



"where the river flows everything will live"

PARISH OF TIDENHAM with BEACHLEY and LANCAUT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 17th May 2026 at 12:15 in Tutshill Church

AGENDA

Bible Reading and opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Easter Vestry)

1. Minutes of the annual meeting held on 11 May 2025
2. Election of two churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Minutes of the annual parochial church meeting held on 11 May 2025
2. Parish Annual Written Reports on the
 - revised Church Electoral Roll
 - proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the activities of the parish generally
 - financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025
 - fabric of the churches under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018,
 - proceedings of the Deanery Synod *and*
 - activities of individual church groups
3. Election of 3 Deanery Synod members
4. Election of PCC members
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner - Andy Royle has indicated he is willing to undertake this role again in 2027
6. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut. Charity Number 1158940

Vicar: Revd Sharon Gleed.

Tidenham Vicarage, Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Chepstow. NP16 7DH. Tel: 07553 779632.

The following pages contain summaries; more detailed information is contained in the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2025, available from the PCC Secretary

Report on the revised Church Electoral Roll 2026

Process to revise the Church Electoral Roll

The Roll acts as a 'membership list' for churchgoers and gives entitlement to vote at the APCM or stand for office as Churchwarden or PCC / Deanery Synod member. As the new roll started in 2025, we only need to revise the roll this year.

The formal notice was displayed on church Notice Boards, and information was provided on our website and in the church's weekly briefs. Application forms were made available at each church and people were able to complete their forms electronically and email them to me.

Summary of the revised church electoral roll, which was completed on 26 April

It contains 164 names, of which 9 are new and 46 live outside the parish. This total is 3 more than the 161 names on the old roll at 31 March 2025. The new roll was made available on request and was exhibited in churches for two weeks before the APCM on Sunday 17 May 2026, and no errors were reported to me.

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 15 May 2026

The Vacancy

The process of finding Revd David Treharne's replacement has not been easy.

Our self-supporting Associate Priest Revd Nicki Bullivant has been ably supported over the last 18 months by our PTOs, Readers, service leaders and many other volunteers. This has meant that all the usual Sunday and weekday services have continued to take place, as have the special services at Advent, Christmas and Easter, along with baptisms, weddings and funerals. We thank all these people for their commitment to what is at times a difficult task.

Proceedings of the PCC in 2025

PCC Meetings and sub-committees

As the Parish was in vacancy throughout 2025 the wardens took it in turns to chair the meetings. The full PCC met eleven times during 2025 (usually in person) with an average attendance of 76%. Safeguarding, health and safety, and data protection are mandatory topics for the agenda.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These sub-committees, which include finance, safeguarding and buildings, are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

PCC Minutes

Once signed the Minutes are public documents and are available from the PCC Secretary. Highlights of the PCC meetings are published in the Link church magazine.

Specific Areas of Church Activity

The PCC has also authorised certain church members to be responsible for specific areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, finance, pastoral visiting, liaison with local schools, especially Tutshill Church of England primary school, and visiting families to prepare for baptism. These responsibilities are reviewed each year at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

Iain Gardiner, PCC Secretary, 5 May 2026

Tidenham PCC Financial Review 2025

General Fund. Total receipts (i.e. income) were £95,576 (2024: £108,854), a 12% decrease year on year. Total voluntary receipts were £77,789 (2024: £85,719) a decrease of 9%. Income from the recovery of Gift Aid: £13,551 was down 16% compared with 2024: £16,170.

The amount spent from the General Fund to provide Christian Ministry throughout the Parish was £92,244 (2024: £102,375), a decrease of 10% on the previous year. At £29,579 Church running costs increased by 58% compared with 2024 (£18,709), including utility costs of £12,551 (2024: £7,361); an increase of 71% being an actual cost without the refunds received in 2024. Insurance costs were £5,087 (2024: £4,853). Minor building repairs and improvements totalling £1,500 were paid from the General Fund in 2025 (£557 in 2024).

Parish Share Commitment. At the end of April, the Treasurer calculated that by 31 December 2025 the General Fund would be £18k in the red unless we took action to reduce expenditure. As the only major item under our direct control is the Parish Share we pay to Gloucester Diocese, the PCC decided in May to reduce our 2025 Parish share commitment by 25% to £55,017 (2024: £73,072) – a reduction of £18,055.

Reserves Policy After a comprehensive revision in 2021, the reserves policy was reviewed in November, when the PCC decided to maintain the value of reserves in its General Fund at £22,000, plus £5,000 between the main Restricted Funds: Youth, Children & Families (YC&F), Wellbeing Ministry and Wellbeing Chaplain.

Restricted Funds

1. **YC&F.** On 31st December 2025 the fund stood at £3,640 (2024: £13,232).
2. **Wellbeing Ministry.** On 31st December 2025 the fund stood at £44,136 (2024: £37,565).
3. **Wellbeing Chaplain.** On 31st December 2025 the fund stood at £2,859 (2024: £3,659)
4. **Tutshill Re-ordering** On 31st December 2025 the fund stood at £10,259 (2024: £11,258)
5. **Tidenham Tower Repairs.** £9,672.83 is being held in the fund on 31st December 2025; (2024; £82,540). The reduction is due to the work carried out during the 2025 with a 2.5% Retention to be paid in 2026.
6. **Buildings Fabric.** On 31st December 2025 the Fund stood at £1,439 (2024: £2,119) while the Designated Fabric Fund stood at £34,177 (2024: £30,923). This reflects the PCC's recognition that work identified in the 2022 Quinquennial Inspection Reports still requires to be undertaken.

Total Receipts and Payments Summary (i.e. including all Restricted, Designated & General Funds)

Total Receipts for 2025 were £179,727 (2024: £170,514) and

Total Payments for 2025 were £252,977 (2024: £198,937)

Total cash funds at year-end on 31 December 2025 were £158,265 (2024: £231,514), held with Lloyds Bank and CBF Church of England deposit accounts.

Church Bank Accounts

PCC agreed to the Treasurer's recommendation to simplify and consolidate its 2 x current accounts with Lloyds Bank as part of a financial review of bank charges. The Lloyds No 2 account was closed on 3 November 2025.

Paul Coombs, PCC Treasurer

Fabric Report

CHURCH BUILDINGS

General

Our church architect undertook the Quinquennial Inspections of our buildings in late 2022. As part of this process a drone survey was conducted for the first time. All work arising from the 5-yearly fixed wiring inspections carried out in 2022 by an NICEIC - approved contractor was completed during 2023.

All light bulbs have now been replaced with LEDs apart from a few specialist lights.

All three churches passed their 2-year Lightning Conductor Tests.

Tutshill church

The main church building has required no significant work this year, but the old kitchen was refurbished and new oil-filled electric heaters have been installed in the small WC and in St Luke's Room corridor.

Tidenham church

The PCC is supported by an independent charity, *The Friends of Tidenham Church*, set up in 2014.

Wi-Fi Broadband was connected on Thursday 16th January

North aisle improvements: The vestry with its beautiful stained glass window from the original east window was completed in February. On 18 September the new Shadow chandelier heaters and lighting were switched on.

Chancel ceiling. Some plaster came down in December 2024, while the church was unoccupied. A specialist plasterer confirmed that the chancel was still safe to use. The PCC has received a faculty to carry out repairs and has started to identify funding options, as the quotation for repairs is over £20k.

Tidenham Church Tower. The major repairs to the tower were completed by 31 March and the clock was restarted after inspection by Cumbria Clock Co. on 29 May. It has behaved very well for the remainder of the year. An additional Lightning conductor was installed at Tidenham Tower on 16 October.

Church Bells. New bell ropes were installed on 15 April, and our bellringers rang our church bells 80 times on the evening of Thursday 8 May to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day, in an echo of the sounds that must have swept across the whole country 80 years ago.

Open to the public. Following conclusion of building works, the church is now open to the public during daylight hours on Sundays and Mondays. The new disabled access means the church is accessible to wheelchair users and the refurbished steps at the Lych gate have reduced the risk of slips trips and falls.

Tidenham Chase church Church architect Philip Belchere's July list of repairs at an estimated £30k cost was submitted to DAC for approval, but List B faculty not received until spring 2026.

Church electrician Tim Howells updated the distribution board and installed surge protection on 6 August.

The Goods and ornaments in all three churches are generally in a satisfactory condition.

Forest Deanery Synod 2025

The Deanery Strategic Plan was described in previous Annual Reports. The four areas that the Forest Deanery Synod are focussing on are (local champions indicated):

- Youth Ministry (Rev Stephen Harrison & Rev Gilly Traverse)
- Focal Ministry (Rev Sarah Bick. As Sarah is moving to Truro Diocese this will now be led by Rev Stephen Harrison)
- Church Buildings (Rev Bea Erskine and Chris Witham)
- Training (Rev Bea Erskine)

There were several DS meetings during the year at which the above were discussed. Communication about the meetings and outcomes can appear haphazard.

Youth Ministry: Sportily has been assisting in some initiatives, especially during the summer, including with breakfast clubs at a Cinderford church. There is a developing emphasis on supporting young people not just socially but in faith development. There is the ongoing challenge of transport for young people within the Forest.

Focal Ministry: In February the DS Planning Group met with representatives from Church House to discuss Focal Ministry. The aim is for each worshipping community to have an identifiable local person providing visible Christian presence and some leadership.

The February meeting was followed up by a small workshop with a few lay people from around the Deanery who wanted to explore Focal Ministry further. I don't know how many were involved nor how this is being progressed. Rev Stephen Harrison will now be leading this.

Church Buildings: widely accepted that our buildings represent a significant constraint and ongoing challenge, especially in relation to high costs of maintenance. It is hoped that the appointment of a Deanery Operations Lead (more below) will help with some aspects of this.

Training: nothing to report this year.

Parish Share: The new model for Parish Share was the subject of a series of special meetings between representatives of Church House Finance department and individual benefice or PCC, including our own PCC. The goal was to ensure a clear understanding of the requested Parish Share and a commitment from each benefice to meet these requests as fully as possible. The new model for Parish Share has been introduced for 2026.

Deanery Operations Lead: The purpose of these posts is to build and strengthen the operational capacity of deaneries across the Diocese. The intention is to appoint a number of these roles across the Diocese for which the Bishop's Council has set aside funds for a five-to-seven-year period. At the end of 2025 three appointments have been made and Forest South Deanery will be included in the next round for an appointment later in 2026.

James Parsons
Tidenham PCC Deanery Synod Representative

Additional Reports of General Church Interest

Safeguarding is about keeping people safe from harm and abuse, and is part of our culture of doing relationship well and looking after each other's welfare and wellbeing. Thank you to everyone for playing your part in helping us to follow all the safeguarding guidance and in keeping each other safe.

In 2025 we revised and reissued the Parish Safeguarding Policy to take account of the current legislative framework and the CofE policy changes. It is available on the Parish Website and in our church porches. Rosalind Seward stepped down as the Parish Safeguarding Officer on 31 August, when Churchwarden Robin Riordan undertook those duties.

Safeguarding Action Plan (SAP). Every parish has to produce a SAP. Tidenham Parish is at Level 2.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is the main point of contact for safeguarding matters, via the parish safeguarding email: tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com and the safeguarding mobile: 07410 237310.

Within the Church of England (CofE) safeguarding is defined broadly as encompassing concerns about possible abuse or neglect, but also matters related to wellbeing and safety. We use the Safeguarding Parish Dashboard to notify our progress to the Diocese.

There was one safeguarding event in 2025 that was reported to all the appropriate agencies.

A safeguarding working group meets to discuss any safeguarding matters (be they internal, or issues we come across in the course of our mission and ministry in the community), and to ensure we continue to meet our safeguarding obligations with regard to DBS checks, training, recruitment of volunteers, responding to safeguarding concerns, and implementing policies and procedures in partnership with the Diocese. Revd Nicki, churchwardens Robin and Brian are part of this group. With these measures in place we hope to ensure we stay up to date and continue to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

Robin Riordan, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 07410 237310.

Mission and Evangelism

It was a joy to see the continued development of our Wellbeing Ministry with Revd Nicki as Wellbeing Chaplain, along with Emma Durbin our Children, Youth and Families Missioner and Eve Mcleod, our Youth Co-ordinator intern. Their work with an amazing team of church member volunteers was a vital part of mission and community engagement within and beyond the Parish.

Children's work consisted of weekly Tutshill Toddlers and Sedbury Stay and Play groups; ongoing work in our local schools, monthly family worship services in Tutshill church, and the ever popular Scarecrow Trail at Easter. Another very busy year which would not have been possible without the tremendous help of a large band of volunteers. Special mention must be made of Non van den Braak who has worked for many years behind the scenes.

Feedback from Joint Parish Outdoor Picnic: Sunday 6 July, Tutshill.

The event celebrated the work of our youth leaders Emma Durbin and Eve Mcleod. Aled Jones of 'A&S Animal Encounters' provided the entertainment. Many people from the whole community attended who don't normally come to church and the display of exotic animals was a great event for children of all ages. On 31 August Emma Durbin concluded her CYF Missioner contract and Eve McLeod finished as youth intern. The PCC received sufficient guarantees to fund part-time CYF work for 2 years and Aimee Lowe started work on 01 September, but unfortunately this was not a success.

Report from Tidenham Parish Wellbeing Chaplain, Revd Nicki Bullivant

I spend the equivalent of one day a week at Sedbury Space, and visit many people both in their homes and places of work. I liaise with health providers, Two Rivers Housing, community police and social services.

Over the last 12 months you have enabled me to continue the work of: -

- Meeting a growing need arising from cost of living crisis
- Spreading the Wellbeing message beyond Tidenham Parish
- Addressing loneliness
- Raising the profile in GP Practices
- Building relationships with other agencies to improve community quality of life

I thank you for your prayers and support and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us over the next 12 months, despite all the challenges that both our church community and the wider community faces.

Revd Nicki Bullivant, Associate Priest and Wellbeing Chaplain, Tidenham Parish