun, and a place of refreshment and rest. Our new bug hotel in the garden provides shelter for insects and other small creatures, such as ladybirds, woodlice and spiders. It contains things like dry leaves, twigs, pine cones and conkers. Another new feature of Holy Trinity garden this year is a tic tac toe game made from a tree stump, and using stones as counters.

Holy Trinity is now a 'Fairtrade Church'. We buy Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar, and held a Fairtrade Chocolate Sunday. Jenny spoke about Fairtrade during the service, and there were samples of chocolate to taste. These were all brands that use Fairtrade cocoa, and have been certified as Fairtrade. And they were all chocolates which are available to buy locally.

As a leadership team, we continue to seek God's vision for us as a worshipping community. 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. There were 7 PCC meetings this year.

PCC members who served in the calendar year of 2024 were:

Rev Canon Laura Hewitt	Priest-in-Charge and Chair
Rev Jennifer Robinson	Curate
Robert Bayman	Church Warden and PCC Secretary until 19/5/24; Electoral Roll Officer
Stephen Craggs	Lay Vice-Chair and Church Warden until 19/5/24
Sonia Lucas	Church Warden from 19/5/24
Martine Whitaker	Deanery and Diocesan Synod Rep from 19/5/24
Rebecca Craggs	until 19/5/24
Fiona Jones	
Alison McCrory	until 19/5/24
Leslie McCrory	joined PCC 19/5/24
Paul Robinson	joined PCC 19/5/24
Alison Slade	
Chris Willer	

The PCC are all Trustees. The Standing Committee was the Priest-in-Charge, the Curate, the Churchwarden(s) and Alison Slade.

Thanks to all the members of the PCC, who have been a real support throughout the year. Particular thanks to Paul Robinson for all the maintenance work he has done at the church, and to Sonia Lucas as Churchwarden and Martine Whitaker for being Deanery and Diocesan Synod rep. Rev Laura and Sonia Lucas (and previous church wardens Bob Bayman and Steve Craggs) worked hard getting the Schools Trust working properly, and it is good that the Trust is now in a position to give out grants.

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 financial report and accounts which are published separately.

Deanery Synod

One of the groups that brings the churches in our area together is the Deanery Synod. Our Diocese, St Albans, is split into areas called 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 was Area Dean during 2024. The Area Dean has oversight of the Deanery. Deanery Synod provides a valuable opportunity for local churches to meet, share ideas and work together.

Safeguarding report

Jeremy and Helen Alford

Jeremy Alford is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Helen Alford is the Deputy PSO, having been in post since 2022. We worked closely with Rev. Laura, and continue to work closely with Rev. Jenny and Paul (Youth and Family Worker), Sonia (Churchwarden) and the PCC. There is strong leadership of the safeguarding agenda with reports on safeguarding via the Church Wardens Report at each PCC meeting. The PSO and Deputy PSO appear in person in front of the PCC in Autumn each year. At that meeting we are required to produce a full report on safeguarding issues, to table updated annual policies, and to answer questions from the PCC.

In 2024 Revs. Laura and Jenny stressed the importance of safeguarding in the life of the church in their preaching and leading on numerous occasions throughout the year including the recognition of Safeguarding Sunday on 17 November. We also worked closely with the PCC to agree an approach which ensured safeguards were in place for children when photos and videos are taken of church services. Having run a training session in early 2024 on a Saturday for all those in the church with an interest in safeguarding to complement the formal online training that all who work or volunteer with children and young people, and vulnerable adults undertake, we aim to run a slightly more advanced session later this year.

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 is Green. At their September 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 7 people who undertake a role which requires both Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and differing levels of safeguarding training. Making sure that all of this is up-to-date, together with doing the same for St James is a time-consuming process. We apologise if you are someone who has been “chased” by us this year!

We were able to advise and respond on the very few 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 HTL.

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

Fabric report

Revd Jenny Robinson

Work at Holy Trinity Church in 2024

Twinkle Stars Nursery asked for permission to repaint the walls of the office, which we granted (no Faculty was required).

As well as the annual fire equipment inspection, we had a full fire assessment of the church building. Following on from this, we have acquired a Faculty for an fire alarm system and a grant for this work.

The boiler and heaters were serviced and we had a gas safety inspection.

We upgraded to LED light bulbs in the main church, and continue to assess our options for improving our environmental impact.

A dangerous silver birch tree was removed from the front garden for safety reasons.

A tree in the playground used by the nursery has been pollarded.

The garden gates were painted.

We installed security sensors in church: near the vestry and in the church hall.

We undertook routine gutter maintenance.

Work at Lyonsdown Hall in 2024

There were repairs to the small flat roof over the front of the small hall.

Church electoral roll report

Bob Bayman

Along with other churches, this year our old Electoral Roll is replaced by an entirely new one.

The number recorded on the Parish Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM 2024 was 110. Of those then listed, 96 are no longer enrolled. For the most part, this is a result of the pre-2021 congregation leaving *en-masse* with the retirement of the previous vicar in that year, but mostly remaining on the roll until the full revision this year.

In 2021 the church started afresh and has shown real, if steady, growth. 16 new members enrolled since 2024 bring the total now to 30. For the first time in some years this is a true reflection of the active congregation.

Holy Trinity Church Lyonsdown Annual Report approved by the Trustees (PCC) on 27 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by Rev Jenny Robinson (Curate)

