

**St. Peter & St. Paul, Cudham
Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley
Anglican Diocese of Rochester**

**Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2025**

Aim and purposes

St. Peter and St. Paul, Cudham, is part of a United Benefice with St. Mary, Downe. The Parish was without an Incumbent for 2025, and services were led by a number of visiting priests as well as Kim Curle. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has continued to fulfill its responsibility, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical during this time of vacancy.

The **Mission Statement** of the Church agreed by the PCC is:

“We exist for three main purposes: Worship, Witness and Welcome:”

- To worship the living God through the Lord Jesus Christ;
- To witness to the love of Christ shown supremely in his life, death and resurrection; and
- To welcome all people into our fellowship with the love of Christ.

Structure, governance and management

PCC - the method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Peter and St Paul, Cudham the PCC consists of ex officio members i.e. the incumbent, 2 churchwardens and a Deanery Synod Representative, and up to 6 members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During 2025 the PCC met during January, March, April, May (including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting), June, and October, all meetings being Joint with Downe PCC. During these meetings a variety of issues of concern and importance connected with the life of the Church/es - worship and services, missional, spiritual, financial, practical and social.

Regular PCC agenda items included –

- Work towards the process of seeking a new Priest-in-Charge.
- Safeguarding
- Sunday Club, Messy Church and children’s work.
- Pastoral care in the parish and the ongoing work of the Pastoral Visiting Team.
- Outreach, mission and community engagement initiatives.
- Financial statements and reports, Indicative Offer to the Diocese.
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- Churchyard maintenance and Churchyard Fund - work to clear the “wild area” of the churchyard has been completed.

Review of the Church year and calendar

The process of preparing to seek an Interim Priest in Charge continued throughout the whole of 2025; the preparation of the final version of the Parish Profile was undertaken over a series of

PCC meetings and via email. The final draft was submitted to the Diocese in January; at this time the Parish reps (2 from Cudham, 2 from Downe) were notified to the Archdeacon. The reps met with the Archdeacon and Associate Archdeacon in June to review the Profile and request further details to be included, for example the opening statement from the Archdeacon and the Diocesan vision. These were made available in October, and the final version of the Profile was adopted by Joint PCC in the same month; this was forwarded to the Diocese in order for approval to be sought from the joint Patron of Cudham, Church Society Trust. The vacancy was finally to be advertised early in 2026.

The time that this process has taken has meant that considerable work has been undertaken by many members of the PCC and wider church community – Church Wardens, Parish Administrator and many others, both seen and unseen.

An All Soulside Service was held in the evening of Sunday 2nd November, where names of loved ones no longer with us were read out and candles lit in their memories.

A Remembrance Sunday service was held on 9th November in the churchyard with a short act of worship, including the singing of the National Anthem.

The congregation have enjoyed services led by visiting clergy and lay ministers.

Homegroups, Messy Church and other Church events throughout 2025 –

- *Easter Activities* Ash Wednesday was celebrated with imposition of ashes. Palm Sunday was marked with an all-age service in St Mary, Downe, following a walk with donkeys from Christmas Tree Farm. A Service of the Lords Supper was held on Maundy Thursday.
- *St Francis of Assisi Service* A service was held at Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday 5th October
- *Messy Church* continued at various times of the year, providing an opportunity and outreach for families to receive the Christian message through artwork, singing, reading and hearing God's word.
- *Warm Welcome Events* continued through 2025, welcoming invited guests from the community.
- *Christmas in Cudham* - for Advent and December Cudham Church organised several events which were appreciated by the local community –
 - A Christmas Tree of Remembrance was erected outside the church inviting people to tie a ribbon/ bauble or leave a message for a loved one.
 - Carol singing in the community was arranged on 16th December in the Blacksmiths Arms, and on 22nd December around the Restavon area of the parish.
 - Children's Nativity service was held on Christmas Eve.
 - The candlelit Carol Service was held on Christmas Eve, a return to the usual date and time; attendance was back to normal with a full church.

Pastoral Visiting Team:

The Pastoral Visiting team continues with contact and visits within the parish. The PCC received regular reports from the Team.

Prayers

A prayer meeting for the United Benefice has been held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Committees

PCC and the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee can meet between full meetings of the PCC and consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and two other members of the PCC. It has power to transact any urgent business of the PCC, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee did not meet during 2025.

Church Attendance

A new Electoral Roll was prepared in 2025; the new roll has 35 names, with 23 being resident in the parish and 12 being non-resident.

Figures for the church attendance of adults at worship on the four Sundays in October 2025 were 0 (United Service at Downe), 19, 12 and 18. The number of children who attended the same four Sunday services was 0, 1, 1 and 1. The School Harvest Festival service was attended by 55 children and 45 adults. On average around 19 adults and 4 children attend services each Sunday throughout the year although in line with many Churches, there is a larger pool of people who attend from time to time.

Occasional Offices

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their journeys through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. In 2025 3 baptisms and 2 committals or burial of ashes were held at St Peter & St Paul.

Safeguarding

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*). Our Safeguarding Officer (Joanna Clarke) was newly appointed in 2025, and enjoys the support of the previous office holder.

Cudham Church of England School Academy is part of the Aquinas Trust, with Lisa Askew as Headteacher from 1st January 2023. Mark Comley (parishioner and PCC member) serves on the Aquinas Advisory Council. The Easter and Christmas end of term services and Harvest Festival service were held in the church.

Weekly Collective Worship was supported by Kim and John Curle, in conjunction with the school worship committee. The school choir attended the Christmas Warm Welcome event held in Cudham Parish Hall on 12th December and performed for the guests.

Parish Hall - The PCC has trustee oversight for the Parish Hall, Cudham Lane South, Cudham, with the day to day running in the hands of the Cudham Community Centre Trust. The PCC receives reports from the Trust.

General Data Protection Regulations - the PCC has acted in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which took effect in the UK from 25th May 2018, replacing the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998). Mark Comley is the Data Controller; Barbara Sheret Data Protection Officer.

Membership - Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). As a consequence of the church electoral roll falling below 50 names, the number of PCC members is required to reduce from 9 to 6. A further 2 people may be co-opted for a year. One third of those elected to the Council retire from office each year and are eligible for re-election. In 2025 the following served on the PCC:

Ex-Officio Members:

Vicar:	Vacant	
Churchwardens:	Diane Kemp	
	Mike Manthorpe	Chairperson
Deanery Synod Rep:	Diane Kemp	

Elected Members:

Barbara Sheret	until APCM 2026	
Kate Brignall	until APCM 2026	
John Curle	until APCM 2027	
John Isbell	until APCM 2027	Treasurer
Denise Angell	until APCM 2028	
Mark Comley	until APCM 2028	Secretary

Mrs Kim Curle was co-opted on to the PCC for one year. Kim Curle is Licensed as a Schools and Families Evangelist and she and John Curle are commissioned Anna Chaplains.

The PCC extends sincere and grateful thanks to all the Church membership who work so hard to make our Church the worshipping, witnessing and welcoming community it is, and for their help and support in so many ways throughout the year, especially during this time of vacancy.