

Mission Committee Report for APCM 2026

Since the 2025 APCM, membership of the Mission Committee (MC) has been as follows:

PCC members: Fr Robert Chapman, Fr Joe Grogan, Diane Bell, Mary Coulthurst, Mervyn Hogg, Louise Ruston, Catherine Tugnait.

Co-opted members: Alison Cummins, David Hudson, Rowland Linder (until summer 2025), Alison Rollin. (Others have offered occasional help when needed.)

Meetings were planned for alternate daytime and evening sessions.

In 2025-2026, the MC met on 16.7.25, 8.10.25, 12.11.25, 21.1.26, 25.2.26 and 15.4.26.

On-going topics include:

Improved parish communication:

- regular emails are being sent to ER members, detailing up-coming events;
- noticeboards are to be kept updated; costs of replacing boards are being examined;
- social media opportunities are being explored, and a team (of 3) has been set up.

Church Welcoming (formerly Church Watch):

- requests for more Welcomers have been placed in the weekly Bulletin;
- a Church Welcoming article was printed in *Outlook*, requesting more volunteers;
- Volunteer Sunday (on 8.2.26) produced some offers of help, though Church Welcoming still needs many more. (An A4 poster with information is on the shelf at the back of the church.)

Attracting people to church:

- opportunities arise from contact with local schools, visiting, choir membership, holiday club;
- social media opportunities for attracting new people are being explored;
- leaflets were handed out at community events (Christmas Lights switch-on, carol-singing).

Pastoral Visiting:

- a new pastoral visiting team is being formed;
- a document giving guidance and safety information has been produced;
- there is a record book for pastoral team members to fill in details, following a visit.

Further topics:

- Children's holiday club: the 3-day May Holiday Club in 2025 was very successful; Fr Joe is organising another holiday club for 26-28 May 2026.
- Chancel roof fund: fundraising ideas are being sought; there were extra opportunities for giving at two local carol-singing venues.
- Advent activities: Dee Davis was asked about possible Advent activities in church, and about BWI Christmas bags. (For 2026, to allow more preparation time, these activities will be discussed at the *autumn* meetings.)
- Christmas service times: a review of Christmas attendance figures showed higher numbers in 2025, with more young adults attending; possible service timing changes to be considered in the autumn.
- Lent activities 2026: daytime *and* evening sessions were available for the Lent Study Course, and for Stations of the Cross, which allowed more flexible attendance; the shared soup lunches (before the Tuesday Lent course sessions) were especially appreciated. Consideration is being given to similar sessions for Advent 2026.
- Volunteer Sunday, on 8.2.26, showcased (in the church hall) all our church activities, and produced several offers of help in various areas.

(AR: 16.4.26)