The Parish of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden

ALL SAINTS
FRINDSBURY CHATTENDEN
UPNOR WAINSCOTT

LOVING – SERVING - CHANGING

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Incumbent (to Sept 2025)
The Reverend Nicholas Cooper
Frindsbury Vicarage
4 Parsonage Lane
Frindsbury
Rochester
Kent, ME2 4UR

Registered charity number 1127928

www.allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk

The Parish of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden
Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The report of the PCC has been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting standard for smaller entities (effective January 2005)

OUR PARISH VISION

Our focus as a Church remains summarised in our statement of purpose:
'Loving – Serving – Changing'.

Governance and Membership as at 31 December 2025

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.
Vicar: The Reverend Nicholas Cooper (*ex officio*) (until 30 September 2025)
Churchwardens: Carol Gravestock and Janet Young (until August 2025) elected Churchwardens in April 2025.
Deanery Synod representatives: Janet Young (until August 2025)and Andrew Whiteley (both elected April 2023)
LLM/Readers licensed to the Parish: Judith Armitt, Judy Carr, Carole Morrad (*ex officio*)
Elected members: John Bloomfield, Adrian Franklin, Catherine Heffernan, Jane Hughes, Nannette McAleer, Alison Mings (Treasurer), Susan Nicol, Peter Robbins, Victoria Webster, (all elected April 2025)
PCC Secretary: Sue Jones
Co-opted: Sue Jones and Jackie Baldin were co-opted from August 2025 during the vacancy

The responsibility of members of the PCC as Trustees remains unchanged, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and delivering its charitable purposes.
The PCC met 10 times during 2025 with an average attendance of 83%.
The PCC has a Standing Committee which meets to transact minor business between the PCC meetings.
A new Electoral Roll was prepared in April 2025 and numbered 93.

Risk Management

All reports received by the PCC from its subcommittees are required to identify and highlight any health and safety risks and implications for safeguarding practice.
The PCC follows the guidelines for Serious Incident Reporting to the Charity Commission and National Safeguarding Team.

Safeguarding

Following the introduction of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016: Vicki Webster continued in her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Jackie Baldwin as Deputy Safeguarding Officer
The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) at the appropriate dates of the Measure coming into force.
The PCC adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement.
All reports received by the PCC from its subcommittees are required to identify and highlight any safeguarding risks. During the year the PCC Safeguarding subcommittee continued to highlight the importance of safeguarding, to review our practice, to make recommendations and arrange training. In November we took part in Safeguarding Sunday.

General Data Protection Regulations

Data continues to be stored under the consents granted.

A Brief Summary of the Year

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Election of Churchwardens was held in All Saints Church on Sunday 27 April 2025.

At the end of September 2025 our vicar the Revd. Nicholas Cooper resigned as Incumbent of the parish. The parish marked this with a farewell service and lunch to thank Nicholas and his wife Annie for their leadership, ministry and care among them for the last 9 years. We hope a new vicar will be appointed during 2026.

At the end of August, Sue Jones, Parish Administrator retired from her post after 25 years of excellent service. The parish expressed their thanks to Sue for her work; Jennifer Barnard was appointed to the post from September 2025 following a handover in August.
Janet Young, Churchwarden retired from her post in September when she moved from this parish; the congregation thanked Jan for her wisdom as Churchwarden and for her dedication to the pastoral team over many years. Carol Gravestock continued as our only churchwarden for the remainder of the year.

Worship, Discipleship and Family Events
During 2025 our pattern of Sunday worship continued with 2 services: 8.30am at St Philip & St James, Upnor and 10.00am at All Saints, Frindsbury; however, as a result of the vacancy for the vicar a number of small changes were made to the service pattern with the permission of Bishop Jonathan. Worship materials continued to be sent to those worshipping at home.

During the period of vacancy our worship and the PCC are supported by the staff team comprising: the Churchwarden(s), the Readers and Licensed Lay Minister, the Evangelist (Sue Jones), the Pastoral Assistant (Jackie Baldwin) and the Parish Administrator. The staff team has six business meetings a year and meets for prayer together weekly.

We are grateful to the significant number of visiting priests who serve our parish on Sundays when service of Holy Communion are held during the period of vacancy.

Home Groups met through the year, for fortnightly Bible study, including a 6 week Lent Course, Living Hope, based on resources from the Church of England and studies on the Parables, Miracles and Philippians.

In 2025 in the parish there were 4 Baptisms. Ministers conducted 1 wedding, 10 funerals and 7 Interment of Ashes.

Our Congregation
The PCC and staff team are enormously grateful to our congregation who represent a warm, welcoming and increasingly diverse church. We are delighted to see growth in the number of children and families attending and participating in worship, and are grateful to Abi and others as for preparing the material for the children to use on Sundays. We increasingly see our weekly attendance better reflecting the community around us. We are particularly grateful to our congregation since the vacancy arose for all those who have newly volunteered to roles in support of the parish.

Regular events and activities
We are grateful to Derna Brown for co-ordinating the All Saints Bellringers and to Peter Marchant for leading the Handbell Ringers. Our worship was supported by the All Saints Singers and our own worship band.

The Pastoral Team continued to contact those in our congregation who are elderly and living on their own and the team took communion to housebound parishioners and a local residential home. Our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Loved Ones Departed, for families recently bereaved, was held in November; it was well attended and appreciated by those who came. The Prayer Chain team continues to meet and is co-ordinated with care and compassion.

Our thanks go to Robyn Hornshaw and family for their hard work organising our highly successful Christmas Fayre held in November and to Alan Ellis for organising several concerts. This year we also enjoyed concerts from Medway Big Band, Medway Band and a joint concert of All Saints Singers and Medway Singers. All these activities supported our outreach to the community as well as helping to raise funds to keep us financially sustainable.

Other Outreach Activities

Local primary schools took part in Experience Easter and a Nativity Festival aimed at Key Stage 2 (7-10 year olds) classes and All Saints Church hosted Christmas services for schools.

UpChat Café –our intergenerational café at St Philip & St James Upnor, - continued to meet on Friday mornings and also provided a focus for volunteer gardening work around the church which provides attractive landscaping to passers-by. Our thanks go to Angela Parker for her work here and at Upnor church more generally, and to Derek King and Jan for leading the café.

Pilgrims Pantry, our drop-In café on Church Green continued on Tuesday mornings welcoming regular visitors from both the church and community. All Saints Craft Group met monthly within Pilgrims' Pantry. Pilgrims Pantry took part in the annual fundraising coffee morning event supporting Macmillan.

The PCC is grateful to the Parish Hall team, including Judy Carr and Jennifer Barnard for undertaking the bookings and co-ordination of maintenance of the parish hall.

Our monthly parish walks were well attended and appreciated, offering an opportunity for making friends as well as providing exercise. A longer Big Green Hike around the parish of Hoo was organised by our parish walk team, for the deanery in May, raising funds for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

The EcoChurch group met monthly and organised 3 Clothes Swap Events for 2025: donations raised from the February event (which included a Christmas Gift Amnesty Tombola) raised funds for the homeless charity One Big Family; the June event co-ordinated with the October event supported Medway Foodbank with donations of food and money.
In December the group organised our second Christmas Tree Festival with a difference - a display of trees by community groups with an eco theme. The Carol Service among the Trees was well received and attended.

Buildings and Churchyard

All Saints

Regular maintenance work was undertaken including the servicing of fire extinguishers, building alarm and PAT testing. The south face of the tower was scaffolded and re lime pointed.

St Philip & St James

- Regular maintenance work was undertaken including the servicing of fire extinguishers and PAT testing.

We are grateful to Peter Robbins, Dave Thomas, David Matthews and Ken Read for their support in maintaining both churches , their churchyards and the vicarage.

Our Finances

We are pleased to report that the finances of the parish are sound. The accounts for the year showed a surplus of £11,791. In the light of this we paid an additional sum of 'parish share', which is a contribution to the wider Diocese, and made charitable donations to two charities leaving a final surplus of £4,791 which has been added to reserves.

Conclusion

The PCC is pleased to report that although challenges remain, not least the appointment of our next incumbent but also continuing to grow our congregation in those parts of the parish that are less-well served, our church is thriving, financially sound and looking forward to continuing to Love Serve and Change.