

Vicars Report April 2026

Since joining you in November 2025, it has been a pleasure getting to know the church: it's people, life and ministry. There has been much to learn and get to grips with and I have been thankful for the generous support you have given as I have completed my curacy. I now look forward to being licensed 'officially' by Bishop Jane on Sunday 17th May.

There are four key areas where I have prioritised my time and energy since joining you:

Building relationships

An early priority has been to get to know you, both individually and also as a church body. Week by week this continues to grow as we worship together and as I spend time talking and visiting people and groups. Having a good understanding of 'who we are' matters a great deal and helps build a picture of our church identity. Finding ways to do this well remains important and is proving to be a very rewarding experience.

Growing Community

It has been pleasing to see many new faces join in during our Sunday services and other times during week day activities. Being a place of welcome, where people are able to come as they are, matters enormously and we continue to reflect on how everyone can find a place of belonging. The warmth and friendliness of the congregation makes a big difference, with a number of people mentioning this: let's continue to be alert for those who take the step to cross the threshold and help them feel at home here.

Missional people

Connecting with our local community is a key aspect of who we are as God's people. There have been a number of good links made since I started: with The Three Horseshoes, The Fox, The Black Squirrel Café and recently Lordship Farm Primary School at their Easter assemblies. We hosted an Easter Garden workshop in Holy Week that saw a good number of people come. These give us opportunities to be witnesses of our faith, and for the church to have a key role in local matters. Looking forward, I will be getting to know Willian Community Group and the Fair Committee too. All part of the ongoing work of embedding us in the lives of people locally, demonstrating what an active and warm community we are for everyone who lives in the surrounding area.

Worshipping Life

Our services and prayer times have provided spaces where we can encounter God in meaningful ways. We have met as a weekly Lent group along with St Mary's in the run up to Easter. We continue to explore how to be interactive and creative within the beauty of Common Worship, the liturgical framework of the Church of England and our traditions. I have been delighted by how open and welcoming the church has been to try new things such as discussion in sermons, gathering on the green for Palm Sunday and interacting when I preach! These all support our discipleship, encouraging faith to grow and for each of us to encounter God in ways which matter to us.

Thanks

I have been especially grateful to the churchwardens, the PCC and ministry team for how they have all sought to help me become embedded in the life of All Saints since I started. Their support and kindness has been much appreciated and enabled me to feel at home very quickly. I am excited by what God has in store for us in the months and years to come and pray that we will be open to all that lies ahead.

